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THE LAGGARDS.

The balance sheets of associations now being made up for 1940 are revealing the fact that an unduly large proportion of members failed to pay their subscriptions during the year. For instance, one district of the Guildford Diocesan Guild had no fewer than fifty-four defaulters out of a total of 176, while reports from other parts of the country show an unfortunate falling-off in contributions. By no means all of this is due to men joining H.M. Forces, who in most ringing societies are relieved of their subscriptions. It is, we are afraid, one symptom of what is happening through the ban. Ringers are losing touch with each other and with their associations, because there is no ringing and few meetings. Worse still, many of them seem to be losing their interest and in their apathy they have become lax in their subscriptions.

Those ringers who are in this category would probably deny that their slackness in paying is due to anything more than the pressure of work in the present abnormal conditions, and they will probably say that they would have paid if they had been asked. They should not forget, however, that association secretaries are also busy folk, that their activities have increased like other people's, that they have not time to run after defaulting members, and that whatever they do for the associations is all done voluntarily. It is not that the non-payment of subscriptions is due to any intention to secede from the societies, and most of these ringers would doubtless protest their anxiety to ensure the continuity of the associations through these difficult times. Yet by thoughtlessness they are doing the very thing that can lead to collapse. Of course, there may be a certain number of selfish people who have deliberately given up subscribing because they imagine that, as there is no ringing, they are getting nothing for their money. These ringers, however, are in a minority. The others should realise that the maintenance of ringing organisations depends as much upon them as upon those who, with a greater sense of responsibility, faithfully discharge their obligations, and should realise also that without these associations the task of getting ringing going again when the ban is lifted will be greatly increased.

There is yet another angle from which the question should be considered. In nearly every case the principal charge upon the funds of the territorial associations is the publication of an annual report. Where this is suspended for the period of the war, and the expenditure is correspondingly reduced, it might be possible to reduce the amount of the annual subscription—there was a sug-

(Continued on page 50.)

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gestion on these lines at a recent district meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild. But a reduction can only be made if the whole of the members continue to give their support. If half of them drop out, then the loyal section will have to continue to pay on the full basis; and one may well ask will it be quite fair that those who now escape their due liability should come back again on the same terms after the war to gain the advantages which others, who discharge their responsibilities, have retained for them? Perhaps they have not looked at the question quite in this light, but it is an aspect they ought not to lose sight of. It is difficult enough, in all conscience, for association officials to keep their organisations going; it is too much to ask them to call round for the subscriptions of laggard payers. We hope that those who, for whatever reason, are in default, will lose no time in making good their omission, not for what they are getting out of ringing now—which is admittedly very little indeed, although there are still ways in which they can maintain interest—but for what they hope to get out of it in the future.

The associations will have an important part to play when once again the bells are heard over the land. There will be many gaps to fill, many bands that will want help to become re-established. All the effort that can be recruited will be needed, and it is through the contacts that the associations can make that this can best be secured. It is to the future that we must all look and for which we must all work. Unless the members of associations do their share now, the outlook will be a sorry one, and it is not enough to leave everything to others. There are restrictions upon ringing and the time which ringers can devote to those things connected with the art that are still open to us; but these are no excuses for the failure of those who have not been called into the services to pay their small share towards 'keeping the flag flying.'

HANDBELL PEAL.

HIGHWEEK, DEVON.
THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 22, 1941, in Two Hours,
AT PERRY FARM,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, being 1 six-score each of College Pleasure, College Doubles, Dream, Hudibras, Morning Star and London Doubles, and 36 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, 10 different callings.

JAMES E. LILLEY... .. 1-2 | CHARLES R. LILLEY 3-4

HENRY G. LEWIS 5-6

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

Umpire—E. H. Lilley.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. E. Lilley.

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENOR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Charles E. Borrett, quoting a contemporary newspaper, says that the old tenor at Mancroft was broken by the clapper wearing loose. The flight caught the frame and a crack 18 inches long was made in the bell.

Among the printed letters written by Dr. Samuel Parr is one which gives a different account. He said that the bell was cracked when being tolled for a death. Parr, who was generally accounted the most learned man of his generation, had been a ringer in his young days and kept up his interest in the art and in bells throughout his life. At one time he was Master of Norwich Grammar School and he knew Mancroft bells well.

Which is the correct account? Would it be possible for a clapper to work loose in such a way that it would foul the frame and so break the bell? Especially a bell which would be tucked up to some degree at any rate in the stock. It hardly seems likely, but strange accidents do happen.

On the other hand, if the bell was broken by faulty clocking, would not the sexton have a motive for concealing the fact, especially if, as is likely, he had deputed the job to some incompetent person, instead of doing it himself?

'T.'

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WAR-TIME LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Successful Guildford District Meeting.

When the Guildford District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild met on Saturday it was disclosed that out of 176 subscribing members in 1939, only 112 paid their subscriptions last year, and that six towers were among those who failed to collect and forward subscriptions to the treasurer. Apart from this, the district has stood up very well to the difficult times, and the annual meeting was attended by over thirty members of the Guild. Through the good offices of Mr. A. H. Pulling, the meeting was held at the Royal Grammar School, Mr. Walter Harrison (vice-president) presiding, supported by the Guild hon. secretary (Mr. G. L. Grover), who has also been acting as district secretary. Among those also present were Mr. J. Corbett (hon. treasurer), Mr. C. E. Smith (District Ringing Master) and ringers from Guildford Cathedral and S. Nicolas', Guildford, Albury, Godalming, Witley, Shalford, Haslemere, Worplesdon, Aldershot, Leatherhead, etc. Sgt. J. Freeman (Lincoln) and Mr. H. S. Hobden (Eastbourne) were welcome visitors. An apology was received from the Guild Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse), who was indisposed.

Actually two meetings were held, first the meeting at which, under the rules, the nomination of district officers had to be made. The nominations were: District Ringing Master, Mr. C. E. Smith; hon. secretary, Mr. A. C. Hazelden; member on Executive Committee, Mr. H. Cherryman and Mr. S. Petter; auditor, Mr. L. C. Hunter.

Mr. Hazelden, on account of pressure of war work, was only reluctantly persuaded to accept nomination to fill the place of Mr. W. F. J. Cope, who has removed from the district, but it was felt that it was hardly worth while electing a secretary liable for military service.

At the annual meeting, which followed immediately, the nominated officers were elected, and a ballot resulted in the election of Mr. S. Petter to serve for three years on the Executive Committee.

The balance sheet showed an increase of £3 5s. 6d. in hand, despite the drop in members' subscriptions. Hon. members contributed £2 17s. 6d. and ringing members £12 3s., which included 14 members arrears from 1939. Of the subscriptions, 50 per cent., viz., £7 10s. 3d., had been paid to the Guild general fund. The district balance is now £27 7s. 7d.—The accounts were adopted, subject to audit.

DIFFICULTIES TO FACE IN THE FUTURE.

The Ringing Master, in his report, said that for obvious reasons there was little to record of ringing events in the district for 1940. What little there was, concerned the first five or six months of the year before the ban. During those few months, what ringing activities there were were conducted under difficulties. Here and there practices were regularly held, notably at S. Nicolas', Guildford, Witley and Godalming, where quite good work was being put in, but the absence of ringers on active service began to be felt, and, he was sure, was the reason that practices were abandoned at a number of towers. At most towers Sunday service ringing was maintained, often with depleted bands, until the time of the ban.

'Since June,' continued the report, 'all ringing has ceased, as well as meetings and social activities, and I am afraid members will, to a large extent, have lost touch with each other. With the continuation of the ban I can foresee great difficulties at some future date when the ban is lifted. However, that is a matter we shall have to face when the occasion arises. I have no doubt that great efforts will then be made to restore our great art to its pre-war strength.'

As regards meetings during the ban, I do not think it practicable to hold them here without the attraction of the tower bells, for handbell ringers are not many or enthusiastic. Perhaps in the summer, with lighter evenings, an experimental meeting may be tried at a fairly accessible spot.

Before the ban, the report added, two meetings were held in the district and four peals rung, while after the ban one handbell peal was rung.

A TWO-FOLD BLOW.

The general secretary, under the heading of 'Secretary's Report,' stated: As there is now no district secretary, there can hardly be a secretary's report, and I do not propose to endeavour to submit one. I cannot, however, let this meeting pass without putting on record the two-fold blow which the Guildford District has sustained this year. First in the total ban on ringings, and, secondly, in the loss of Mr. Cope's services as secretary on his departure from the district.

'Bill' Cope was secretary for a comparatively short period, but while in office he put his whole heart and energy into the job, with the result that when the thunderbolt of the ban fell the Guildford District had never been in a more united and prosperous state.

Evidence of Mr. Cope's popularity and wholehearted enthusiasm is reflected in the fact that during 1939 the district's membership roll touched a new high record, the district meetings throughout his period of office seemed to gather new life and brightness, and peals were rung at towers where hitherto the Guild had not been unduly welcomed.

The late secretary could have told you, had he been presenting a report, of his gratification at the fact that the district members were permitted during his secretaryship to make peal attempts at, among other places, Dunsfold, Bramley, Albury, Old Woking, Shere and Ewliurst. It need hardly be a secret that some of these attempts

were made as the result of very tactful approaches to the local ringers and some real hard work in helping the local practices. Mr. Cope has now left the district and there is very little likelihood of his duties bringing him back to us. I am sure all members would like me to place on record the very sincere and grateful thanks of the district to Mr. Cope for his labours on its behalf.

As was to be expected, our numbers have dropped considerably this year, but I regret to say that the decrease does not appear to have been caused by the fact that many of our members have joined the Services, but appears chiefly to be the result of apathy in certain centres. Doubtless many of our members are now serving with the Forces, but my appeal for particulars of these members has not been complied with except by very few towers.

The paid up membership is 112, against 176 in 1939.

The reports were adopted, and, in a short discussion on future meetings, it was pointed out that in about two months' time the annual meeting of the Guild would be held in Guildford, and the possibility of summer meetings could then be reviewed in the light of prevailing conditions. In the meantime, the matter would be left in the hands of the district officers.

The general officers of the Guild were all renominated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The Ringing Master said he would like the meeting to record its appreciation of the way in which Mr. J. S. Goldsmith was carrying on 'The Ringing World' under the most difficult conditions. The marvellous way in which he had been able to provide an interesting paper, despite the ban and the absence of ringing, deserved their thanks. He (Mr. Smith) used to think at one time that only peals were interesting, but he had found that there were many other things to interest ringers.

Mr. A. C. Hazelden, in endorsing Mr. Smith's remarks, said that in many respects 'The Ringing World' had grown in interest, and he thought everyone had appreciated the historical articles contributed by Mr. Trollope.

The Hon. Secretary said there was one practical way by which members could show their appreciation of what Mr. Goldsmith was doing, and that was by subscribing to the paper.

It was decided to record on the minutes the appreciation of the members, and, in acknowledging this action, Mr. Goldsmith paid a tribute to the assistance he received from Mr. Trollope. He pointed out the difficulty in providing the necessary material every week, and emphasised how necessary it was that all who could do so should lend a hand by contributing what they were able.

The thanks of the meeting were expressed by Mr. A. C. Hazelden to the chairman, whom everyone was pleased to see present again, and to Mr. G. L. Grover, who, in the absence of Mr. Cope, had shouldered the work of the district secretary as well as the general secretaryship.

Afterwards there was handbell ringing, and a number of members took part in Grandsire Triples, Stedman Caters and Bob Major. Later most of those who attended formed a jolly tea party at the Abbot's Kitchen—there were two tables, each with 13! Although there had been doubts about the possibility of holding future district meetings, this one at least was a success and should be an inducement to hold others when the black-out hours are shorter.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRISTOL CITY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Bristol City Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association was held on Saturday, January 11th, at the Haymarket Hotel. Since the formation of the branch the meeting had always been held at the church and parish hall of St. Peter's, but the church unfortunately was one of those badly damaged in the recent air raids on the city.

A blazing fire offered a warm welcome to the early arrivals, and the handbells were soon set going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, to which Caters was added on the arrival of Mr. Wilfred Williams and Mr. Frank Shorter, of St. Lawrence Jewry.

After tea, to which a dozen members sat down, a short business meeting was held. The secretary, Mr. A. M. Tyler, in presenting the balance sheet, said that many members had not yet paid their subscriptions for the year 1940, but he hoped they would do so before the final accounts were handed over to the treasurer.

The retiring officers were re-elected en bloc. Mr. T. Harris pointed out that he would probably be called to the Forces, and suggested that another chairman should be elected in his stead, but he was asked to continue in office as long as possible.

In a review of the past year the secretary drew attention to the great loss which the whole Exercise had sustained by the deaths of Mr. William A. Cave and Mr. Stephen H. Wood. Mr. Cave had done much in his earlier days to advance the standard of ringing in the city, and had helped many a young ringer through his first peal.

The tragic death of Mr. Stephen Wood in an air raid was a severe blow to the future of the young band he was teaching at Clifton Parish Church, and to ringing as a whole.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

The Chairman voiced the thanks of the meeting to the secretary for his continued efforts and expressed the hope that he would receive the support he deserved.

Further handbell ringing concluded a quiet, successful meeting.

CHURCH BELLS OF LONDON. ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS IN THE 19th CENTURY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

The first peal of the nineteenth century was one of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus rung on January 4th, 1801, by the College Youths at St. Martin's. John Povey conducted, and the band was made up of John Lyford, Winstanley Richardson, William Brooke, William Wilson, William Lyford, Daniel Jenkins, John Inville, Charles Barber, William Lowndes, Edward Bartell and Philip Pilgrim.

All these details suggest a typical late eighteenth century performance and, indeed the method, the society, the tower, the band—everything except the date—belong to the period that was passing away and not to the period that was dawning. The Society of College Youths was then enjoying a reputation as high as at any time in its long history. Its members not only inherited the great prestige of their predecessors, but had themselves, one and all, long and distinguished ringing careers behind them. Their enthusiasm had not cooled, and if some of them were less energetic in peal ringing than they once had been, advancing years had brought them authority and the respect of younger men. It was from this period in its history that the later traditions of the society's dignity and importance were directly derived.

An outstanding feature of these men was their extraordinary vitality. Many of them had already been active ringers for a long time, and they continued still to be active ringers for a long time, with the result that, after some years, the company consisted for the most part of elderly men. This was a source of strength to the society up to a point, but it ultimately had the result that the band became not much more than a belated survival from a bygone age. So long as they all lived, they did not welcome younger recruits, and when the time came that death and old age began to thin their ranks, there were no outsiders of their own class from which to fill up their numbers. For the times were changing. The belfry was ceasing to attract the kind of men which had formed the great ringing societies of the eighteenth century, and all over the country companies like the Union Society of Shrewsbury, the College Youths of Hertford, and many a lesser known body were fading away. It was a fate which the College Youths escaped, but they did so narrowly; and, by a process not unlike what happened a century earlier when Benjamin Annable and his companions appeared on the scene, the society was re-established by the influx of a body of younger men, on lines which in many important ways were a breach with the past.

It took several years to bring this about, and we do not see the full results before 1830. For some years the men of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, kept the College Youths among peal-ringing societies, and the company at headquarters usually attempted at least one peal every year, in addition to those they rang on visits to open new bells in the provinces. Charles Barber was the most active conductor.

In March, 1802, Barber called a peal of Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's for the Society, and on that occasion Samuel Laurence, of Shifnal, came up to town and rang the tenor.

For ten years no further peal was rung in the belfry, but on February 8th, 1812, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang there 5,424 changes of Oxford Treble Twelve. The younger George Gross composed and called the peal, Shipway rang the fifth, Henry Symondson the ninth, and Philip Pilgrim, who had left his old friends, rang the tenor.

This was the first peal by the Cumberlands on the bells. They were then visitors, and their close connection with the belfry did not begin until several years later.

The last peal rung by the old College Youths on the twelve bells was on March 11th, 1820. It was 5,055 changes of Grandsire Cinques, and was by a band who may justly be described by that much abused word 'veterans.' John Povey conducted, and included in the band were William Lyford, Charles Barber, Joseph Holdsworth, Peter Ashley and Edward Bartell. The tenth was rung by John Cooper, a younger man, from Shrewsbury, who did his best to maintain the waning fortunes of the society, and nine years later he was able to conduct 5,040 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus in the steeple.

By this time all the old familiar names had dropped out of the peal band. Charles Barber died in 1823, John Povey in 1825, and William Lyford in 1830. Inville lived until 1837, and Holdsworth until 1838. Inville was 87 when he died, William Lyford was 78, and Povey and Holdsworth much the same age.

Death and retirement had now so thinned the company at St. Martin's that there were scarcely enough ringers to man the ropes, and in 1820 an entirely separate company was formed by Henry Symondson, which was called the Junior Society of College Youths, and rang the bells on alternate weeks. It consisted of a number of younger men who were for the most part excellent ringers; but they were not of the same class as the old College Youths, who could not bring themselves to admit them on a footing of equality.

In 1830, however, the membership of the society was so reduced that a proposal was made to unite the junior society with it, and on July 30th the two companies were formally made one. But the arrangement was not a success. Between the two sets of men there was no sort of sympathy; the older looked down on the younger as their social inferiors, and the younger had no respect or liking for the older. So after a couple of years' uneasy fellowship the union was dissolved.

These events left the Society of College Youths in a very weak state. As the older men fell out of the company, the members of the junior society began to trickle back in ones and twos, and ultimately they became the majority. They then took control, and moved the society's headquarters across the river to the King's Head in Southwark, where it remained for many years.

St. Martin's was abandoned as the regular practice meeting place, and the long connection between the society and the belfry came to an end.

Some time after this the Society of Cumberland Youths, whose headquarters had been at St. Leonard's, Shore-ditch, since the year 1747, left their old home and moved to St. Martin's.

Meanwhile, on October 26th, 1737, a band of the St. James' Society had rung the longest peal on the bells. This was one of Grandsire Cinques, 7,352 changes, con-

ducted by Thomas Tolladay, and was at the time the longest single-handed peal in the method. It was beaten in 1887 by a peal of 9,020 changes at Birmingham.

The Cumberlands rang 5,151 Stedman Cinques in 1854, with John Cox as conductor, and 5,050 Stedman Caters in 1862, composed and conducted by John Nelms. Nelms, who at the time was the leading man among the Cumberlands, called 5,019 Stedman Cinques in 1865, and 5,103 Grandsire Cinques in 1867. John Cox in 1870 called the first peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on the bells with a band which included George Newson, James Hewitt, Robert Haworth, William Baron and John Rogers, all of whom will be remembered by persons still living.

As we might have expected, St. Martin's has several ancient and valuable peal boards, though here, as at most of the London towers, there seems to have been some that have been destroyed.

The two most valuable and interesting are not in the belfry, but have been removed to the crypt, which was once a place of sepulchre, but now has been opened up and is used partly as a chapel, partly as a night refuge for destitute people, and, now in these troubled times, as an air-raid shelter.

At one time these two boards hung on the staircase leading to the church gallery. One of them records the long peal of Grandsire Cinques by the London Scholars in 1728, the other the 6,240 of Stedman Cinques by the College Youths in 1788. Both are in good condition.

In the belfry is a board which, through dirt and the discoloration of the varnish, has become unreadable. It probably records the Stedman Cinques of 1792.

(Continued in next column.)

WHY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE ?

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In trying to produce a new Doubles method I hit on the idea of reducing Erin Triples. The 'Plain Course' runs to 30 changes, as follows:—

12345	45231	31524
21435	54321	13254
12453	45312	31245
14235	43521	32154
41253	34512	23145
42135	35421	21354
24153	53412	12345
42513	35142	
24531	53124	
25413	51342	
52431	15324	
54213	13542	
45231	31524	

Why is it impossible to obtain the extent from this 'method,' and yet it runs true for Triples? I suggest a reply to this in 'The Ringing World' would interest quite a few ringers.

'PUZZLED.'

(Continued from previous column.)

There is a small tablet, elaborately carved and written, which records the 5,184 of Stedman Caters rung at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, by the Cumberlands in 1788. It has been restored and rewritten, and is now in excellent condition. It was brought from Shoreditch when the Cumberlands moved their headquarters. Another board, almost unreadable, also came from Shoreditch.

Of the later boards, the most notable is the one recording the long peal of Grandsire Cinques by the St. James Society. This is in fair condition but needs cleaning.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

A correspondent seeks information as to gramophone records of change ringing. Will any ringer who can forward details kindly do so?

At the funeral of the late Charles A. Catchpole, of Ipswich, the St. Margaret's ringers were represented by Mr. James Smith and Mr. James Rose.

Fifty years ago to-day a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung at Bradford to celebrate the coming of age of Mr. Joe Hardcastle, whose birthday falls on February 2nd. He rang the treble.

The first peal of Cambridge Maximus in London was rung by the College Youths on January 28th, 1911, at St. Michael's, Cornhill.

Two of the most prominent members of the London Exercise in the nineteenth century died on January 29th, John Cox in 1885, and Henry Haley in the following year. They were lifelong rivals, and usually when one was a College Youth the other belonged to the Cumberlands, though they took part together in some famous peals for the St. James' Society.

The record length of Superlative Surprise Major, 11,232 changes, was rung by the Lancashire Association at Bolton on January 29th, 1927. Mr Edward Jenkins conducted, and the composition was by Mr. T. B. Worsley.

Benjamin Annable died on February 1st, 1857, and was buried at St. Bride's, Fleet Street.

On the same date in 1832, the Birmingham men rang the first and only peal of Kent Treble Bob Cinques.

The Cambridge University Guild, which has given many excellent ringers to the Exercise, was founded on February 4th, 1879.

Charles Douglas Percy Davies died on February 5th, 1931, aged 74.

Fifty years ago thirteen peals were rung. They were: Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 1, Caters 2, Bob Minor 1, Triples 1, Major 2, Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 2, and one in 2 methods on 19 bells.

DEATH OF RECTOR AND WIFE.

REV. R. C. AND MRS. THURSFIELD KILLED IN MOTOR CRASH.

The Rector of Cranford, the Rev. Richard Cecil Thursfield, and Mrs. Thursfield lost their lives last week in a tragic manner through an accident caused by their car colliding with a motor bus. Mrs. Thursfield was killed instantly and the Rector died later in Kettering Hospital.

Mr. Thursfield, who was a leading figure in the civic life of Northamptonshire, had been Rector of St. Andrew's with St. John's, Cranford, since 1903. He was Rural Dean of Weldon, and vice-president of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild. His daughter, Miss Sylvia Thursfield, is the well-known secretary of the Northampton District of the Ladies' Guild. The sympathy of the whole Exercise will be extended to her in her double bereavement.

THE NECESSITY FOR THE BAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I should not have butted in on Mr. Amos' letter but for one word he used. He says 'the freedom we are fighting for or are supposed to be.' One absolute fact we do know and there is no supposition about it. You only have to talk to schoolboy visitors to Germany to hear about *their* freedom. It would have been more to the point if, when Mr. Amos visited his M.P., he had impressed on him the need for the Government to give orders and not so much 'please.'

Just imagine a peal of Stedman in danger of being lost and the conductor saying to one of the band, 'Will you please volunteer to do your last whole turn?' No, he gives a shout to do it. Mr. Amos will query that as an order, but when we are ringing we take it as such, and do not argue, but do as we are told. Now that the nation is in danger it is more important for us to lose our freedom for a time and have definite orders given.

Mr. Amos asks are you in favour of bells being stopped? Well, the general public as well as ringers, especially those of us who have been used to ringing on Sundays for over forty years, are not in favour of it any more than of having our tea rationed; at least I am not, but all of us are prepared to put up with it for a time if our leaders think it is the best thing to help the war. After all, they should know more than we ordinary people or Mr. Amos. There is one thing certain; under Hitler he would not have paid another visit to his M.P. or have written letters.

Guildford Grammar School.

A. H. PULLING.

HANDBELLS IN CHURCH.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have been reading with interest the letters which have appeared in your paper on handbell ringing for church services, and I would like to state that we at All Saints', Isleworth, have been ringing handbells regularly twice on a Sunday ever since the tower bells were silenced.

The church authorities and members of the congregation have on many occasions expressed their appreciation. They think it is a splendid idea to ring handbells while the ban on church bells exists. 'Nemo' may be interested to read this.

Besides rounds and Queens on 12 bells, we ring courses of Grandsire Triples and Caters and Bob Major.

O. L. ASHBROOK.

DEATH OF ALD. J. S. PRITCHETT.

MASTER OF ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

Close of a Long and Active Life.

We deeply regret to record the death of Alderman John Suckling Pritchett, Master of St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, who passed away at the advanced age of 86 years on January 18th, and was buried at King's Norton Church on Thursday of last week. He had spent a life of great activity and public usefulness, and was held in great esteem in the legal profession which he adorned, in the civic life of Birmingham to which he made a long and valued contribution, in the craft of Freemasonry in which he rose to a distinguished position, as well as in the ringing Exercise, in which he was held in high regard.

Educated at Birmingham and Oxford, Mr. Pritchett early showed signs of brilliant attainments, and in 1869 was first in all England in the Oxford (Junior) Local Examination. An exhibitor to Balliol College in 1873, he took a first class in mathematics in 1877, proceeded M.A. in 1880 and B.C.L. in 1886. In 1881 he was called to the Bar from the Inner Temple and gained a wide practice. For some years past he had been Recorder of Lincoln and had frequently acted as Deputy Stipendiary for the City of Birmingham. Mr. Pritchett was a great linguist, and among his accomplishments in this direction was a mastery of the Welsh, Spanish and Finnish languages.

Formerly a member of the Worcestershire County Council, he became an Alderman of the City of Birmingham, when King's Norton was absorbed by the city in 1911. His chief civic interest was in education. On this important committee he did much good work and became a governor of King Edward's High School, where as a boy he received part of his education.

In Freemasonry he held many and exalted positions, and was one of the very few to attain the 33rd degree. Some twelve months ago, on the death of Col. Wyley, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, he became Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge.

It is, however, with Mr. Pritchett's connection with ringing that we are here principally concerned. As a boy he learned to ring with his three brothers at King's Norton, and he maintained the closest interest in the art throughout his long life. While at Oxford he was an active member of the then newly-formed University Society, and he had been a member of St. Martin's Guild since 1874 and of the College Youths since 1875.

He was a vice-president of the Worcestershire Association, for which he rang and conducted a number of peals, and in 1902 was elected Presiding Ringing Master of St. Martin's Guild, an office which afterwards became that of Master. This he held up to the time of his death, having been re-elected as recently as January 4th last. He endeared himself to all the members, for his interest in the Guild never flagged and his speeches at the annual Henry Johnson Dinner, in which he reviewed the work of the Guild, were always a feature of the proceedings.

Mr. Pritchett had been a member of the Central Council since 1894, when he was elected to represent the Worcestershire Association, which he continued to do until 1899, after which he was made an honorary member and had so continued ever since.

In his younger days at King's Norton Mr. Pritchett was an enthusiastic leader of a talented company, which eventually reached the Surprise standard—a rare distinction for a local band in those days. He conducted peals of Superlative, Cambridge and London at King's Norton, his three brothers also taking part. For over fifty years Mr. Pritchett rang regularly for morning service at his Parish Church. One of his last peals was rung for his birthday about eight years ago. Unfortunately, he did not keep a record of his peal performances, but the number he rang was between 100 and 200.

The funeral service took place at King's Norton with full Masonic honours, and in the presence of a distinguished gathering of citizens, headed by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who assembled despite a day of fog and snow. The Bishop of Birmingham, Canon Dunn (Vicar of King's Norton), Canon Blofeld (Vicar of Edgbaston) and the Rev. R. A. Haysom (Rector of Northfield and P. Asst. Grand Chaplain) took part.

The family mourners were Messrs. C. J. S. Pritchett and V. E. C. Pritchett (sons), and Alderman T. B. Pritchett (Deputy Mayor of Birmingham) and Mr. W. B. Pritchett (nephews).

The pall bearers were Freemasons: Messrs. C. F. Menk, P.A.G. Reg., Asst. Prov. Grand Master in charge of the Province of Warwickshire, Mathew H. Clarke, P.G. Treas., Prov. Grand Master, Thomas Burman, P.G.D., Grand Superintendent (R.A.), and S. Guise, P.A.G.D.C. Provincial Grand Secretary. The Ven. H. McGowan, Vicar of Aston, Provincial Grand Chaplain, was also present, and would have taken part in the service had he not been delayed by transport difficulties.

St. Martin's Guild were represented by Councillor A. Paddon Smith (vice-president), M. T. H. Reeves (hon. secretary), Mr. F. B. Yates and Mr. E. T. Allaway.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING.

Cathedral Bells Rung Without Clappers.

The annual meeting of the Leicester District of the Midland Counties Association was held on Saturday, January 18th, in Leicester. In spite of very bad weather, visitors were present from Kettering, Anstey, Burbage and Groby. Miss Betty Rayfield, of Eastbourne, who is for the time being living in Leicester, was also present.

The clappers had been taken from the bells at the Cathedral, and a ring (although silent) was very much enjoyed by those present. Two ringers present had their first attempt at Stedman Cinques, and whilst they were handicapped by the number of ropes and the ringing being silent, this was in some measure counterbalanced by advice of 'Dodge in 6-7 with the old gentleman with the grey moustache,' or 'Dodge in 8-9 with the fat man on the box.' This caused no small amusement. A course of London was attempted, but apparently 'Ole Joe' was the only one who knew the method and he had never learned it.

Following the ringing a move was made to a nearby hostelry 'somewhere on the Globe'—we must be careful, 'somewhere in England' is much too precise. Here a very nice tea was ready, and here also was observed a fine example of the old adage, 'Wheels within wheels.' There was a 'Belgrave Barrow' (not on wheels), but very much staying put on 'fire watching' duty in a comfortable seat, and a tea in front of him which would have done good to the eyes of any food controller. The appalling feature was that he was too engrossed either watching the fire or the tea that he did not hear the efforts of the hungry outside waiting to come in.

After tea the handbells were set in motion to some Stedman Caters. One course of Grandsire Triples was rung by the Morris 'crowd,' three of the famous Leicester family with a 'Burley' fellow to make up the band.

A real scare followed, when at 7.10 p.m. someone came in the room and asked if any Cathedral ringers were present. Apparently the clock hammer was still 'doing its stuff' on the tenor for the striking of seven o'clock. A telephone communication had already been made to the Provost asking if the Home Guard should be called out. Bert and Harry went to the rescue, much to the relief of listeners, including a worried looking policeman.

THE BUSINESS MEETING.

A business meeting was held during the evening. In the absence of the chairman (Mr. G. T. H. Walker), the chair was occupied by Mr. H. J. Poole.

The hon. secretary, in reading the minutes of the last meeting, said that the two meetings proposed on that occasion had been cancelled owing to the ban on ringing and other difficulties.

The following officers were re-elected: Mr. G. T. H. Walker, chairman; Mr. A. W. Perkins, hon. secretary; Mr. R. Barrows to the committee. Mr. H. Wayne was elected to fill the other vacancy on the committee caused by Mr. S. H. Harrison having joined the Forces.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. S. H. Harrison for the able way in which he had carried out his duties while a member of the local committee, and expressed the hope that he would soon be with them again.—This was endorsed by all present.

When the question was discussed as to whether a quarterly meeting should be held, it was ascertained that there was a possibility of being able to ring silent on the bells of Belgrave Church. Consequently it was unanimously decided that a meeting be held at Belgrave on April 5th.

At the close the chairman made reference to the recent death by enemy action of a promising young member of the Leicester district, Mr. E. Trump. The company stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect, and the secretary was instructed to send a message of sympathy to his widow.

THE BELLS OF STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.*To the Editor.*

Sir,—In connection with the interesting extract relative to Staveley, given in your last issue by Mr. S. F. Palmer, the following notice in the 'Leicester Journal' may prove of interest:—

'July 5th, 1782. On Thursday the 27th of June a new Peal of six bells cast by Mr. Arnold of St. Neots in Huntingdonshire was opened at Staveley near Chesterfield, by three Companies of Ringers, viz., Dronfield, Eckington and Beighton, and to the credit of Mr. Arnold, are universally allowed to be the best Peal of Six Bells in that neighbourhood.

'The many excellent Peals of Bells cast by Mr. Arnold do great credit to his abilities in his profession, and the dispatch he used upon the above occasion in recasting the five old Bells and a new Tenor will do him equal credit for attention to business.—The wagon with the five old Bells left Staveley on Monday, June the 10th, arrived at St. Neots just a hundred miles distant on Thursday the 13th—the five bells were new cast and a new Tenor wt. 18c. 3-22 pitch F was cast the next day Friday the 14th. On Monday the 17th they were taken up, tuned and placed in the wagon on Wednesday evening the 19th,—which arrived at Staveley on Saturday the 22nd—and on the 27th of June the new peal was opened.'

ERNEST MORRIS.

Leicester.

WHAT IS A GOOD SURPRISE METHOD?

A CRITICISM OF BEDFORD SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—We are all indebted to you for the re-publishing of the figures of Bedford Surprise, and I hope that some of our experts will give us the benefit of their views. The method has several excellent features, but as your object was to invite possible criticism, I would say that, in my opinion, it has several shortcomings; but so, too, has that 'prince' of methods, Superlative. I know of no perfect method, unless it be Double Norwich, but here we are not dealing with plain methods.

In Bedford, the coursing order is, at the back, nearly, but not quite, correct. The bell which should follow the treble behind (in the first lead the 2) is missing. Then at the front there are three bells out of order. This also is important, as we see in Cambridge, where, in spite of the fact that the coursing order is correct, there is the large number of 92 unmusical rows in the course, due to the fact that the coursing order at the front is all wrong.

In the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th leads of Bedford, the number of rows with two or more bells between the tenors is only four or five. If all leads were as good, there would be only 32 in the whole course. This would approach perfection. But in the 4th and 5th leads the tenors occupy the positions where they are parted, and the number of bad rows jumps up to 15 in each. Still, in the aggregate, the total number is only 53, and this is very good, being, in fact, only one more than in Bristol.

In the latter, the music is good, apart from the fact that there are many back-handers. No bell is separated from its course bell either at the front or back, although they sometimes come up in the reverse order. But when 7,8 occupy the same positions as 3,5 or 4,6, as they do in the 3rd and 6th leads, we have 14 bad rows in each lead. This is caused by the fact that (as in the 1st lead) the bell which courses the 3rd or the 4th only comes to lead for a snap and then deserts its course bell, in the one case going behind while the course bell returns to lead, and in the other vice versa. From this it is obvious that the correct coursing order in the front is also very important.

We come to the place-making in Bedford. In the work in 3-4, three places are made consecutively. The structure of the method makes this inevitable, but more than two consecutive places are to be avoided if possible. These, however, are hand and back, which is to the good.

A further three consecutive places are made in 5-6 when the treble is behind, and these are more serious; for in the extension to Royal they are increased to seven, and in Maximus to no less than eleven consecutive places. The much maligned Cambridge has Bedford soundly beaten here, as its extension merely involves the insertion of sundry extra single dodges.

There is further work, in 5-6, and here we are suddenly faced with a snap followed by a pair of contiguous places, back and hand, repeated on the reverse. Now in Bristol and London, snaps and back-handers are characteristic of the methods. We may or may not like them, but they are true to type, and are to be expected. Bedford, however, is in the main a regular method, and these are exceptions to its general character. They have, consequently, an air of the incongruous. I think that such features, in an otherwise regular method, are out of place, and must reduce somewhat the marks for construction.

We now come to that debatable question on the cross sections. There are eight of them. A method with an inside place at two of them is called an 'Exercise,' at four of them a 'Delight.' There are still six and eight to be filled, and we have only one term left, 'Surprise.' Does this stand for six, seven or eight, or does it cover all three? Far be it from me to attempt to lay down the law where Jasper Snowden failed, but the fact remains that so-called 'Surprise' methods may, apparently, have either six, seven or eight inside places at the cross-sections. The lawyers would say that the classification fails for lack of definition. What I propose to do, in my summing up, is to deduct five points for each cross-section above six which remains unfilled, in this case one, and to leave it to the experts to be more precise in their classification.

To conclude, if I were judging Bedford Surprise I should award and deduct marks as follows (possible marks for each quality 100):—

FOR		AGAINST	
Composition.		3 consecutive places in 3-4 ...	10
One false course end ...	95	The same in 5-6 (more serious) ...	15
Music.		Pair of back-handed and contiguous places ...	10
Rows where tenors are divided 53 ...	95	One cross-section unfilled ...	5
Construction and interest ...	90		
	280		
Less 40			40
	240		80 per cent.

Baildon, Yorks

JAMES F. HARVEY.

DEATH OF MR. W. B. SAMPSON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. B. Sampson, who had been president of the Scottish Association since its foundation in 1932. He did most of his ringing at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, where he was conductor for many years. In all he was associated with ringing for close on fifty years.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

ANNUAL MEETING OF GAINSBOROUGH DISTRICT.

In spite of the ban on the ringing of bells, the Gainsborough District of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild held their annual meeting on Saturday, January 18th. In previous years the annual meeting has been held in Gainsborough, but this year it was thought the Institute, Lea, would be a good spot.

A fair number of ringers, representing most of the towers, were present for the meeting at 6 p.m. Canon Fookes (Rector of Lea) presided.

The officers were re-elected en bloc.

A statement on the finances of the Belfry Repair Fund was approved as satisfactory. No collection was taken, as it was thought that members had more pressing claims on their money in these days.

Under the heading of 'any other business,' the secretary (Mr. George L. A. Lunn) made some observations on the future of the Guild.

'It seems,' he said, 'quite impossible to do much of a practical nature at present, and all that could be done was to keep the business side going and replace the actual ringing with social events, as, for instance, the whist drive that was to follow that night. It was regrettable, he said, that the 1939 report was still not published, but it was no doubt due to some good reason. With regard to the 1940 issue, it is improbable that it will be printed, he thought, and if not it might be wise to reduce the subscription.'

Votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

The whist drive was due to start at seven o'clock, but owing to the terrible weather not many had turned up by that time, but after waiting half an hour and 'scouting round' the village, several more were persuaded to brave the storm. Five tables were made up, and with Miss M. E. Lunn as M.C., things went with a swing. One noticed, however, that the well worn ringing phrase, 'Lead so and so,' is not confined to ringing alone.

Twenty-one hands only were played owing to the late start, refreshments were served (wherever did they come from? everybody wanted to know), and prizes distributed. The winners were: Ladies, 1 Mrs. E. Batters, 2 Mrs. Iredale, 3 Mr. Bingham; gents, 1 M. Smith, 2 Lance-Corpl. Bundell, 3 Gunner Cheeseman.

Mrs. Batters was warmly applauded for winning the home-made pork pie, which she very kindly gave to the soldiers.

ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET.

'HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In spite of all Mr. E. Barnett has to say about St. Bride's bells, I am still grateful to Mr. G. H. Cross and the rest of the officers of the Cumberlands for the chance to ring on them.

Mr. Barnett left the society about the time the bells were opened in recent years, and I am sure he is not aware of the difficulties which were encountered.

I have re-read my letter, and I can only see one mistake, and that was signing my name. A non-de-plume would have served quite as well, and I doubt if Mr. Barnett would have troubled to make any comment. The columns of 'The Ringing World' should be kept free to carry on the great task of keeping ringing going. A task for which it deserves our thanks and fullest support. With all good wishes.

J. E. BAILEY.

20, Swaisland Road, Dartford.

MEN WHO DID MUCH IN ST. BRIDE'S.

Dear Sir,—I have very great pleasure in supporting the letter of Mr. J. E. Bailey's, also extend my sincere thanks to the three gentlemen he refers to in his letter and who have done so much in the past year or two in getting St. Bride's bells on the go as often as was possible. I, for one, had had the privilege of ringing on all the bells round as far as No. 9, and I always found the go of these was what I should term 'fairly good.' As for the other three bells, I leave that to those who have handled them, but whatever improvement was effected was all due to those three men who had spent hours of hard and dirty work on the bells. It is a great pity that their labours have ended in vain under such tragic circumstances. Their work was the means of scores of ringers having a pull on these famous bells.

St. Bride's was the first twelve-bell tower I ever visited. It was on the occasion of a practice meeting arranged by the late Mr. J. D. Matthews somewhere about 30 years ago. I travelled from Broxbourne to London in full of hope that the Cumberlands would turn up in great numbers. In the end we mustered only six ringers, including myself, and I well remember the late Master saying, 'I am afraid we shall have to give it up as a bad job, unless anyone wants particularly to ring.' I mustered up courage enough to say I would like a pull, as it was St. Bride's.

I think everyone who knew the late Master will agree with me that he never let anyone go away disappointed if he could help it, so he immediately said, 'Up with the back six.' It was something to be half-way towards ringing on twelve.

I should like to add that we are still trying to keep our heads above water at Broxbourne by silent practice. I myself find it very useful and interesting. Our next practice is fixed for Saturday, February 1st, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. If any ringers care to pay a visit on that date I can assure them a cordial welcome.

Broxbourne.

G. RADLEY.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

ODD BOB PEALS.

Carter's and its Relation to Thurstans' Four-Part.

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I express my appreciation of the excellent standard maintained by your paper during these past trying months and the debt that the ringers of the future will owe to you for the excellent series of articles which, in my own mind, have more than counter-balanced the temporary loss of the peal columns.

It is not often that a misstatement appears in your columns, but I would call your attention to one appearing on page 513 of your issue of October 25th, wherein it is stated that:—

'Thurstans' peal and the majority of peals which have been rung in the past years are based on Hudson's course ends, but composers have always been trying to find some other set of course ends which would enable peals to be composed on different plans. John Carter's odd bob peal is an example. It is based intentionally or unintentionally on the plan of Thomas Edwards' composition, the earliest which we definitely know to be true.'

References in the following paragraphs are to the 1903 edition of 'Stedman' in the 'Snowdon' change ringing series.

Whilst no objection can be made to the first part of the quotation, I would point out that Carter's odd bob peal is based on Hudson's course ends. The 'odd bob' is shown on page 68, and if it is set out by the sixty course ends, it will be seen that forty-five appear in Table A on page 183. The remaining fifteen course ends are the 'out of course' course ends occurring between the two singles, but if these fifteen are converted to their 'in course' form by transposing by the factor 425163, it will be seen that the sixty 'in course' course ends of the 'odd bob' are identical with Hudson's sixty course ends.

If twelve round blocks absorbing Hudson's 60 course ends each block of five courses with each course called 3.6.10.12.14 are written out and the repetitions tabulated, it will be found that 5,040 true changes are obtained with the exception that the fourth six of each course repeats with the eighth six of another course and conversely the eighth six of each course repeats with the fourth six of another course. Upon further investigation, it will be found that repetitions are eliminated if pairs of bobs are called at 4-5 in each course or alternatively at 7-8 in each course. In the first instance, 30 round blocks each of two courses (168 changes) are formed. In the second case 20 round blocks each of three courses (252 changes) are formed. In each set of round blocks, 5,040 true changes are obtained and so a base for peal composition is obtained.

It thus would appear that John Carter worked upon the plan of obtaining a peal with the observation bell subject to bobs in each course, but brought home at the course ends, and although the use of Hudson's course ends may not have been part of the original scheme, I am inclined to think that they were forced on the composer by the exigencies of the method.

The absence of any analysis of the 'odd bob' in the new edition of Stedman prepared by Mr. Trollope leads me to state an opinion which I have held for a long time, and that is that the 'odd bob' is but a variation of Thurstans' four-part. Most practical ringers will be inclined to question the sanity of the writer, but if the two peals deprived of singles, extras and omits are compared, it will be seen that they have many points in common.

	THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.	CARTER'S ODD-BOB.
1. Nature of peal.	Consists of 4 quarter peals, A.B.C.D.	Consists of 4 quarter peals, E.F.G.H.
2. Nature of quarter peals.	Three course block four times repeated.	Three course block four times repeated.
3. Composition of quarter peals.	Quarter peals A and B called alike. Quarter peals C and D called alike.	Quarter peals E and F called alike. Quarter peals G and H called alike.
4. Union of quarter-peals.	A and B united into one half peal by two pairs of bobs. C and D united into one half peal by omission of two pairs of bobs, i.e., forming two round blocks each of 30 courses.	E, G and H are united by two additional pairs of bobs and the omission of two other pairs of bobs, to form one round block of 45 courses. F remains as a separate round block.

In each peal the two round blocks, obtained by bobs only, are united by two common singles.

When one round block is united to another by the use of singles, from the practical point of view the calling is changed, and in the case of twin bob peals, pairs of bobs at 3-4 become bobs at 7-8 and vice versa. By the greatest stroke of good fortune in the case of Thurstans' peal, the revised calling of the half peal inserted between singles becomes (with the exception of the omits and extras) the same as the calling of the first half peal. In the case of Carter's, however, the whole nature of the calling is altered and bobs at 2.6.8.9.10.12.14 become bobs at 1.3.5.7.8.9.11.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that odd bob composition is the brother of twin bob composition, inasmuch as both have Hudson's course ends as a parent and that instead of the odd bob being an isolated peal, it is but one peal composed on a separate system. Some readers may enquire as to the possibility of further peals on this system and I enclose three which possess a certain interest.

1. A one part peal with only three courses between singles, the first single occurring at the ninth six of the opening course. Several hundred variations of this peal can be obtained with ease.

2. An irregular two part (or ten part) peal, with 120 six-sevens at back stroke.

3. A regular five part peal with 90 six-sevens at back stroke. This peal contains no Q sets, all unions of round blocks being accomplished by singles. From the conductor's point of view, there are only four ways of calling a course to be memorised.

I do not know if these three peals can be considered original compositions, but I leave it to your readers' judgment.

There is one other point concerning Stedman Triples to which I would call attention, and that is J. J. B. 'Lates' peal shown on page 129 of 'Stedman.' This peal comprises 50 courses in ten blocks of five courses each called alike (but for the addition of an extra pair of bobs at 12.13 in two blocks) and would undoubtedly be considered a fine composition but for the use of two doubles to insert the remaining round block of ten courses. It will be found impossible to insert these ten courses between ordinary singles called after quick, but it is a simple matter to do so by the use of singles after slow. Readers may ask why this has not been noticed before—well, it has, and if they will but turn to page 65, this peal will be found as the original composition of the late John Carter without the slightest acknowledgment to Lates for what is really a fine peal. I realise that this statement will raise the ire of angry correspondents, but if they will but turn to pages 65 and 129, it will be seen that the last 47 courses of each peal are identical call for call.

I would add that I have in draft an article on odd bob composition on the lines of the 'Investigations' in the form of an additional chapter to 'Stedman,' and if any readers signify that they would like a copy, I am quite ready to have a few copies prepared and forwarded to any place in the United Kingdom for distribution.

B. H. SWINSON.

c/o Caribbean Petroleum Co., Maracaibo, Venezuela.

AN ODD BOB IRREGULAR TEN PART—ALL 6-7's AT BACK STROKE.

	123456	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A	643125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C	534126	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D	634215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F	423561	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—
G	563125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H	514623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I	245136	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—
	231456								
	431562	F							
	621435	G							
	364521	H							
	235164	H							
	645231	G				435216			
	362145	H							
	614325	I				652341	D		
	314256	F				352416	F		
	125346	I				541326	I		
	325461	F				341265	F		
	634125	H				632541	H		
	261435	H				465132	H		
W	653214	I				613452	I		
	253146	F				413526	F		
	514236	I				152436	I		
	624513	A				642153	A		
	524136	F				142536	F		
X	213546	I				453126	I		
	513462	F				153264	F		
	654213	H				612453	H		
	521643	I				145623	I		
	316254	D				356412	D		
	462135	D				264531	D		
Y	162354	F				564312	F		
	635124	I				631542	I		
	135246	F				531426	F		
	324156	I				342516	I		
	124563	F				542163	F		
	615324	H				651342	H		
	263415	H				463251	H		
W	641235	I				625431	I		
	241356	F				425316	F		
	435216	I				231456	I		

OTHER ODD BOB PEALS

(Continued from previous page.)

AN ODD BOB FIVE PART (90 OF 6-7's AT BACK STROKE).

123456	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
D 634215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F 423561	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—
H 514623	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I 245136	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
231456	—	125346	—	—	514236	—	—	—	—	453126	—	—	342516	—
431562 F	325461	—	—	—	214365	—	—	—	—	153264	—	—	542163	—
645231 H	634125	—	—	—	623514	—	—	—	—	612453	—	—	651342	—
423651 I	312645	—	—	—	4251634	—	—	—	—	145623	—	—	534612	—
136245 D	526134	—	—	—	416523	—	—	—	—	356412	—	—	246351	—
236451 F	126345	—	—	—	516234	—	—	—	—	456123	—	—	346512	—
524136 H	413526	—	—	—	352416	—	—	—	—	241356	—	—	135246	—
351624 H	245613	—	—	—	134652	—	—	—	—	523641	—	—	412635	—
562314 I	461253	—	—	—	365142	—	—	—	—	264531	—	—	163425	—
362145 F	261534	—	—	—	165423	—	—	—	—	564312	—	—	463251	—
614325 I	653214	—	—	—	642153	—	—	—	—	631542	—	—	625431	—
314256 F	253146	—	—	—	142536	—	—	—	—	531426	—	—	425316	—
125346 I	514236	—	—	—	453126	—	—	—	—	342516	—	—	231456	—

B. H. Swinson, Bogota, Colombia, South America. Oct. 16th, 1938.

AN ODD BOB ONE PART.

Rung at St. James', Bushey, December 9th, 1937, as a variation of Carter's Odd Bob. Conducted by M. F. R. Hibbert.

123456	2.	45.	6.	89.	10.	12.	14.
A 643125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B 543216	—	x	—	—	—	—	—
C 534126	—	x	—	x	—	—	—
D 634125	—	—	—	x	—	—	—

N.B.—x equals pair of bobs.

231456

421653	Bobs	2.	4.	5.	6.	8.	S9.	10.	11.	13.
546321		1.	3.	5.	7.	8.	9.	11.		
253146		1.	3.	5.	7.	8.	9.	11.		
514236		1.	3.	5.	S7.	8.	10.	12.		

	324156		461253 A		451362
642153 D	541326 C		312645 D		613452 C
321465 D	213546 C		526134 D		534612 C
641235 D	453126 B		416523 A		246351 D
521643 A	631542 D		365142 D		136245 A
316254 D	215364 D		415632 B		562314 D
462135 D	435216 A		356412 C		432561 A
512463 A	652341 D		164352 C		125346 D
624513 C	132654 A		243615 D		653214 D
354621 A	426315 D		536421 D		423651 A
146532 D	563241 D		264531 C		163425 A
265413 D	123564 A		145623 D		234165 C
345261 A	635124 C		256143 C		614325 B
152436 D	251634 C		361524 D		543162 D
324156 C	461253 A		451362 A		231456 D

B. H. Swinson, Hurghada, Egypt. April 25th, 1937.

VETERAN SHEFFIELD RINGER'S DEATH.

MR. J. A. DIXON'S LONG SERVICE AT ST. MARIE'S.

St. Marie's company, Norfolk Row, Sheffield, regret to announce the death of an old and valued member in Mr. James Alfred Dixon, who has passed away at the age of 81 years. As steeplekeeper and ringer he had a connection with the tower of over 60 years' service; and in 1924 was the guest at a dinner given in his honour and the recipient of a gold bell memento suitably inscribed from his many friends and colleagues.

He had taken part in 58 peals and was also a clever handbell ringer. He was always ready to give his services at concerts in aid of charitable objects.

He was one of the oldest members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield and District Society.

A sheet iron worker by trade, he was in the service of the Sheffield Gas Company for over 50 years and had the distinction of being presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Kent on a recent visit to Sheffield.

Taken ill whilst at work, he was removed home, where he finally succumbed and was buried at Norton Cemetery on Thursday, January 16th, the funeral being attended by various officials of the Gas Company and representatives of the ringing companies in the district. Tower bell ringing being forbidden under war restrictions, a course of Grandshire Triples was rung at his home before the cortege left on a miniature peal of bells that his brother, the late Tom Dixon, took with him to India in the 'eighties.'

Mr. Dixon leaves a widow, son and daughter to mourn his death, the son having been resident in Australia for many years.

THE WEIGHTS OF TENORS.

HOW BELLS 'GROW'

The letters between Thomas Mears and the churchwardens of St. Peter Mancroft raised a question which has always interested ringers, for there are very few of them who have not at one time or another been engaged in an argument about the correct weight of a tenor.

We are all familiar with village steeples, where the bells have not been weighed for centuries, and where the tenor has a reputed and traditional weight, usually at least half as much as the correct one. That sort of thing is natural and understandable. The local sexton is proud of his bells and likes to think they are better and heavier than those in a neighbouring and rival village. The local ringers are sure the bell must be at least a ton—'You can tell that by the way she goes.' The visitor to the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle is usually told by the custodian that the tenor weighs two tons, and any doubts on the point are treated with scorn. Actually she weighs, we believe, a little less than 30 cwt.

But sextons and village ringers are not the only people who are prone to exaggerate in this way. Even the most modest of ringers, after he has rung to a peal a tenor of which the definite weight is not known, is inclined to give himself the benefit of the doubt, and to think that if there must be a margin of error it had better be on the large side. Then perhaps someone, who thinks he knows all about it, writes to contradict him.

When the long peal of Kent Treble Bob, 16,608 changes, was rung at Mottram in 1883, the tenor was given as 14 cwt., the same weight as that at Bethnal Green, where the previous longest peal had been rung, but the partisans of the London band were very anxious to show that the Mottram tenor was really no more than 12 cwt.

The weights of several heavy and famous bells have been at times disputed. The old tenor at St. Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol, was always given as 2 cwt., and on the strength of that some fine heavy bell feats were claimed. When she was weighed before being recast, she proved to be less than two tons. This exaggeration did in one instance lead to a misunderstanding. The local men rang a peal of Cinques in about three and a half hours' time, and when they published the record, some person wrote to 'The Bell News' and declared the peal was false. His only reason for saying so was that no man could have rung a bell of that weight to a peal in the time.

AN OXFORD CONTROVERSY.

The tenor at Christ Church, Oxford, was always said to be 40 cwt., and when Washbrook, then a young man, rang it to a peal on the back eight, it was claimed as an outstanding heavy bell performance, as no doubt it was. The weight was challenged, but the Oxford men stuck to their opinion and the controversy lasted for some years. At length F. E. Robinson had the bell weighed, when it turned out to be a little over 30 cwt.

We are not quite clear about the details of this, and do not know how it was managed, or how the net weight of the bell, apart from the stock and clapper, was arrived at. Perhaps some of our Oxford friends may be able to enlighten us.

In the case of many of the best known rings, lists of weights supplied by the founders exist, and it is common enough to find them framed and hung up in belfries. These weights are generally taken to be authoritative and final, and, with modern rings, so they are.

But it is remarkable how many of the older founders' weights have proved inaccurate when the bells have been weighed in recent years. Mancroft tenor is a case in point. Thomas Mears said the bell weighed 43 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lb., and that, of course, was what he was paid for; but when she was weighed at Loughborough she only scaled 40 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

Southwark old tenor, which in Knights' list was over 50 cwt., turned out to be something over 49 cwt. And there are other instances.

What is the reason? We have heard it said that the old founders used to weigh the clappers with the bells, but we hardly think that is likely. The churchwardens in olden times were very businesslike people and would not have been taken in by such a dodge. We must remember that it was usual to pay for bells on the actual weight of metal supplied, not, as at present, a lump sum which the founder quotes to cover everything. Now the parish accepts the bells without questioning the weights. In olden times bells were always carefully weighed before they were handed over to the founder to be recast, a bond was taken from him to cover the churchwardens against any fraud on his part, and the bells were weighed before they were accepted.

This weighing had to be done at public weigh bridges, which were to be found in all large towns and in most market towns.

There could, therefore, be no dispute as to what should be taken as the correct weight for which the parish had to pay. Nevertheless, it seems certain that the weights often were wrong. Very likely the weigh bridges were not accurate, or has the standard ton slightly altered in the course of years?

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NOTICES.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Church House, South John Street, Liverpool, on Saturday, February 1st, at 4.30 p.m. Handbells will be available from 2.30. A good attendance is hoped for.—G. R. Newton, 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool, 17.*

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 1st, at Holborn Viaduct Station Buffet, at 2.30 a.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., Branksome, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting will be held at St. Peter's, Nottingham, on Saturday, February 1st. Handbells available from 2.30. Business meeting for election of officers 3.30. Will members please make an effort to attend. All ringers welcome. Own arrangements for tea.—F. A. Salter, Dis. Sec., 110, Noel Street, Nottingham.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held at Longton on Saturday, February 1st. Bells (7), without clappers, and handbells available from 3 p.m. The fourth annual dinner will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, February 22nd, at 5.50 p.m. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained from me on or before February 10th. Please apply early for tickets.—Andrew Thompson, 63, Whitehouse Road, Cross Heath, Newcastle, Staffs.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The next meeting, at Burbage, will be held at the Chequers Inn, Lutterworth Road, on Saturday, February 1st, at 6 p.m. Good bus service. Handbells and cheerful company. All welcome.—W. A. Wood, Fossey, Croft, Leicestershire.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Wellingborough Branch.—The annual meeting will be held (D.V.) at Irthlingborough on Saturday, Feb. 8th. Mr. R. Richardson will, if possible, be present with films. Please bring wives and sweethearts, but *send names for tea* to A. Bigley, Hon. Branch Sec., 30, Allen Road, Irthlingborough.

BARNSLEY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held at Silkstone on Saturday, February 8th, at the Ring of Bells. Handbells 3 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m., followed by business meeting. Those requiring tea must notify Mr. H. Mann, Fox and Hounds Yard, Silkstone, near Barnsley, not later than February 5th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bristol City Branch.—Please note that in future meetings of the branch will be held on the second Saturday in every month at the Haymarket Hotel (opposite St. James-in-the-Horsefair). The next meeting is on February 8th, from 2.45 p.m. Handbells, tea and meeting.—A. M. Tyler, Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—Next meeting at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on Saturday, February 8th, at 3 p.m. Arrangements will be made for tea nearby. All the practice you want on handbells and 'silent' tower bells. Start the new year well with a good meeting.—Harold J. Hazell, Dis. Sec., 15, King's Hill Avenue, St. Albans.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—Next meeting will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, February 15th. Handbells available at 47, Cambridge Street, from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.—Ivan Kay, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Next meeting at Bushey, Guides' Studio, Falconer Road, on Saturday, February 22nd. Meeting time 3.45. Excellent opportunity to practice method ringing on handbells. Comfortable room, social chat. Tea arranged. All interested in the hobby of change ringing are welcome.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

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