

# THE RINGING WORLD

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### THE REVIVAL IN THE FYLDE.

It is gratifying to read that at length there seem to be signs of real revival in the Fylde district of the Lancashire Association, where, for a long time past, apparently unavailing efforts had been made to create interest and enthusiasm in ringing. For years the officials, and particularly the secretary, have had an uphill and disheartening task, and less stouthearted men would long since have thrown up a thankless and discouraging struggle. Patience and perseverance appear now to be reaping their reward, and support such as that which was forthcoming at last Saturday's meeting must have been a matter of great satisfaction. Only those who have tried to build up an organisation in the face not merely of apathy, but of discouragement, if not of actual hostility, have any notion of the difficulties which have to be confronted, and only enthusiasm for the cause, coupled with great tenacity of purpose, can overcome the trials that confront the organiser. The report of last Saturday's meeting shows that at last Mr. Sharples is meeting with the success for which he has so long laboured.

Now that the district is really awaking to its own interests, there is hope that steady progress in the Fylde may be assured. Among the large associations, the Lancashire is one of the most virile, but in parts the county presents no small difficulties of organisation, difficulties which patient labour is sure to overcome, and the lesson of the Fylde ought not to be lost. The one thing that astonished us is that ringers, professing even a limited interest in the art, should ever be so apathetic over the activities of their association. This apathy is to be found in many places, and is by no means limited to any one society. All associations suffer from it in some area or at some time, and strong and persistent efforts are required to overcome it. Unless the officials are themselves keen, hands will lapse and eventually break away from the parent organisation.

It is not easy to find a quick solution of the problem. Can the associations make themselves more attractive than they are? It is not enough to ask a man to join an association merely for the moral support which he thus gives to it, for, while we always argue that a ringer should seek what he can put into the art rather than what he can get out of it, we hold that the big organisations should make membership as attractive as possible. In many cases they do not do all that is within their power for backward companies—backward not only in the ringing sense, but also in their sense of duty to their association. As we have so often pointed out, the aims and

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duties of an association are not completely met by the mere holding of quarterly meetings. Wherever there is a backward band, or one where progress is slow, the parent society ought to get right into that belfry, and not leave it until the company is well on the high road to success. There are a few cases, perhaps, where such help would not only be unwelcome, but probably resented. Instances of this kind require tactful handling, but they can be overcome, and discouragement need not come with rebuffs. But in the vast majority of cases steady and consistent help such as we have suggested would be gladly accepted, and in the long run the association would profit from the loyalty and support which it would gain.

### TEN BELL PEAL.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. 42 lb. in E flat.

REGINALD D. MARSHALL... Treble	WILLIAM S. SMITH ... .. 6
*MISS ELSIE E. CHAPMAN... 2	JAMES E. COOPER ... .. 7
WILLIAM H. JOINER ... .. 3	FRANK E. DARBY... .. 8
*MISS FRED A. ORR... .. 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... .. 9
DANIEL COOPER... .. 5	ALFRED J. TRAPPITT ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, Conducted by Wm. S. SMITH.

\* First peal of Stedman Caters. The course ends of this peal are alternately in the titum and handstroke-home positions throughout.

### EIGHT BELL PEALS.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 21, 1925, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 6120 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLIAM WEEDEN ... .. Treble	GEORGE PRYKE ... .. 5
GEORGE WHITING ... .. 2	T. WILLIAM LAST ... .. 6
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... 3	LESLIE G. BRETT... .. 7
GEORGE BENNETT ... .. 4	ERNEST C. LANHAM ... Tenor

Composed by H. DAINS. Conducted by G. WHITING.

Rung as a birthday compliment to G. Bennett.

NORWICH.

THE NORFOLK GUILD.

On Monday, March 23, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-DE-SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 6162 CHANGES;

MIDDLETON'S.

Tenor 10 cwt.

JAMES RAMPLEY ... .. Treble	SHIRLEY BURTON... .. 5
FREDK. J. HOWCHIN ... 2	JAMES F. DUFFIELD ... 6
WILLIAM STEELE ... .. 3	CHARLES E. BORRETT... 7
GEORGE MAYERS... .. 4	GEORGE H. CROSS ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE H. CROSS.

The ringer of the 5th, for whom this peal was arranged, was elected a life member of the Guild previous to commencing the peal.

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(St. Margaret's Guild.)

On Tuesday, March 24, 1925, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*RICHARD GRANT... .. Treble	IOSIAH MORRIS ... .. 5
ALFRED BALLARD ... .. 2	ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 6
EDWARD R. WHITEHEAD... 3	WILLIAM H. CLARKE ... 7
ARTHUR CATTELL ... .. 4	JOHN GRANT ... .. Tenor

Re-arranged and Conducted by ERNEST MORRIS.

\* First peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled to the memory of the late Lord Curzon.

BRENTWOOD, ESSEX.  
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 24, 1925, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

At the Church of St. Thomas-the-Martyr,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 10½ cwt.

†ALBERT RAINBIRD ... .. Treble	†HARRY TURNER... .. 5
GEORGE R. PYE... .. 2	ERNEST J. BUTLER ... .. 6
ALFRED PYE ... .. 3	*WILLIAM LEGGETT ... .. 7
†FRANK RINGE ... .. 4	GEORGE MILES ... .. Tenor

Composed by W. SOTTENSTALL. Conducted by G. R. PYE.

† First peal of Major. \* First peal in the method.

DERBY.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 11 cwt, 1 qr. 4 lb.

CYRIL PORTER ... .. Treble	WILLIAM POYSER... .. 5
JAMES PAGETT ... .. 2	JACK BAILEY... .. 6
JOHN W. GLEW ... .. 3	MARK BARKER ... .. 7
ALFRED MOULD ... .. 4	JOSEPH LORD... .. Tenor

Composed by J. CARTER. Conducted by J. W. GLEW.

Rung with the bells fully muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Marquis Curzon of Kedleston.

MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 17½ cwt.

WILLIAM WEATHERBY ... Treble	EDWARD V. RODENHURST ... 5
HARRY F. HOLDING ... .. 2	HARRY OVERTON... .. 6
RICHARD D. LANGFORD ... 3	RICHARD T. HOLDING... .. 7
GEORGE H. CRAWLEY ... .. 4	JAMES H. RIDING... .. Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by J. H. RIDING.

First peal in the method on the bells.

HOGHTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(PRESTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

**A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIAM LANCASTER ... Treble	ALFRED BLOGG ... .. 5
MISS MAY CLAYTON ... .. 2	JOHN BROWN ... .. 6
JAMES HARRISON... .. 3	WILLIAM SHARPLES ... .. 7
FRED BLACKLIDGE ... .. 4	WILLIAM FOWLER ... .. Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by W. SHARPLES.

Miss Clayton is the first lady to ring in a Preston Branch peal.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 9½ cwt.

GEORGE KENWARD ... Treble	THOMAS JOLL ... .. 5
WILLIAM SPICE ... .. 2	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. 6
SAMUEL E. TAYLOR ... .. 3	WILLIAM J. WALKER ... .. 7
*JOHN W. UNWIN ... .. 4	EDWARD H. SPICE ... .. Tenor

Composed by J. BARKER. Conducted by J. BENNETT, R.M.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the Brothers G. H. and E. H. Spice, sons of the ringer of the 2nd. \* First peal of Bob Major. First peal of Bob Major on the bells. The thanks of the band are due to Mr. and Mrs. W. Spice, senr., for their kind hospitality after the peal.

RANMOOR COMMON, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Arnabas,

**A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 20 cwt. 2 qr. 14 lb. in E.

JOHN H. WHITE ... .. Treble	C.O.M.S. G. GILBERT, R.E. 5
JOHN T. SCOTT ... .. 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE ... 6
WILLIAM T. BEBSON, JUN. 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... .. 7
JOHN A. COLE ... .. 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... .. Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by A. H. PULLING.

First peal in the method on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. A. Dobinson, churchwarden at the above church.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 6184 CHANGES;**  
HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 12 cwt.

EDWARD P. HUCKINGHAM ... Treble	LESLIE J. CLARKE ... .. 5
HENRY W. KIRTON ... .. 2	WALTER ARNOLD... .. 6
WILLIAM KEEBLE ... .. 3	JOHN WOOD ... .. 7
WILLIAM LINCOLN ... .. 4	ARTHUR HEAD ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and One Minute,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

**A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;**  
Tenor 20½ cwt. in E.

CHARLES F. BAILEY ... Treble	GEORGE BAILEY ... .. 5
ALFRED KEEBLE ... .. 2	JAMES G. RUMSEY ... .. 6
LEONARD P. BAILEY ... .. 3	CHARLES SAMPSON ... .. 7
ERNEST S. BAILEY ... .. 4	JAMES M. BAILEY ... .. Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHAS. F. BAILEY.

The conductor has now rung and conducted 100 Surprise peals on these bells. The peal was a birthday compliment to the conductor's daughter.

STANDISH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(WIGAN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours,

At the Church of St. Wilfrid,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;**

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOMAS GROUNDS ... Treble	JOSEPH GRAY ... .. 5
JOHN BOOTH... .. 2	WILLIAM AUSTEN ... .. 6
JAS. WM. GROUNDS ... .. 3	ERNEST BIRCHALL ... .. 7
ALFRED MORGAN... .. 4	ROBERT TAYLOR ... .. Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST BIRCHALL.

Rung by the local band.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;**  
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16½ cwt.

JAS. GOODSSELL ... Treble	T. BOOTH ... .. 5
F. MORGAN ... .. 2	W. HOAD ... .. 6
C. CREASEY ... .. 3	T. HOAD ... .. 7
E. MILLS ... .. 4	G. KING... .. Tenor

Conducted by W. HOAD.

First attempt at calling in this method.

GET YOUR  
RINGING  
FRIENDS  
TO SUPPORT

THE RINGING  
WORLD

BY  
TAKING  
A COPY  
EVERY  
WEEK

**SIX BELL PEALS.**

DESFORD, LEICESTERSHIRE.  
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.  
(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, March 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes.  
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different 720's. Tenor 10 cwt.

*H. PAUL ... .. Treble	†T. K. DEACON ... .. 4
P. A. ALDHAM ... .. 2	‡C. E. PETTIT ... .. 5
†F. MEARS ... .. 3	C. ALLSOP ... .. Tenor

Conducted by C. ALLSOP.

\* First peal. † First peal of Minor. ‡ First peal of Minor 'inside.' Ringer of 2nd from Hinckley; 4th from Earl Shilton; 6th from Ratby; remainder local.

STRETTON, CHESHIRE.  
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 23, 1925, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

**A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

GEORGE VERNON ... .. Treble	JOHN H. DAVENPORT ... .. 4
ERNEST BOSTOCK ... .. 2	LEONARD BOSTOCK ... .. 5
FREDERICK HINDS ... .. 3	EDWARD JENKINS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by E. JENKINS.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND, KENT.  
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 24, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt. in F sharp

CYRIL M. MITCHELL ... .. Treble	HARRY ARGENT ... .. 4
JOHN BURLS ... .. 2	GEORGE MORRAD ... .. 5
*FREDERICK A. MITCHELL ... 3	FREDERICK M. MITCHELL ... Tenor

Conducted by FREDERICK M. MITCHELL.

\* First peal of Surprise on a 'bob' bell. First Surprise peal on the bells by an entirely local hand. It was specially rung as a birthday compliment to the Rev. G. W. Mennie, M.A., Rector of Milton.

WOODSTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.  
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

**A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lb. in A flat.

MISS PHYLLIS HARE ... .. Treble	HERBERT HOARE ... .. 4
*HENRY E. LITTLE ... .. 2	†ERNEST MORRIS ... .. 5
†WILLIAM ROSE ... .. 3	HAROLD J. POOLE ... .. Tenor

Composed by the Rev. E. BANKES JAMES.

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Rung on the 15th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hoare. \* First peal. † First of Cambridge Minor. The ringers of 5th and tenor have now rung peals of Cambridge Minor, Major, Royal and Maximus together this year.

OXENHOPE, YORKS.  
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different 720's. Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qr.

*CLARENCE BLACKBURN ... Treble	FRED HODGSON ... .. 4
TOM SCOTT ... .. 2	REX GODDARD ... .. 5
ALBERT MARSHALL ... .. 3	ERNEST BETTS ... .. Tenor

Conducted by F. HODGSON.

\* First peal. First peal of Bob Minor by all the rest. The average age of the band is 19, and are all Sunday Service ringers at Liversedge, Yorks.

KILBURN. — At St. Augustine's Church, for evensong, on March 22nd, 1,260 Bob Triples, in 40 mins.: F. Ladyman 1, Rev. M. C. Edgar 2, A. Gardiner 3, G. Margets 4, F. Saxby 5, J. Butler 6, E. M. Atkins (conductor) 7, W. Ware 8. First quarter-peal by all except ringers of 6th and 7th, all of whom are members of the local band.

LAUNTON, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 28, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Being seven 720's. Tenor 7 cwt. 5 lb.

FREDERICK SHARPE ... .. Treble	ROBERT ELKERTON ... .. 4
*RICHARD J. R. CHAUDY ... 2	EDWIN HIMMS ... .. 5
JACK JUDGE ... .. 3	WALTER F. JUDGE ... .. Tenor

Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

\* First peal of Minor.

**HANDBELL PEALS.**

CHISLEHURST, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 24, 1925, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes.

AT 35, ALBANY ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

CYRIL BRETT SMITH ... .. 1-2	THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. 5-6
ROBERT BRETT SMITH ... .. 3-4	*PERCY BRETT SMITH ... 7-8

Composed by JAMES GEORGE. Conducted by T. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

Umpire: FREDERICK GROOMBRIDGE.

\* First attempt 'in hand.'

FEERING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, March 29, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes.

AT RYE MILL FARM,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;**

FRANK CLAYDON ... .. 1-2	LEWIS W. WIFFEN ... .. 5-6
WILLIAM KEEBLE ... .. 3-4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS ... .. 7-8

Composed by FRANK HOPGOOD. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

Umpire: WALTER ARNOLD.

Rung on the conductor's 47th birthday.

**MR. H. J. TUCKER LEAVES BISHOP'S STORTFORD.**

On Wednesday, March 18th, the local company at St. Michael's Church, Bishop's Stortford, with four fingers from Stansted, met at their church for a farewell gathering with Mr. H. J. Tucker, who, for domestic reasons, has now left the district. A quarter-peal of Grand-sire Calers was attempted, the ringing being stopped when the 7th course was reached on account of a bereavement that day near the church. The ringers were: F. Springham 1, F. Bird 2, Wm. T. Prior 3, G. Jordan 4, W. Prior 5, T. Jordan 6, T. J. Watts 7, H. J. Tucker (composer and conductor) 8, H. Dew 9, W. Wilkinson 10.

By his departure, Mr. Tucker severs a life-long connection with the town, in which his family has resided for generations. It is interesting to note that Mr. Tucker's grandfather was appointed sexton of St. Michael's Church in September, 1826, and held the appointment till his death in 1863, when his widow succeeded to the position. She was followed by Mr. Tucker's father in 1879. Mr. Tucker himself succeeding his father in 1888, and retiring in 1902. Mr. Tucker has been associated with the bells since earliest childhood, and one or two of his peals have become almost 'classical' compositions. The good wishes of the ringers were tendered him, and regret was expressed that his connection with the tower is now severed.

**A DATE TOUCH.**

At Ellesmere, Shropshire, on Tuesday evening, March 24th, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1,925 changes), in 1 hour 15 minutes: R. Biggs 1, G. H. Edwards 2, A. Allen 3, A. Haynes 4, T. Butler, senr. (composer), 5, W. S. Higginson 6, T. R. Butler (conductor) 7, W. Higginson, senr., 8. Rung on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Lichfield to this parish for Confirmation service.

WEST GRINSTEAD. — At St. George's Church, for evening service, on Sunday, March 8th, 720 Baintree Treble Bob: V. Turrell 1, T. Adams 2, G. Warnett 3, R. Stodwick 4, H. Turrell 5, W. Denman, junr. (conductor), 6. First in the method on the bells, and by all the band. — On Thursday, March 12th, 720 Baintree: V. Turrell 1, F. Turrell 2, G. Warnett 3, V. Coatcher (first in the method) 4, H. Turrell 5, W. Denman, junr. (conductor), 6.



**PRESHUTE BELLS RESTORED.****REOPENING OF RECAST RING.**

After an interval of two years the bells of Preshute Church were rung for the first time on Saturday, March 14th, when, having been recast and rebung, they were dedicated, in the presence of a large congregation, by Canon R. C. Abbott, a former housemaster at Preshute House, and now Sutrangan Bishop-designate of Sherborne.

Canon Abbott, previous to the dedication, delivered a very forceful address on the uses of the church's musical instruments, particularly bells. He said that in the early history of the church the bells were considered so holy that only the priests, by virtue of their holy office, were allowed to ring them. He spoke of this because he wanted the present-day ringers to realise the sacredness of their office as ringers.

He then dedicated the bells, handing them over to the care of the Vicar and wardens. While the Canon and clergy returned to the chancel, rounds were rung by the local ringers.

After the service, touches were rung by various bands, including ringers from St. Mary's, Marlborough; St. Peter's, Marlborough; Ogbourne; Ogbourne St. George; St. Catherine, Collingbourne; Redwyn, East Grafton and other towers.

The members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild were afterwards entertained to tea by the Vicar and Mrs. Bartlett.

The five present bells have been cast from the old metal made up to the weight of the former ones, with shape, moulding, dates and inscriptions carefully reproduced. The recasting and fitting of the bells have been ably carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon.

Replying to a vote of thanks proposed by the Rev. H. S. Arrow-smith, the hon. secretary of the Marlborough Branch of the Diocesan Guild, the Vicar said how pleased he and Mrs. Bartlett were to welcome so many ringers and friends. He hoped to meet them again before long, when a Guild meeting could be arranged at his church. On behalf of all the subscribers and parishioners, he wished to say how pleased they all were with the bells—his ringers had told him the 'go' was perfect—and he wished Mr. S. Roper, who was representing Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, to convey their best thanks to Mr. Johnston for all the trouble his firm had taken.

The tone of the restored bells is particularly good, the mellow richness of the tone of the old bells having been retained and improved by their having been tuned on modern lines.

As a continuation of the dedication festival, a special service was held on the Sunday morning, at which the Mayor, aldermen, councillors, firemen and Corporation employees of Marlborough were present. The Marlborough town band, taking their stand in the belfry, accompanied the hymns. Marlborough Boy Scouts were also present. Before and after this service the bells were rung by the local ringers.

**APPLETON'S 'FOURTH OF MARCH.'****ANNIVERSARY OF FAMOUS BELLS CELEBRATED.**

The time-honoured 'March the fourth day,' being the day which saw the commencement of the famous ring of ten at Appleton 107 years ago, was celebrated this year on Saturday, March 7th, it being generally agreed by those most concerned that it is worth moving from the actual fourth in order to secure a day in the week which is convenient to most people. No peal was attempted, but the tower was open for ringing to all-comers; an arrangement much appreciated, if one may judge from the way the bells were kept going in Stedman and Grandsire until 4 p.m. That being the hour of dinner, it then became apparent that a goodly number of visitors had been in and about the village during the day, sufficient anyhow to test the compass of the Thatched Tavern to the utmost. Many came who had been often before—notably Mr. G. Phillott, who is on the way to keeping his jubilee 'Fourth.' These renewed old friendships; others came for the first time, and made new friends and vowed to come again.

The Master, treasurer and secretary of the Oxford Diocesan Guild supported the Rector (the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain) and the heads of the Appleton Ringing Society, Messrs. G. Holfield and R. White. Dinner was well served by Host and Hostess Brown, the 'sperrit' as usual being on the menu.

Then followed 'the afterwards,' when diners from two rooms managed to insert the greater part of themselves, their pipes and glasses into one, and movements had to be carefully thought out beforehand; indeed, one was reminded of the tale, 'Father says turn and we all turns.' Many songs were sung, and speeches made, but the most popular item as usual was tune ringing on handbells by the Brothers White. Beautiful bells! Cast in the village; and they were ably handled.

Some time before the end of the evening the writer had to leave, but he was assured that the remainder consisted of much more of what was good.

**CENTRAL COUNCIL PEAL COLLECTION.****SECTION III. CORRIGENDA.**

(Continued from page 197.)

- Page 300, Peal 99.—For 62354 read 63254.  
 Page 300, Peal 99.—For 34256 read 54326.  
 Page 300, Peal 100.—For 65325 read 65324.  
 Page 300, Peal 101.—For 62354 read 62534, and add boh at 6 opposite last course 34256.  
 Page 301, Peal 103.—Last line should read 'This peal has 5th and 6th, the extent in 5—8.'  
 Page 305, Peal 115.—False (5,280 by A. Knights).  
 Page 308, Peal 120.—Put period for parenthesis after 5088.  
 Page 310, Peal 126.—For 65245 read 65243.  
 Page 311, Peal 127.—To note add 'extra boh at 1 (not 4) in this course.'  
 Page 311, Peal 138.—This is out of place, but is numbered correctly.  
 Page 312, Peal 128 and 129.—Cross out 'Each has the 6th each way in 5—6 at 12 course ends.'  
 Page 314, Peal 132.—The same as peal 130.  
 Page 314, Peal 135.—Put boh mark under 4 in first course.  
 Page 316, Peal 136.—In last course but one for 64325 read 63425.  
 Page 316, Peal 137.—False (6,048 by H. Dains), but the 5,440 is true.  
 Page 317, Peal 140.—False (5,024 by E. Wightman).  
 Page 319, Peal 144.—Add boh mark under 6 opposite 42356.  
 Page 323, Peal 151.—Put boh marks under 4, 5, opposite 34526.  
 Page 326, Peal 158.—False (5,088 by Dr. A. B. Carpenter).  
 Page 327, Peal 160.—False (5,248 by Dr. A. B. Carpenter).  
 Page 327, Peal 161.—5,088 by F. Hopgood. This is the same peal as 159.  
 Page 331, Peal 168.—In note for '32465' read '32456.'  
 Page 334, Peal 174.—Put 8 under 6 opposite 35246.  
 Page 336, Line 15.—Read 'bracketed.'  
 Page 337, Peal 181.—Opposite 23654 put boh mark under 1 and omit mark under 4.  
 Page 339, Peal 184.—Opposite 34526 omit mark under 1, put boh mark under 5.  
 Page 339, Peal 185.—Opposite 24563 put boh mark under 6.  
 Page 340, Peal 186.—Fourth course from bottom should read 45236.  
 Page 347, Peal 198.—Opposite first course 65324 omit mark under 8.  
 Page 349, Peal 201.—Opposite 43526 put boh mark under 5, and omit mark under 6.  
 Page 349, Peal 201.—Opposite 25346 omit mark under 5.  
 Page 353, Peal 206.—Ninth course from end for 52426 read 52436.  
 Page 365, Peal 225.—For 6380 read 6384.  
 Page 370, Peal 232.—For 5126 read 5093.  
 Page 375, Peal 246.—Opposite 46352 omit mark under 3, put boh mark under 8.  
 Page 376, Peal 247.—False (5,040 by J. R. Pritchard).  
 Page 378, Peal 256.—Second line from bottom read 'J. R. Pritchard'

**A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH.**

To the Editor

Dear Sir,—In your last issue of the 'Ringing World,' under the heading of the 'Central Council Peal Collection,' you have stated that my peal, No. 52, of 5,088, on page 284 of this collection, is false. Permit me to point out that the peal, as sent by me, is quite in order, but it has not been printed in the collection correctly.

I am sending you herewith a copy of the peal as it should appear, and will ask you to kindly let this be known in your next issue.—

JOHN CARTER.

5,088, by J. CARTER.

23456	5	6
42635	—	—
26435	—	—
42563	—	—
54326	—	—
43526	—	—
54632	—	—
65243	—	—
52643	—	—
26543	—	—

5 times repeated single for boh  
 last course but one in parts 2,  
 3, 5 and 6.

Contains all the 5-6's.

BARNES. — At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, March 29th, for evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: J. Willmott 1, H. Barrett 2, A. Cutler 3, H. Crook 4, H. Cook 5, F. Skerington (conductor) 6, C. Hunt 7, S. Stratton 8.

## NOISY BELLS: ADVICE WANTED.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Can any of your readers give me any practical advice as to the utility of blocking up the louvres of a bell chamber with corrugated iron, or 1½ inch boarding? The cost of corrugated iron being half that of 1½ inch boarding, it is a question whether that material would prove effective in lessening the sound thrown down on surrounding buildings through the acute slant of our louvres, which, unfortunately, are fixtures.

I am asked by our Parochial Church Council to furnish this advice, and should welcome any information which some of your many readers must have gained by practical experience.—Yours truly,

10, Elm Grove,

Newport, Isle of Wight.

## THE LADIES' GUILD.

Members of the Midland District held their quarterly meeting at Edgbaston Parish Church on Saturday, March 14th, when ladies were present from Evesham, Broomsgrove, Solihull, Smethwick and Handsworth. Mr. Freemantle (parish clerk) had the bells ready for the visitors, and later, with Mr. H. Wilhers and other gentlemen, gave valued help. The Vicar (the Rev. Canon S. Blofeld) was not able to be present, but Mrs. and Miss Blofeld gave the ladies a hearty welcome. The curate took the service, and joined the visitors at tea, which was provided by the churchwardens, and, needless to say, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Miss Foulks, of Duffield, was elected as a ringing member, and Mrs. Robinson, of Solihull, as a life member.—A very hearty vote of thanks to all brought the meeting to a close.

## MR. D. C. WILLIAMS' FIFTY PEALS.

Grandsire Triples, 3 (conducted 2); Bob Major, 7 (conducted 1); Stedman Triples, 7; Double Norwich Major, 14; Kent Treble Bob Major, 3; Superlative Surprise Major, 5; Cambridge Surprise Major, 9 (conducted 1); Loudon Surprise Major, 2; total, 50 (conducted 4).

## KENT & OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR SPLICED.

5,088, by JOSEPH W. PARKER.

The following composition was rung at Crayford, Kent, on March 17th (conducted by E. Barnett, senr.), and contains 2,528 changes of Kent and 2,560 changes of Oxford.

23456 From which ring Kent to the 28th row of the 3rd lead, which is:

64128375

61482735 Ring Oxford from this row.

16847253

61842735

16487253 and a bob here equals the 2nd lead of course 23654.

14682735

M B W H

26534

1

2

56324

2

1

56243

2

2

1

42653

2

2

36254

2

1

1

32564

1

2

2

65423

2

2

From this course end call 2 bobs M, which gives

16345827 at the third M lead end.

16345827 from which continue Oxford to the 28th row of the 3rd lead, which is:

48136572

41863752 Ring Kent from this row.

14867325

41863752

14867325

16483752

and a bob here equals the 2nd lead of course 35426.

35426

M B W H

43526

1

43265

2

2

62345

2

2

53246

2

1

52436

1

2

34625

2

2

23456

2

2

This is the first spliced peal of Treble Bob which has two separate and distinct half peals of Kent and Oxford.

## RESTORATION OF SKELTON-IN-CLEVELAND BELLS.

REOPENING OF A FINE PEAL OF EIGHT.

The bells at Skelton-in-Cleveland have been reopened after restoration. They have been rehung on ball bearings, and put into proper working condition by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the White-chapel Foundry, and ringers from Middlesborough, Saltburn, Darlington and Stockton (totalling some 30 in all) gathered in the little village to join the local band when once again this grand peal of eight were rung. The 23 cwt. tenor was declared to run 'like a top,' and the various bauds were delighted with the 'go' in their ringing of Superlative, Double Norwich, Stedman, Kent, Bob Major and Grandsire Triples.

A short service took place in the church, and the ringers were welcomed by the Vicar in an eloquent discourse. His remarks on the bells were listened to with great interest, and the information he expounded came as a revelation to many present.

A bountiful tea was provided by the local band and the Vicar; indeed, so bountiful was the supply that the appetites of the ringers (large though they were) proved incapable of making any noticeable impression on the repast, and the hosts were compelled to ask their guests to return to the attack at a supper. Even then there must have been enough cakes left over to feed the village of Skelton for a week.

Mr. Metcalfe (secretary of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Ringers' Association), in proposing a vote of thanks to the donors of the feast, spoke of the pleasure it had given him in acting as 'over-seer' of the job, which had been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank's representative in a most thorough and workmanlike manner.—Mr. Newton (of Stockton), in seconding, suggested that the church should endeavour to have the numerous handbells which were in the tower renovated.

The Vicar responded, and thanked Mr. Metcalfe for his very great assistance on the job, and also promised to see that the matter of the handbells had the very earnest attention of the church. He also invited the ringers to attend his wedding, which he assured them would be taking place within the next 50 or 100 years! (laughter).

The guests were highly amused by the conversation of two of the 'oldest inhabitants,' overheard on the return to the belfry.

First Septuagenarian: 'My word, but the old bells do sound nice to-day, Jake.'

Second ditto: 'Yes, they do, but heaven help us to-morrow when our own lads start kicking up a row!'

It is stated that the local captain has not yet recovered from the shock.

J. C. P.

## AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Could you possibly find room for the following in connection with the peal of Stedman rung at Aldershot, and recorded in your peal columns last week?

On Wednesday, March 18th, the Aldershot War Memorial was unveiled by His Royal Highness Prince Henry, and it was hoped that a half-muffled peal would be attempted by the local band. Owing to the Lenten service at 7.30 p.m., an evening attempt was impossible, and the occupation of the very few members of the Aldershot company prevented an afternoon attempt being made.

This was not realised until noon on Monday, the 16th, when a telephone message was passed to a certain gentleman in Guildford, asking him what the possibilities were of producing a band and commencing ringing at the unveiling hour. From this time onward things 'buzzed'—telephone, telegraph, train, the conductor's motor-cycle and sidecar (and the usual thoroughness with which he does things) were brought into use, and the result was a beautiful peal of Stedman, half-muffled, at Aldershot Parish Church. Our art could not pay a finer tribute to the 'Glorious Dead.'

One may ask, why the heading? The answer is this. The band did not consist of a lady and gentleman of leisure, and some members (at a great inconvenience to themselves), when approached, at once said, 'It is our duty.' This duty meant loss of time, and loss of time means a short week, apart from means of travel from such places as Guildford, London, Woking and Walton-on-Thames. The thanks of Aldershot (particularly the local ringers) are due, and are conveyed by this means, to those members who, at such short notice, came over and gave their best possible in ringing.

Trusting I am forgiven for so far trespassing on your valuable space,

ONE OF THE LOCAL BAND.

## OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

An excellent ringing meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks branch was held at Old Windsor on Saturday. The methods rung included Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Plain Bob, Double Norwich, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Major.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.****MORE ENTHUSIASM IN FYLDE BRANCH.**

'It is the dawn of a new era in the district.' This is the question prompted by the successful meeting of the Fylde Branch held at Lytham Parish Church on Saturday last, when there were nearly 30 members present. Ringing commenced at 2.45, and a bright little service took place in church at 4.30. Through the kind generosity of Mr. Smith Roberts (churchwarden) tea was provided in the Parish Hall.

The business meeting followed immediately after, and was presided over by the Vicar (the Rev. H. G. Rosher, M.A.), who said how pleased he was to see so many present, instead of the usual seven or eight. Perhaps, in the near future, there would be as large numbers as he had seen at Tamworth when Vicar there. He emphasised the need for meeting and mixing one with another. It helped to broaden one's mind, and enabled them to escape from the narrow rut of prejudice and conceit. The Vicar expressed a desire to become an honorary member of the association, along with Mr. Roberts, the churchwarden. He also hoped in future that the association membership fees for each ringer of the Parish Church would be paid out of the church funds.

The Vicar and churchwarden, with eight ringers, were made members en bloc.

The Vicar said he would suggest at the next Ruri-decanal Chapter, to be held early in May, that each church in the Fylde district, which possesses a peal of bells, should pay the association membership fees annually for each ringer.

It was decided, on the Vicar's suggestion, that the annual branch meeting be held in June instead of October. He offered the Vicarage grounds for bowls and clock golf, if they would hold the annual meeting there in June. Needless to say, the meeting decided to accept the invitation, and hold the annual meeting there on June 6th.

A touch of Grandsire Triples on handbells followed: C. Sharples 1-2, A. Hague (conductor) 3-4, G. Barraclough 5-6, W. Ratcliffe 7-8; also a course of Grandsire Caters, which were enthusiastically received.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for presiding; to Mr. Roberts for providing tea and refreshments; and to the organist and ladies who served tea. A little more ringing on the tower bells brought to a close the most successful meeting held by the Fylde Branch since 1914.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**

A meeting of the members of the South-Western Division was held at Stanford-le-Hope on Saturday, March 21st. The bells were available from 2.30 p.m., and were kept going till 4.30, when a service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. Russell). Tea, kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Belcher, was afterwards partaken of.

At the meeting which followed, five new members were elected, three from Stanford-le-Hope and two from West Tilbury.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Rector for permission to hold the meeting; to Mr. and Mrs. Belcher for providing tea; and to Mr. W. Wade for having every 'ing' in readiness.

The Rector and Mr. Belcher responded, and both said they hoped it would not be long before another visit was paid to Stanford-le-Hope by the members of the association.

During the afternoon five recruits rang their first 120, and the hope was expressed that they would persevere until they became proficient.

Thirty-three members were present, representing the following towers: Hornchurch, West Tilbury, Leytonstone, Shenfield, Orsett and Romford, together with the local band, and touches of Bob and Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Double Court, Cambridge and York Surprise, were brought round during the day.

**SUCCESSFUL GATHERING AT HARLOW.**

A meeting of the North-Western Division was held on Saturday, March 21st, at Harlow, at the Church of St. Mary-the-Virgin. The splendid gathering that assembled was far beyond expectations, and the belfry was practically packed out during the whole of the afternoon and evening. Representatives arrived from Saffron Walden, Bishop's Stortford, Stansted, Harlow Common, Roydon and Epping Upland, and the members were pleased to welcome visitors from other associations. The bells were rung until 5 o'clock, when the company retired to St. Mary's Institute to partake of an excellent tea.

The business meeting followed, when Mr. F. J. Pittow was elected to the chair.

It was decided that the next meeting be held at Sawbridgeworth. Two new ringing members, both from Harlow Common, were elected.

It was agreed that a hearty vote of thanks be sent to the Rev. Wilkinson for the use of the bells, etc. This concluded the business meeting, and the company again visited the belfry. During the day, touches of Superlative, Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich and Grandsire Triples were indulged in. In closing, it is desired to thank all those who attended and helped to make this such a pleasant and successful meeting.

# JOHN TAYLOR & Co.,

## LOUGHBOROUGH.

### THE

# LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

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**Foundry  
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(12th year  
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**Bellfounders and**

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**32 & 34, WHITECHAPEL ROAD**

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**ESTIMATES SUBMITTED**

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**Recasting, Retuning and Rehangings.**

**HANDBELLS**  
In Sets of any number.

**BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &c.**

## BELFRY GOSSIP.

Ringers attending the annual meeting of the Midland Counties Association at Leicester should note that a change has been made in the service arrangements. The service is to be held in the Church of St. John-the-Divine, and not at St. Martin's, as previously announced.

The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, formerly hon. secretary of the Central Council, and now secretary of the Basingstoke District of the Winchester Guild, is this year president of the British Astronomical Association.

Mr. D. Cecil Williams, Mus.Bac., Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and the gifted organist of Millbrook Church, Southampton, has just rung his 50th peal. Mr. Williams is a native of Wales, and nearly the whole of his ringing has been done with the North Stoneham band. Is he the first Mus.Bac. to reach the half-century mark?

A peal at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, of a hundred and fifty years ago is recalled by the 'Hampshire Chronicle' in reprinting items from the issue of March 20th, 1775. This was a peal of Grandsire Triples, rung in 3 hours and 25 minutes 'by a Society Club of the said island.' The notice adds, 'If three or four gentlemen ringers think fit to make a tour to the said island, the above society will accommodate them with either tripples or bob major.'

It is not uninteresting to read in the same issue (although it may have nothing to do with the belfry) that at Winchester Assizes in the same week eleven people were sentenced to death, the offences including stealing a mare, sheep stealing, burglary, theft of a saddle and house-breaking. Verily, they were 'good old days.'

One of the great performances in the Double Norwich method was rung at Erith, by the Kent County Association, on April 3rd, 1899. The 15,072 changes were rung in 9 hours 24 minutes.

At St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, is a tablet recording a peal of 10,097 Grandsire Caters, performed in 6 hours 50 minutes. The tablet was erected by the Union Society 'to record an excellent peal of Grandsire Caters rung here on Tuesday, April 5th, 1808, which, if surpassed by future practitioners, will stand as a memorial that their predecessors were not deficient in skill and perseverance.'

Nine years next Monday, Mr. Henry Dains, one of the foremost composers of his day, died at the age of 78.

The anniversary of the death of another famous Cumberland Youth occurs on Tuesday—George Newson died on April 7th, 1896.

The longest peal on record was commenced on April 7th, 1761, and completed on April 8th, when the Leeds Youths, of Kent, rang the extent of Bob Major (40,320 changes) in 27 hours. It is on record that 13 ringers took part in the peal, relieving one another at intervals. Among the ringers was James Barham, who during his long life rang 112 peals.

The peal rung at Appleton, on March 17th, was Grandsire Caters, and not Stedman, as published.

On April 7th, 1741, 'was rung at the Parish Church of St. Sepulchre (Holborn) a complete peal of 5,200 Oxford Triple Bob, ten-in . . . This was the first complete peal of 5,000 Oxford Triple Bob, ten-in, that was ever rung, and completed in 3 hours 57 minutes.'

This was rung by the Eastern Scholars, and at one time it was suggested that the peal was false, probably on account of the following lines which were appended to the record of a performance in May, 1741, by the College Youths, who rang another peal in the same method.

'When merit's justly due, a little praise then serveth,

A good peal needs no frame, a bad one none deserveth.'

The late Mr. Jasper Snowden analysed the question in his 'History of Treble Bob,' and came to the conclusion that, although the peal might have been a 'bad' one, there is little reason to suppose it was 'false.'

On April 8th, 1912, 12,160 Bristol Surprise Major was rung at Knodsworth, Herts, in 7 hours 18 minutes, and on the same date in 1922, 13,440 Bob Major was rung at the Bell Foundry, Loughborough by the Midland Counties Association.

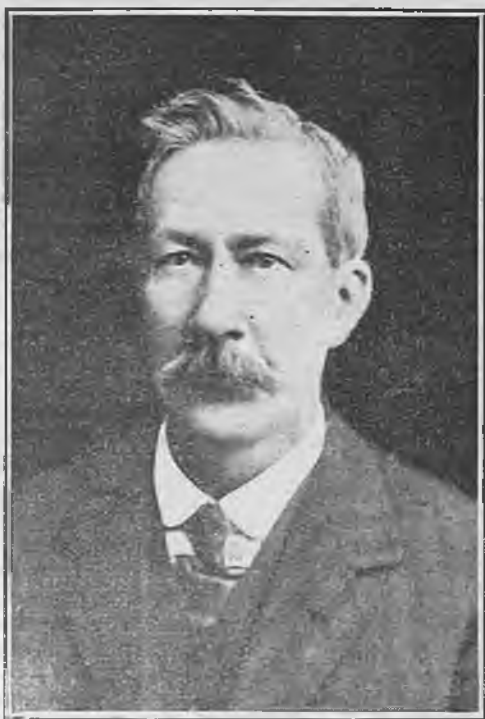
Recently, in recalling an ancient peal rung by College Youths, we mentioned that one of the ringers, Robert Catlin, was a well-known London bell founder. Here are some old bell founders who joined the Ancient Society, with the dates of their election: Brian Eldridge, 1649; Philip Whiteman, 1683; Henry Bagley, 1686; Abraham Rudhall, 1699; Robert Catlin, 1722; Thomas Lester, 1748; Thomas Pack, 1752; Joseph Eayre (St. Neots), 1763; William Mears, 1775; John Briant (Hertford), 1782; Edward Arnold (Leicester), 1785; Thomas Janaway (Chelsea), 1786; Thomas Mears, 1790; Thomas Mears, junr., 1801; William Dobson (Downham), 1801.



**BIRMINGHAM RINGER'S GOLDEN WEDDING****MR. AND MRS. THOMAS RUSSAM'S JUBILEE.**

Ringers throughout the country will join in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russam, of Birmingham, upon celebrating their golden wedding, and wish them still many years of life and happiness together. They were married at St. John's Church, Birmingham, on March 29th, 1875, and they now reside at 114, Walford Road, Sparkbrook. Unfortunately, Mr. Russam is at present confined to bed. He was taken ill with influenza and bronchitis a few days after the recent Johnson Dinner, and is not yet sufficiently recovered to get up, although he is, we are pleased to say, slowly improving.

What ringer that has visited Birmingham does not know Tom Russam. He is one of the links with a past generation of famous men, and one of the pillars of St. Martin's Guild, of which he is one of the vice-presidents. His ringing career has been even longer than his long married life, for it began as far back as 1869 at Bishop Ryder's Church, where he was also in the choir. He had become interested in bells even earlier than the date mentioned, for as a lad he used to climb, with others of his age, to the belfry and watch with wondering eyes the old man (called 'Puffer' Malin, because he was also organ blower) pulling the rope for service. They soon had a desire to ring the bell themselves, and at last it was almost a fight as to who should have a pull. When the peal was put in in 1869, Tom Russam became a regular ringer.

**MR. THOMAS RUSSAM.**

He soon met the giants of that day, Johnson, Chattell, Perks, Hallsworth, Biddlestone, etc., and used to sit, so to speak, at the feet of the mighty, picking up knowledge from their conversation. There were few instruction books on ringing in those days, so the learner had no easy job. In this connection Mr. Russam is one of the few Birmingham ringers who had the privilege of going to 'Billy' Chattell's bakery, where this worthy used to demonstrate the 'slow work' in Stedman by a novel method of his own.

At that time J. Banister (of Woolwich) was towerkeeper at Bishop Ryder's, and it is to him Mr. Russam owes it that he had such a sound tuition in the art. He always maintains that of all the ringers he has ever met, he has never seen Banister's equal in the graceful handling either of tower or handbells. It was always his ambition to try and imitate him, and we may say here that Mr. Russam has been very successful, for he is an exceedingly graceful ringer, particularly on handbells. In those days the Birmingham men were very keen on handbells, and the practices used to commence on the Monday and finish the following Sunday evening, usually at a place known as 'Old Joe Nixon's.' The spirit has descended to the ringers to-day, for there is no band more capable in ringing Stedman Cinques 'in hand' than the present men of St. Martin's, and Mr. Russam

is still among the most reliable. He was one of those who rang in the handbell peal of Stedman Sextuples.

Mr. Russam has spent a lot of time teaching both tune playing and tower-bell ringing, the last of the tune playing bauds to go through his hands being Cadbury's Moseley Institute. He was expert adviser in connection with the purchase of 80 handbells from Barwell's for this band, and was instructor to them for two years. The last tower-bell band he instructed was at Erdington Parish Church.

Mr. Russam was tower-keeper at Bishop Ryder's for a time, and afterwards for many years at Aston.

A jeweller's engraver by trade, Mr. Russam is not blest with very robust health, and therefore confines his ringing to the lighter end, but he is a remarkably 'safe' ringer, and a splendid striker.

The performance to which he gives pride of place was not a peal at all, but a touch of Stedman Cinques rung double-handed at a dinner given at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham, by Sir Arthur Heywood (then plain Mr.) to celebrate Henry Johnson's 80th birthday, in 1889. The guests were representative of all the ringers in England, and, as he says, 'to the glory of St. Martin's company, the touch came off without a hitch, the striking being absolutely faultless.' It was unique inasmuch as scores of excellent ringers in the room had never heard twelve-bell ringing on handbells before. Indeed, it was supposed to be the first touch of Stedman Cinques ever rung publicly.

Mr. Russam was a member of the Birmingham and District Association, and the Birmingham Amalgamated Society from their formation until their decease. He was also a Holt Society man until that society was absorbed by the St. Martin's Guild, and for the latter he had the honour of calling the first peal. (Previous to the amalgamation it was the St. Martin's Society.) He is now a member of the St. Martin's Guild and the Staffordshire and Midland Counties Associations, and a regular Sunday service ringer at St. Martin's. He took a pair in the first peal of Grandsire Cinques on handbells, and the first double-handed peal of Stedman Cinques out of London, this being also the second ever rung. His handbell peals also include 10,000 Grandsire Major. He rang in the only peal of Duffield Maximus ever rung, and was one of the band chosen to represent Birmingham at the opening of the ring of ten at Leominster in 1894.

He rang in the first peal of Stedman Cinques in which a lady took part (conducted by Miss Parker, at St. Martin's), and has himself conducted a few peals of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Royal. Mr. Russam has not kept a record of all his peals, but as near as he can gather his peals on tower bells include Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Cambridge, Duffield, Forward and Erin; everything from Triples to Maximus. On handbells, Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob, the first named from Triples to Cinques, and Stedman from Triples to Sextuples, including everything from Triples to Cinques in the two former methods. His first peal in a Surprise method was at Solihull, when he rang a working bell to Cambridge Royal at the first attempt. Being blessed with a good memory, Mr. Russam can tell many good yarns of the Birmingham ringers he has known during the past 50 years and more, and their little peculiarities, and when he is in reminiscent mood, his listeners will be kept in a roaring laughter. We hope Mr. Russam will soon be seen again in his place in St. Martin's belfry.

**A DOUBLE CENTURY.****MR. C. F. BAILEY'S RECORD AT LEISTON.**

Mr. Charles F. Bailey, of Leiston, rang on Saturday his one hundredth Surprise peal on the bells of his own tower, all of which he has conducted. This is another most interesting record in this wonderful family, and has been accomplished in thirteen years' ringing, if the four war years are eliminated. The first peal was rung on January 25th, 1908, and in calling a peal of Bristol from the treble on Saturday, Mr. Bailey has now conducted a peal in this method from every bell. Between 1908 and 1913 the methods rung were Superlative, Cambridge and New Cambridge only, there being 15 of Superlative, 11 of Cambridge and four of New Cambridge. In 1914 there were two peals of Bristol and one of Guildford Surprise. Then came the war, and nothing more was done until 1919. The total number of methods included in the century has, however, risen to 13, as follows: Superlative 22, Cambridge 23, New Cambridge 5, Bristol 22, Guildford 4, London 15, Suffolk 2, Dublin 1, Norfolk 1, Yorkshire 1, Lancashire 1, Edinburgh 1, Rochester 2. The numbers rung in the respective years have been: 1908, 4; 1909, 6; 1910, 5; 1911, 7; 1912, 4; 1913, 4; 1914, 3; 1919, 6; 1920, 11; 1921, 10; 1922, 12; 1923, 11; 1924, 13; 1925, 4.

LONDON.—On Sunday, March 15th, for evening service, at All Hallows, Lombard Street, City, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. R. Gammon, J. H. Parrott, T. H. Taffender (conductor), J. Martin, S. Penfold, H. Hills, R. G. Chapple, H. C. Taylor.

## DEATH OF MR. F. W. RICE.

### A WELL-KNOWN SUSSEX AND SURREY RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Frederick W. Rice, of Redhill, Surrey, who passed to his rest on March 19th. The deceased, who was in his 64th year, succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, following a brief illness.

For some years he had been a member of the band at Reigate Parish Church. He had always been most regular in his attendance at both service and practice ringing, and his death, which has come thus unexpectedly, will cause a great loss to the company.

Mr. Rice was an accomplished ringer, and will be best remembered among the older generation of the Exercise for the part he took in the successes of the Crawley (Sussex) band in the heyday of their prosperity, thirty years ago. A native of Worth (a parish adjoining Crawley), Mr. Rice began his ringing with the old band at his own church, but he soon found they were not masters of the art of change ringing. He, therefore, sought his practice in neighbouring towers, and, after a few years, he was able to get a young band to replace the old one in his native parish. Mr. Rice rang his first two peals at Warnham, viz., Oxford Bob Triples, on November 20th, 1886, and Grandsire Triples on the following day. He had belonged to the old Crawley band for several years, and when a new band was formed, under the leadership of Mr. James Parker, he was glad to get back to a peal of eight. The Crawley band made wonderful progress, and in most of their peals Fred Rice was to be found on the tenor, which bell he rang to the long peal of Superlative, the then record of 9,312 in 5 hours 20 minutes, on December 26th, 1894. Only two or three of this band now survive, the ringers having been Edward Jordan, John Rice, Alfred Mills, William Ward, Frederick Dench, Robert Jordan, James Parker and Frederick W. Rice. Altogether Mr. Rice had rung 230 peals in methods ranging from Bob Minor to London Surprise Major, and among his long lengths, in addition to the Superlative, were 6,720 Canterbury Pleasure Major and 10,176 Kent Treble Bob at Warnham.

Mr. Rice, who among those who knew him best, was something of a character, spent a long and active career in the Exercise, and his energy was maintained to the end, as, only a few days before his death, he conducted a 720 Bob Minor at Mersham.

Among the societies of which he was a member were the Sussex and Surrey Associations, Winchester Guild, and the Ancient Society of College Youths. His peals were as follows:—

Bob Minor .....	1	
Minor in 7 methods .....	18	Conducted 6
Grandsire Triples .....	27	
Oxford Bob Triples .....	1	
Court Bob Triples .....	2	
Union Triples .....	1	
Canterbury Pleasure .....	2	
Bob Triples .....	2	Conducted 1
Stedman Triples .....	15	
Bob Major .....	8	Conducted 1
Canterbury Pleasure Major .....	1	
Treble Bob Major .....	55	Conducted 17
Double Norwich .....	29	Conducted 6
Alliance Major .....	1	
Superlative Surprise Major .....	46	
Cambridge Surprise Major .....	5	
New Cambridge .....	1	
London Surprise Major .....	2	
Grandsire Caters .....	2	
Stedman Caters .....	9	
Treble Bob Royal .....	9	
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>Conducted 31</b>

The interment took place at Reigate Cemetery on March 23rd, the service being conducted by the Rev. — Owen.

A large gathering of ringers attended, including members of the Surrey, Sussex, Winchester and Essex Associations, and touches of Grandsire Caters and Bob Major were rung, with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect to one who by his enthusiasm and personality, had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

## STEDMAN TRIPLES DATE TOUCH.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of March 20th, you published a date touch of Stedman by Mr. Thomas Butler. For the benefit of any ringers using this touch, will Mr. Butler kindly allow me to point out that this composition produces 1,955 changes, and then not rounds. To produce rounds from 431625 substitute a S for the first B at 3, and a B for the S at 14 in the last course.—Yours faithfully,

L. W. JACQUES.

## ANCIENT BELLS.

### To the Editor.

Sir,—Your correspondent 'treneus' is quite right in supposing that the founder's name and date does not appear on the two ancient bells at Eyethorne. I do not know of a single instance of the name of the founder being found on any pre-Reformation bell; though in some cases we find his initials on a shield with other devices. In very rare cases we find the date—always in Roman numerals, not Arabic.

The two bells at Eyethorne are inscribed in the usual style of the period, viz.: Lombardic capitals with 'black-letter' lower type. Each bears also the following devices: (1) A shield charged with a flag and a 'black-letter' 'm' at the base of the flagstaff, which is crossed by a 'T' placed slantwise; (2) the usual medallion charged with a floriated cross and 'ihu merci ladi help' in the four quarters; (3) a shield charged with cross keys between a wheatheaf, a dolphin, a bell, and an ewer. Figs 25, 26 and 27 in Stahl's 'Church Bells of Kent.' These marks are common enough on mediæval bells; and were used by other founders besides Henry (not William) Jordan, double turret, and is inscribed: † ANNO DM10M0CC0NON0G0Alo.

I believe that Cloughton, in Lancashire, claims to possess the oldest dated bell in England. It is the larger of a pair hanging in an open i.e., 1296; 'nonog' standing for 'nonaginta,' and the 'V' in six being reversed. This bell is 21 inches in diameter, and 16½ inches high from lip to crown: which is more in proportion to the dimensions of modern bells than most of these ancient ones are; most of the latter being about the same measurement from lip to crown as the diameter at the mouth. Their crowns are generally hemispherical, and their waists long and straight.—Yours, etc., J. R. JERRAM.

Salisbury, March 17th, 1925.

## 'STEP' OR 'MOVE'.

### To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—When a gentleman states in your columns that he is very sorry for any offence unintentionally given, what can I do but reciprocate and express regret for anything I, in the heat of the moment, may have said which seemed unkind?

Whether the term 'shunt' is retained or not is a matter of indifference to me. I have been trying to think of a better word myself, and I thought of 'shift,' then I remembered we are already using that when we speak of a shift-course in a peal.

The term 'step' to me seems utterly unsuitable, and the only other word that I can think of is 'move,' i.e., we 'move' into a fresh course every time we make a fresh place, and this applies to method construction just as much as it does to peal construction.—Yours faithfully, GEORGE BAKER.

Brighton.

## SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### EASTERN DIVISION AT REXHILL.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the Sussex Association was held at St. Peter's, Rexhill, on Saturday, March 21st, when the following towers were represented: Brighton (St. Peter's and Nicholas'), Battle, Eastbourne (All Saints' and St. Saviour's), Christ Church, Blacklands, Hastings: Henfield, Heathfield, Lewes, Pevensey, St. Leonard's, Salehurst and Waldron, together with members of the local band. Ringing commenced at 2.30 p.m., and the customary service was held, the Rector officiating, and Mr. W. E. Pitman, of Canterbury, presiding at the organ.

After the service, the members partook of a splendid tea at the Bell Hotel, which had been generously provided by the Rector and churchwardens.—A hearty vote of thanks was, on the proposition of Mr. G. H. Howse, accorded to them for their kindness and in addition the Rector was thanked for the use of the bells, and for his address at the service.

In acknowledging the vote of thanks, the Rev. Canon Maycock thanked the company, on behalf of the churchwardens and himself, and expressed a wish that visits of this nature could be made more frequent.

At the business meeting, the chair was taken by Mr. J. Thornton Rickman, the Master of the Association, and five new ringing members were elected.

The election of officers then took place. Mr. G. W. Stokes was re-elected hon. secretary, and Messrs. G. H. Howse, W. Franks and A. R. Miles were re-elected on the committee.—The Hon. Secretary, in responding, gave a report of the year's progress.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Battle in June.

Before the meeting closed a collection was made in aid of the Association's Benevolent Fund, which realised 13s.

The ringers returned to the tower, where ringing in a variety of methods was indulged in until 8.30 p.m.

Taken altogether, it was a most successful and enjoyable meeting, 45 members being present, and great credit is due to Mr. F. J. Pont, the secretary of the local band, who kindly made all the arrangements.

## THE CRITICISMS OF 'CRITICUS.'

## TERMINOLOGY.—FOOTNOTES.—MORE STORIES FROM HISTORY.

From time to time we have read criticisms of the rather loose terminology employed in our art, and sometimes one has wondered how it has been brought about, but recent correspondence enlightens us on the point, and we need ponder the subject no longer. If in these enlightened days our experts grope round for words to express their meanings and use terms which, when examined, are really misapplied, there is great excuse for our forefathers who had not the advantages of twentieth century education. The latest illustration of our laxity of method in finding suitable terms, turns on our old friend 'shunt.' We never have stuck entirely to dictionary definitions of the words we use, any more than the dictionary gives a strictly accurate definition of our use of terms. For instance, a 'standard' work lying on my desk gives me many meanings of the word 'bob,' adding, 'Among bell ringers, a peal of several courses, or sets of changes.' But I am not concerned just now with what the dictionary says about our curious 'lingo.' What I am concerned with is the manner in which we select words and apply them to special uses, when a little consideration would cause us to reject the term as inappropriate. Moreover, what makes our vocabulary all the worse is that in some instances we use the same word to indicate different meanings, such as in the case of 'course.'

Now we are getting, or, I ought to say, have got, the same thing in regard to 'shunt.' Formerly the use of this word in ringing indicated merely the insertion or omission of a call or calls to divert a composition from one point to another. Now we use it for some constructional detail of a method, and it is given varying significance according to whether you prefix P or R, or, may be, X, Y or Z. But whether 'shunt' or 'step,' or any other old term is the right one, what we want is some definite system by which these words should come into our vocabulary and not have it left, haphazard, to every Tom, Dick and Harry, to make confusion worse confounded by selecting any word which he just fancies answers his purpose at the moment. We shall have to have a Definitions Board to settle these things, to tell us whether the terms we select are appropriate to the use we want to make of them: whether they overlap or fall short; whether they are sense or nonsense. In all seriousness, however, I would appeal to the Central Council to do something to disentangle our vocabulary, and they might very well do it when they put in hand the revision of the 'Glossary,' to which I referred last week.

We all like to be informed which man rings his first or his one hundredth peal, which peal is the first in the method on the bells or by an association, and matters of that description which specially mark a performance; but, without particularising and thus offending anyone's susceptibilities, there are only too often in the peal columns evidences of peals rung, apparently for the most inadequate reasons, and we are burdened with details which can be of no interest to anyone but the writer of the report. It would be a good rule, I think, if conductors would limit their footnotes strictly to what they would put on a peal board if they were having one erected. What matters it if the birthday of the cousin of the sixth's ringer's wife happens to fall on the day before, or in the week after? It does not justify the infliction of three hours of ringing on the parishioners, and bells would not be obtained for peals on that ground alone. A good deal more circumspection is needed in what we append to our peal reports—and I am sure the Editor will back me up in this.

Those who find an interest, as I do, in searching among the musty records of the past, or reading the history of ancient bells, as supplied to us by antiquarians, in various county histories, are familiar with the quaintly worded agreements entered into of old time between church officials and bell founders, but it is seldom one comes across a legal instrument drawn up between the Vicar and wardens and the ringers. Such articles, however, were drawn up at Oldham in 1745, and are dated June 11th of that year: 'It is this Day agreed by and between Samuel Townson, of Oldham, Clerk, John Woolfenden, John Wallwork, Ralph Brown and Jonathan Taylor, churchwardens of the same, upon the one part, and Robert Dalton, Abraham Milns, James Milns, Isaac Gartside, Jno Wallwork and John Mellor as Ringers are to Ring the Ringing for the whole service for one whole year from the 13th instant till the 12 day of June, 1746, Ringing upon 11th and 30th Days of October, the 5th Day of November, the 25th Day of December, 1745, the 29th Day of May, and the 11th Day of June, 1746, together with all Sundays and other Sermon Days whatsoever that shall happen in the said year.

'And the aforesaid Samuel Townson, Minister, John Woolfenden, John Wallwork, Ralph Brown and Jonathan Taylor, Churchwardens for and in Consideration of the said premises Do Promise unto the said Ringers for one Whole Year as aforesaid the Sum of Four Pounds of good and Lawfull Money of Great Brittain, at two Severall Payments usuall, In Consideration of which Sum the said Ringers

shall and will Ring and Toll half an Hour each Sermon Day, always beginning at such a time as publick Notice is given in the Church by the Minister excepting upon Sacrament Days, when they shall begin to Ring Half an Hour Later in the afternoon than usual, And also the said Ringers Shall and will forfeite and Pay to John Mellor the sume of Two Pence Each that is not Ready in the Steeple or otherwise provide one in his room Except some reasonable Excuse to be approved on by the Church-Wardens for the time being, And to Ring the said half Hour before and after noon, and Also the Whole Set of Ringers shall and will forfeit and Pay for any Gross or Bodily neglect the Sume of Twelve pence to the said Church-Wardens Except some Reasonable Excuse to be approved of by the Minister and Two Inhabitants Constantly or Commonly attending the Church, And it is further agreed that any Four of the said Body of Ringers Shall have a power to turn out any one of the Same Ringers for any Misbehaviour when and as often as they Please.' I don't know whether 'any four of the said body' exercised their right of turning out any other, but in the following year, when another agreement was executed, there were two fresh names among the ringers. The articles show that the ringers' appointments were considered a serious matter in those days.

Incidentally, Cheetham's 'Church Bells of Lancashire,' from which I have taken the above extract, tells an interesting story of the Oldham ringers and their rivalry with their neighbours of Ashton-under-Lyne more than a century ago; indeed, the 'feeling' between the two seems to have sprung up about the year 1783. Round about this time the Oldham ringers are credited, so the story goes, with 'repeatedly, arrogantly and improvidently saying that the Ashton ringers were not able to ring them anywhere,' and when a deputation from Ashton waited upon Oldham they were treated with something like contempt. 'Instead of entering into a proper obligation to prove the superior ability of the disputants, nothing was heard on their part but banter, scurrility and defamation.' After this a challenge was issued on behalf of the Ashton ringers 'to ring upon eight bells any set of ringers belonging to Oldham for any sum of money not less than eight and more than twenty guineas.' The contest took place at Leeds on September 22nd, 1786, and was decided in favour of Oldham.

The Ashton and the Oldham ringers met again at the opening of the new bells at Flixton more than 20 years after, viz., in January, 1808, but at the close of the ringing the judges were unable to come to a decision, and the prize money was divided. The verdict satisfied nobody, and a match for £40 was arranged at Flixton, and came off on June 24th, 1808, when Oldham were declared the winners. The conductor of the Ashton ringers, Jonathan Wild, was charged with selling the match to the Oldham men, and so high was the state of feeling at the time that Wild left Ashton and went to live at Stockport, where he remained 26 years. The accusation seems to have been unjust, and Wild was allowed to come back to Ashton before his death. After the Flixton match there was continued strife between Ashton and Oldham ringers for more than twenty years, and it is said to have been carried to such a pitch that if one of the Oldham ringers strayed to Ashton and was recognised, 'they ran him out of the village.'

What would be said by the 'conscientious objector' in these days if he had a rate levied upon him for the upkeep of the church bells? Yet here are extracts showing that such things were done: On June 17th, 1659, it was 'Resolved yt ye great Bell which is now burst shall be maid new this year with all the speede may be. That thirty-six pounds be assessed vpon the parishoners of Bolton according to the antient p'portions for the new casting of the said bell and the repairs of the walls and gate of the churchyard and levelling the flags of the church.' In 1665, 'resolved that fifty six pounds be assessed vpon the inhabitants of the parish of Bolton for the making of a new frame for the bells, and other necessities about the church,' and again, in 1699, 'resolved that an assessment of an hundred and forty pounds bee assessed and raised for the casting of the Bells of the parish into five bells.' Afterwards this amount was reduced to £110.

Another good (?) old 'custom' has disappeared with the advance of civilisation, and there may still be some who will heave a sigh that they lived not at Flixton when the bells were brought home. A record of the arrival of a new peal in 1808 informs us that the bells, which were brought to Manchester by water, were taken on eight decorated carts to Flixton. 'A large concourse of people followed in an irregular procession,' and on arrival at Flixton 'the tenor bell was taken into a field belonging to Ralph Wright, Esq., and deposited in a small hole made for that purpose and turned mouth upwards, when Ten Guineas worth of Double Strong ale was put in for the populace to Regale themselves with, and in little more than one hour the whole of the "Good old Stingo" disappeared, and the whole of the bells were deposited in the church.' The announcement of the opening of the peal invited 'amateurs of the art' to repair to Flixton 'to try their skill and pass their judgment upon the tone and time of the bells.'

CRITICUS.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

As Good Friday falls in next week, the 'Ringing World' will be published on Thursday and all matter (including notices), intended for insertion must reach us on Monday.

Correspondents are particularly requested to send in reports of Easter Day and Bank Holiday ringing and meetings to reach us on Tuesday, the 14th. Reports of peals rung on Easter Monday should be posted the same night to ensure insertion in the same week's issue.

## SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

**WALTHAMSTOW.**—At St. Saviour's Church, on Sunday, March 29th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: W. Theobald 1, W. Steed 2, E. D. Smith 3, H. A. Edwards 4, G. Dawson 5, A. Prior (conductor) 6, G. W. Cooper 7, F. Moulton 8.

**STREATHAM.**—At St. Leonard's Church, on Sunday, March 29th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Holt's Original), in 44 mins.: W. E. G. Hewson 1, Miss F. E. Orr 2, Miss E. Hardcastle 3, R. D. Marshall (conductor) 4, Miss E. Chapman 5, J. W. Chapman 6, T. W. Welbourne 7, H. Smith 8.

**BARKING, ESSEX.**—On Sunday, March 29th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes) in 48 mins.: G. L. Joyce 1, J. Waghorn, senr., 2, F. Russell 3, H. E. Parker 4, E. H. King 5, C. Fean (conductor) 6, G. E. Cottis 7, A. C. Hardy 8. Composed by Y. Green. The quarter-peal is in three courses, with a call from every position of the tenor.

**HOUNSLOW.**—On Sunday, March 22nd, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: C. J. Tricker, junr. (first quarter-peal), 1, F. G. Goddard 2, F. E. Hawthorne 3, J. Milner (conductor) 4, S. Stilwell 5, S. G. Armstrong 6, J. Kent 7, C. J. Tricker 8.

**KIDDLINGTON, OXON.**—On Sunday, March 22nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major by E. Hims (1,344 changes): R. R. Payne 1, E. Bennett 2, W. F. Judge (conductor) 3, H. Miles 4, F. Taylor 5, W. Stone 6, C. Bennett 7, W. Judge 8. Longest length of Major by 1st, 2nd and 7th.

**TETBURY, GLOS.**—On Sunday, March 22nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,344 changes), taken from Holt's Original: A. Parsons 1, F. W. Bond 2, W. G. Cook 3, H. Gassor 4, W. C. Cuss 5, F. J. Lewis (conductor) 6, H. C. Bond 7, F. Edwards 8; and at Shipton Moyne, in the afternoon, by the above and W. R. Locke, several six scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles.

**ISLEWORTH.**—On Sunday, March 15th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. V. Beadle 1, A. Beckensale 2, A. Brookland 3, T. Beadle 4, E. F. Cole 5, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 6, A. Harding 7, H. Brooks 8.

**EALING.**—At Christ Church, for morning service, on Sunday, March 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: F. S. Palmer 1, G. Harbour 2, H. Brookland 3, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 4, C. Edwards 5, A. Harding 6, J. A. Trollope 7, F. S. Palmer, senr., 8.

## HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### WESTERN DISTRICT.

A very pleasant evening meeting was held at Great Gaddesden on Saturday, March 28th, the bells (5) being utilised from 5.30 to 7.30 by ringers from Tring, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamstead, Dunstable, and the local tower. The methods rung were: Plain Bob, Grandsire, New Doubles, St. Simon's, Erin Doubles and Double Bob Singles.

Unfortunately, only one local man put in an appearance. After 'ceasing' the bells in peal, a short meeting was held, presided over by Mr. H. Golding. One new member (Mr. A. V. Good) was elected, and Berkhamstead was chosen as the next meeting-place; the meeting being fixed for May 9th.

By the addition of a treble to this ring of five, a handy peal of six would result, but this is, at present, highly improbable.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, the sexton for having everything ready, and the chairman for his services, concluded the meeting.

The 'bus' not leaving until 8.50, the remaining time was spent in 'reminiscencing' and discussing how to improve ringing at one or two towers.

## NOTICES.

**THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES** of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Newton-le-Willows on Saturday, April 4th. The bells will be available from 3 p.m. till 7 p.m.—Jas. Grounds, Branch Sec., 8, School Lane, Standish.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Wotton-under-Edge Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Hone on Saturday, April 4th. Bells open from 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5 o'clock. All ringers welcome.—H. G. Phillips, Branch Hon. Sec., The Lynch, Berkeley, Glos.

**SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Devizes Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Market Lavington on Saturday, April 4th. Bells (6) ready at 3 p.m. Service at 4.40. Tea at 5. Short meeting directly after tea.—F. Green, Hon. Branch Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

**HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—The next quarterly meeting and 6-bell contest will be held at Ripponden (near Halifax), on Saturday, April 4th.—L. Hargreaves, Hon. Sec., 30, Bankfield View, Halifax.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.**—Loughborough District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at Diseworth on Saturday, April 4th. Bells (6) open from 3 o'clock. Meeting to follow. All ringers and friends invited.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., 27, Chapman Street, Loughborough.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Hinckley District.—The next meeting of this district will be held at Stoney Stanton on April 4th. Bells (8) available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers invited.—W. Cope, local Hon. Sec., Wigston Parva, Hinckley.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, April 4th. Ringing from 3. The usual tea arrangements will be made. All ringers welcome.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—Leicester District.—A meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Belgrave (8), on Saturday, April 4th. Ringing 3 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. and members meeting at the Talbot Inn at 7 p.m.—H. J. Poole, 61, New Park Street, Leicester.

**NORFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS FOR THE DIOCESE OF NORWICH.**—General meeting will be held at Aylsham on Easter Monday, April 13th. By kind permission of the Vicar, the ring of ten bells will be at the disposal of the members. Luncheon at the Black Boys' Hotel, Market Place at 1.30 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d. per head. Members intending being present at the luncheon must notify me on or before Wednesday, April 8th.—Arthur L. Coleman, Sec., High Croft, North Walsham, Norfolk.

**CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Annual meeting will be held at Nantwich on Easter Monday, April 13th.—Edward W. Elwell, Hon. Sec., Capenhurst, Cheshire.



**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Meetings for April: St. Clement Danes, Sunday, 5th, at 10 a.m.; Monday, 27th, at 6.30: quarterly business meeting at 8 o'clock. —A. H. Keighley, Gen. Sec., 18 Merrick Square, S.E. 1.

**MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held on Easter Monday, April 13th at Leicester. The following towers will be open for ringing from 10.30 a.m.:—St. Margaret's (12), St. Martin's (10), St. John's (8), St. Saviour's (8), and St. Peter's, Belgrave (8). The Committee will meet at 12 o'clock noon. Hot luncheon has been arranged (for ticket holders only) at 12.45 prompt. Tickets; Members 2/-, non-members 2/9 each, to be ordered no later than April 6th, from Mr. H. J. Poole, 61, New Park Street, Leicester.

The general meeting of members will be held immediately after luncheon, and there will be a service in St. John the Divine's Church at 3.15 p.m. A smoking concert has been arranged for 7.30 p.m. The meetings, luncheon, and concert will all be at the Victoria Hotel, London Road, near L.M.S. Station.—A. C. Wright, Hon. Sec., Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual general meeting will be held at Folkestone, on Easter Monday, April 13th. Service in Parish Church at 12 noon. Address by the Rev. G. A. Lewis (Rector of Cheriton). Collection for the Benevolent Fund. Dinner in Woodword Hall 1 p.m. Business meeting after dinner. Towers open for ringing: Folkestone (8), Cheriton (8), Hythe (8), Newington (6), Lyvinge (8). Applications for dinner tickets must be sent in by Tuesday, April 7th.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec., Canterbury.

**WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Worcester on Easter Monday, April 13th. Business meeting in the Cathedral Chapter House at 2.30 p.m. prompt. Chairman: The Very Rev. W. Moore Ede, D.D., president. Service in the Cathedral at 4.15 p.m. Address by the Rev. Canon Blake, Rector of St. Helen's. Tea will be provided at 5.30 for all those who notify me before Wednesday, April 8th. As the allowance will not cover the cost, a small charge will be made. Bells available: Cathedral (12), 1 to 2 p.m.; All Saints (10), St. Nicholas (6), and St. John-in-Bedwardine (6). Subscriptions should be paid and reports obtained, in St. Helen's Church House between 12 noon and 1 p.m.—J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec., Sheepcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—The annual meeting will be held at Day's Restaurant, Cornhill, Ipswich, at 2 p.m. on Easter Monday. Committee meeting in St. Mary's Vestry at 12.15 p.m. Service at St. Mary-le-Tower at 1 p.m. Luncheon 2s. 6d. for those sending me word by Tuesday, April 7th. Bells available all day at St. Mary-le-Tower, St. Margaret's, St. Clement's.—Herbert Drake, Ufford Rectory, Woodbridge.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting of the Central Division will be held at Southover, Lewes, on Easter Monday, April 13th. Tower open 2. Service 4. Tea 5 (by kind invitation of the Rector). Those intending to be present at tea should notify the undersigned not later than Wednesday, April 8th.—A. D. Stone, 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

**STAINDROP, COUNTY DURHAM** (2 miles from Winston, L.N.E.R. Station).—By the courtesy of the Vicar (Rev. H. S. C. Spurrier, M.A.), the new peal of eight (tenor 15½ cwt.) will be available on Easter Mon-

day, April 13th, to all ringers. A bus will meet the 10.11 and 10.29 trains from the north at Bank Top Station, Darlington, and another will leave the Turk's Head, Bondgate, Darlington, at 10.30 a.m. Fare: 1s. single, 2s. return. The buses will return at any time after 6 p.m. to suit ringers. Cheap fares are usually available to Darlington on Mondays. The 'United' bus leaves Bishop Auckland for Staindrop (Route 18) at 10.35 and 2.35 p.m., and returns at 4.52 p.m. Dinner will be provided, 2s. 6d. each, at the King's Arms, 12.30 to 1 p.m., for all those who notify me by the 7th of April.—Mr. H. Shipp, 6, Duke Street, Staindrop, near Darlington.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Rotherham on Easter Monday, April 13th. By kind permission of the respective clergy the fine new peal of ten at the Parish Church will be available from 12 noon onward, and the peal of eight at St. Stephen's, Eastwood, between the hours of 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 3 p.m. onward. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, and all applications for same must reach Mr. T. C. Ryder, 16, Godstone Road, Rotherham, not later than first post Thursday, April 11th. Further details on circulars.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 90, Blackman Lane, Leeds.

**NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.**—Meeting at Blyth on Easter Monday, April 13th. Bells ready early morning, Tickhill (8) bells will also be open from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and Harworth (6) at intervals in morning and afternoon. Visitors welcome, and special parties requiring use of Tickhill and Harworth bells write Hon. Sec. early next week. Meat tea will be provided at 4.30 p.m. at Sheffield House, Blyth, at 2/- per head for all those who notify J. H. Hind, Blyth, Rotherham, not later than Wednesday, April 8th. Please note the last item is important.—H. Haigh, Hon. Sec., 103, Gateford Road, Workop.

**SHEFFIELD DISTRICT & OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE SOCIETY.**—The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the General meeting of the Yorkshire Association at Rotherham on Easter Monday, April 13th. The re-cast peal of 10 at the Parish Church will be available from 12 noon onwards, and St. Stephen's, Eastwood, from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. onwards. Applications for tea (1/6 each) must reach Mr. T. C. Ryder, 16, Godstone Road, Rotherham, not later than Thursday, April 9th. Committee meeting in the Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. Business meeting will follow the one held by the Yorkshire Association.—T. W. Chown, Hon. Sec., 68, Canada Street, Sheffield.

**CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The next meeting will be held at Richmond on Easter Monday, April 13th. Dinner will be provided at Mr. Brewill's Cafe: members 2/6, non-members 3/-. Service will be held in the Church at 4 p.m. Address will be given by Canon Leigh, Rector of Richmond. Those intending to be at dinner please notify the Secretary not later than Wednesday, April 8th.—T. Metcalfe, Hon. Sec., 26, High Street, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough.

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Cambridge, Monday, April 13th. Towers available: Great St. Mary (12), St. Andrew's (8), Church of our Lady (8), Chesterton (6). Service at 12 at Great St. Mary's, with address by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Price. Luncheon and business meeting at the Dorothy Café at 1 p.m.—Rev. R. Copeman, Hon. Sec., Owlstone Road, Cambridge.

**LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Lambeth, on Saturday, April 18th. Tower open from 3.30 p.m. till 8 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Business after. Will those requiring tea let me know before the 15th? Ringers and friends will be welcomed.—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Phene Street, S.W.3.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—The first quarterly meeting will be held at Wivenhoe on Saturday, April 18th, when the bells will be available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30 and tea and meeting at 5.15 p.m. All ringers intending to be present are asked to notify me before Tuesday, 14th April, as no accommodation will be provided for tea after that date.—R. W. Stannard, 12, Ireton Road, Colchester.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Basingstoke District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Highclere on Saturday, 18th April. Tower open at 2.30. Service at 4 p.m. Tea at 4.45; 6d. per head will be allowed towards the cost of tea to all members informing me not later than 11th April.—Charles D. P. Davies, Hon. Dis. Sec., Deane Rectory, Basingstoke.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.**—The annual general meeting will take place at Southgate on Saturday, April 18th. Service 5 p.m. Preacher, Rev. S. F. L. Bernays, Rector of Finchley. Tea in the schoolroom at 5.45, 1s. each, to those who advise Mr. W. Pickworth, 2, Balaam's Lane, High Street, N.14, by April 15th. Send in your names to avoid disappointment. Ringing at Southgate (10) from 2.30 to 5 and after the meeting; also at Wood Green (6) from 3 to 4.30.—C. T. Coles and W. H. Hollier, Hon. Secs.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Brindle on Saturday, April 18th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Tea at 1s. 6d. a head to those who notify Mr. William Sharples, Thorpe Green, Brindle, near Chorley, not later than Tuesday, April 14th. A good attendance is requested, as Mr. Wm. Taylor is expected to read a paper at this meeting.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at St. Albans Easter Monday. Towers open for ringing 2 p.m. (six bell towers by arrangement with conductors). Service in the Cathedral 5 p.m., with address by the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt-Drake, M.A. Tea and business meeting 6 p.m. in Abbey Institute. Let me know if you can come—it will help the caterer.—G. W. Cartmel, Hon. Sec., 'Duffield,' St. Albans.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION.**—South-Western Division.—A meeting will be held at South Weald on Easter Monday, April 13th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m.—E. Butler, Dis. Sec.

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Central District.—The next meeting will be held at Ranmore Common on Easter Monday, April 13th. Bells ready at 2.30 p.m. Tea 5.30 with meeting after. Those requiring tea should advise me not later than Tuesday, April 7th.—A. J. Trappitt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 57, Mellows Road, Wallington.

**DEVONSHIRE GUILD OF RINGERS.**—East Devon Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Branscombe, Devon, on Easter Monday. Service, Parish Church 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 o'clock., Mason's Arms Hotel. Members free. Meeting 5.30. All ringers welcome.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The annual meeting will be held at Bedford on Easter Monday, April 13th. The bells of St. Paul's (10) will be available from 9 a.m., St. Peter's (6) from 12 noon throughout the day. Luncheon will be at the Silver Grill Restaurant (near St. Paul's) at 1 p.m., to be followed by the meeting for the election of officers, etc. Members of kindred societies will be heartily welcomed.—A. E. Sharman, Hon. Sec., 199, High Street N., Dunstable.

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Annual meeting at Tewkesbury, Gloucester, on Easter Monday. Management Committee meeting at 12 noon. Luncheon 3s., or hot dinner 3s. 6d., at Hop Pole Hotel, at 1 p.m. General business meeting at 2.30 p.m. Tea, 1s. 6d. per head, at 5 p.m. (room for 100 only). Service at 6 p.m. in the Abbey. Those who notify me by April 8th their intention of being present will receive a report. Please advise me for meals by April 8th.—Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS** (Established 1537).—Meetings for practice will be held at: St. Magnus, on April 16th and 30th; St. Michael's, Cornhill (for service) on the 19th, at 6 p.m.; \*St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 21st; Southwark Cathedral, on the 28th; all at 7.30. \*Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

**DEVON GUILD OF RINGERS.**—North-Eastern Branch.—The meeting will be held at Bickleigh, on Saturday, April 18th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5, 1/- each. Cadeleigh tower will also be open. Those requiring tea must send their names to me by Tuesday, April 14th.—Miss M. Hanson, Hon. Sec., 2, The Avenue, Tiverton, Devon.

**LADIES GUILD.**—Southern District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Yateley on Saturday, April 18th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. All welcome. Those requiring tea please notify me by Tuesday, April 14th.—Miss H. F. Mills, 125, St. Michael's Road, Aldershot.

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—Western Branch.—The next quarterly meeting of this branch will be held at Sudbury on Saturday, April 25th. A large attendance is requested. Fuller particulars next week.—S. H. Symonds, Assistant Sec.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Milton-next-Gravesend on Saturday, April 25th. Tower open at 3. Association service in the church at 5 o'clock, conducted by the Rector of Milton, the Rev. G. W. Mennie, M.A. Tea will be provided in the Johnston Institute for all those who notify me on or before Wednesday, April 22nd (free). Half fares up to 2s. will be paid at this meeting to members. All ringers invited.—Fred M. Mitchell, Dis. Hon. Sec., 114, Sun Lane, Gravesend, Kent.

**BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.**—For the purposes of the annual cup contest and the association the following rule has been passed, viz.: 'The radius of the area covered by the association is 12 miles from Barnsley Parish Church tower. All members enrolled before March 14th, 1925, are to remain members, and are unaffected by this rule.'—C. D. Potter, Hon. Sec.

**GOLDEN WEDDING.**

**RUSSAM—ISLIP.** — On March 29th, 1875, at St. John's Church, Birmingham, Thomas Russam to Kate Cecelia Islip. Present address: 114, Walford Road, Sparkbrook.

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**GREAT BELLS.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In connection with your article in the 'Ringing World' of March 20th, respecting the great bell at Moscow, it may be of interest to mention the approximate weights of other very large bells in the world, viz. :—

The great bell at Minguon (Burmah) is 125 tons, said by some authorities to rival the giant of Moscow in point of size, in which case it must naturally be a thinner bell. Another Moscow bell is 125 tons. This is the largest bell in use in the world. Other giant bells are at Pekin, 53 tons; Novgorod (Russia), 31 tons; St. Isaac's Cathedral (Leningrad), 22 tons (like the bell of Moscow, this fine specimen is adorned with imperial portraits); Olmutz (Austria), 18 tons; Notre Dame (Paris), 18 tons; Vienna, 18 tons; Lens (France), 15 tons; Erfurt Cathedral (Prussian Saxony), 13 tons (this bell was cast at the end of the 15th century); Montreal (R.C. Cathedral), 13 tons; Gorlitz (Silesia), 10 tons; Bruges, 10 tons.

We are, of course, acquainted with the very large bells in England, viz., St. Paul's, and 'Big Ben,' London; York, and 'Great Tom,' Oxford.

It is quite probable that some of the German or Austrian bells mentioned, shared the fate of the 'Kaiserglocke' during the Great War, but of this I have no information.—Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM E. BASON.

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