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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

In the interesting and instructive letter we published last week Mr. Edwin H. Lewis referred to the Central Council and the complaints which have been made because it has not met since 1939. Mr. Lewis pointed out the difficulties of travelling, the fact that most of the members are now fully engaged with duties connected with war work, and the certainty that nothing the Council could have done would have secured the lifting of the ban on ringing earlier than actually was the case.

We feel sure that our readers will understand Mr. Lewis' explanation and will realise that no meeting was desirable or even possible; but there is just the chance that some of the younger people may still feel that the Council has been found wanting. If ever there was a time, they may think, when the Exercise needed guidance and a lead, it is now; but bands have to struggle on as best they can, and if ringing comes back again to prosperity it will not be because of anything the Council has done. If ringers can get along without the help of the Council in difficult times like these, surely they can get along without it at any time. What good does it do?

We do not say that many men put these thoughts into definite words, but there has always been a more or less vague idea that the Council is of very little use to the average ringer, many of whom are not much interested in its doings, which, they think, do not concern them.

This opinion, once widely held in the Exercise, has been for several years dying, and it would be a pity if the enforced inactivity of the Council gave it a new lease of life. It may therefore be well to point out, and especially to younger people, what the real benefit the Council is to the Exercise. Essentially its value lies not so much in what it can do as in what it is. The Exercise, as we have it to-day, is a body of men united by a common interest and organised in guilds and associations for mutual assistance and co-operation. Without that organisation bands would be, what they once were, isolated units each left to struggle on as best it might, and regarding others with indifference, rivalry or even hostility. The sense of brotherhood and co-operation, which is one of the most precious possessions of the Exercise, is directly due to its organisation into the great territorial guilds and associations.

Of this organisation the Council is the climax and the keystone. It is the visible link which unites ringers, and though, necessarily, its influence in this respect is largely out of sight and unnoticed, that probably has been the greatest service it has rendered to ringers.

(Continued on page 438.)

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But the Council has got much more than a merely passive role to perform. It provides a medium by which questions affecting the Exercise can be discussed, and the new ideas which are necessary for life and well-being can be ventilated. It also has to act, not merely for, but as, the Exercise, on the comparatively few occasions when the Exercise as an entity is called to action.

Those are the functions of the Council in normal times, but these are not normal times. How under present circumstances can the Council best fulfil its special duties?

In the first place we must recognise that such times of upheaval as the present are the very times when new problems and new ideas are most likely to arise. We may expect that there will be changes of opinion and outlook as the result of this war, just as there were as the result of the last. These changes will have to be considered, but before that can be done, they must have an opportunity to develop and reveal their nature. There will be plenty of work for the Council to do in this matter, but the time is not yet.

Secondly, it is not the business of the Council to undertake tasks which properly belong to the associations, or to bands, or to individual ringers. The duty of re-establishing ringing in belfries and of finding recruits is not laid upon the Council, nor is it fitted to undertake it. The Exercise generally must see to these things, and it is in a far better position to do so just because of what the Council has done in the past.

Lastly, the idea that the Council ought to act definitely in certain ways is entirely fallacious. Through its officers it kept a close watch on the ban. It could not have done anything to remove it, and it is a blessing it did not try. The ban was lifted because the Church of England and the people of England moved in the matter, and because they did the benefit to us ringers has been vastly greater than the mere resumption of ringing.

One speaker at a Lancashire meeting suggested that the Council should arrange 'joy' ringing with the authorities. We presume he meant the ringing when peace comes. Nothing of the kind is wanted. We have had quite enough of interference with ringing by 'authorities,' and we want no more of it. If the ringing at peace time cannot be spontaneous and arranged by the local people, it had better be left alone.

When the full tale of these war years comes to be told, it will be clear that the Central Council, both in what it has refrained from doing and in what it has done, has fully and worthily served the best interest of ringers.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT STANMORE.

Over thirty members and friends attended the meeting of the North and East District of the Middlesex County Association at Stanmore on September 18th. The tower bells were kept going from about 3.30 p.m. until black-out under the direction of the Ringing Master, Mr. A. Cutler, and some good practice was to everyone's benefit. Service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. W. A. Hewett, who gave an interesting application of the story of the Good Samaritan to present-day conditions. The Rev. G. Binnie, curate, and Mr. H. Barker, organist, also assisted in the service.

Mr. C. T. Coles, vice-president, took the chair at the business meeting, at which Mrs. C. W. Taylor was elected an honorary member and Messrs. A. C. Wenban, N. Genna and A. F. Petrie were elected ringing members. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at Edmonston jointly with the London District of the Ladies' Guild, probably on October 16th. The district secretary, Mr. T. J. Lock, asked the meeting to support his action in sending congratulatory messages to Messrs. C. T. Coles and J. Bennett on the accomplishment of one thousand peals.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. G. Hughes, of the Stanmore band, upon the completion of 50 years' service as ringer and chorister and for over a quarter of a century captain of the ringers.

TEN BELL PEAL.

COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 26, 1943, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt. in D.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS Treble	*ALBERT J. ADAMS 6
JOSEPH HANLEY 2	JAMES FERNLEY... .. 7
G. LEONARD HEWITT... .. 3	†CYRIL BRETT-SMITH... .. 8
ROBERT EVANS 4	ARTHUR PRITCHARD 9
WILLIAM J. CHESTER... .. 5	JOSEPH L. STANIER Tenor

Composed by G. HAYWARD. Conducted by ARTHUR PRITCHARD.

* First peal of Caters 'inside.' † First peal of Caters. A birthday compliment to the ringer of the 8th, and to Messrs. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, and Ernest Weatherby, of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

BARNESLEY, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, September 25, 1943, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIE GREEN Treble	*G. GORDON GRAHAM... .. 5
MRS. E. BRADLEY 2	EDWARD BRADLEY 6
ARTHUR FIRTH 3	DANIEL SMITH 7
MISS D. M. HAWLEY... .. 4	CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY Tenor

Composed and Conducted by C. W. WOOLLEY.

* First peal in the method. The conductor's 400th peal. Rung for the Battle of Britain commemoration.

DRAYCOTT, STAFFS.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 25, 1943, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

EDWARD STEELE Treble	CHARLES H. PAGE 5
JOHN G. CARLIDGE 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 6
RICHARD T. HOLDING... .. 3	ANDREW THOMPSON 7
WILLIAM CARNWELL 4	ARTHUR W. HALL Tenor

Composed by J. REEVES. Conducted by ARTHUR W. HALL.

First peal of Major on the bells.

FARINGDON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 17½ cwt.

CHARLES J. GARDNER ... Treble	HERBERT W. BISHOP 5
*VALHALLA V. H. HILL ... 2	WILLIAM C. PORTER 6
W. BERTRAM KYNASTON ... 3	NEIL ALLNATT 7
REV. KENNETH C. LEWIS... 4	WALTER F. JUDGE Tenor

Composed by H. J. TUCKER. Conducted by WALTER F. JUDGE.

* First peal of Major away from the treble.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

DAVIES' VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt. (approx.).

ALFRED J. WYATT Treble	CLAUDE TARR 3
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	CYRIL J. STEVENS 6
JOHN C. PUGSLEY 3	WILLIAM H. LLOYD 7
WILLIAM G. GIGG 4	*WALTER STEVENS Tenor

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.

* First peal on eight bells.

THAME, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. in F.

HARRY C. JONES Treble	JOHN E. SPICE 3
HARRY WINGROVE 2	WALTER LEE 6
MISS DOROTHY R. FLETCHER 3	REV. C. ELLIOTT WIGG ... 7
HARRY W. BADGER 4	JAMES H. SHEPHERD Tenor

Composed by J. A. TROLLOPE (C.C.C. No. 14).

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

Rung for the Battle of Britain thanksgiving.

PENISTONE, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 2, 1943, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F sharp.

ERNEST B. BETTS Treble	LESLIE W. G. MORRIS ... 3
CHRISTOPHER W. WOOLLEY 2	FRED HODGSON 6
WILLIAM H. SENIOR 3	J. REDFERN BREARLEY ... 7
G. GORDON GRAHAM 4	DANIEL SMITH Tenor

Composed by J. THORP.

Non-Conducted.

Rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary (October 3rd, 1863) of the non-conducted Kent Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Liversedge, Yorks.

SIX BELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Wednesday, September 29, 1943, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES-THE-GREAT, SHIRLEY,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different extents.

Tenor 6 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.

*ARTHUR D. COOK Treble	ARTHUR MORRIS... .. 4
*RICHARD J. B. HADDEN ... 2	†THOMAS W. ABBOTTS ... 5
EDWARD T. LLOYD 3	GEORGE E. FEARN Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE E. FEARN.

* First peal on tower bells. † First peal.

HANDBELL PEAL.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 27, 1943, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Forty-two six-scores (ten callings).

LEONARD BULLOCK 1-2	THOMAS BULLOCK 3-4
*ERNEST W. PYE... .. 5-6	

Conducted by THOMAS BULLOCK.

Umpires: Miss M. Seller and Miss J. Scoulan.

* First peal on handbells. First peal of Doubles as conductor. Rung to commemorate the first peal of Bristol rung in hand 36 years ago in this belfry.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT PRESTBURY.

A meeting of the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held at Prestbury on April 25th and was attended by over 30 members, including some old friends in the person of Messrs. John Austin, Arthur Pegler and Walter Bennett. They were members of the St. Michael's Juniors, Gloucester, nearly 50 years ago.

Canon J. Baghot de la Bere was in the chair and welcomed the members. Tea was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rose. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Obeltenham in about two months' time.

The methods rung were Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob and Double Norwich.

CURIOUS RINGING SCRAPS.

After Sir Arthur Heywood's death in April, 1916, his ringing books and papers came into the possession of the Central Council and are now in the library. The contents of the papers are not of any particular value, for they are mostly the figures which Heywood used to write the articles published in 'The Bell News,' and, like such figures generally, are hardly intelligible to anyone but the writer. Recently, however, his daughter, Miss Heywood, came across three press cutting books which had not been included among those given to the Central Council, and thinking they would be of interest to ringers, she sent them to Mr. Ernest Morris for the Midland Counties Association, of which Sir Arthur was for many years the president. Mr. Morris has courteously given us the opportunity of examining two of them.

One of the books consists of cuttings from 'The Bell News,' chiefly of the articles on the history and composition of Stedman written by Jasper Snowdon, Earle Bulwer, Heywood himself, and others. These, of course, are available elsewhere and in substance have been reproduced in C. D. P. Davies' book on Stedman, but a full collection of the original articles and letters is not without value and interest.

The other book is headed 'Curious Ringing Scraps,' and contains many original manuscripts and printed sheets, which refer to incidents in the past history of the Exercise. It is very fortunate that it has been discovered and has now come into the possession of a leading ringing association.

The first item is an autographed letter, dated June 24th, 1890, from Leonard Proctor, of Benington. Proctor, who was born in January, 1816, was nearing the end of his ringing career, and had made his great reputation as the founder and leader of the first local band who rang the Standard Surprise Major methods regularly. His letter is as follows:—

'I have not had the great pleasure of hearing from you since we met at that grand gathering of ringers in London. I think you will be amused with a little gossip as to our own ringing doings in this our own little village.

'I am very pleased to say that we have some very pretty ringing here on our village peal. On Saturday last our County Ringing Association held its district meeting at Baldock, where, upon its fine peal of eight, we had some very grand ringing indeed. I never in my humble experience heard any better ringing anywhere like it, and it really seemed to electrify the ears of many of the inhabitants as they came into the street to listen to the fine music of their grand peal of bells.

'Eight of our company came with myself. Not a single breakdown all day. We were met by many friends from St. Albans and others. We rang 2,128 changes, our own company, Stedman Grandsire, Double Norwich, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Superlative, and Cambridge.

'Samuel Page, our conductor, really exceeded his usual ability. Having read in "Bell News" your most interesting article on Multi-bobs, Sam Page was most pleased, and with myself and our village band, called a most musical touch of Stedman Triples containing 45 bobs. We rang this touch in a most remarkable way,

simply splendid striking. I should like to hear this ringing on your fine bells.

'What a treat it would be to again visit Youlgreave, where is the best peal of eight that I have ever heard.

'Our good friend, Canon Wigram, came over here lately. He rang with us 1,260 changes of Superlative *very well*. Their company at Hertford is completely broken up! Baker has given up ringing and, when we were at Hertford on Easter Monday, he cut all of us and never spoke a single word to anyone meeting him in the street.'

The 'grand gathering of ringers in London' was the preliminary meeting at which the Central Council was founded.

It will be noticed that when the Benington ringers went to the association meeting at Baldock, they went as a band and rang as a band. That was the old custom, and it continued long afterwards in Devon. It resulted in better ringing when the best bands were in the belfry, but it did not give the other men much opportunity of practising with ringers more skilful than they ordinarily met in their home towers. Sam Page, the Benington conductor, rang with Proctor in the first true peal of Cambridge Surprise in 1873 and the 6,048 London Surprise in 1870. He probably was the son of Thomas Page, who called the peals.

Canon Wigram was rector of St. Andrew's, Hertford, where he started a change ringing company about 1876. He was a most enthusiastic ringer and published a text book on the art entitled 'Change Ringing Disentangled,' which was a reprint of some articles from 'Church Bells.'

Wigram was not himself much of a practical ringer. He confessed that he could never hear his own bell, and is said to have been the original man 'who only made one good blow in the course of a peal and that was when he missed his sally.' But the tale has been told of several persons, and probably there never was an original. In the year 1889 James W. Washbrook called his first peal of Superlative, at St. Andrew's, Hertford. F. E. Robinson, in his book 'Among the Bells,' says it was 'a very able piece of conducting,' and Canon Coleridge remembers it as almost the worst peal he ever took part in. This will explain Proctor's statement that in 1890 Wigram rang Superlative 'very well.'

'One of Canon Wigram's early recruits was Herbert Baker, then a boy, and afterwards a member of a firm of brewers and maltsters. He developed into an excellent ringer, and took part in many peals, among them 12,041 and 15,041 Stedman Caters and 13,247 Grandsire Caters at Appleton, as well as peals of Superlative, Cambridge, Double Norwich, and Duffield, which, in those days, were only rung by the more skilled bands.

Following Proctor's letter, Heywood pasted in his book a photograph of a band taken outside Ashby west door. The group, includes Leonard Proctor, Heywood himself and six of the Duffield company.

(To be continued.)

SUTTON, CAMBS.

At a meeting at Sutton on Sept. 25th, ringers were present from Ely, Fordham, Wilburton, Witchford and Cambridge, as well as members of the local band. The following methods were rung: Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Minor.

A meeting will be held at Fordham and Chippenham on October 9th at 3 p.m.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH THACKRAY.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Thackray, of Armley, which occurred on Sunday morning, September 26th, at the age of 71.

Mr. Thackray took part in the victory ringing and the Christmas ringing last year. This was the last tower bell ringing he was able to enjoy. In 1936 he rang a peal to celebrate 50 years' service at Christ Church, Upper Armley. With his brother John he was among the pioneers of handbell ringing in Yorkshire, and in 1895 was one of the band when the late Mr. Harry Williams rang 5-6 in a peal blindfolded. The total peals he rang for the Yorkshire Association was 87.

The funeral service was held at his home and the interment at Armley Hill Top Cemetery, when a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mrs. O. Whitehouse 1-2, Mr. J. W. Moorhouse 3-4, Mr. P. J. Johnson 5-6, Mr. H. Lofthouse 7-8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was held in the Miners' Hall, Durham, on September 25th, and although it was only a shadow of a peace-time meeting, it showed that interest in ringing is still active.

The president, Mr. M. D. Outridge, was unable to be present, and Mr. C. L. Routledge took the chair.

There was a discussion on payment of subscriptions for the period of the ban, some people thinking that they should not pay. The hon. treasurer (Mr. W. N. Park) produced figures which showed that the majority had paid up to date, and he appealed for the payment of the remainder. A resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. F. Ainsley that those whose membership had lapsed should be afforded continuity of membership if their outstanding subscriptions were paid on or before October 31st, 1943, failing which the rule would be invoked.

It was decided to ask the district officers to make efforts to hold four meetings in each district during the coming year. The annual meeting will be held in Newcastle in September, 1944.

Several practice meetings had been held in different towers since the lifting of the ban, and some towers have got together bands of young people who it is hoped will advance in the art. The chairman welcomed the Rev. Mr. Nelson, curate of St. Thomas', Stockton-on-Tees, who had brought ten young beginners, and expressed the hope that they would become proficient and loyal members of the Exercise.

A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and later the party partook of an excellent tea.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the Lancashire Association was held at Deane, Bolton, on September 25th, and most of the branches were represented. The bells of Holy Trinity and The Saviour, Bolton, and Dean were made good use of. Service was conducted by Canon Worsley, who gave an address.

About 80 or 90 members sat down to tea in the schools, and the business meeting followed, with the president, the Rev. F. F. Rigby, in the chair. He was supported by Canon Worsley, the Rev. D. P. Roberts, Liverpool, the vice-president, the treasurer, two secretaries and several members of the committee.

The committee reported the loss by death of 18 members. They included the Bishop of Hulme, Archdeacon Howson, of Liverpool, and eleven life members, the oldest of whom joined in 1887, the youngest in 1900. Twenty-one members had been elected and the total membership is now 1397. Since the ban on ringing has been lifted the monthly meetings had been successful and Sunday service ringing was fairly maintained. The balance sheet showed a profit of £25. This was largely due to the fact that there were no expenses for the Central Council meeting (which had not been held) and to the reduction in the size of the annual report. For the first time during the 77 years of the association's existence there were no peals to record.

Mr. J. Ridyard, of Southport, was elected vice-president for two years; 420 voting papers had been sent out and 225 returned. The other officers were re-elected for two years.

A proposition from the Rochdale Branch was adopted with a slight alteration of the wording. Manchester was chosen for the next annual meeting, the committee being given power to make an alteration if necessary.

The President advised that the best possible ringing should be used for Sundays, and practice ringing be kept for practice nights.

Mr. Crook raised the question of joy bells, saying that the Central Council should consult with the authorities and give a lead.

Thanks were given to Canon Worsley, the organist, the local ringers, the ladies who arranged the tea, and the Vicars and ringers of Holy Trinity and The Saviour. The Vicar of Deane responded.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A practice meeting was held at Ranworth on September 25th, when nearly 20 members attended from Acle, Burlingham, Leicester, Norwich, Ranworth and Wroxham. Ringing took place in the afternoon and evening, and the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. E. D. Everard, who provided tea to drink in the Parish Hall.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

The College Youths' 306th anniversary luncheon will be held on November 6th at Slater's Restaurant, Basinghall Street, at 1.30 p.m. This is the same place as last year. Particulars will appear in due course in our notices columns.

The non-conducted peal of Kent Treble Bob at Penistone was rung on the eve of the 80th anniversary of what probably was the first non-conducted peal in the method. It is rather uncertain which was the first non-conducted peal in any method. The College Youths rang one of Grandsire Triples at Spitalfields, and we believe there was an earlier one of Bob Major in the Birmingham district. We are unable at the moment to check the references.

Encouraging reports are received from all over the country of a revival of interest in ringing and not least among the village belfries. The Rector of Childe Okeford, Dorset, sends us a report of two handbell quarter-peals by his ringers, and says that in his tower there are several beginners who are making good progress.

Ringing at Newcastle Cathedral has been suspended for some time owing to repairs to the tower, but it is hoped it will be resumed shortly.

The local 'Sunday Sun' recently gave a portrait of Mr. Joseph W. Parker, of Sunderland, and quoted some of his opinions on bells and ringing. 'Mr. Parker has seen,' says the journal, 'the time when change ringing was looked down upon as a low, degrading sport, and also its most flourishing and fashionable period.'

By a coincidence, on the day before our issue appeared with the article dealing with betting at prize ringing meetings, 'The Times' had a leading article dealing with betting. Those who were fortunate enough to see that article may use it to form a judgment of those who backed their favourite band of ringers 150 years ago.

The first peal on Exeter Cathedral bells was rung on October 6th, 1902. The method was Grandsire Caters, Mr. George Williams conducted and Canon Coleridge rang the tenor, with Mr. Ferris Shepherd to help him.

Mr. J. C. Pugsley, who rang in the peal at Milverton, is the only survivor of the band which rang the first peal on the bells 50 years ago last May. The method was Grandsire Triples and the band was made up of ringers in the Minehead district.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

All communications for this journal should be addressed to—

The Editor,

"The Ringing World,"
c/o The Woodbridge Press, Ltd.,
Onslow Street,
Guildford, Surrey.

FIRST LADIES' HANDBELL PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In the Belfry Gossip of September 3rd you record that the handbell peal at Kinson on August 14th was the first rung entirely by ladies.

I wish to point out that I umpired a handbell peal of Grandsire Doubles at Hinton-on-the-Green on April 4th, 1936, rung by three Johnson sisters. When this was published it was stated that it was believed to be the first handbell peal rung by ladies, and to my knowledge this has not been disputed.

ARTHUR J. MARTIN.

Orchard Road, Bromsgrove.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Southern Division of the Sussex County Association at St. John the Baptist, Southover, Lewes, on September 25th, was attended by upwards of 30 members. Ringing began at 3 p.m. under the direction of the Ringing Master (Lieut. Instructor R. G. Cross), who saw that everyone had a ring, whether in rounds or Surprise.

The Vicar (the Rev. — Matthews) conducted a homely little service at 4.30 p.m. Tea and the business meeting followed. Henfield was selected for the next meeting, to be held in December. Further ringing was enjoyed until after 8 p.m.

HEAVY RINGS OF FIVE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I must thank Major J. H. B. Hesse for his correction to my statement re Closworth tenor. In May, 1935, the only time I have rung there, one of the local ringers told me the weight was 19 cwt., and the bell certainly sounded and went like one of that weight.

Can anyone kindly tell me the weight of the tenor at West Camel, Somerset (a ring of four)?
Stoke Wake, Dorset.

E. T. PAUL FIELD.

MEDITATIONS OF A FIRE GUARD.*To the Editor.***THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

Sir,—Without taking up too much of your valuable space I would like to draw the attention of Mr. Lewis to the following facts.

The officials of the Council are elected every three years by rule and therefore it now requires a meeting of the Council to re-elect him as the distinguished figurehead of the Exercise.

I also must remind him that to a great number of the members of the Council the Standing Committee need also re-election, and, seeing that a period of four years has elapsed since their election, I consider that they have no statutory authority to act on the behalf of the Council.

The question of 'Notice of Motion' is, 'ipso facto,' sheer nonsense because these notices are never sent in until meetings have been arranged. Why trouble to write a notice out if the Council does not intend to meet.

When the affair of the Ringers' Conference appeared in 'The Ringing World' there appeared to be no end of motions sent in for discussion.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Mr. Lewis' remarks on the ringing at the Abbey at the last Council meeting were not only 'churlish,' but were made without knowledge of the facts.

I had the good fortune to be in the Abbey tower when the stay was broken, and for the benefit of your readers here are the facts.

On the off-chance of being admitted to the Abbey, my friend, Mr. F. Kirk of St. Albans, and myself duly presented ourselves at the Abbey and were granted admission to the tower.

On arrival at the ringing room I met the two talented sons of the late Arthur Knights and also Mr. A. A. Hughes, who appeared to be in charge of the ringing.

A band got hold for Stedman Triples, which contained five members of the Council and one ex-member, to my knowledge, and, as far as Mr. Lewis or anyone else knows, the other two may be members.

This touch of Stedman failed and they tried again, and during the whole of the touch I was standing behind the tenor ringer along with the brothers Knight and Francis Kirk.

When the tenor stay broke Mr. Hughes stated that this would be all the ringing for that day, and, after talking to Mr. Hughes, he very kindly granted permission for my friends and myself to let the remainder of the bells down in peal.

I am in agreement with Mr. Lewis that the Abbey tower should be looked upon as a 'performance' tower, and with this object in view I think that on the occasion the best plan would be not to open it to the members of the Council, but that application be made by the secretaries of the affiliated associations for their best ringers to have permission to ring here.

Finally, I would like to assure Mr. Lewis that the elected members of the Council are not, as a rule, the best ringers of the various associations. In fact, I know some members who I would not allow to ring at Bushey on a Sunday, and, if I had my way, admittance to the Abbey to ring would be prohibited.

EDWIN JENNINGS.

50, Rudolph Road, Bushey.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Lewis' belated explanation of the reasons for not calling a meeting of the Council does not seem to be very convincing.

Ringers up and down the country might be forgiven for holding the view that the Standing Committee has rather exceeded its duty by carrying on during the past four years without any reference to the parent body, and whilst Mr. Lewis is of opinion that a full meeting was neither necessary or desirable, I suggest that that opinion may not reflect the main body of opinion in the Exercise.

Neither do I agree with Mr. Lewis that a meeting of the Council 'would have had no effect on the ban.' On the contrary, I think a full meeting of the Council during that dreadful period might have produced some fruitful ideas which might have resulted in an earlier lifting of the ban. To put it another way, a little less docility and a little more constructive aggressiveness would have done more good.

It may be that our officials were in possession of some vital information on the matter—and, if so, I suggest it was their duty to pass it on to the members.

As it was, the general impression given to ringers was that the Council had adopted a resigned and 'nothing can be done' attitude.

Events always seem to overtake the Council, and one cannot help thinking how nice it would be to see the Council *leading* instead of *following* opinion.

A little information on the following point would be welcome: What steps are the Standing Committee taking to stimulate and encourage recruitment to make good losses caused by war and the ban? (Bristol has got on with the job.)

The suggestion that the Council has not been called together because no resolutions were tabled is, I submit, an affront to intelligence. What was the use of sending up resolutions when there was no meeting?

J. FRANK SMALLWOOD.

28, Woodridings Avenue, Hatch End, Middlesex.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL BELLS.**THOMAS NORTH'S ACCOUNT.***To the Editor.*

Sir,—I am afraid that Mr. Lankester's impressions cannot be correct. Thomas North, in 'The Church Bells of Northamptonshire' (published in 1878), states that 10 bells were cast out of the four great bells by Henry Penn in 1709. He gives the inscriptions on these ten bells, quoting the authority of 'Notes and Queries' (3 S., vol. ix., p. 117).

He goes on: 'In 1831 the 9th bell (the present 4th) being cracked it was recast, and on April 15th in that year five bells were removed from the tower, they having been sold to Mr. Dobson, then a bell-founder of Downham, Norfolk. . . .

He adds further: 'Only recently (i.e., of course, shortly before 1878) a number of volunteer ringers had an interview with a leading member of the Chapter urging the restoration of the ring. He was quite ready to further their wish, but an application to the Cathedral architect elicited an opinion that ringing would endanger the west front.'

This seems to be conclusive. North gives the diameter of the five existing bells as being 39, 42, 45, 48 and 56½ inches respectively.

E. S. POWELL.

Staverton Vicarage.

THE LAST TIME THEY WERE RUNG.

Sir,—Having read the accounts of Peterborough Cathedral bells in 'The Ringing World' lately, I would like to mention that years ago I used often to go to Peterborough to ring with the old band at St. John's Parish Church before the bells were rehung by Gillett and Johnston. One Sunday afternoon we got permission to ring the Cathedral bells for service, which was quite a privilege, as they had not been rung for a long time, and, I think, they have not been rung more than once or twice since.

Before ringing we went to examine the bells, and as far as I can remember they were in an A shaped iron frame by Taylor and there were five empty frames, iron ones, the same as the bells were in. There were no other bells there, the empty frames never having had bells in them.

We were told by the old ringers of Peterborough that when Cromwell used the Cathedral as a stable for his troopers in the wars of his day, there was in the tower a very heavy peal of ten, and the soldiers used to make much noise with them at times. Also that Henry Penn, the Peterborough bellfounder, took them down in about 1709, cast a peal of ten out of the back four and took the front six for his payment. Penn's bells were in use up to about 1840, when the 9th cracked, and then Osborne, of Downham Market, took her down and recast her, and they sold him the front five of Penn's bells.

The back five are there to-day, including the recast 9th (now the 4th). The tenor is about 32 cwt. We rang Grandsire and Stedman Doubles on them. Taylors had done their job well, as they went well. As you are aware, it is not a too easy matter to ring bells that size to Stedman Doubles. Mr. Richardson, of Glyn Garth, rang the tenor.

Taylors, of Loughborough, would be able to say when they rehung the bells and also if they did put up ten iron frames and whether there were any more than the five bells there then.

The bells are chimed with a chiming apparatus from the ground floor of the Cathedral for the services.

ARTHUR I. HOLMES.

Edenham.

P.S.—The late Rev. H. L. James also said that there was at one time a very heavy peal of ten there, and whatever they weighed he had no idea. He also knew that Henry Penn cast them a peal of ten out of the back four.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS L. BAINBRIDGE.**PROMINENT LINCOLNSHIRE RINGER.**

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas L. Bainbridge, of Bourne, who passed away at Aylesbury Hospital on September 25th at the age of 65 years.

Mr. Bainbridge was a prominent member of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild and held the office of Ringing Master of the Southern Branch. He was born at Ripplingall and learned to handle a bell when he was a schoolboy there. For a time he lived at Morton, where he formed a band and taught them to ring Treble Bob and Surprise Minor. During many years he was a regular service ringer at Bourne.

He took part in many peals, including Spliced Minor (up to 32 methods), Stedman Triples, Bob Major, Treble Bob, Cambridge Surprise, Double Norwich and Primrose Surprise. The last was the only peal so far rung in the method.

The funeral was at Bourne on September 29th. The bearers were Messrs. H. M. Day (Market Deeping), C. T. Bradley (Folkingham), S. Smith (Bourne) and A. I. Holmes (Edenham). The bells of the Abbey Church were rung half-muffled after the service and later in the evening by members of the Guild. Those taking part were Messrs. R. Richardson, of Surfleet (Master of the Guild), H. M. Day, F. Fairs, F. French, S. Smith, C. T. H. Bradley (secretary of the Southern Branch), J. Machin and A. I. Holmes.

CENTRAL TOWERS.

By ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 432.)

Another famous central tower, the ascent to the ringing chamber of which means travelling through a maze of roof timbers in a bewildering way, is that of Hereford Cathedral. It is thus described: Ringers enter the north porch and traverse the north aisle, pass along the north transept to a corner stone spiral stairway (very wide). This ends in a small spire. The old passage was along the gutter on south side of the roof of the transept, and then up another stone stairway to the top of the central tower in north-west angle. To-day ringers leave the first stairway at the springing of the transept arches, and by wooden steps and a plank gangway pass along through a series of king-post roof trusses of the transept between the vaulting and the roof proper, and thence on to a stone gallery which runs round the lantern. From the north-west corner of the lantern, a small spiral stairway runs up the corner of the central tower, and opens into a narrow space in the hollow wall of the tower, the ringing chamber being reached by a few more steps between the walls.

This is an unusual apartment, as the ringers stand beneath a low-beamed ceiling and have to contend with the difficulty of seeing one another through a series of massive timbers forming queen-post trusses spanning the whole width of the tower. These supported the spire, long since taken down. Most of the sallies of the bell ropes disappear at backstroke, and as the bells are only a few feet above the ceiling, much noise was the result; the conductor could scarcely be heard. The old cathedral society of sixty years ago used to pull off into a musical position, stand, and then give another spell of some other favourite changes, all by the stamping of the foot of the foreman. Their favourite change (and by the riverside it was a real musical treat, rung on such a heavy ring, the tenor being 40 cwt.) was 18.75.29.64.30. It was handed down from early days and known as the 'octaves.'

The bells hang in a wood frame in the shape of a hollow square, giving an excellent rope circle. The frame and bells are well maintained and in good ringing order. During Canon Phillott's time, his son—in practice as an architect in Cheltenham—was called in to advise some means of remedying the ringers' difficulties. The four queen-posts were cut out to give sight all round the ringing circle, and in place of timber cast-iron columns were inserted. A risky work hardly worth the outlay, as the old hands explained at the time. The heavy sound was lessened by a layer of material under the bells on the old plank flooring, and was duly appreciated.

This central tower is unique on account of the thousands of small crotals carved in the hollow mouldings around windows and buttresses, often described as 'ball flowers.' The tower is 140ft. 6in. high, and has 215 steps, and was erected circa 1320.

The ring of ten (tenor 59in. diameter and about 40 cwt.) is of various dates. The front four are by Abraham Rudhall, dated 1697/8, as is also the seventh, but the treble was recast by Mears and Stainbank in 1892. The old eighth was also by Rudhall, 1697, but recast by T. Mears in 1810. The original 5th was a pre-Reformation bell bearing an invocation to St. Katerina, but now bears, 'This bell was recast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank by subscription A.D. 1865, and the peal rehung by White and Sons.' The 6th is an ancient bell bearing, 'Stephanus Banastre me fecit,' and the 9th and tenor are also ancient, the 9th being cast in honour of the Trinity, and tenor St. Cuthbert.

The ringing chamber of St. Albans Abbey is not unlike Hereford in some respects, and the ascent to it is rather involved. Access is by two stairways, first a spiral in the north-west corner of the north transept. This is modern of some 68 steps rebuilt about 1870, and brings one to the triforium, which is traversed to the base of the central tower stairway, built in 1110, rather a narrow spiral and in places slow, which causes a low ceiling, 92 steps to the gallery leading to the belfry. This gallery overlooks the nave and has open arches, and it is surprising how large a person can climb up this old stairway. Mr. H. Goodenough informs me he has seen Canon Coleridge and the late Mr. George Paice (to mention but two big men) in the belfry ringing, so one can see that by a little manœuvring it can be done.

The ropes hang in exactly one-quarter of the tower, which also holds the clock case (there is no clock face on the outside of the tower). The tower is 144ft. high and 44ft. sq.; from cathedral floor to panelled ceiling 100ft.; ringing floor 2ft. 6in. higher. The ceiling is supported on huge beams lying on the wall of the tower, which at this level is 9ft. thick, three timbers lie east to west and three north to south, size about 12in. square. From this level the tower wall is set back about two feet all round, and on this foundation the whole timber work for the bell chamber is built up.

The bell frame is built in the south-west corner and is 10ft. above the chamber floor. In the north-west corner the carillon is housed with all the machinery. In the north-east corner is situated a lead-lined tank holding 3,000 gallons of water as a counter balance, and this tank is always full. In the south-east corner is the clock and carillon weights, about 2 tons. The bells, since augmentation to 12, now hang in two tiers, three—2nd, 3rd, 4th—being in a new steel frame above.

Of the bells, it is stated that Paul, the fourteenth abbot, furnished the tower with bells, and to these were added two more of a large size by Litholf, a man of great rank, who lived in the woody part of the country. Search at the Public Record Office for information as to the bells of St. Albans at the dissolution of the monastery has been made, with very little result. No light is thrown even upon the number of bells in the tower, but Chauncy says there were five in the year 1700, so it is fair to pre-

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sume there were at least that number at the dissolution. These five ancient bells were broken up in 1699 by Philip Wightman and, with additional metal, cast into six; four of these still remain. In 1730 the ring was made into eight, two trebles being added by Richard Phelps. The treble was later recast, first by John Briant, of Hertford, and subsequently by C. and G. Mears in 1845.

In 1935 the ring was increased to twelve by the addition of four new trebles, and the fifth recast. The treble was presented by Dr S. J. Madge, F.S.A., and Mrs. Madge in memory of their son. The second bears (translated), 'The Hertford Association of Change Ringers, founded on 29th October, 1884, dedicated me to the honour of God in celebration of its jubilee, and also in memory of Edward Percy Debenham, four times elected President, who died 16th December, 1934.' The third was given by Wm. Worthington, Esq., and the fourth by public subscription. The work was carried out by Mears and Stainbank, and the tenor is 24 cwt.

Another famous central tower having a curious roundabout way of entrance to the ringing chamber is that of Chester Cathedral. For a description of this I am indebted to Mr. R. Sperring and to Mr. P. Swindley for an excellent plan of the route. The entrance is from Abbey Square down a few steps with a right turn at the base, then left turn down a short passage by the kitchen, and right turn to the cloister door. Then immediately left turn and proceed along the north side of the cloister by the refectory. At the end, turn right and travel along east cloister as far as a door into the north wing of the cathedral proper, and from thence across to the tower door; up a spiral stone staircase and then some wooden steps to the balcony approximately 30ft. from ground floor. Traverse this balcony, which is at the back of the organ loft, and then a further spiral stairway and a short passage through the thickness of the tower wall brings one to the ringing chamber, which is about 80ft. from ground level.

This central tower, which is 127ft. high, contains a ring of ten bells with a tenor 29 cwt. 11 lb. Previous to 1867 there appear to have been only five bells, and it seems from the inscription on the present 8th bell (the only old bell remaining) that the old peal was cast by Henry Oldfield, of Nottingham.

This bell bears his trade mark, a cross calvary of three steps; surmounted by a crescent and star, with the initials H.O. on either side in Lombardic capitals. The 7th and 9th are by I. Rudhall, 1827; and the augmentation to eight in 1867 was carried out by J. Warner and Sons. In 1937 two trebles were added by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, the first 'cast to celebrate the Jubilee of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers, 1887-1937,' and the second 'cast in the year of the Coronation of H.M. King George VI., 1937. God save the King' There is also a 'call bell,' dated 1626.

(To be continued.)

DEATH OF MR. EDWARD HOLDEN.

The death is announced of Mr. Edward Holden, who passed away suddenly on September 4th at the age of 65. He was a member of the band at St. Andrew's, North Weald, Essex, and had been a ringer for many years, first as a stoney ringer and for the last 20 years as a change ringer. He never rang a peal, but took part in many quarter-peals and was a regular service ringer.

At the funeral on September 18th the church bells were rung half-muffled, and on September 18th a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to his memory by L. Parris treble, W. Pearce 2, H. King 3, W. Wedlock (conductor) 4, F. Seymour 5, J. Bingham tenor.

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.

A REPLY AND EXPLANATION.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am sorry if my recent letter gave a depressing and gloomy picture or if it appeared to show lack of appreciation for hard work and sacrifices that I know are being made by stalwarts up and down the country—to get and keep bells ringing and to improve the standing of service ringing.

I realise the heavy calls that are made on civilians nowadays, and have no wish to belittle the efforts of the stalwarts who put in much hard work after their long day's work and their additional war-time responsibilities. May success attend the efforts of those who are instrumental in teaching the beginners—encouraging the others, and who are the inspiration in their towers for better things and for progress in the right direction.

My remarks were not addressed merely to civilians but also to others in the Services, who, like myself, are fortunate enough, for the present, to be in this country and to pursue our art, and your other correspondents will note that I said, 'we' and included myself and such others as myself in uniform, in those who must make efforts for improvement. Agreed that many are making maximum possible effort and sacrifice with effect, but there are still many who are not, some who probably do not realise it, and it is to these I appealed. The Editor hit the nail on the head when he suggested that I used strong language in order to press home more forcibly my appeal to ringers to make even greater efforts.

I agree that it is irritating to a man trying against odds to keep things going to be told that improvement is needed when he already knows that and is doing his best to bring it about, but surely such men should realise that my remarks do not and were not intended to apply to them. It is up to each one of us to search our hearts and if we can do more, to do it.

Some of the points I wished to drive home are more ably expressed by the Editor in his article in the issue of September 24th.

The admission by Mr. Arthur Davis that 'the recommendations I made are familiar ones,' and Mr. J. E. Bailey's statement that 'the criticism and advice I gave would apply very well in peace time, under normal conditions,' show that there must be many who, perhaps less forcibly, feel the need for general improvement.

I would assure Mr. Arthur Davis—though he will have to take my word for it—that I have been as keen about the *doing* as the *telling* and found great pleasure in teaching beginners and helping others to keep 'silent' bells going; nor would I exhort others to do more than I have done and am prepared to do myself.

There are many bright signs up and down the country and in my own district, but because of these we must not congratulate ourselves that all is well and satisfactory, and postpone for to-morrow efforts that can be put into effect to-day, nor must all the work be left to a few stalwarts—they must be given unstinting support by all the rest of the company, not just a few.

In conclusion, may I again appeal to all ringers to do their best to improve the quality of ringing and to attend as regularly as possible and as punctually as possible for Sunday service and practices.

'RINGER IN THE SERVICES.'

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

MEETING AT COOMBE BISSETT.

A meeting of the Salisbury Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, held on October 2nd at Coombe Bissett, was attended by ringers from the city churches of St. Martin, St. Thomas, St. Edmund and St. Paul, and from Britford, Berwick St. James', Wilton, Coombe Bissett, etc.

The ringers were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Page-Phillips, who conducted service and gave an address. Later the company was entertained to tea by the Vicar and Mrs. Page-Phillips in the Village Hut, and a short business meeting followed, the chair being taken by Mr. J. E. Figgures. New members were admitted from St. Thomas', St. Paul's and Wilton. It was resolved on the proposition of Mr. E. G. Caple, seconded by Mr. G. K. Norton, that the annual meeting shall be at St. Martin's Church on a date to be arranged. Mr. Norton said he was pleased to see the Rector of St. Edmund's present; he was himself a native of St. Edmund's and had rung there for many years.

Thanks were given to the Vicar and Mrs. Page-Phillips and to the ladies who helped with the tea.

Some of the visitors returned to Salisbury, where the bells at St. Thomas' Church were available.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

MEETING AT IDLE.

At a meeting of the Leeds and District Society, held at Idle, near Bradford, on September 25th, members were present from Armley, Bradford, Bramley, Drighlington, Headingley (St. Chad's), Leeds Parish Church, Shipley and the local company.

Tea and the business meeting were in the Parish Room, the chair being taken by Mr. L. W. G. Morris in the absence of the president. A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar, churchwardens and the local band. The next meeting will be at Birstall on October 30th.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

FOLKESTONE, KENT.—On Saturday, August 28th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: F. Orris 1, Mrs. Franklin 2, C. Turner (Dover) (conductor) 3, A. Kedwell 4, T. Anderson 5, W. Whitaker 6, T. Farley 7, Bernard Smith (Manchester) 8.

EAST CROMPTON.—On September 8th, to celebrate the capitulation of Italy, 288 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 720 London Scholars' Pleasure Minor, 288 Kent Treble Bob Minor: B. Whitehead, S. Wareham, W. Oates, R. H. Byrom, H. Butterworth, C. Howarth, J. Butterworth (conductor).

WHITBOURNE, HEREFORDSHIRE.—On Sunday, September 12th, 1,260 Grandsire Doubles: J. H. Griffiths 1, F. Davis 2, E. Jones 3, C. Davis 4, George Jones 5, R. J. Caswell 6. Conducted by George Soley, who was unable to take a rope.

HILLINGDON.—On Tuesday, September 14th, at St. Andrew's, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: William Gutteridge 1, Frederick W. Goodfellow 2, G. Gutteridge 3, P. Jones 4, *W. H. Coles 5, *T. G. Bannister 6, F. Corke 7, S. Humphries 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

HAVERHILL.—On September 15th, 720 Bob Minor: Gracie Jennings 1, F. Making 2, Mrs. L. Wright 3, H. Backler 4, Gnr. N. Hough 5, L. Wright (conductor) 6.

WARKTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, for the harvest thanksgiving, 720 Doubles, consisting of two six-scores each of New Doubles and St. Simon's, one six-score of Canterbury and Chase: Miss D. Mair 1, R. W. Lawrence 2, L. J. Toseland 3, A. S. Toseland 4, B. P. Morris (conductor) 5.

BINFIELD.—On September 19th, 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. Bolwell 1, Mrs. A. J. N. Rance 2, C. W. Bailey 3, Cpl. W. H. M. Smith, R.E.M.E. 4, A. J. Rance 5, A. J. N. Rance (conductor) 6. Rung for harvest festival.

GRAYSHOTT, HANTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, for harvest festival evening service, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: D. C. Ritchie (first quarter-peal) 1, A. J. Bartlett 2, E. J. Munday 3, Mrs. F. Bowden 4, B. D. Elliott 5, E. J. Ayliffe 6, F. Bowden (conductor) 7, R. Hayes 8.

HARLOW COMMON.—On September 19th for harvest festival, 1,248 Bob Major: *Lewis Whitby 1, Vincent Tipton 2, Fred Whitby 3, Ben Copping 4, Lewis Cordell 5, Robert Springham 6, Stanley Clark 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal. L. Whitby has been ringing only since the ban was lifted.

BROMLEY COMMON, KENT.—At St. Luke's on Sunday, September 19th, for evening service, 1,260 Stedman Triples: G. H. Kite 1, F. E. Pitman 2, Miss H. Oakshett 3, P. J. Spice 4, J. Lyddiard 5, G. F. James 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, W. Lyddiard 8.

EXETER.—On Sunday, September 19th, at the Church of St. Thomas, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: E. J. Ryall 1, W. H. Howe 2, J. Hosgood 3, J. J. Hole 4, R. Truman 5, E. Rowe 6, E. W. Biffin (conductor) 7, Capt. W. J. Rawlings, R.E. 8. Rung for the christening of the Vicar's daughter, which took place during the service.

PUTNEY.—At St. Mary's on Sunday, September 26th, for harvest festival, 1,260 Stedman Triples: J. Bilby 1, W. Malins (conductor) 2, J. Kent 3, R. Mackrill 4, A. C. Williams 5, C. W. Otley 6, J. Herbert 7, F. W. Wicks 8.

LEWISHAM, KENT.—At the Church of St. Mary on Sunday, September 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: Miss H. Oakshett 1, G. R. H. Smith (Royal Corps of Signals) 2, Lieut. J. Avenell, R.N.V.R. 3, R. G. Bryant (Bristol) 4, J. Bennett (conductor) 5, P. J. Spice 6, H. W. Clark 7, C. H. Walker 8. Rung for service to commemorate the Battle of Britain.

SUTTON-IN-THE-ISLE, CAMBS.—On Sunday, September 26th, being 'Battle of Britain' Sunday, Hospital Sunday and Sutton Feast Sunday, for evening service, 720 Bob Doubles: C. Thulborn 1, P. A. Corby (conductor) 2, W. Faux 3, G. Howard 4, R. Knight 5, H. Gimbert 6.

HARLOW COMMON.—On Sunday, September 26th, 1,280 Kent Treble Bob: *Robert Springham 1, Fred Whitby 2, Ben Copping 3, Vincent Tipton 4, Stanley Clark 5, Lewis Cordell 6, Edward Rochester 7, William Wheeler (conductor) 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

CARDIFF.—On Sunday, September 26th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: L. Hulbert 1, F. Hannington 2, W. Richards 3, A. Parnell 4, A. Rowley 5, E. Coles 6, E. Coombes (conductor) 7, S. R. Barker 8.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—On Battle of Britain Sunday, September 26th, for morning service, 1,260 Oxford Bob Triples: Miss D. Wacey 1, R. Wood 2, *E. Garbett 3, F. Bird (conductor) 4, H. Bull 5, H. M. White 6, W. T. Prior 7, T. Ward 8. *First quarter in the method.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS.—On Sunday, September 19th, at St. Michael's, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. M. White 1, R. Wood 2, F. Bird (conductor) 3, Dr. Spencer Phillips 4, H. Bull 5, W. T. Prior 6, T. Ward 7.

BIGGLESWADE.—On September 14th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples: H. W. Smith 1, C. F. Page 2, C. J. Smith 3, H. Sherman 4, L. Bywaters 5, J. Church 6, S. H. Wallis (conductor) 7, J. Tompkins 8.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—For Thanksgiving Sunday, September 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1,295 changes: G. Preston (conductor) 1, Miss Sparshott 2, *J. M. Turner 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, E. T. Griffin 6, F. Blake 7, L. Stone 8, G. Scragg 9, H. Gillard 10. *First quarter-peal inside.

EAST BUDLEIGH, DEVON.—On Sunday, September 19th, for harvest festival, 720 Bob Minor: Jack Deem 1, B. Pidgeon 2, F. Dimond 3, E. Sprague 4, John Glenville 5, L. Opl. J. N. Brown (Royal Marines) (conductor) 6.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-.

For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4s. 3d. per quarter.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting at Bell Foundry, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.1., on October 9th, at 3 p.m.—Ringing at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, 4.30.—A. B. Peck, 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Dorking, Saturday, Oct. 9th, 3 p.m. Service at 5. Business meeting in the Church Room at 7. — A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec., Recreation Bungalow, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—Meeting at Northowram, Halifax, Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m.—Wm. Ambler, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Meeting at Northchurch on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. No tea arrangements.—W. Ayre, Dis. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A practice at Scottow on Saturday, October 9th. Bells 2 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Additions to food welcomed.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting of the Gainsborough District at Upton on Saturday, October 9th, 5.30 to 8.30. No service or tea.—Geo. L. G. Lunn, Hon. Sec., 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

EAST GRINSTEAD GUILD.—Meeting at Withyham, October 9th. Bells (8) from 3 p.m.—C. A. Bassett, Hon. Sec.

WARWICKSHIRE GUILD.—Meeting at Bedworth, October 9th. Bells (8) 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Cups of tea in school 5 p.m.—Allesley, October 16th, ringing before induction (3 p.m.) of new Rector (Rev. F. W. Moyle), president of the Guild. Tea provided at 5 p.m.—D. E. Beamish, Gen. Hon. Sec., 21, Gipsy Lane, Nuneaton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—Meeting at Penwortham, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30 p.m. Bring food.—F. Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SAWSTON.—Meeting on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) 2 p.m. Cups of tea provided.—F. Hurry, 2, Portobello Lane, Sawston, Cambs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—Meeting at Barwell on Saturday, October 9th. Bells (8) from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.—W. A. Wood, Dis. Sec.

BARNLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—Meeting at Penistone, Saturday, October 9th, 2.30.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

WEDNESBURY.—Open practice meeting at St. Bartholomew's Church, Saturday, October 9th, 3 to 5 p.m.—A. Hingley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Practice at Cookham on October 9th is cancelled.—T. J. Fowler, B.R.M.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Banbury (10 bells) Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m., followed by tea and evening ringing. Please notify.—E. Pearson, Adderbury West, Banbury.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—Annual meeting at Tonbridge, Saturday, October 16th, 2.30 p.m. Service 3.45. Tea at Carlton Cafe 4.30. Names to Mr. J. Medhurst, 251, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, by October 12th.—T. Saunders, Hon. Sec.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Woodstock, Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m. Service 3.15 p.m. Tea and meeting at the Bear Hotel 4.30 p.m. Names by Tuesday, 12th.—W. Evetts, Branch Hon. Sec.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION and LADIES' GUILD.—Joint meeting at Edmonton on Saturday, October 16th, 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea (if possible). Names to Mrs. Fletcher, 45, Walsingham Road, Enfield, by October 13th. Ringing possible during black-out.—T. J. Lock and I. Housden, Hon. Secs.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD (Southern Branch).—Meeting at Rippingale on October 16th. Bells (6) 2-9 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by free tea for those who notify Mr. S. Laxton, Rippingale, Bourne, by Tuesday previous. Business meeting 6 p.m.—C. T. H. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Biggleswade District.—Meeting at Eaton Socan on Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) at 3 p.m. Tea uncertain.—C. J. Ball, 25, Tempsford Road, Sandy.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—Meeting at Wrington on Saturday, October 16th. Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m.—Percy G. Yeo, Hon. Local Sec., Long Ashton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester District.—Meeting at Sileby (6 bells) on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Tea and meeting 5 p.m. at the Fountain Inn. Names to me by October 13th.—H. W. Perkins, Hon. Dis. Sec., 53, Lancaster Road, Leicester.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Eastwood on Saturday, October 16th. Bells at 3 p.m. Tea in schoolroom for those who notify Mr. J. Johnson, 29, Church Street, Eastwood, before October 14th. Handbells available.—T. Groombridge, jun., Hon. Dis. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Meeting on Saturday, October 16th. Sandridge bells (6) 2.45-4 p.m., and Wheathampstead (6) 4 p.m. until blackout, followed by meeting. Refreshments available at Wheathampstead. Frequent buses (Nos. 304 and 391) from St. Albans.—R. Darvill, Hon. Dis. Sec.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Egham on Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Names for tea (1s. 3d.) to Mr. W. Peck, 61, Stainash Crescent, Staines, Middlesex, by Tuesday, October 12th.—F. E. Hawthorne, Hon. Sec.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Practice at Crawley, Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Tea arranged for those who advise me by October 13th.—O. Sippetts, 10, Three Bridges Road, Crawley, Sussex.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Meeting at Pre-shute, October 16th. Bells (6) 2.30. Service 3.45. Tea 5.30. Names by October 12th.—T. A. Palmer, Baydon Hill, Aldbourne, Marlborough, Wilts.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—Meeting at Lytham on Saturday, October 16th. Bells (8) 3 p.m.—J. H. Foster, Branch Sec.

EAST DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTS ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Selston, Saturday, October 16th, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Bring own food. Tea for those who notify Mr. W. Dobb, Stoney Lane, Selston.—J. W. England, Hon. Sec.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Derby District.—Meeting Derby Cathedral, October 23rd. Bells (10) 2.30 p.m. Service 4 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. James Pagett, 19, Lynton Street, Derby, by October 20th. Bring sugar.—Wm. Lancaster, Hon. Sec.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Meeting at Norwich on Saturday, October 23rd. Ringing at St. Miles', 2 p.m.; Mancroft, 4 p.m. Service at Mancroft 4.45. Tea in Mancroft Parish Hall, 5.15; bring food.—A. G. G. Thurlow, Gen. Sec., 52, The Close, Norwich.

PORTISHEAD, NEAR BRISTOL.—Ringing at the Parish Church every Sunday, 10.15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Practice during winter first and third Saturdays, 3 p.m., commencing October 17th.—E. E. Edwards, Hon. Sec.

BIRTH.

ROGERS.—On September 27th, in the Grove Nursing Home, Isleworth, to Olive (nee Ashbrook), wife of Capt. H. W. Rogers, R.E.M.E., on the 2nd anniversary of their wedding, a son, Christopher Harold.

DEATH.

FOWLER.—On September 27th, in a flying accident in Yorkshire, Sergt. Ronald C. Fowler, R.A.F., dearly loved eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Fowler, Black Butts, Cookham, Berks.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

There was a somewhat poor attendance at the meeting of the Essex Association at Great Bentley on September 25th, only twelve members being present. They came from Colchester, Great Holland, Ipswich, Thorington, Clacton, Little Clacton, Mistley, Tendring and Great Thurlow.

It is not possible to hold a service and tea and the business meeting were at the Plough Inn. In the absence of the Master, Mr. Chalk took the chair. Mr. Percy Almond was re-elected a member after a break of twelve years, and two probationers, Mesrs. Packard and Kenneth Mitchell, were elected.

It was decided to hold the annual district meeting at St. Peter's, Colchester, if the bells are available. If not, Mistley will be substituted.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—On Sunday, Sept. 26th, 500 Grandsire Triples: G. H. Harding (conductor) 1. W. Baxter 2. *Miss E. J. Crawley-Boevey 3. Mrs. F. Penn 4. R. Amor 5. F. Penn 6. J. Francis 7. A. Boyce 8. *First 500.

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