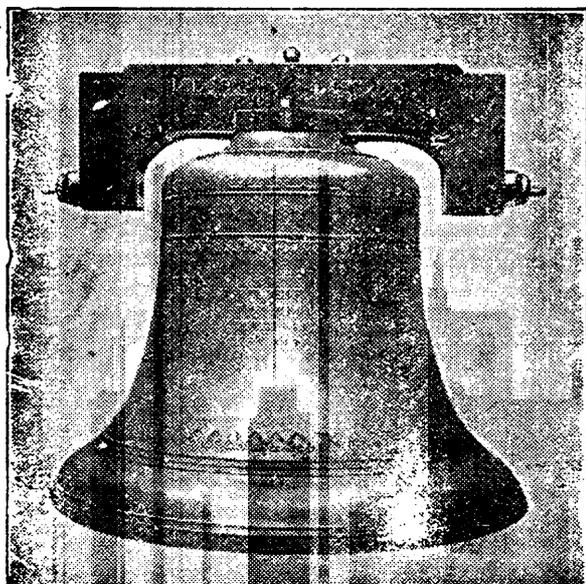


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BELFRY GOSSIP.

There is to be another 'All England' ringers' meeting at Croydon. Those who recollect the success of the huge gathering held there a few years ago will look forward to the coming event with eager interest. The date fixed for it is Saturday, April 2nd, and Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, by whose invitation it is to be held, are again making elaborate preparations for welcoming and entertaining ringers in large numbers from all parts of the country.

Aldershot has an enthusiastic band of young ringers, numbering nearly two dozen, the majority of them being in their 'teens or only just out of them. Aldershot wants bell ropes badly, but there are no funds available for the purpose. Not to be denied, however, the young folk organised a dance, which was held on Wednesday, in order to 'raise the wind,' and give the bell rope fund a good start.

Mr. Joseph Waghorn, sen., who last week celebrated his 89th birthday, sends his good wishes to all old friends, and 'hopes to meet them again when the sun shines.'

A new bell has been added to the ring at Proshute Church, Wilts, by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston. It is a memorial to the late Mr. J. F. L. Hardy, who died on March 30th, 1930. The dedication took place at the meeting of the Marlborough Branch of Salisbury Guild, and the founders were represented by Mr. S. R. Roper.

Messrs. Gillett and Johnston recast the old five bells and rehung them in a new frame for six in 1925. The tenor is a few pounds under 9½ cwt., and the new treble 4½ cwt. They are one of the finest peals of six for their weight in the country.

The peal of Stedman Doubles rung at Kington Magna was conducted by H. J. Ralph, who is to be congratulated on the ability displayed in his first effort as conductor of a peal.

Thirty years ago next month the first peal by a local band was rung at Southover Church, Lewes, Sussex. The second local peal was rung last week. Both were conducted by that stalwart of Sussex ringing, Mr. R. J. Dawe, and Mr. A. J. Turner also took part in both peals. The peal last week was Mr. Dawe's 450th and his 150th on the bells, 60 of which have been ten-bell peals.

The attendance at the Northern Branch meeting of the Worcester-shire Association, reported last week, was 75, not 25 as erroneously stated.

DEBENHAM BELLS.

RESTORATION TO BE CARRIED OUT.

The restoration of the bells at Debenham, Suffolk, has been put in hand, Messrs. Taylor and Co. having secured the contract. The bells are to be rehung in a steel frame with all new fittings and placed about 10 or 12 feet lower in the tower. While the work is in progress the bells will be removed to the foundry for sandblasting and tuning.

The total cost will be about £400, and it is felt that now that the order is definitely placed there may be a good many ringers who would like to help in finding the money. Donations towards this object will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Mr. W. C. Rumsey, Debenham.

The following subscriptions have been already received: St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, £1 1s.; Ex-Sergt. James Bennett, 5s.; Miss Kitty Willers, 3s.; Ernest F. Poppy 10s.; Harry Parkes, 2s. 6d.; 'Welcomed,' 7s. 6d.; 'Ugly Suffolk Duckling,' 14s.; total, £3 3s.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER DISTRICT TO HOLD ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual meeting of the Leicester District was held at St. John-the-Divine's, Leicester, on Monday, January 25th. The ten bells were available for ringing from 7.30 p.m. to 8.45 p.m., and various methods were rung from Grandsire Doubles to Treble Bob Royal. A good muster of members attended from Husband's Bosworth, Weston-by-Welland, Wigston Magna, Anstey, Great Glen, and the various towers in Leicester. The business meeting was held in the Earl Grey, and opened with a few words from the vice-president, Mr. J. H. Harris, who wished the members 'a happy and prosperous new year.'

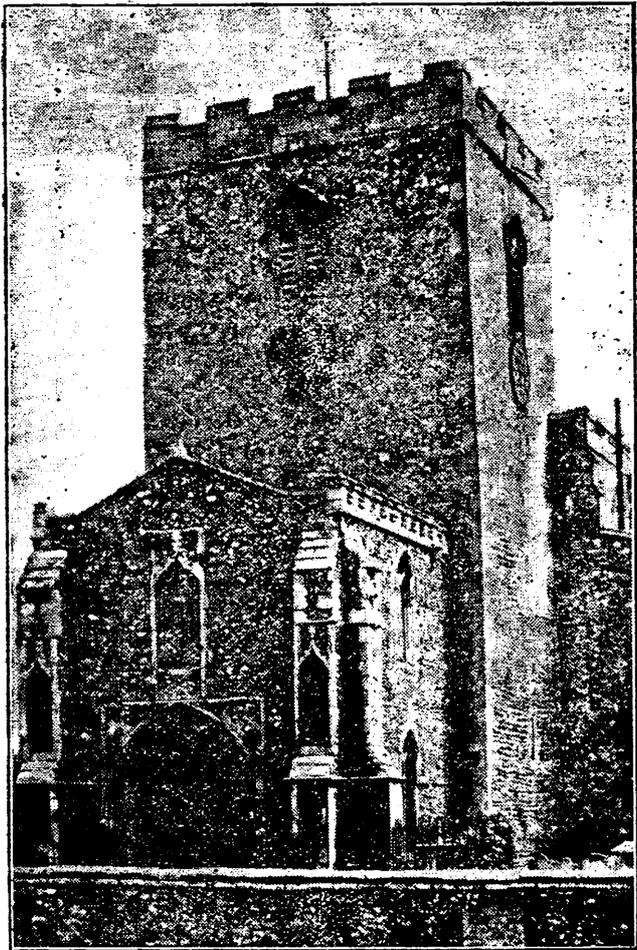
It was resolved that the general officers who served last year be re-nominated en bloc, as follows: Mr. E. Denison Taylor, president; Mr. William Willson, vice-president; Mr. W. White, treasurer; Mr. Ernest Morris, general hon. secretary. The retiring district officers were re-elected, viz.: Vice-president, Mr. James H. Harris; Messrs. F. H. Dexter and J. Grant, committee; Mr. Ernest H. Bagworth, local hon. secretary. Six new ringing members and three hon. members proposed were elected, and it was decided that a by-meeting be held at Oadby on a practice night (Thursday) on February 11th.

For the mid-quarterly meeting, Wheistone was selected, and the meeting will be held on Saturday, February 20th. The quarterly meeting will be held at Ratby on Saturday, March 19th. A discussion took place as to whether an annual dinner should be held or not, and it was finally decided in the affirmative. It was left to a committee, with the vice-president and local secretary, to get something done as soon as possible.

DEBENHAM BELLS REOPENED.

FOUR OF THE RING RECAST

Debenham has long been celebrated for the place it has taken in Suffolk ringing, and it was here in June, 1892, that the celebrated 16,608 Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung. The bells have now been restored after a silence of three and a half years, and the consummation of several years of constant endeavour was reached when the Archdeacon of Ipswich dedicated the completed work. The 4th, 6th, 7th and tenor bells have been recast and additional metal put into the two largest bells, so that the tenor now weighs 21 cwt., giving greater tone and richness to the peal. A new steel frame and fittings have been installed, and the work carried out by Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, has given the greatest satisfaction to ringers and parishioners alike.



THE TOWER OF DEBENHAM CHURCH.

Every denomination and many of the neighbouring parishes were represented at the dedication service, which took place during evensong. Immediately following the second lesson, the Archdeacon, preceded by the officiating clergy and the choir, proceeded to the tower, where the dedicatory prayers were impressively read. Following the return of the procession, the bells were rung by a band representative of the ringers of the district: Leslie Wightman (Framsden) 1, E. F. Poppy (Stoke Ash) 2, James Betts (Wetheringsett) 3, Leslie Brett (Framsden) 4, Tom Chapell (Kenton) 5, Walter Ruffles (Ashfield) 6, T. W. Last (Helmingham) 7, W. Rumsey (Debenham) 8.

The sermon, preached by the Archdeacon, was based on St. Luke, xiv., 17, 'Come, for all things are now ready . . . and they all, with one consent began to make excuse.' The primary use of bells, in olden times, said the preacher, was to call worshippers to church. This use was not now so essential, as clocks and watches were in general use. To-day their use was to remind the sick and aged that the church was mindful of them. How many were there in these days who had good excuses for non-attendance at church, but who had no valid reason for abstaining from public worship? The two

(Continued in next column.)

GUILDFORD GUILD'S SUMMER FESTIVAL.

LARGE GATHERING AT WEYBRIDGE.

Nearly a hundred and twenty ringers were present at the summer festival of the Guildford Diocesan Guild, held in real summer weather on Saturday in the Chertsey district, where it was hoped some greater interest in the Guild's activities would be stirred up as a result. Despite the record temperature of the hottest Saturday of the year, the bells of four churches were utilised during the afternoon, ringing taking place at Hershams, Chertsey, Oatlands Park and Weybridge, all rings of eight. Nearly all the Guild's officers were present, the Master (Major J. H. B. Hesse) taking charge of the ringing at Weybridge, where service was held, at which the Rector (the Rev. E. Tritton) officiated, and the singing was led by the organ and choir boys. The Rector gave an address of welcome and spoke of the place which bell ringing took in parochial life in this country. The majority of people, he said, liked to hear the sound of the bells, but there were a few disagreeable people who disliked them. They, however, need not be considered too seriously.

The ringers were the guests of the Rector at tea, which was served in a field adjoining the Rectory grounds. As is, unfortunately, often the case, considerably larger numbers were present than had notified their intention of coming, and the catering arrangements were consequently somewhat disorganised. The commissariat department was temporarily dislocated, but eventually the difficulties were overcome and the *al fresco* meal was much enjoyed.

The hon. secretary (Mr. J. S. Goldsmith) proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for permitting the Guild to hold the festival at Weybridge, for his address and for his hospitality; also to the organist and choir for their part in the service. Mr. Goldsmith also took the opportunity of explaining the advantages to ringers of membership of the Guild, not only in fostering the diocesan spirit, but in extending the spirit of brotherhood, which was so characteristic of the fraternity of ringers. He hoped many more of the ringers in that district would join the Guild and bring the organisation in that area up to the level it had attained in other parts of the diocese.

The Rector, in replying to the vote of thanks, expressed his great pleasure in having the Guild at Weybridge, and endorsed the hope of the secretary that the Guild would be strengthened as a result of that gathering.

In the evening further ringing took place. The towers represented were Aldershot, Bagshot, Banstead, Dorking, Egham, Farnham, Farnborough, Guildford (Cathedral and S. Nicolas'), Haslemere, Hindhead, Leatherhead, Newdigate, Oatlands Park, Ottershaw, West Clanton, Weybridge, Witley, Woking and Worplesdon, and ringers from Windsor, Merstham and Marlow were also present.

NEW GUILD FORMED AT BRISTOL.

On Thursday, May 19th, 15 keepers and gardeners of the Zoological Gardens, Clifton, agreed to form a guild of ringers for Emmanuel Church, and were given their first 'silent' practice that evening. Such remarkable progress was made that a meeting was held on Wednesday, June 15th, at which the following officers were elected: President, the Rev. W. Bathurst Soole (the Vicar); vice-presidents, the churchwardens, Alderman E. W. Savory, Mr. F. O. Wills and Mr. H. G. Rudman (ex-Sheriff); captain, Mr. W. Payne; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Blackwell.

All the members of the Guild were elected probationers of the Gloucester and Bristol Association on June 25th. On Wednesday, June 22nd, the new Guild rang the bells open and made a very good show. On Wednesday, June 29th, another open practice was held and resulted in a decision to commence Sunday service ringing on July 3rd.

The B.U.R.G. members are delighted with the success of their efforts in training the new Guild so quickly, and are shortly to offer their services to other local incumbents.

A QUARTER PEAL AT 81.

A former Newport (Mon) ringer, now living at Bideford, Mr. John Butler, has just reached his 81st birthday. While on holiday at Newport he celebrated the event on July 4th by taking part in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at All Saints' Church: W. Millard 1, T. Ford 2, T. J. Butler 3, J. Butler 4, F. Atwell 5, J. W. Jones 6, J. Phillips (conductor) 7, G. H. Day 8.

(Continued from previous column.)

principal excuses were distance from a place of worship, and the ability to pray and read the Bible at home. Both were common, but neither was valid.

Previous to the sermon, a letter was read from the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to the parishioners expressing his appreciation of the work of restoration that had been done in Debenham during recent years.

Following the blessing, a solemn *Te Deum* was sung by the choir. After the service, many touches were rung by visiting ringers, among those present being Mr. Crickmer, of Earl Soham, who rang in the record peal at Debenham. Mr. J. P. Bidder represented the bell founders.

Contributions are still required towards the bell restoration fund, and should be sent to Mr. W. C. Rumsey, Debenham, Stowmarket.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

Mr. Thos. B. Hensher, who was to have taken part in the peal at Finedon on Saturday last, was taken ill with appendicitis during the week. An immediate operation was necessary. He is progressing favourably. Numerous friends all join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

The band who rang a peal of Bob Major at Monks Kirby, reported last week, wish it to be known that the remarks of Mr. E. H. Lewis re 'locked doors,' does not refer to them.

The peal of Superlative rung at Milton-next-Gravesend on Saturday, April 23rd last, was George H. Cross' 450th peal, and also his 300th peal as conductor.

ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY GUILD.

CHORISTERS AS RINGERS AT CITY CHURCH.

The City of London has few churches where the bells are rung regularly for service twice on Sunday, but St. Lawrence Jewry is one of the happy exceptions. After the bells were rehung about two years ago by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, a band was recruited from members of the choir, and under the instruction of Mr. A. A. Hughes, despite the disadvantages of having to learn on a heavy peal of bells, with a long draught of rope, excellent progress was made. The company, which started with eight members, now numbers twelve; not one has dropped out, and all, with the exception of Mr. Hughes, are members of the choir. A year ago they formed themselves into the St. Lawrence Jewry Guild, with the Rector (Rev. W. P. Besley) as president, and on May 11th last they rang their first quarter-peal—Grandsire Triples—which was called by a promising conductor, Mr. F. C. Shorter. The band was H. K. Markwick 1, E. S. Owen 2, A. A. Hughes 3, E. Murrell 4, S. F. Stonard 5, F. C. Shorter 6, G. T. Moody 7, W. C. Rose 8. With the exception of Mr. Hughes and Mr. E. S. Owen (who began to learn about 35 years ago at St. George's in the Borough but gave it up), none of the Guild had attempted to handle a bell before the band was started.

FAITHFUL SERVICE RECOGNISED.

On Tuesday, May 10th, a large gathering of people met in St. Mary's Hall, Hemel Hempstead, to do honour to Mr. Henry Golding, who has completed 50 years' service as a bellringer at St. Mary's Church.

Among those present were the Vicar and Mrs. Robson, Rev. G. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Miss Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Lightbody, Mr. and Mrs. Horn, Mr. Barker, Mr. Butcher, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Clarke, and Mr. Hopkins, and a representative gathering of the congregation.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. W. F. Williams (churchwarden), who called upon the Vicar to read the inscription in the album, containing the names of 254 subscribers to the presentation fund, and to make the presentation.

The Vicar expressed his great pleasure in being privileged to perform this service, and spoke of the great work of Mr. Golding and of the esteem in which he was held by all. He asked him to accept the gift as a token of affection from them all.

Mr. Golding was greeted with loud applause, and said how grateful he was for this unexpected token of goodwill.

Mr. W. Ayre, representing the Hertford Association, read a letter of goodwill, greetings and appreciation from the general secretary of the association. He urged for more support for the belfry by getting young people to take an interest in ringing.

Mr. Jackson also added his appreciation of Mr. Golding's services. The gift—a magnificent mahogany cabinet gramophone—was then brought into action, the first record played being 'The Bells of St. Mary's' on handbells by Dr. Barnardo's boys. The inscription on the gramophone reads: 'Presented to Mr. Henry Golding by members of the congregation on his completion of 50 years' service as a bellringer at the Parish Church of St. Mary, Hemel Hempstead, May 10th, 1932.'

The remainder of the evening was occupied by a whist drive and dance. W. A.

DEBENHAM BELL FUND.

To the Editor.

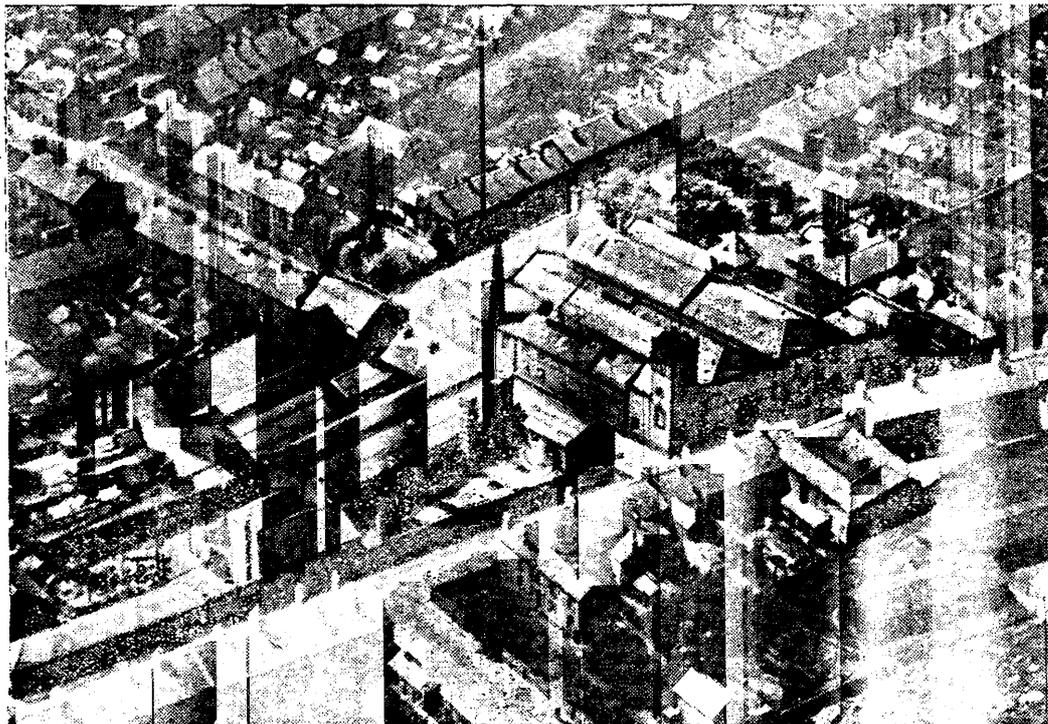
Dear Sir,—I append a further list of donations with our best thanks to the donors. The renovation is turning out to be a more costly matter than was at first anticipated, as four of the bells have to be recast, bringing the total up to about £630. In view of this, I am making an earnest appeal for further help, as I feel sure there are still other ringers who would like to do their little bit towards the restoration of our famous peal.—Yours,

Debenham.

W. C. RUMSEY.

Previously acknowledged £3 3s., Cecil Pipe 5s., Peter Laffin 2s. 6d., W. J. Nevard 10s., R. T. Dennis 10s., David Elliott 5s., W. C. Rumsey 10s., Leslie Brett 2s. 6d.; total £5 8s.

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.



Aerial view of the Loughborough Bellfoundry.

THE LOUGHBOROUGH BELLFOUNDRY IS OPEN TO VISITORS ON ANY DAY AT ANY TIME

A visit at the present time would find work in progress on some of the following orders :

RINGING PEALS :

LEEDS PARISH CHURCH, Yorks.
HOWDEN, East Yorks.
SOLIHULL, near Birmingham.
TAMWORTH, Staffs.
DEBENHAM, Suffolk.
BOSTON, Lincs.
WESTERLEIGH, Somerset.
DODDERHILL, Worcs.
HARWELL, Berks.
WIDECOMBE, Devon.
GRIMLEY, Worcs.
MENHENIOT, Cornwall.
BLYTH, Notts.
STAPLEFORD, Notts.
SUTCOMBE, Devon.
CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY, Hants.
WITHAM, Essex.
STAGSDEN, Beds.
S. ALBANS (St. Michael's), Herts.

Recast peal of 12 and a flat sixth. New frame.
Recast peal of 8. New frame.
Recast peal of 10. New frame.
Peal of 8 recast (except tenor). New frame.
4th, 6th, 7th and tenor recast and peal of 8 hung in new frame
Peal of 8 to be recast and augmented to 10. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung in new frame. Treble recast.
Peal of 6 to be restored and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be restored and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 6 to be restored and rehung in new frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung in new frame, the treble and 3rd to be recast.
Peal of 6 to be restored and rehung in new frame.
Peal of 6 to be rehung and augmented to 8. New frame.
Peal of 3 to be rehung in new frame made for 3 bells.
Peal of 3 to be rehung and augmented to 6. New frame.
Two new trebles to augment the peal to 12.
Two new trebles to augment the peal to 8.
Peal of 5 to be rehung with new fittings and new treble added to make 6.
Peal of 6 to be rehung on ball bearings.

Tenor 43 cwts. in C.
Tenor 22 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 20 cwts. in E flat
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 20 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 21 cwts. in E flat.
Tenor 18 cwts. in E.
Tenor 18 cwts. in E.

CARILLONS AND CHIMES :

A carillon of 66 bells, largest bell 6 tons, for Richmond, Va., U.S.A.
A set of 5 bells for Clock Chimes for Seacombe Ferry, Birkenhead, etc.

BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, July 23, 1932, in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

*HENRY M. WILLIAMS ... Treble	*BERTRAM H. HEAD ... 4
*WILLIAM G. HEAD ... 2	*JOSHUA H. NEWSOME ... 5
GEORGE CASE ... 3	HORACE W. OVERTON ... Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CASE.

* First peal. Rung on the occasion of the patronal festival.

GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 23, 1932, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Double Court, Oxford Bob, and two 720's of Plain Bob. Tenor 15 cwt.

JOSEPH BOWELL 1	ERNEST DURRANT 4
ALAN R. ANDREWS 2	EDWARD E. DAVEY 5
GEORGE A. ANDREWS 3	SIDNEY CARTER Tenor

Conducted by SIDNEY CARTER.

A TOUR IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES.

LEEDS RINGERS' EXCURSION.

On Saturday, July 9th, the band of St. Michael's, Headingley, Yorks, accompanied by friends, making up a party of nineteen in all, made a flying motor tour to some of the more remote, but beautiful and historic, Yorkshire dales. The day being a tropical one, a lovely run up through Leeming Lane brought the party via Swaledale to the historic and delightful old town of Richmond. While some went to view the fine ruins of the ancient castle, with its splendid keep, others paid a visit to the Parish Church of St. Mary, where the handy peal of eight was set going to Stedman, Double Norwich and Superlative. After an excellent lunch at the Bishop Blaize Hotel, a start would have been made for another tower, but the ladies of the party had disappeared. Explanations were ultimately made, and Middleham was reached after a magnificent run through Wensleydale. In the tower of the Parish Church of SS. Mary and Alkelda hang a beautiful ring of eight by the famous Loughborough founders. They are magnificent in tone, with a tenor 18 cwt., and 'go' like the proverbial tops. Touches of Stedman, Double Norwich, Superlative, and London were greatly enjoyed, and this lovely ring was left with regret. After a bountiful tea at the Commercial Hotel, a visit was paid to the neighbouring mighty ruins of the Castle of Warwick the King Maker. Time being all too short, a start was made for Sharow, near Ripon, where the handy light peal of eight were rung to a variety of methods and greatly enjoyed. Another fine run via Harrogate brought the party to Leeds at 10.30 p.m., after a delightful and pleasant day. Opportunity is here taken of thanking the various clergy and steeplekeepers for their kindness and courtesy. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know what caused Bob to make a single, what was the cause of the half-turn at Richmond tower, and who fell asleep at Middleham?

P. J. J.

A THAMES-SIDE EXCURSION.

The St. Giles', Camberwell, outing was this year taken to Henley-on-Thames and Marlow, Bucks. The journey was made on one of the beautiful days of the summer, with glorious sunshine. The party trained to Henley, and here an hour's ringing was enjoyed, with touches of Stedman Triples, Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob and Bob Major. This was followed by a short stroll along the river bank at Henley whilst waiting for the bus to take the party to Marlow. A lovely ride among the narrow and beautiful lanes of Berkshire was much appreciated, and was followed by tea. The ringing at Marlow included a non-conducted touch of Stedman Triples and a course of Cambridge Surprise Major. When the ringing was brought to a close, the party, with one exception, helped themselves to more exercise on a very warm evening by rowing on the Thames. This was much appreciated, and brought to a close one of the best outings of the society. The secretary wishes to thank the clergy and others concerned for the use of their bells and for having everything in readiness.

THIRTY-EIGHT SURPRISE METHODS.

At Burton, Cheshire, on July 5th, 720 Norfolk Surprise Minor: A. E. Richards 1, J. W. Clarke 2, R. Sperring 3, J. Morgan 4, J. Swindley 5, H. W. Wilde (conductor) 6. Also 720 Norwich Surprise Minor: A. E. Richards 1, R. Sperring 2, H. W. Wilde (conductor) 3, J. W. Clarke 4, J. Swindley 5, J. Morgan 6.

First 720's in the methods on the bells.

This company has now rung 38 of the Surprise methods as given in the new Central Council Collection.

THE BOB MAJOR RECORD.

TWO BANDS OUT FOR LONGEST LENGTH.

Last week the announcement was made in our columns that on August Bank Holiday eight members of the Hertford County Association intended to attempt a peal of 18,144 Bob Major at Bennington.

We have now been requested to make the following announcement:—

'By kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. D. A. Townend, eight members of the Kent County Association hope to ring a peal of 22,176 Bob Major at Harrietsham on August 13th. Start 6 a.m.'

If this latter attempt is successful, it will be the longest peal ever rung by one set of men. The greatest number of changes previously rung by one band is 21,363 Stedman Caters at Appleton in 1922, and the longest length on eight bells the 17,824 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Heptonstall in 1927.

The tenor at Harrietsham is 13½ cwt., and it was at this tower that James Barham, the famous old Kent ringer, rang many of his peals.

SUFFOLK GUILD TRY OUT DEBENHAM BELLS.

REPRESENTATIVE GATHERING AT DISTRICT MEETING.

A by-meeting of the Suffolk Guild was held at Debenham on July 16th, to enable all who wished to do so to try the newly restored peal, which has been rehung on ball bearings in a steel frame by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough.

Over fifty ringers attended the meeting, and the bells were kept going almost continuously from two o'clock until 9.30, the methods ranging from Grandsire and Plain Bob to London and Bristol Surprise Major. Everyone was delighted with the easy running of the bells, while the improved tone of those which have been recast was commented upon very favourably. Tea was partaken of at the Parish Room, and Mr. Chas. Sedgely, Ringing Master of the Guild, congratulated the people of Debenham upon the first-class peal of bells now in their possession. He also urged the necessity for a wider and increased circulation of 'The Ringing World,' and it is to be hoped the appeal will not fall on stony ground.

A collection taken on behalf of the bell fund realised the sum of 12s. 6d., and further subscriptions in the tower later on brought the total to 17s. 6d.

The bells are some 10 or 12 feet lower than they were before, consequently the noise in the immediate vicinity of the church is not so great, while they are heard better in the distance.

The visitors were from a good many parishes, including St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Woodbridge, Ufford, Leiston, Earl Soham, Framlingham, Stowmarket, Eye, Sudbury, Framsdon, Helmingham, Otley, Grundisburgh and Wetheringsett, thus making the meeting truly representative of the Guild.

The bells will be available for peals at reasonable intervals, due allowance having to be made for public tolerance in this direction. It may be stated that considerably more than 5,000 changes were rung during Saturday afternoon and evening.

The following further donations to the fund are acknowledged with thanks: C. T. Bradley 5s., R. W. Daniels 5s., David Vincent 10s. 6d.; per Rev. Armstrong: W. G. Crickmer 5s., W. E. Maulden 2s. 6d., Wm. Flory 2s. 6d., and B. C. Ellis 10s.; Geo. Fryke 2s. 6d., E. E. Lanham 2s. 6d., collected at meeting 12s. 6d. Previously acknowledged £6 16s. 6d., total £9 14s. 6d. The fund is still open, and contributions should be sent to Mr. W. C. Rumsey, Debenham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

The summer meeting of the Western Branch of the Worcester and Districts Association was held at Madresfield on Saturday, by kind invitation of the Vicar (Rev. J. W. Greaves).

The bells were raised shortly after 2.45 p.m., and the service, which followed was conducted by the Vicar of Newlands, in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar of Madresfield.

Some of the members afterwards availed themselves of the opportunity of looking round the beautiful gardens of Madresfield Court, while others thoughtfully obtained quite a large piece of 'Madresfield' stone and placed it in the secretary's case! The secretary would like to thank the 'donor,' and wonders whether it really came from a 'Wall'!

An excellent tea, kindly arranged by Miss Knowles and helpers, was partaken of.

The Master, Mr. R. G. Knowles, took the chair at the meeting which followed. It was decided to hold the next meeting at St. Peter's Church, Droitwich, or, if not there, at Dodderhill.

The Chairman urged the members present to buy 'The Ringing World' regularly, adding that, with increased circulation, they were promised a larger paper, and, in time, at a lower price.

A collection was made for the Belfry Repair Fund.

After the meeting the ringers further inspected the gardens, and were taken through the maze. When the roll call was subsequently taken, fortunately all were 'present.' The rock gardens were visited, and then the ringers again adjourned to the tower. The methods rung included Grandsire Doubles, Stedman and London and Cambridge Surprise. One member facetiously remarked that the bells were kept going the whole of the afternoon and evening without a 'Holt.'

A NATIONAL ORGANISATION.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—It is generally recognised that it is not very far from the ridiculous to the sublime, but it seems to me that 'A Northants Ringer' in his sublimity has missed the trend of my previous letter. I did not suggest a national guild or association; that was Mr. Kippin's suggestion, but, if one is needed, I did, and do, contend that we already have the nucleus of a national body in the Central Council. As he himself states, representatives from all over the country are sent to its meeting year by year. Does not that constitute it a national body? Again, is not the Central Council the figure head of ringing at the present time; if, not, why are all ringers asked to accept its rulings and abide by its decisions? Personally I fail to see any difference between national Council and national committee. You may take the Church itself; it has its National Assembly, but it also has its diocesan organisations.

I am quite sure there are anomalies which could easily be removed without in any way altering the status of the local organisations, be they diocesan, county or otherwise, the removal of many of which would tend to open the gates of ringing as wide as the Church itself.

As regards the Peterborough Diocesan Guild, which is mentioned, I have yet to learn that its work is in any way completed, but I am, with others, proud of what has been accomplished since it became a diocesan organisation, a position which I am certain would never have been attained had it remained simply a Northants Association. I do not think the Croydon gathering is any criterion on this subject.

F. BARBER.

'RINGERS WHO DRIFT AWAY.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I thank Mr. E. A. Wilson, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, for his reply to my letter on above. Let me assure him, however, that I am feeling quite comfortable about the loyalty of the band, of which I have the honour to be Master, and we very heartily invite our friend to come over and see us some Sunday, when I feel sure he would find prevailing in our tower the spirit that he is seeking, though my experience as a much travelled ringer is that the same grand spirit pervades ringers and towers as a whole everywhere.

H. R. COBBIN.

St. Peter's, Nottingham.

DRIVEN AWAY.

Dear Sir,—Having read with interest in your valuable paper statements of ringers who drift or are driven away, may I state my own case? I have been a ringer for over 35 years, and have exactly 100 peals and one false one standing to my credit. I was for a few years a member of the Worcester Cathedral band and other towers in the Midlands. I moved to Chelmsford, Essex, where I was welcomed, and when the present peal of twelve were about to be installed, I helped to raise funds with lantern lectures, etc. I was elected Master of the tower and conducted the first peal, Grandsire Cinques, on the bells, which proved to be the first on twelve in the county of Essex. After war service I moved out to Stisted, a country place with a peal of six, and became (on the death of Mr. E. Chaplin) church clerk three months later. I held office 11 years, during which time I raised funds for the rehanging of the peal and a frame for eight. Owing to the Rector, I resigned my office as church clerk, but still held the office of Ringing Master. After a few weeks I received a letter from the Rector's solicitor, asking me to hand over the key of the belfry. I ignored it and carried on, but after receiving the third letter, in which it was stated I should be treated as a trespasser if I entered the belfry, I gave up the key and came away. Now, just recently, my youngest daughter celebrated her 21st birthday. I conducted a peal of Bob Major, at Writtle, to celebrate her birth and christening, and would have loved to conduct the same peal for the 21st anniversary, but after having been driven out for four years, no peal. I still uphold my association and 'The Ringing World.' I asked several ringers if they could give me a peal to celebrate my youngest daughter's coming of age, but got no reply, and when I meet association members in the district I am hardly recognised. Nevertheless, although driven out and despised I attend association meetings and take a pair of handbells with others whenever I am able to do so, and my daughter's 21st birthday was celebrated with gramophone bell records, a jolly time being spent by the 25 people present.

H. F. COOPER.

Stisted, Braintree.

DEBENHAM BELL FUND.

The following further subscriptions to the Debenham Bell Fund have been received: W. H. Fussell 5s., Edward Jenkins 5s., Thos. H. Chappell 5s., Mrs. T. H. Chappell 5s., John Arbon 2s., Chas. Ablitt 2s. 6d., making, with the £9 14s. already acknowledged, £10 18s. 6d., contributed through the appeal made in 'The Ringing World.' The fund is still open, and contributions should be sent to Mr. W. H. Rumsey, Debenham, Stowmarket.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.**NORTHERN BRANCH MEETING AT EWERBY.**

The half-yearly meeting of the Northern Branch was held at Ewerby on Saturday, between thirty and forty members and friends being present from Blankney, Branston, Gainsborough, Heapham, Lincoln, Misterton, Sleaford and Willingham, in addition to the local company, also Mr. G. Ladd (hon. secretary of the Elloe Deaneries Branch), Mr. J. Flint (Bolsover), and Mr. J. H. Brothwell (Treeton). Several familiar faces were missing, two owing to indisposition, some through having to follow their vocation, while others from the extreme end of the branch may have been prevented by the long distance.

The bells, a fine ring of ten, were available during the afternoon and evening. Unfortunately, owing to the breaking of a stay, no ringing took place during the afternoon, but this defect was remedied by the Northern Branch Ringing Master, who learnt his trade in this village, and said 'he was going home to repair it.' When things had been put right, the members made use of the bells in various methods during the evening, and rounds for the less experienced.

The Vicar (Rev. E. J. Stephens) officiated at the service, and gave a unique and interesting address, taking as his text part of the first verse of Psalm xcvi., 'O come, let us sing unto the Lord.' He described this as being the ringers' Psalm, and stated that, to use a familiar phrase, he prayed that the work of the ringers might be 'as sound as a bell.' He also made touching reference to the late Rev. H. Law James and the late Mr. F. A. Holden.

Thirty-four sat down to tea at the Finch Hatton Arms. Owing to the absence of the president (Mr. F. F. Linley) the Vicar took the chair and gave a very hearty welcome to the members.

Apologies for inability to be present were announced from Mr. Linley and Mr. E. Dawber (a member of the committee), the president not having thoroughly recovered from a recent illness, and Mr. Dawber still being under the care of the dentist. A vote of sympathy was expressed to them, together with best wishes that both may have a satisfactory recovery.

It was resolved to hold the next half-yearly meeting at Louth, the date to be fixed as near September 23rd as possible.

A paper compiled by Mr. Linley was read. This dealt with items of historical interest in various churches. He mentioned a series of wood carvings at Minster, near Canterbury, the mother church of Thanet (a miserere seat, with eyes staring, ears distended and tongue split, which can be turned to legitimate use); the Saxon remains at Barton, Stow and other places; and the aumbry, such as Carmelites used, which may point to the presence of an anchorite cell at Heckington. At Faxton, Leicestershire, there is a Saxon preaching cross, four feet high, the works of an old clock with stone weights, five bell clappers with wood attachments, the crown staples and a three-quarter bell wheel, of which Mr. Linley had drawn a sketch.

Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, the organist, organ blower, caterers and others who had helped to make the necessary arrangements, concluded the business.

Lovely weather prevailed during the day, and the gathering was both successful and enjoyable.

DEATH OF FLIXTON RINGER.

The death took place on Thursday, September 15th, at his residence, 10, Victoria Avenue, Flixton, after a long and trying illness, of Mr. Arthur W. Whitnall, who was 59 years of age. Deceased, who had resided in Flixton all his life, leaves a widow, a son and two daughters to mourn their loss. Until failing health prevented him, he had been a regular service ringer with the local band and a member of the Lancs Association for nearly 20 years. Although not a peal enthusiast, Mr. Whitnall was a well-known and much-respected member of the Manchester Branch, and he will be missed for his genial disposition.

The funeral took place at the Parish Church on Monday afternoon of last week, the service, which was largely attended, being conducted by the Rector, the Rev. J. Jolly. Eight of the local ringers acted as bearers. Amongst other ringers present was Mr. Donald Brown (branch secretary). A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave by D. Vincent (Flixton) 1-2, H. Jones (W. Didsbury) 3-4, J. H. Collier (Flixton) 5-6, D. Brown (W. Didsbury) 7-8. Immediately after the interment in the churchyard, the tower bells were rung fully muffled. An attempt for a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples in the evening, with Mr. R. Davies (W. Didsbury) taking part, unfortunately came to grief near half-way. Amongst the numerous floral tributes was a wreath from the Flixton ringers.

FIRST LONG TOUCH.

At Stanwick, Northants, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (10½ six-scores) was rung on September 21st in honour of the wedding of Mr. S. D. Lovell and Miss Marjorie Coggins. The ringers were: S. J. Forge 1, W. R. Lovell 2, W. F. Nutt (conductor) 3, G. R. Barker 4, H. Beeby 5. This was the first attempt for a long touch by the Stanwick band, who had no idea of change ringing before last Christmas. Although the conductor has rung a 5,040, he had never before conducted a quarter-peal. Three callings were used. The bells were augmented from three to five in November, 1931.