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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30th, 1938.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
transmission as a newspaper.]

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THE NEW LEAF.

To-morrow night the bells in most of the towers and steeples of England will be bidding farewell to the old year and ushering in the new. The old year has been one which, in our national life, has been full of great anxieties; what everyone will pray for is that the coming year may be one of peace. The outlook is far from propitious, but we all must earnestly hope that the bells will herald a year that will be happier than the one now closing; that they will indeed 'Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.' New year is a time for 'turning over a new leaf.' We could wish that governments as well as individuals could be persuaded to turn over a leaf which will open a page of peace in all the world.

But while, as ringers, we can do nothing to turn the page of history, there are other directions in which it may be possible for us to 'turn over a new leaf.' There is still in places and among individuals a prevalence of apathy and indifference which is hindering progress. These faults seem inherent among a certain class of ringers, who fail to take seriously their obligations, either to the Church, their colleagues or their association, if they have one. Unfortunately, these men can mar a band. Generally, they are of the type who imagine that their presence in the belfry confers a favour on the rest, instead of realising what they owe to the other members of the company. Irregularity and unpunctuality on the part of even one member may make service ringing but a half-hearted and unworthy affair, or ruin a practice. Attempts at persuasion seldom have much effect; it is only a personal realisation of their shortcomings that can change the habits of ringers of this type. We hope that with the new year they will turn over a new leaf.

There can be indifference and apathy, too, in other directions. The omission to maintain the strength of a band, so that in the end it is impossible to ring all the bells for service, is a frequent failing, and one that is sometimes to be found among companies who think themselves well off in personnel. They may be too engrossed with their own immediate success, or too lazy to train new hands against the time when vacancies may come, as sooner or later they inevitably will, and often unexpectedly sooner than later. From whatever cause, the constant reports of bands which are deficient in numbers are discouraging, and there is little compensation that elsewhere a company may be above strength. In every case where there is a shortage of ringers, the cause of change ringing suffers, the service of the church suffers and, very

(Continued on page 838.)

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frequently, the reputation of the ringers suffers among the parishioners. It is a setback to every association when a tower lowers its standard of efficiency, and with the coming of the new year it is not out of place to suggest that in the many quarters where bands are below full strength those who are left should 'turn over a new leaf' and bring in new blood.

These are two of the most important directions in which individual ringers can make a new start in the new year, but there are other ways where they can, if they be honest with themselves, find ways in which they may do something more for the art they profess to love—a more active support to their association, a more prompt payment of subscriptions, a more willing hand in helping others. Every one of us, indeed, can, if we look, find some direction in which we fail to come up to the best which is demanded of us. Let us take the opportunity, now, of turning over a new leaf.

TEN BELL PEAL.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

(St. Mary-le-Tower Society.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

WILLIAM P. GARRETT ... Treble	ALAN R. ANDREWS ... 6
HOBART E. SMITH ... 2	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN ... 7
WILLIAM J. G. BROWN ... 3	JOHN W. WARD ... 8
CHARLES J. SEDGLEY ... 4	GEORGE E. SYMONDS ... 9
SYLVIA R. E. BOWYER ... 5	CECIL W. PIPE ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

First peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal by all the band, on the bells and by the Suffolk Guild.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 8, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

WALTER CHARMAN ... Treble	*ALBERT E. LAKER ... 5
REGINALD V. JOHNSON ... 2	ALFRED J. BULL ... 6
CECIL NICE ... 3	*ALBERT G. STEELE ... 7
KENNETH SNELLING ... 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS ... Tenor

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS.

Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

* First peal in the method.

HONITON CLYST, DEVON.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS' FIVE-PART, No. 1.

Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

JOSEPH BREALY ... Treble	CHARLES R. LILLEY ... 5
*ERNEST KETTER ... 2	REGINALD TRUMAN ... 6
ARTHUR GOODING ... 3	ARTHUR J. HOLWAY ... 7
*HARRY G. WILMINGTON ... 4	EVAN MORGAN ... Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

* First peal of Triples away from the treble.

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ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
AND SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt. in E.

JOHN H. BROTHWELL 1 <i>Treble</i>	PERCY J. JERVIS 5
JOHN J. L. GILBERT 2	WALTER ALLWOOD 6
WILLIAM T. PALMER 3	NORMAN CHADDOCK 7
JOHN E. TURLEY 4	G. GORDON GRAHAM <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 248). Conducted by G. G. GRAHAM.
First peal of Treble Bob as conductor. A welcome peal to the
Rev. A. C. Nugee, M.A., recently inducted Rector of Eckington.

HORLEY, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM SLAUGHTER 1 <i>Treble</i>	NELSON ELLIOTT 5
JACK M. CRIPPS 2	CECIL NICE 6
KENNETH SNELLING 3	ALFRED J. BULL 7
GEORGE OLIVER 4	OLIVER SIPPETTS <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 15, 1938, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in G.

NOLAN GOLDEN 1 <i>Treble</i>	JOHN ALDIS, JUN. 5
LESLIE H. JERMY 2	*THOMAS SIMMONS 6
HERBERT C. BOGGIS 3	†HERBERT HOWLETT 7
CECIL V. EBBERSON 4	GEORGE POYNIZ <i>Tenor</i>

Composed and Conducted by NOLAN GOLDEN.

* First peal of Major 'inside.' † First peal.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 1 <i>Treble</i>	HARRY WINGROVE 5
CECIL C. MAYNE 2	LEONARD STILLWELL 6
WILLIAM WELLING 3	WILLIAM HENLEY 7
GEORGE MARTIN 4	ROLAND BIGGS <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Rung Non-Conducted.
The first 'silent' peal in the method by the band and for the Guild.

GILLINGHAM, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 26 cwt.

EDWARD C. COWARD 1 <i>Treble</i>	FRED A. COWARD 5
H. JIM RALPH 2	HARRY J. SANGER 6
WILLIAM C. SBUTE 3	RONALD G. BECK 7
JOHN E. METCALFE 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD. Conducted by J. T. DYKE.
First peal on the bells.

PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, PORTSEA,

A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 17 cwt. 7 lb.

JOHN H. B. HESSE 1 <i>Treble</i>	TOWER R. TAYLOR 5
GEORGE WILLIAMS 2	*FREDERICK G. COLE 6
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY 3	FREDERICK W. ROGERS 7
JAMES TOPP 4	C. ERNEST SMITH <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by JAMES TOPP. Conducted by FREDK. W. ROGERS.
* First peal in the method.

GALLEYWOOD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

*ARTHUR HUBBLE 1 <i>Treble</i>	FRANK B. LUFKIN 5
*GERALD FROST 2	GEORGE A. WIGHTMAN 6
*WILLIAM S. MAY 3	HORACE S. MANSFIELD 7
*FRANK C. MAY 4	ALBERT E. NORTH <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by YORK GREEN. Conducted by F. B. LUFKIN.
* First peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

ALBURGH, NORFOLK.
THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb.

GEORGE HOWLETT 1 <i>Treble</i>	ERNEST WHITING 5
CHARLES W. LOOME 2	FREDERICK W. MUNNINGS 6
FREDERICK C. GUNTON 3	RUSSELL RICHES 7
STANLEY W. COPLING 4	FREDERICK ROOPE <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by C. MIDDLETON. Conducted by ERNEST WHITING.

WEST HALLAM, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. WILFRED,

A PEAL OF KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES;

ILKESTON ARRANGEMENT. Tenor 9 cwt.

FREDERICK A. SALTER 1 <i>Treble</i>	WILLIAM LANCASTER 5
JOSEPH WILLIAM COTTON! 2	ARTHUR E. ROWLEY 6
JACK BAILEY 3	RONALD H. DOVE 7
HOWARD HOWELL 4	EDWARD F. GOBEY <i>Tenor</i>

Composed and Conducted by EDWARD F. GOBEY.

CHEADLE, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5312 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 19 lb. in F sharp.

JAMES FERNLEY 1 <i>Treble</i>	WILLIAM FERNLEY 5
C. KENNETH LEWIS 2	*ALAN J. BROWN 6
*FRANK REYNOLDS 3	JAMES A. MILNER 7
*JOHN HASSELL 4	JOHN WORTH <i>Tenor</i>

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by JAMES FERNLEY.
* First peal of Surprise. First peal of Surprise as conductor. This
composition had not previously been rung.

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CLAINES, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes;
At the Church of St. John-the-Baptist,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S SIX-PART, No. 13.		Tenor 14 cwt.	
THOMAS W. LEWIS 1	Treble	RAYMOND C. SAYERS 5	
ALLEN MORGAN 2		WILLIAM LEWIS 6	
RALPH W. SAYERS 3		REGINALD WOODYATT 7	
GEORGE E. LARGE 4		FREDERICK G. YATES Tenor	

Conducted by GEORGE E. LARGE.

SOUTH ANSTON, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
AND SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of St. James,

A PEAL OF NORFOLK SURPRISE MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JOHN H. BROTHWELL 5	Treble	JESSE J. MOSS 5	
*TOM BROTHWELL 2		JOHN A. BREARLEY 6	
F. BERNARD DITCHER 3		JOHN R. BREARLEY 7	
*J. FREDERICK MILNER 4		JOHN FLINT Tenor	

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY. Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

* First peal in the method.

LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*ERNEST A. LONG 5	Treble	*ROBERT WARMAN 5	
†JOHN G. W. HARWOOD 2		GEORGE MAYERS 6	
EDWIN R. GOATE 3		GODFREY WALPOLE 7	
C. FREDERICK SAYER 4		WILLIAM CLOVER Tenor	

Composed by A. CRAVEN.

Conducted by E. R. GOATE.

* First peal of Double Norwich. † First peal of Double Norwich away from treble.

OSPRINGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

At the Church of SS. Peter and Paul,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' TRANSPOSITION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17½ cwt.

GEORGE A. NAYLOR 5	Treble	ERNEST J. DOBBIE 5	
*MISS JOAN NAYLOR 2		WILLIAM J. WOOD 6	
MISS DORIS G. DOBBIE 3		WALTER H. DOBBIE 7	
STANLEY B. DOBBIE 4		GEORGE WOOD Tenor	

Conducted by W. H. DOBBIE.

* First peal of Triples.

COSELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation).

*CYRIL TABERNER 5	Treble	WALTER GRINSELL 5	
BARNABAS G. KEY 2		SAMUEL BAKER 6	
DENNIS J. HOLDEN 3		WILLIAM FISHER 7	
†ALBERT COPE 4		FREDERICK HOLDEN Tenor	

Conducted by WILLIAM FISHER.

* First peal away from the tenor. † First peal. Rung on the second anniversary of the opening of the bells, also as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

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TROLLOPE'S

'COLLEGE YOUTHS'

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'THE RINGING WORLD' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD
WOKING, SURREY

SIX BELL PEALS.

CROFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.

On Saturday, November 26, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Three Minutes,

At the Parish Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 6½ cwt.

CHARLES H. WEBB 1	Treble	*S. JACK OUGHTON 4	
*SIDNEY OUGHTON 2		PERCY STONE 5	
ERNEST STONE 3		*ARTHUR R. WEBB Tenor	

Conducted by PERCY STONE.

* First peal and first attempt. Rung by three fathers and three sons.

HAPPISBURGH, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 6, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of seven extents: One each of Double Court, Double Oxford, St. Clement's, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob.

FREDERICK W. LAWSON 4	Treble	ARTHUR HOWES 4	
ERIC S. GOOCH 2		WILLIAM H. FRENCH 5	
HENRY E. WOODHOUSE 3		EDWARD HOWES Tenor	

Conducted by EDWARD HOWES.

First peal in six methods by all except the conductor.

STAUNTON-ON-ARROW, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Peter,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores, ten callings. Tenor 6 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. in B flat.

GRAHAM EVANS 4	Treble	THOMAS R. PAYNE 4	
JABEZ PREECE 2		LESLIE EVANS 5	
WILLIAM J. PREECE 3		JAMES BRIDGES Tenor	

Conducted by WILLIAM J. PREECE.

First peal as conductor and rung as a compliment on his 16th birthday. Also a birthday peal for L. Evans.

KIRKBY-IN-FURNESS.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FURNESS AND LAKE DISTRICT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Cuthbert,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Reverse Canterbury Pleasure and two 720's each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt.

ARTHUR STEDMAN 4	Treble	JAMES E. BURLES 4	
MICHAEL G. WHEAT 2		*JOHN BAGNALL 5	
NICHOLAS M. NEWBY 3		FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY Tenor	

Conducted by F. H. CRAWLEY.

* First peal of Minor. Rung as a welcome to the Rev. J. A. H. Harlow, recently inducted Vicar of Kirkby.

NORTH BRADLEY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

At the Church of St. Nicholas,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 13 cwt.

*FRANK SLATFORD 4	Treble	PERCIVAL HARDING 4	
†MRS. F. PENN 2		†ERNEST PARKER 5	
FRANK PENN 3		GILBERT H. HARDING Tenor	

Conducted by GILBERT H. HARDING.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal of Minor.

STRETTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

At the Church of St. Matthew,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 9½ cwt.

*HARRY DICKENS 4	Treble	*ROBERT HULSE 4	
*FREDERICK HANCOCK 2		*WALTER ALLMAN 5	
REGINALD WORRAL 3		JOHN DAVENPORT Tenor	

Conducted by W. ALLMAN.

* First peal of Doubles. First peal as conductor.

SWANBOURNE, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 10, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Swithin,

A PEAL OF GRANDS IDE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, 10 callings. Tenor 13½ cwt.
J. PRICE Treble | F. G. EDMANS 4
A. SCOTT 2 | F. E. ALDERMAN 5
T. BONHAM 3 | E. N. ALDERMAN Tenor

Conducted by F. E. ALDERMAN.

First peal by all except conductor. First peal as conductor.

HORSMONDEN, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 11, 1938, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
At the Church of St. Margaret,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's called differently.

* EDWARD L. BISHOP Treble | WILLIAM KITCHENSIDE ... 4
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN. 2 | REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 5
FRANK HICKS 3 | ROBERT T. LAMBERT Tenor

Conducted by R. T. LAMBERT.

* First peal of Cambridge Minor. Birthday peal for Mrs. F. J. Lambert, William H. Lambert and Michael Lambert, and rung on the second anniversary of the accession of King George VI.

CLIFFORD, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 11 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Reverse Canterbury and London, and five 240's each of Lindoff's, Pitman's and Morris' arrangement of Gvandsire.
Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWARD J. HILL Treble | FREDERICK J. WATKINS ... 4
* LEONARD H. HART 2 | JAMES P. HYETT 5
ALBERT E. JONES 3 | RICHARD J. GWATKIN Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYETT.

* First peal in three methods. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of sympathy with Mr. C. Edwards (Master of the Hereford Guild) in the recent loss of his wife.

BEENHAM, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 12, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being one extent of St. Clement's Bob and two extents each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

E. C. WALLACE Treble | A. A. ARLOTT 4
* MISS F. N. ARLOTT 2 | E. W. RICHARDSON 5
G. C. CHURCHILL 3 | G. E. FOWLER Tenor

Conducted by G. E. FOWLER.

* First peal, first attempt.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of three extents each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and one extent of Plain Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb. in F.

COLIN EVANS Treble | CYRIL M. HEATHCOTE ... 4
WILSON ALLIN, SEN. 2 | * FRANK BRADLEY 5
CLIFFORD BLEBY 3 | JOHN BLEBY Tenor

Conducted by CLIFFORD BLEBY.

* First peal. First peal as conductor. Rung to welcome the new Vicar (the Rev. H. N. Wrigley) and Mrs. Wrigley to the parish.

WESTONING, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 13, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary Magdalene,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising an extent each of Kingston, London Scholars' Pleasure, Norwich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, College Exercise, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

BRYAN F. SIMS Treble | REGINALD J. HOUGHTON ... 4
* ANDREW G. SINFIELD 2 | C. HENRY HARDING 5
RONALD J. SHARPE 3 | G. EDWARD JEFFRIES Tenor

Conducted by C. H. HARDING.

* First peal of Treble Bob on an 'inside' bell. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

MILTON REGIS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 14, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
At the Church of the Holy Trinity,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven different 720's. Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb.

MISS JOAN NAYLOR Treble | WILLIAM A. WOOD 4
FRANCIS J. CHEAL 2 | ARTHUR S. BOAR 5
WILLIAM J. WOOD 3 | GEORGE A. NAYLOR Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE A. NAYLOR.

First peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor by all the band. Rung in honour of the King's birthday.

HEMINGBROUGH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 14, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob, with different callings.
Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 15 lb. in F sharp.

* WILLIAM HAWLEY Treble | MRS. E. BRADLEY 4
MISS M. D. HAWLEY 2 | WILLIAM TERRY 5
FRED TERRY 3 | EDWARD BRADLEY Tenor

Conducted by E. BRADLEY.

* First peal of Minor.

IBSTOCK, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 15, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,
At the Church of St. Deny,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Double Court, two 720's each of Single Court, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 12 cwt.

* CECIL VEREY Treble | * A. RAY TONKS 4
JOSEPH WILLIAM COTTON ... 2 | * WILLIAM T. GOADBY ... 5
WILLIAM H. CURSON 3 | ARTHUR E. ROWLEY Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR E. ROWLEY.

* First peal in four methods. Rung as a birthday compliment to Joseph W. Cotton.

PELSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Thursday, December 15, 1938, in Two Hours and Twenty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Michael and All Angels,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Comprising three extents of Oxford and four extents of Kent, called differently. Tenor 7 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lb.

BARNABAS G. KEY Treble | CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 4
* AUBREY M. PICKERING ... 2 | JAMES S. EASTWOOD 5
THOMAS J. ELTON 3 | HOWARD HOWELL Tenor

Conducted by JAMES S. EASTWOOD.

* First peal of Treble Bob Minor. First peal of Minor on the bells.

STOKE LACY, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 8½ cwt. (approx.).

THOMAS R. PAYNE Treble | FREDERICK W. DAVIES ... 4
* JOHN H. THOMAS 2 | LESLIE EVANS 5
WILLIAM J. PREECE 3 | ERNEST F. SALMONS Tenor

Conducted by ERNEST F. SALMONS.

* First peal of Minor. † First peal.

WINTERTON, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,
At the Church of All Saints,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 9 cwt.

* MRS. R. W. BARBER Treble | R. WILLIAM BARBER 4
T. WILLIAM DE VILLE 2 | ARTHUR G. KING 5
STANLEY W. GALL 3 | DENIS A. BAYLES Tenor

Conducted by D. A. BAYLES.

* First peal of Minor.

BASSINGHAM, LINGS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
 (NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
A PEAL OF SPLICED MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven extents in 53 methods:—

1. Bicker, Gedney, Gunby, Spilsby, Wainfleet, Surfleet, Spalding and Pinchbeck Alliance and Kent Little Court.
2. Chalfont, Cromer, Steventon, Tibenham, Fulmer, Walsingham, Lammas and Olney Alliance, Crayford Little Court and Little Bob.
3. Wath, Pontefract, Carisbrooke and Donottar Delight.
4. Charlwood, Neasden, St. Albans, Wragby, Newdigate, Old Oxford, College Bob IV. and Willesden Delight.
5. Ockley, Duke of Norfolk, College Exercise and Norbury Treble Bob.
6. Capel, Sandal, London Scholars' Pleasure, Kingston and Oxford Treble Bob.
7. Double Oxford, London Bob, Thelwall, Lytham, St. Clement's, College, Childwall, Wavertree, Double Bob, Reverse Bob, Fulbeck, Canterbury Pleasure and Plain Bob.

Tenor 13 cwt.

FRANK LORD Treble	JACK BRAY 4
MRS. J. BRAY 2	JACK M. MILLHOUSE 5
CHARLES MCGUINNESS 3	GEORGE E. FEIRN Tenor

Conducted by G. E. FEIRN.

There were 138 changes of method. First peal in 53 methods by all.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION AND THE SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 12 six-scores of Plain Bob and 30 of Grandsire, 10 callings.
 Tenor 10 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb.

*LESLIE G. HOLLAND... .. Treble	FRED BLOOD 4
IDA B. THOMPSON 2	RALPH NARBOROUGH... .. 5
WATER NICHOLS 3	*BURTON MARSHALL Tenor

Conducted by F. BLOOD.

* First peal. First peal of Doubles by all except the ringer of the 5th. First peal of Doubles on the bells.

FITZHEAD, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Stedman and 4,320 of Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

EDGAR QUICKE Treble	JOHN SUMMERHAYES 4
SIDNEY SMITH 2	CLAUDE TARR 5
CYRIL STEVENS 3	*TOM MAUNDER Tenor

Conducted by E. QUICKE.

* First peal and first attempt.

SUTTON, MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN W. L. SLACK Treble	MISS EDNA M. P. FETHERS 4
CHARLES W. LAWTON... .. 2	STANLEY NOBLE 5
TOM TAYLOR... .. 3	JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER Tenor

Conducted by JOSEPH W. WHITTAKER.

First peal in the method by all the band at first attempt. Rung in honour of the birthday of H.M. the King.

WESTONZOYLAND, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt. in E.

JACK RAY Treble	B. T. JEANES 4
P. H. LOCK 2	T. G. LOCKE 5
R. G. DABINETT 3	JACK BROWN Tenor

Conducted by T. G. LOCK.

First peal on the bells.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
 (NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 6, 1938, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,
AT TRENTWOOD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5063 CHANGES;
 Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. J. BRAY 1-2	JACK BRAY 5-6
FRANK LORD 3-4	GEORGE E. FEIRN 7-8
ERNEST BRITAIN 9-10	

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by G. E. FEIRN.
 First of Caters as conductor.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
 (HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Wednesday, December 14, 1938, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT STEDMAN, SKIPTONCHLEY ROAD.

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Canterbury, 1,440 each of Stedman, Plain Bob and Grandsire. Tenor, size 11 in G

ALFRED BALLARD... .. 1-2	FRANK K. MEASURES 3-4
JOHN H. BAILESS... .. 5-6	

Conducted by J. H. BAILESS.

First handbell peal in four methods by all. First handbell peal as conductor. A birthday compliment to Mr. A. Ballard.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 17, 1938, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT 18, WESTBERE ROAD, HAMPSTEAD.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

*CYRIL D. NICHOLS 1-2	E. MADRICK & AIKINS 5-6
†A. ROBERT PARGETER 3-4	MAURICE HODGSON 7-8

Arranged and Conducted by E. M. ATKINS.

* First peal 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand' on an 'inside' pair.
 (Other peal reports are unavoidably held over).

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

TOWERS FAIL TO HAVE REGULAR PRACTICES.

The Eastern District of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association held a meeting at Sunderland on Saturday week. There was only a fair attendance. Ringing took place in the afternoon at Bishopwearmouth Church.

Tea was served in St. Ignatius' Institute, and afterwards a short meeting was held, Mr. R. L. Patterson being in the chair, supported by the Vicar.

After the loyal toast was honoured, the Chairman said he regretted there were so few members present, and particularly as it was the new Vicar's first meeting with ringers, but he (the Vicar) would see that though they were that day lacking in numbers, the enthusiasm was still there.

The Chairman welcomed the president, Mr. M. D. Oubridge, and said it was a great pleasure to see him there, as it had been such a rare occurrence for a president to be present at the Eastern meetings in the last few years.

Mr. J. A. Brown moved a vote of thanks to the clergy for use of the bells, and the Vicar of St. Ignatius', replying for both churches, said he was very pleased to be with the ringers. He certainly appreciated all that they did for the church.

The President moved a vote of thanks to the ladies for providing the tea and went on to say he had visited some belfries lately and found they were not having regular practices. He said it was detrimental to Sunday ringing and that it was not doing justice to the Exercise. He hoped that every belfry possible would keep their practice nights going.

It was proposed that the next district meeting be held at Jarrow on Saturday, January 28th.

After the meeting, further ringing took place at St. Ignatius', the methods rung being Bob Major, Grandsire, Stedman Triples and Double Norwich. Although so few attended, it was agreed that the meeting had been a very happy one.

INCUMBENT'S INDUCTION.

At St. Saviour's Church, Oxton, Birkenhead, on December 17th, previous to the induction of the Rev. J. L. Crawley, M.A., to the benefice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from the Clavia): Miss D. Battle (first quarter-peal in the method) 1, W. J. Battle 2, W. O. Wharton 3, S. Mostin 4, H. S. Brocklebank 5, J. W. Evans 6, H. Martin (conductor) 7, F. Thomas 8. The ringers of the treble and second belong to Lower Bebington, the rest to the Oxton band.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELP FOR BUDDING COMPOSERS.**

The quarterly meeting of the Southern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at All Saints', Arksey, on Saturday, December 17th. About 30 members attended, the following towers being represented: Sheffield Cathedral and St. Marie's, Rawmarsh, Eastwood, Felkirk, Wortley, Wath, Doncaster, Selby, Conisborough, Sprotborough, Whitley Bay, Handsworth and the local company.

Some good ringing in various plain and Surprise methods was indulged in during the afternoon and evening on the light and easy going peal of eight bells.

A sumptuous tea was served in the Church Hall by local ladies, everyone thoroughly enjoying the meal, except the district secretary, who could not forgive himself for having had his top teeth extracted the week previously.

Courses of Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters and Bob Major were rung on handbells after tea by several of those present.

The general meeting followed, at which the chair was taken by the vice-president, Mr. G. Lewis, in the absence of the Vicar, who was prevented from attending owing to other pressing engagements.

Miss Sylvia R. E. Bowyer, of Ipswich, was elected an out-county member of the association.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the district at St. Stephen's, Eastwood, on Saturday, March 18th.

Mr. Lewis said that in view of the fact that several young ringers were anxious to learn the rudiments of composing or to be able to prove a peal before conducting it, he would be at anyone's disposal after any district meeting to give advice on these subjects.

Mr. Lewis' abilities as a composer being well known, this offer met with the approval of all present and led to discussions on a few intricate problems relating to composition.

TOWERKEEPER'S 70th BIRTHDAY.

At Eccleston, Cheshire, on December 10th, after an attempt for a peal of Bob Major had failed, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung. The peal was to celebrate the 70th birthday of Mr. S. Jones, sen., towerkeeper at Eccleston, and the 21st birthday of Mr. A. E. Pegler, jun., of Bangor, Caernarvon: F. Jones 1, Sam Jones, jun. (conductor) 2, R. Sperring 3, T. Pugh 4, C. Dryland 5, W. Hopwood 6, A. E. Pegler, sen. 7, H. Thomas 8.

TECHNICAL TERMS.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—May I, please, be allowed to thank your correspondents whose letters appeared in your issue of December 16th, written in reply to my suggestion that the rules for Grandsire Doubles might be written in ordinary English, with necessary technical words put in brackets or as footnotes? I am sending for copies of the book which Mr. T. J. Fowler recommended.

In reply to Mr. A. Reeves, I would suggest that the word 'follow' be used instead of 'take' or 'hit'; that 'strike' be used instead of 'blow'; that for 'pass' a difference be made in going up and coming down, for in one case the word 'precede' would be more explanatory. Instead of 'making a place,' why not say striking twice in that place? The expression 'coming in' is not in the 'Glossary,' neither is the expression 'hit.' In the 'Glossary' two meanings are given for 'dodge'; those should be carefully and clearly explained, and it should be known, in any case, in which sense the word is used, i.e., whether the bells passing each other three times, or the retrograde movement of the bells. 'Hunt' also has two meanings. I prefer 'last place' (or 6th place) to 'behind.'

If the same amount of ardour were put into explanations and simplifications as is put into issuing instructional commands, I think ringing would, for learners, especially for those who are not quick learners, be a pleasanter and more encouraging experience. It is not, of course, any one technical word which makes learning difficult. It is the prevalence of such expressions. I thank the Rev. Herbert Drake for his letter.

W. W. LUCAS.

Drayton Parslow Rectory, Bucks.

THE KING'S ACCESSION.

At Farnham, Surrey, on December 12th, to celebrate the second anniversary of the accession of H.M. the King, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples: L. Kenward 1, C. Denyer 2, G. Upshall 3, S. Meadows 4, H. Kemp 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted (conductor) 7, A. E. King 8. This was the first touch in the method by ringers of 1 and 2 and the longest length by ringers of 4, 5 and 7. On Wednesday, December 14th, in commemoration of the 43rd birthday of His Majesty, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1,264 changes): F. Hammett 1, A. Hardiman 2, G. Upshall 3, J. Read 4, H. Kemp 5, S. Meadows 6, R. Hasted (conductor) 7, T. Upshall 8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

.....

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A Happy New Year,
bringing Peace and Prosperity to all
our Readers, is the sincere wish of
'The Ringing World.'

BELFRY GOSSIP.

There can be few societies that can claim the record made by St. Martin's Society, Leicester, as revealed in this week's article on leading conductors. On the Coronation Day of King Edward VII. they rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, on the Coronation Day of King George V. a peal of Stedman Caters, and on the Coronation Day of King George VI. a peal of Stedman Cingues.

The peals were rung entirely by St. Martin's ringers, and all of them in St. Martin's tower, and they were conducted by the Ringing Masters of the time, George Cleal, Fred Dexter and Harold Poole respectively.

Three of the present members of the society rang in all three peals, Samuel Cotton, Fred Dexter and Thomas Taylor. Mr. Taylor is now 80 years young and can and does still raise the tenor. On the recent visit of a band from various parts of the country, Mr. Taylor was found in the tower on their arrival and he had raised nearly all the twelve bells in readiness for them.

Two convalescents are, we are glad to say, progressing. Mr. A. F. Martin Stewart, of Ferndown, Dorset, is making a good recovery from his illness, and Mr. Ernest Brett, of London, has left hospital after his recent serious operation. Unfortunately, Mr. James George, of Birmingham, is still in hospital and not making the rapid improvement his friends would wish.

The bad weather last week prevented the Rev. E. Bankes James from suitably celebrating the golden jubilee of his first peal, which he rang at Stroud, Gloucestershire, on December 22nd, 1888. There was to have been a peal in honour of the anniversary at North Stoneham, Hants, in which among others Mr. William Fussell, who rang in Mr. James' first peal, was to have rung, but the snow prevented the band from meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wilson, of Hobart, brother and sister-in-law of Mr. Ray Wilson, hon. secretary of Holy Trinity Association, have presented a handsome eight-day clock to the belfry of St. David's Cathedral, Hobart. 'A great need has been generously met,' says a parochial note. 'There will be no more frantic rushes up or down stairs to find out whether it is time to start or stop ringing before the service.'

Exactly 50 years ago to-morrow, the then record peal of 15,041 Stedman Caters was rung at Appleton in 9 hours 16 minutes by members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The record passed out of their hands later, but in 1922 it returned to Appleton, when the 'longest ever' was rung—a peal of 21,363 changes.

Another notable performance by the Oxford Diocesan Guild rung on the last day of the year was a 12,096 of Double Norwich Major in 1892.

James Barham, one of the greatest peal ringers of a hundred and fifty years ago, rang his one hundredth peal on January 1st, 1793, with a band whose ages totalled 582 years.

Among the Christmas greetings which we received was one to 'The English Ringers,' from St. Paul's Cathedral Society of Change Ringers, Melbourne, Australia, and another from Holy Trinity Association, Hobart, Tasmania.

RINGERS WHO COUNT.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I do not know anything about London ringing and I do not presume to express any opinion on it, but, speaking generally, I think that the only members of any association who should count are those who belong to a local band and ring regularly for Sunday service. The representatives on the Central Council should be calculated on that basis only. I am told that there are some societies which would lose their representation if this plan was adopted, but I do not think that that affects the argument. Those ringers who only go about from tower to tower to ring peals and practise to suit themselves are of no good either to the Church or to other ringers. All they do is to cause the associations a lot of expense to print their peals, which are not of the slightest interest to anybody except themselves.

STANLEY MERCER.

BRAY TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—As one who had an active part in restoring the bells at Bray in December, 1914, and rang the tenor to the first 720 Oxford Treble Bob after restoration, I would like to say that Messrs. Warners, who carried out the contract, told us (the workmen) that the tenor, after tuning, weighed 26 cwt.

Taunton.

J. HUNT.

LEADING CONDUCTORS—51.**FREDERICK H. DEXTER.**

One of the leading spirits in Leicester for many years has been Mr. Frederick H. Dexter. In the belfry he is a martinet, but beneath it all he is one of the most genial of individuals after the touch or peal is over. Woe to the man who blunders or strikes badly when he is ringing, but there is no ringer in or around Leicester more capable of keeping a band together than Mr. Dexter has proved himself to be. Indeed, although there are 'rival' towers in the city, including two with rings of twelve bells, there is no rivalry, unless it is of the most friendly character. The ringers in Leicester are a very happy family, and it is due in no small measure to the spirit that radiates from Mr. Dexter. He has done a great deal to raise the standard of ringing in the district, and many of the capable men in that area owe much of their progress to his help and encouragement.

Born in 1882 at Leicester, Mr. Dexter's first interest in ringing was aroused shortly after his parents went to reside at the Old Town Hall, now the Guildhall, which is immediately adjacent to St. Martin's, in 1892. The spiral staircase was at that time the great attraction to him and other boys, and while at first the ringers invariably chased them down again, ultimately they let the boys sit in the belfry to watch them chiming. There was no ringing in those days except for special services and occasions, neither was there any practice night.

Eventually these youngsters were taught how to chime and ring under the leadership of the late Mr. George Cleal, one time of Tewkesbury. Since then Mr. Dexter's ringing career has, in part, been the history of the St. Martin's Society.

His first peal was at Stanford-on-Soar, Notts, Grandsire Triples, on Jan. 19th, 1901, and was the first peal by the society. Mr. Dexter's first peal as conductor was at Lutterworth on September 19th, 1903, when he called Parker's one-part, and followed it shortly after by calling Holt's Original. Grandsire Caters was rung on the Coronation Day of King Edward VII., Stedman Caters on the centenary of Trafalgar Day. On King George V.'s Coronation Day a peal of Stedman Caters was rung, composed and conducted by Mr. Dexter. These peals were by St. Martin's ringers at St. Martin's.

His first peals of Kent Treble Bob Major and Royal, Stedman Cinques (the first by a Leicester district band and the first in the diocese), the first of Cambridge Surprise Major and Royal, Bristol and London Surprise Major by the St. Martin's Society were all called by him, and in nearly every case it was the ringers' first peals in the method. The Cambridge Royal was the first by the Midland Counties Association and all the band. He also called the first Surprise peal by a band all resident in Leicester—Bristol at St. John-the-Divine's Church. He also called the first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, in which the ringers were all Leicester and district members.

There have been seven different methods in his 49 Surprise Royal peals, all of them rung as St. Martin's Society peals. Mr. Dexter called four of them. He has also rung peals in 18 different Surprise Major methods. He composed and conducted 'Real' Superlative the first time a peal was rung in this method that went into five figures; also 7,008 Cambridge Surprise Major, the then longest length. He rang in a 13,440 of Bob Major and also the 12,896 Cambridge. This was conducted by his pupil, Harold Poole, who by this time was getting into his stride as a conductor.

When St. Martin's, now, of course, the Cathedral, increased its ring from 10 to 12 bells, which were opened on King George VI.'s Coronation Day, Mr. Dexter resigned from the office of Ringing Master in favour of Mr. Poole. The Cathedral band during the day rang a peal of Stedman Cinques, and since then another peal has been rung, so that all the members of the society, numbering 20, should have a peal of it. Cambridge Maximus has followed by a band all service

(Continued in next column.)

**MR. F. H. DEXTER.****B.B.C. AND BELLS BEFORE SERVICES.****FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

Among those who have recently taken up with the B.B.C. the treatment given to ringers who undertake the ringing before Sunday evening broadcast services has been Mr. C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild. He drew the attention of the Director of Religion to the cutting down of time of the ringing at both St. Olave's, Hart Street, London, and St. Mary's, Portsea.

In regard to St. Olave's he pointed out that, to ensure the bells being rung in a manner befitting the occasion, a competent band came together, at no little inconvenience to themselves, from places as far apart as Chadwell Heath (Essex), Crayford (Kent), Sutton (Surrey), Lewisham, Ealing, etc., and, after doing their job well, it was a great disappointment to all of them afterwards to hear that for only two minutes were the bells heard on the air. Indeed, many ringing friends, added Mr. Coles, had expressed great indignation on what they consider a slight to the band and to ringing generally.

'I venture to ask you to make a time allowance for notices, etc., in future broadcasts when ringing is to take place, so that a full five minutes is allowed for the bells. I feel sure you will agree that in cases where an expert band has attended, perhaps from places a distance away, it is not an encouragement when their efforts are so little appreciated that the bells are only heard during a spare minute or two. The general public, too, would welcome a little more ringing, provided that it is being done well; this is proved by the popularity of the present-day interval signals and by all broadcasting stations. There are some 40,000 ringers affiliated to the several ringing organisations in the country, and we, therefore, do represent a large proportion of the listening public.'

To this letter the Controller (Public Relations) replied in precisely the terms of his letter to Mr. F. W. Rogers (published in 'The Ringing World' on December 2nd).

Mr. Coles sent another letter in answer to this communication, in which he said he fully appreciated that a very large number of listeners preferred to hear something of the history of the various churches, but he could not agree that bells did not make a very effective broadcast.

'At the dinner of the Ancient Society of College Youths on Nov. 5th the Archdeacon of London, referring to the monthly short wave broadcast from St. Paul's Cathedral, spoke appreciatively of the bells, and the Archdeacon quoted from some of them. This coincides with our own experience and there is no reason to suppose that broadcast ringing is listened to with less appreciation by home listeners than by those far away.

'I would, too, point out that in my letter I made no suggestion that descriptive notices should be omitted, but that a time allowance should be made for them. Surely it is not too much to ask that ringers should be given five minutes, and this, I think, could be ensured by advertising the start of the service when bells are to be rung, at 7.50, as used to be done in the Midland Regional programmes.

'I regret troubling you again, but do feel that on the occasion of the St. Olave's, Hart Street, broadcast we were treated as of very little account seeing that we were actually "faded in" a few seconds before 7.57½ p.m. and faded out at 7.59 p.m., so that in the short space of five minutes there were given the announcement of the service, the descriptive notice of the church, the ringing of the bells and a very short organ voluntary.'

The Controller of Public Relations replied as follows: 'We are glad to have a further expression of your opinions, and these will be taken into account in the light of your previous letter and reply.'

'OPEN' MEMORIAL RINGING.

With the bells 'open,' in memory of Mary Horsfield, daughter of Mr. F. Horsfield, the ringer of the sixth, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (from Holt's Original) was rung for evensong on Sunday, December 11th, at All Saints' Church, West Bromwich: Norman Hadley (first quarter-peal) 1, William D. Peart 2, William Partridge (first quarter-peal 'inside') 3, Herbert Howl 4, Maurice G. Turner 5, Frederick Horsfield 6, Albert Mills (conductor) 7, Albert Kendrick (first quarter-peal) 8. Miss Horsfield died in May, and this quarter-peal was rung on her birthday anniversary.

(Continued from previous column.)

ringers at the Cathedral. With very few exceptions, Leicester and district ringers owe their first opportunity to call or ring their first peals in the higher methods to Mr. Dexter and to Leicester Cathedral Society in general.

He has gained the title of 'The Sergeant-Major,' but no ringer who has come under his tuition can say he has not benefited from the 'drilling' he has received. Mr. Dexter gets most of his pleasure in teaching the young blood, *conducting* as opposed to blindly calling bobs and trusting to luck, and in these days is always willing to stand aside if anyone cares to ring in his place, and is ready to call only if others don't want, will not or cannot do so. Altogether he has rung 390 peals and conducted 161.

THE ANTIENT SOCIETY OF ST. STEPHEN'S BRISTOL'S OLD GUILD.

The Myth of a Royal Charter.

In the year 1846 Edward John Osborn paid a visit to the West with the idea of collecting material for the history of ringing, which he intended to write. The visit was a very successful one, for he not only secured the original manuscripts once belonging to the College Youths and the Union Scholars, but he also gathered a lot of information about early ringing in Bristol.

Especially he was interested in the Antient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers, and he took back with him a copy of the rules as printed by the 'Bristol Mirror' in 1822, a broadsheet of the song the members sang at their annual feast—'The Golden Days of Good Queen Bess'—a dinner ticket (with the price £1 ls. marked on it), and as much information as he could learn of the traditions of the society.

The first are among his collections in the British Museum, together with the newspaper reports of annual dinners in several following years. The last he wrote down in his note book now in my possession: Queen Elizabeth arriv'd at Bristol on Saty. Augst. 14, 1574, & the St. Stephen's Bells were rung on her arrival, for which she promised the ringers a Charter wch was afterwards granted by James 1st bearing date 17 Novr. 1620. She was recd by John Young, the then Mayor of Bristol, afterwards Sir John Young, he resided at St. Augustine's back Bristol.

This was the tradition which was then believed, and subsequent years have added nothing to our knowledge of the matter.

The story of early ringing is full of pleasant little tales and legends about the old societies. Present-day members sometimes recognise that there may be a good deal of fancy about these tales, but they like to believe them, and they incline to the opinion that so long as they cannot be proved to be false there is no reason why they should not be considered as true.

HOW THE LEGEND GREW.

The historian has to take a different view. He knows how easily these legends grow up and how few will stand any serious testing. He is compelled to reject any which either have no contemporary corroboration or are not inherently probable. How does the St. Stephen's tradition stand this test?

Queen Elizabeth did visit Bristol in 1574. She arrived on August 14th, and during her progress and all the following days there were pageants and speeches and military display and all the pomp and ceremony that the great Queen delighted in.

And we may be quite sure that not only St. Stephen's bells, but all the bells of Bristol were rung. That was a mark of respect which was looked for as a matter of course. The omission would have been noticed and resented.

But Elizabeth was personally interested in the sound of bells. She liked to listen to them, and as she understood the art of making herself popular, it is more than likely that she did admire St. Stephen's bells as she heard them across the water at her lodging, and no doubt she expressed her admiration. But I cannot think it was to the ringers.

When anyone hears and admires bells he seldom gives a thought to the men at the ropes. They are out of sight and so out of mind. They reverse the role of the good child and are heard but never seen. When the Queen admired St. Stephen's bells we may be sure that it was her host, the Mayor, that she congratulated; but since she had passed the compliment it was not at all unnatural that the ringers should afterwards take some of the credit to themselves.

CHARTER COULD GIVE NO RIGHTS.

There is, however, the very circumstantial statement that she promised a Charter. It was the tradition of the society, it has been repeated many times, and is still believed to-day.* But I cannot think it has the slightest amount of probability about it.

The usual thing then and now and all along is that when a man wants to notice the ringers he sends them something to get a drink with. That, they can understand and appreciate. Elizabeth did not throw her money about recklessly, but on this occasion she sent 200 crowns to make a feast for the soldiers who had entertained her. Nothing is said about the ringers. They were few in number and perhaps they managed to get included with the others.

But what good would a Charter have been to them? To grant a Charter was not a way of conferring an honour. It was a royal act which created a legal corporation by which a number of men could, as a body, carry out duties, exercise rights and hold property. But the St. Stephen's ringers had no property to hold, for property meant 'real' property, that is land and its equivalent, and it did not include the few shillings which constituted their 'stock.' And no Charter could give them rights as ringers which they did not already enjoy.

In any case, no Charter was granted by the Queen, and it is impossible to believe that the promise she is supposed to have made was redeemed by her successor. James had spent the greater part of his

life in Scotland, where most of the bells had been destroyed, and where there never was, and never has been, any sentiment of ringing as in England. There is not the slightest reason to think that he was in any way interested either in bells or the art.

Yet there is the very precise statement that the King did grant a Charter, that it is dated November 20th, 1620, and that it is still in existence. How did the legend arise?

That is quite easy to see. The society possesses a code of rules. These are set out on a document dated 1693, which is a copy of a document dated 1657, and that in turn was a copy of a document dated 1620. These rules state the constitution of the company and the general regulations under which it existed and worked. English words are often used rather loosely, and there is nothing strange or unusual in this code being called the society's 'Charter.' People remembered the tradition of Elizabeth's kind words and associated it with this code of rules, and there you have the explanation of the legend of the promise and the granting of a Charter.

ANCIENT GUILDS.

Of course, no Charter ever was granted, for there is no record of such a thing among the official patents and documents. We have, therefore, no direct early evidence about the society, except this code of rules, but that does not necessarily mean that we can know no more about it than is supplied by guessing and conjecture. For the society does not stand alone. It was one of dozens of similar bodies, and is unique only in having preserved a continuous corporate existence from the early years of the seventeenth century until the present day.

We must notice one or two legends, modern in their origin and based on conjecture, which are believed and often repeated.

The first is that it is much older than 1620 and was 'even then an ancient institution; the ringers had been probably a pre-Reformation guild for religious, benevolent and social purposes.'** This opinion is backed by the high authority of Toulmin Smith. 'The rules,' he says, 'have every characteristic of those guilds that can be identified as flourishing in the 14th and 15th centuries. Even the amount of the fines, as well as other internal marks, carry back the date to the same time.'†

One does not differ lightly from the author of 'English Guilds,' but really the fact that the St. Stephen's rules are reminiscent of fourteenth century guilds proves nothing. The guild system had existed in England from Saxon times, and the communal life of the people was saturated with it. The social and religious guilds were suppressed in 1547 and their property confiscated, but they served as models on which later clubs were founded. It is quite certain that the early ringing societies were formed directly or indirectly on the model of the guilds, but the fact remains that they were new organisations, formed for a very definite purpose. Whoever drew up the rules of the St. Stephen's Society in 1620 could scarcely have had any option in the matter. He was bound to follow the model of the guilds.

Nor is there any reason to suppose that the society was established on a religious basis, or had inherited any particular religious traditions. Everything goes to prove that the ringing societies of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were purely secular bodies in the same sense that the societies formed for the practice of any other sport were secular. The statement often made that there were guilds of ringers in pre-Reformation times has no foundation in fact or probability,‡ and in any case since the Reformation ringing had been entirely secularised. John Latimer's statement that the St. Stephen's ringers 'had been probably a pre-Reformation guild for religious, benevolent and social purposes is, of course, incapable of proof or disproof, but it is something like saying, without any evidence, of a modern cricket club that it had probably been a nineteenth century society for converting the heathen.

But these people point to rule 22, which says that 'if any of the said Company shall be so rude as to run into the Belfry before he do kneel down and pray as every Christian ought to do, he shall pay for his first offence sixpence and for the second shall be cast out of the Company.'

Surely there is nothing strange about such a rule in the second decade of the seventeenth century. A secular body is not necessarily an irreligious body, and this rule meant no more than the Grace which was usually said before meals.

A SECULAR BODY.

The Society of St. Stephen's Ringers, then, was a secular body, founded, so far as the evidence goes, in 1620, and was one of many similar societies which were formed in all parts of the country for the purposes of ringing as a sport and incidentally as social clubs. It was not a Church organisation, it owed no allegiance to the Church, and it performed no Church duties. It has been remarked that there are no references to it in the vestry minutes,§ but it would be strange if there were. Ringing for divine service is quite a modern thing and was not used in olden times either before or after the Reformation. There had been ritual ringing during processions on occasions before High Mass, and there was always a lot of ringing on royal birthdays and anniversaries, on civic occasions, and the visits of great people. This was ordered and paid for by the vestry, but it was the clerks who were responsible for the ringing. They received the orders and employed whom they would. The ringers had no recognised position in the church or parochial organisation. Even if the Society of St.

(Continued on next page.)

BROADMOOR'S VIEWS ON STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—During my holidays I was passing Broadmoor, where, as you know, they keep criminal lunatics, and I happened to pick up a letter which evidently had been thrown over the wall of the prison. It was addressed to 'The Ringing World,' so I send it on, but unfortunately it is incomplete, the beginning and the ending being absent. This is what it says:—

'Mad! I'm not half so mad as they think, and so I'll let these people know when I get a chance. Six inches of a butcher's knife stuck into their bellies would let a little sense into the place where most of them keep it. I told the doddering old fool not to talk rubbish. He would keep on saying that the earth goes round the sun. Use your eyes, man, I said, you can see for yourself that it is the sun that moves. But he would not. So I hit him on the head, hard, with a carpenter's hammer I happened to have handy. That'll teach him not to talk rot.

But that's not what I want to say to you. What I want to say is that I am going to do the same thing to those imbeciles who say you can't get a peal of Stedman Triples with bobs only. Why can't you? There is far too much talk about you can't do this and you can't do that. You can't buy tobacco after eight at night, nor beer after ten. And all that sort of thing. But this is a free country, or was when I was a boy, and it is surprising what you can do if you only try. My answer to those idiots who say you can't get a peal of Stedman Triples with bobs only is—I have done it. When you know the trick it is as easy as telling lies. All you have to do is to call bob at. . .

Here the writing breaks off.—Yours truly,

S. MENDAX.

REV. C. C. COX'S 'CENTURY.'

The Rev. C. Carew Cox, Vicar of Lyme Regis, completed his century the other day. Among his peals has been Holt's Original rung 'silent,' and he has had the unusual experience of spreading his hundred over 20 counties and 71 towers.

	Rung	Conducted
Grandsire Triples	16	8*
Grandsire Caters	3	2
Stedman Triples	29	9
Stedman Caters	14	4
Stedman Cinques	3	
Plain Bob Major	8	3
Kent Treble Bob Major	5	3
Oxford Treble Bob Major	1	
Minor	5	5
Double Norwich Major	5	3
Superlative Surprise Major	6	2
Cambridge Surprise Major	3	1
Bristol Surprise Major	2	
Totals	100	40

* Including Holt's Original silent.

BRISTOL'S OLD GUILD.

(Continued from previous page.)

Stephen's Ringers had been in existence when Elizabeth visited the city, it would have been by no means a matter of course that they should have done the ringing.

How then, if they were a secular body with no official connection with the church, did they get free access to the belfry? It seems at first sight strange and a mystery, but actually it was quite easy and quite a natural thing. All over England, in almost every tower, there was plenty of 'pleasure' ringing done by all sorts of people. Vestries passed rules to regulate and to restrict it within certain bounds, but they never dreamt of trying to stop it. It was no unusual thing in some churches for the bells to be rung almost every night in the week, different companies taking their turns as the opportunity offered itself.

To get admission to the belfry seems to have needed no more formality than to get the keys from the clerk or sexton. It was, of course, necessary to keep on good terms with that official and it was usually done by paying him a fee. Here is the origin of the steeple-age, which is still paid in a few towers.

In the St. Stephen's Company the sexton received an entrance fee from every new member and a proportion of the fines. Whatever rights the parsons may have had of controlling the ringing of the bells were not exercised by them.

This may seem a very loose and indefensible state of affairs, but it existed from the earliest times down, in many places, to living memory.

There is more to be said about the St. Stephen's Society, but it must be left until another time.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

* H. E. Roslyn—'The History of the Antient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers,' page 1.

** John Latimer—'The Annals of Bristol in the seventeenth century.'

+ Toulmin Smith—'English Gilds,' page 292.

‡ There was in 1255 a 'Guild of Westminster appointed to ring the great bells of Westminster,' but that was unique.

§ H. E. Roslyn, page 3.

TWO MORE SURPRISE MAJOR METHODS.

FRAMSDEN AND NEWBURY.

Two Surprise Major methods recently rung are Framsdens and Newbury. Framsdens is one of Mr. Gabriel Lindoff's productions. Newbury has twice been rung, but the first time the peal proved to be false. This was replaced by a second one rung a fortnight ago.

FRAMSDEN.	NEWBURY.
12345678	12345678
21354768	21436587
12537486	12346578
21357846	21435687
23158764	24136578
32517846	42315687
23157486	24135867
32514768	42318576
23541786	24381567
25347168	42835176
52431786	42381567
54237168	24835176
45327618	42385716
43526781	24837561
34257618	42835716
32456781	24387561
23547681	23478651
25346718	32746815
52437681	23748651
54236718	32476815
45326178	23746185
43521687	32471658
34256178	32746185
32451687	23471658
23415678	32417685
32146587	32146758
23416857	32416578
32148675	23145687
31246857	21346578
13426587	12435687
31245678	21345678
13254768	12436587
13527486	14263857

Bob 12357486

Bob 14235678

5,152 by G. Lindoff.

5,088 by J. Thorp.

23456 W M H

23456 M B W H

52476	—	—	—	—
45623	—	—	—	—
65324	—	—	—	—
3 times repeated				
54632	—	—	—	—
64235	—	3	—	—
26543	—	—	—	—
52364	—	3	—	—
35426	—	3	—	—
23456	—	—	—	—

Framsdens Surprise was first rung at Helmingham, Dec. 5th, 1938.

42356	—	—	—	1
43526	1	—	2	2
24365	—	—	—	2
42563	2	—	—	2
64235	—	—	—	2
23645	1	—	2	1

Newbury Surprise was first rung to a true peal at Bushey, Dec. 15th, 1938.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION NEXT MARCH.

The Leeds and District Society visited St. Michael's, Headingley, on October 29th. The bells were rung up at 3.15 p.m., and ringing continued in a variety of methods throughout the afternoon and evening.

At the business meeting, with the president in the chair, members were present from Armley, Batley, Birstall, Bradford Cathedral, Burley, Drighlington, Guiseley, Headingley (St. Chad's), Hunslet, Idle, Leeds Parish Church, Pudsey, Ripon, Rothwell, Sherburn, Shipley and the local company.

The sub-committee for the jubilee celebrations presented a report, and the date was fixed as March 25th. Further details will be given next month.

One new member, Mr. Harvey, of Bradford Cathedral, was elected. A vote of thanks to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local company was accorded on the motion of Mr. W. Woodhead, seconded by Mr. F. Rayment.—Mr. F. G. Sherwood replied for the local company.

PEAL NOTES.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE BAND GOING AHEAD.

The North Lincolnshire band, under the talented conductorship of George Feirn, have gone another step forward in their progress towards the record number of methods in a peal of Minor. The record stands at 84, but they are creeping up.

On Saturday week at Bassingham they carried their own total to 53 in a peal that had 138 changes of method. It is noteworthy that this band includes a lady, Mrs. Jack Bray.

A handbell peal in four Doubles methods was rung on December 14th as a birthday compliment to Mr. Alfred Ballard. It was rung in his own home at Burbage, Leicestershire.

A peal of Doubles on the front six at St. Mary's, Nottingham, was the first peal on the bells by a company of regular service ringers at this church. It has been an uphill struggle to maintain a service band, but this peal seems to be a happy augury for the future. The peal was rung on December 17th.

What is believed to have been the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells was rung at Winterton, Norfolk, on December 17th, when seven 720's of Oxford were rung. Messrs. A. G. King and R. W. Barber have now rung Oxford Treble Bob from Minor to Maximus.

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF.

May we ask those responsible for sending in reports of peals to do so immediately after the peals are rung, and not to delay them, as is often done, for a week or even more? It adds to our difficulties, and is unfair to those who make a point of forwarding their reports promptly.

Also, we would request those who send reports of peals to copy the form always used in 'The Ringing World.' It will avoid the omission of essential details and consequent delay in publication.

The birthday of Mr. Joseph W. Cotton, hon. secretary of the Burton District of the Midland Counties Association, was celebrated by a peal of Minor in four methods rung at Ibstock, Leicestershire, on December 15th.

Three fathers and three sons have rung a peal of Doubles at Croft, Leicestershire, and it is noteworthy that in the case of one pair both scored their first peal.

YORKSHIRE SURPRISE FROM MAJOR TO MAXIMUS.

St. Mary-le-Tower Society has added another 'first' to their list by ringing a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Royal at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich, on December 17th. It was the first by all the band, on the bells and by the Suffolk Guild. Miss Bowyer and Messrs. Smith, Brown, Sedgley and Pipe, who took part, have now rung Yorkshire Surprise on eight, ten and twelve bells.

The peal was rung after meeting one short for Superlative Surprise Maximus. and it was incidentally, W. J. G. Brown's 250th peal.

The first peal on the bells, a ring of six, at Westonzoiland, Somerset, was rung on December 17th. It consisted of 42 six-scores of Grand sire Doubles.

After the peal of Oxford Bob Triples at Claines on December 17th, the band, with other ringers who have an affinity with Claines tower, adjourned to the Angel Hotel, Worcester, for the annual supper, provided by Mr. E. P. Thomas. It is hardly necessary to add that the Christmas fare was tackled in 'peal-fashion'—the 'starting course' being non-conducted!

Mr. Thomas, whose hospitality many Worcestershire ringers (and visitors) have enjoyed, defrayed the cost of having one bell of the old five at Claines recast and three new bells added to make the octave some years ago. Though not a ringer, he is very enthusiastic about the art, and is present on most Sunday mornings at Claines to watch and listen to the service ringing.

In honour of H.M. the King's birthday, a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung at Sutton, Macclesfield, on December 17th. It was the first peal in the method by all the band.

The second anniversary of the opening of the bells at Coseley fell on December 17th and was celebrated with a peal of Grand sire Triples. The peal was also a birthday compliment to the conductor, Mr. William Fisher.

The local ringers at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, rang a peal in three Minor methods on December 13th to welcome the new Vicar and his wife (the Rev. W. N. Wrigley and Mrs. Wrigley) to the parish. It was Clifford Bleby's first attempt to call a peal.

Mr. Jack Bray, of Burton-on-Stather, Lincs, rang his one hundredth peal on handbells on December 6th, when a peal of Grand sire Caters, in which his wife also took part, was rung in his own home.

CONDUCTOR AT SIXTEEN.

William J. Preece, of Staunton-on-Arrow, Herefordshire, called his first peal on his 16th birthday on December 10th. His father, Mr. Jabez Preece, took part in the peal, and the ringers were afterwards entertained by the conductor's parents. Leslie Evans also celebrated his birthday by the same peal.

Another local Oxford Guild band to ring a peal is the company at Beenham, Berks, where the Sunday service ringers scored a peal in four Minor methods on December 12th.

(Continued in next column.)

IMPRESSIONS OF A FIRST PEALER.

SOME OF A BEGINNER'S DIFFICULTIES.

The following impressions of a beginner's first peal have been sent us by a correspondent and will probably interest others who have just reached the peal ringing stage:—

For my own satisfaction I have put down one or two simple impressions of ringing my first peal, an event which took place a week or two ago. They may be of interest to ringers who, like myself, have just made a start on peal ringing.

The method chosen was Kent Treble Bob Major. Although thoroughly practised in plain methods only, I thought an attempt in Treble Bob would keep my mind more alert and prevent me from lapsing into errors. I twice found that, after doing the 5-6 dodge down, I started to run straight into the lead and my 3-4 dodging bell had to jog my memory. Dodging on and off the lead with the treble also gave me a little difficulty; I always had to make a special mental note of that, when coming in and out of the slow.

There was also the strangeness of the belfry. The unfamiliar position of the ringers was a little disconcerting at first and exaggerated a difficulty which, to a certain extent, I always have in picking out the exact bells over which to strike in the 5-6 dodge down. The strange tone of the bells, too, seemed to make it impossible to pick out my own particular bell until after we had been ringing some considerable time.

On the physical side there was a period fairly early on when I found I was standing with my knees braced too tensely and my right foot had a tendency to become dead; after shifting my position and relaxing my leg muscles I had no more trouble in that quarter.

About three-quarters of the way through the peal I felt symptoms of cramp coming on in my left hand, and this worried me, lest it should become bad. However, for a time I altered the method of catching the sally and so overcame that difficulty. There were periods, when the striking was at its best, when the rhythm of the bells seemed to lull one into carelessness, but the unfamiliar method kept me from mistakes.

For about the last 20 minutes I think the mental strain must have been considerable, because I was most anxious at this stage not to be the cause of a breakdown.

On the whole, the time appeared to pass more quickly than I had expected.

DEATH OF WINCHESTER GUILD RINGER.

The death occurred recently of the Rev. A. du Bouley Hill, the founder, in 1879, of the Winchester Diocesan Guild and its first secretary. In those days he was a great enthusiast, having got most of his inspiration from his connection with Oxford University Society, of which Canon Coleridge, the late Rev. C. D. P. Davies and other well-known clergy were members.

Among his early peals was the first rung by a band of clergymen. This was a peal of Stedman Triples rung at Drayton, Berkshire, on October 2nd, 1884, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson. The other ringers were the Revs. G. F. Coleridge, F. A. H. Du Boulay, A. du B. Hill, W. S. Willett, C. C. Child, C. D. P. Davies and J. H. Fish.

Another peal in which he had a share was the second one rung by Mr. George Williams. That was at Weybridge, Surrey, on January 16th, 1885, and was rung as a birthday peal for the Rev. H. A. Spyers, who had taken over the secretaryship of the Guild from Mr. Hill.

The Rev. A. du B. Hill had reached the advanced age of 88 years and had for some time been living in retirement. He was for 28 years Vicar of East Bridgeford, Notts, where he was buried.

(Continued from previous column.)

The birthdays of three members of the Lambert family was celebrated on Horsham, Kent, on December 11th, when a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung. The birthdays were those of Mrs. F. J. Lambert, William Lambert and Michael Lambert. The peal was also rung on the second anniversary of the Accession of King George VI.

As we recently recorded, Mr. Charles Edwards, Master of the Hereford Diocesan Guild, has suffered bereavement by the death of his wife, and as a token of sympathy a half-muffled peal of Doubles was rung at Clifford on Sunday, December 11th.

A non-conducted peal of Superlative Surprise Major was rung at Old Windsor on December 17th. It was the first 'silent' peal in the method by all the band and for the Oxford Guild.

A new ringing gallery has been erected at the six-bell tower of Swanbourne, Bucks, and the first peal rung from it was successful on December 10th, when F. E. Alderman rang his first peal as conductor and all the rest of the band scored their first peal.

The bells of Gillingham, Dorset, were augmented to eight about 40 years ago, but it was not until Saturday, December 17th, that a peal was rung on them. The tenor is 26 cwt., and we gather that the task was no easy one. 'A wet shirt and flowing ale' is one of the comments on the performance that have reached us.

The peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major rung at St. Mary's, Portsea, on Saturday, December 17th, was a 21st birthday compliment to Tower R. Taylor, jun., son of the ringer of the 5th. It was also the first peal in the method by Fred G. Cole, of Poole, Dorset.

The bells of Ospringe, Kent, were opened just before Christmas, 1892, and to commemorate the 46th anniversary a peal of Grand sire Triples was rung on them on December 17th.

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 the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY.

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

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wisbech Branch.—The branch will meet at Elm on Saturday, December 31st. Bells (6) at 3 p.m. Tea at 5. All ringers welcome.—W. W. Cousins, Dis. Sec., Terrington St. John, Wisbech.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND NORTH SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN GUILD.—Service ringing, St. Clement Danes, Strand, January 1st, 10 a.m. Practices: St. Clement Danes, January 2nd, at 6.45, followed by quarterly meeting at 8.15 p.m., and January 16th and 30th, at 7.30 p.m.; St. Mary's, Lambeth, January 31st, at 8 p.m. Please note date of annual general meeting, February 11th next; particulars later.—T. W. Taffender, Hon. Sec., 26, Southway, Raynes Park, S.W.20.

NORTH STAFFS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Newcastle-under-Lyme on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Andrew Thompson, Hon. Sec., 37, Broad Street, Newcastle, Staffs, not later than January 4th.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will take place on Saturday, January 7th, at the Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, Birmingham, at 6 p.m. prompt. The bells at St. Martin's Church will be available from 4.30 p.m.—T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, 11.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Ross District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Ross on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m. Service 4. Tea at Central Cafe 4.30 p.m. Numbers for tea to Mr. W. Poston, Bridstow, Ross, Herefordshire.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Selby on Saturday, January 7th. The Abbey Church bells (10) available from 2. Service in the Abbey at 4.30. Tea (1/3 each) in Hawdon Institute at 5 p.m. Please inform Mr. E. Storr, 65, Green Lane, Selby.—H. S. Morley, Hon. Dis. Sec., 5, Ebor Street, Selby.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—North-East Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, January 7th. Bells 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Will those requiring tea please notify me by Monday, January 2nd?—R. Harris, Park, Silvertown, near Exeter.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely Branch.—Annual district meeting will be held in Cambridge on Saturday, January 7th. St. Bene's available from 3 p.m. Service at 4.30. Tea at the King's Parade Cafe, 5 p.m., followed by meeting. Great St. Mary's bells available in the evening. Please make this a good meeting, and as I must have the number for tea let me know on the New Year card you are sending me.—C. W. Cook, Dis. Sec., Newton, Cambridge.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Furness and Lake District Branch.—The next practice meeting will be held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Broughton-in-Furness, on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (8) available at 2.30 p.m.—N. M. Newby, Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the West Norfolk Branch will be held at Swaffham on Saturday, January 7th.—W. J. Eldred, Hon. Branch Sec., 4, Wellington Street, King's Lynn.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Whitworth on Saturday, January 7th. Start the new year well by attending this meeting and giving a hand with the learners. Subscriptions due.—Ivan Kay, Branch Sec.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at Brown's Cafe, 5.15.—J. T. Dyke, Chilcompton, Bath.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Preston Parish Church (10 bells) on Saturday, January 7th. Come and make this a successful meeting. All welcome.—A. Blogg, Branch Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting of the above district will be held at Blaydon on Saturday, January 7th. The bells (6) will be available at 3 p.m. Will those who require tea please advise Mr. R. W. Leighton, 15, Burnley Street, Blaydon, Co. Durham? A good attendance is requested, and all ringers are welcome.—J. A. Brown, Hon. Dis. Sec., 7, Finchdale Terrace, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at St. John's, Devizes (8 bells), on Saturday, January 7th. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Tea 5, and meeting to follow in Parish Room. St. Mary's (6) and St. James' (6) bells also available for ringing during the afternoon and evening. Please advise me early how many will attend the tea.—W. C. West, Branch Hon. Sec., 584, Semington Road, Melksham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Upholland on Saturday, January 7th. Bells available from 2.30. For tea, for which a small charge will be made, please notify the undersigned.—S. Forshaw, 55, Poolstock, Wigan.

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DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of the Southern District will be held at Darlington on Saturday, January 7th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Ringers meet at St. Cuthbert's. Those requiring tea please notify me not later than January 5th.—James T. Titt, Hon. Dis. Sec., 54, Newlands Road, Darlington.

WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Winchester District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Abbey House, Winchester, on Saturday, January 7th, by kind permission of Gen. F. H. Griffiths, Mayor of Winchester. Business meeting at 3.15, followed by tea at 4 p.m. Members attend service in the Cathedral at 5.15 p.m. The address will be given by the Rev. J. H. K. Percy, Rector of Wonston. Please let us know if you are coming. Cathedral and St. Maurice's bells available at 1.30.—G. and Miss Noice, Hon. Dis. Secs., 6, Cathedral View, Winchester.

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Creswell Church (8 bells) on Saturday, January 7th. For tea, please notify Mr. L. W. Bacon, Thanet House, Elmton Road, Creswell, near Worksop.—M. E. Wilson, Hon. Sec., 13, St. Ronans Road, Sheffield 7.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Wednesday Afternoon Guild.—The next meeting will be held at SS. Mary and Cuthbert's Parish Church, Chester-le-Street, on Wednesday, January 11th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. Please send numbers for tea to Margaret A. P. Bertie, Hon. Sec., 17, Ridley Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Burton District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on Saturday, January 14th. Bells (10) available at 3. Business meeting at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. A good attendance is requested. North Staffs and Derby District members cordially invited.—J. W. Cotton, Hon. Sec., Overseal, Burton-on-Trent.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The seventh annual supper will be held at the Village Hall, Heston, on Saturday, January 14th, at 6 p.m. prompt. Tickets 3/6 from the undersigned or from any Tower Secretary. Heston bells available from 3 to 5.40 p.m. It is hoped that all members of this Association, whether of the South and West District or otherwise, will support this supper, and help to make it a success. Friends from other Associations also will be very welcome.—J. E. Lewis Cockey, Hon. Dis. Sec., 16, St. Stephen's Road, West Ealing, W.13.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Bilston on January 14th. Bells from 3 p.m. Service in church at 4.45, with an address by the Rev. S. Garrett, M.A., Vicar. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word not later than Tuesday, January 10th. All are welcome.—H. Knight, 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—East Devon Branch.—A meeting will be held at Sidbury, near Sidmouth, on Saturday, January 14th. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea and meeting at 5. All ringers welcome. Also Ottery St. Mary bells (8) available at 7 p.m.—John H. Godfrey, Hon. Sec., 9, Silver Street, Ottery St. Mary.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Annual dinner at the Lion Hotel, Guildford, on Saturday, January 14th, at 6 p.m. Bells of S. Nicolas' Church available from 4 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. Application for tickets (5s. 6d. each), with remittance, must be made to me by January 10th.—G. L. Grover, Hon. Sec., East Clandon.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. A. J. Pitman is now Heathmont, Penlyla, Port Talbot.

5,312 CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR.

A VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S PEAL BY J. S. WILDE.
Mr. James S. Wilde, of Dunedin, New Zealand, has produced the following variation of Middleton's peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, and it was rung for the first time at Cheadle Parish Church on December 17th for the Chester Diocesan Guild, conducted by James Fernley.

23456	M	W	H
35264	2	2	3
427365		4th	
587432		4th	
237546		4th	
647253		4th	
357624		4th	
63542	In		2
42563	5th's & 4th		
64523			3
42635	2	2	
23456	2	2	3

5,088 YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR.

BY CHARLES J. SEDGLEY.

B.	M.	W.	H.	23456
				45236
				24536
				52438
				63425
				64326
				35426
				43526
				65324
				36524
				23564
				56234
				35264
				63254
				25634
				62534
				23645
				34256
				63246
				64235
				36245
				43265
				26435
				42635
				23456

A RINGER'S BIRTHDAY.

A quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1,344 changes) was rung at St. Michael's Church, Braintree, as a birthday compliment to Mr. H. E. Hammond, who has reached the age of 73 years: S. Warnes 1, A. Wiffen 2, H. E. Hammond 3, R. Martin 4, G. Lindridge 5, H. Felton 6, L. Wiffen (conductor) 7, W. Hammond 8.

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