

The Ringing World

September 4, 1987

The weekly journal for church bell ringers

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Irton Church – bells in a magnificent setting

The ring of eight bells in St. Paul's, the parish church of Irton in Cumbria, will complete 100 years of service in 1987. A day of activities at the church on September 5th will mark the occasion.

A fine natural setting

The photograph of the church may give just a small indication of what must be one of the finest natural settings in this country. I took the photograph, in August 1987, from the field path where I first saw the church in a previous year. Framed by the majestic heather clad fells of a Lakeland summer, its stout tower stands on an historic site. For in the churchyard is one of the finest Anglian Crosses that survives. A copy of the cross exists at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, but can hardly compare to an original that has a backdrop composed of Seafell and Great Gable – often shrouded by cloud. The cross was erected here sometime before the 10th Century and is now the clearest indication of the historic nature of this site, following the Victorian restoration of the church itself.

An early record exists of a church here in the year 1227, when it was appropriated to the Nunnery of Seaton in Bootle, Cumbria. At the dissolution it was sold to the Penningtons, who sold it in turn to the last Samuel Irton.¹ This church's dedication to St. Paul may well be a "mistake" as it is thought more likely that it would originally have been St. Michael's.¹

History of bells

The recorded history of the bells probably begins with the inventory of 1552, at which time the church had "ii porch belles". A church account of 1700 shows that a bell headstock had been renewed at a cost of five shillings, and that a payment of one shilling and sixpence was made to "3 Men to helpe Downe and up with ye bell".

Two later bells were given, it is believed, to commemorate the Jacobean surrender at Preston in 1715. Both bells were removed in 1887, and the smaller, which may have cracked whilst in the tower, was probably broken up. The larger bell, weighing 4-3-5, was hung in the clock tower of nearby Irton Hall to be chimed by the clock mechanism. It still hangs there and is in daily use. This bell is decorated with a band of vine leaves and grapes in relief. An inscription, forming a single line around the upper part of the bell, reads "IMPOSTER: FVGATVS: AN: GEORGII: REGIS: SEC: ANNO: DOM: 1715".

Gift of an octave

Irton Church underwent a restoration to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Work began in 1887 when Sir Thomas Brocklebank of Greenlands, Irton, made a gift of a ring of eight bells. Sir Thomas was grandson to Daniel Brocklebank the founder of a noted shipping line. He gave the bells in memory of his wife Ann who had died four years before.



The old Anglian cross (l to r): Mr. Jimmy Craghill (Churchwarden), Mr. Albert Preston (Agricultural Engineer) and Mr. Vic Goodwin (a ringer).

The bells were cast by John Warner & Son at Cripplegate, London. A contemporary local newspaper records that "The order to the makers was to hang the best peal possible, which would be suitable to the church and a credit to themselves. They have also fitted their patent chiming apparatus, whereby in default of ringers the eight bells can be chimed by one person".²

On Christmas Day in their first year, 1887, the bells had to be chimed as there were no ringers in the area. Irton's bells were first rung, on the occasion of the Church's rededication by the Bishop of Carlisle in May 1888, by a visiting band from Lancaster.

Tower stability

To make possible the installation of these bells, alterations had to be carried out in the existing tower. The architect Thomas Lewis Banks was consultant and advised on the stability of the tower and the space available in the belfry. What he found was that the tower walls had been poorly built and the belfry was very small. Banks determined that the weight of the bells should be thrown as low as possible on the walls and that the bell frame should be iron rather than wood to economise on space.

The floor of the bell chamber was lowered by two feet six inches and large stone corbels were built as a level with the ground floor ceiling. On the corbels an oak staging was built to support the new floor and bell frame by means of four vertical "legs". It would appear that the large oak beams used for this work reclaimed from an old ship. (possibly at the nearby port of Whitehaven), as one wide span bears the neatly-carved legend "Certified to Accommodate 8 Seamen".³

(Continued on page 785)



Irton Church – a delightful setting.

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Obituary

Stanley E. Armstrong

Stanley E. Armstrong was born in 1904 at Doncaster into a teaching family, his mother calling him Stanley in memory of her home town. He followed the family tradition by going to Durham University and graduated with a T.C.T. Dip.H.

He joined the Winchester Diocesan Guild of Change Ringers in 1925 when he was at Alton, subsequently moving to Brockenhurst.

His first contact with the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers was in a peal at St. Nicholas', Brighton, in 1930. He was elected a member of the band at the Good Shepherd, Brighton, in 1931, remaining with that tower for the rest of his life. He became vice-captain in 1931 and captain in 1932, a post he held until 1980. He was the Southern Division secretary until 1952. During this period he reorganised the divisions so that they could work more effectively. He became the fifth person to hold the office of Master in 1952 which he relinquished on becoming an Honorary Vice-President in 1957. He joined the Guild of Devonshire Ringers in 1934 and became a College Youth in 1929.

His first peal was at Lymington, Hants in 1928. In all he rang 77 peals as follows:

Grandsire Doubles	2 (1)
Grandsire Triples	2
Grandsire Caters	4
Stedman Triples	8
Stedman Caters	11
Court Bob Triples	1
Plain Bob Minor	1
Plain Bob Major	6 (1)
Plain Bob Royal	1
Double Norwich Court Bob Major	7
Kent Treble Bob Royal	4
Cambridge Surprise Major	4
Cambridge Surprise Royal	12
London Surprise Major	1
London Surprise Royal	1
Yorkshire Surprise Major	2
Yorkshire Surprise Royal	4
Superlative Surprise Major	6

He also rang 18 quarter peals of which he conducted 15. There is no means of telling how many young ringers he taught.

He was a master craftsman in metal and woodwork which he taught as his main subject at Varndean School. He provided the bookcase, then at St. Peter's ringing chamber, that housed the Association's library until that collection became so large that it had to be moved to the East Sussex County Library, Lewes, in 1976. He also contributed four articles to *The Ringing World* dealing with the Association that he had guided and built up through a quiet and gentle persuasion backed by a very perceptive and keen mind. The Sussex County Association has indeed suffered a loss when he died on 24th July and was cremated on the 11th August. A memorial service was held at the Good Shepherd on Sunday, 6th September, at 3 p.m.

G.P.E.

Claude Cousins

Claude Cousins died suddenly but peacefully at his home "The Grange", Terrington St. John on August 3rd at the age of 84.

Claude had been a ringer for 69 years, 22 of which he had been Wisbech District Ringing Master and a member of the Diocesan Committee. In all he had rung between 250–300 peals

(his first in 1921) and like his brother Wallace who predeceased him by 10 weeks, his main interest and joy in ringing was good striking and music.

A maxim of theirs was "well struck rounds are better than badly struck Plain Bob or London". He was the leading heavy bell ringer in the District before he had to have a leg amputated. That trauma he bore with Christian Fortitude and up to the time of his death he was always willing to recall ringing with his lifetime friend the late Tony Price.

On the evening of his cremation the same band who had rung 10 weeks before for his brother Wallace met at Wigganhall St. Mary Magdalen and rang a quarter peal of Kent T.B. and Plain Bob as a thanksgiving for his life and for the privilege of knowing him and calling him a friend. May he rest in peace.

Wigganhall St. Mary Magdalen, Norfolk, 7 Aug, 1260 Kent T.B. and P.B. Minor: M R Reed 1, L Bush 2, F Wigmore 3, P Gagen 4, J Fox (C) 5, T R Bush 6

William G. Young

Bill Young died on 31st July at Poole General Hospital after a short but serious illness, at the age of 69 years. He was taken ill on a Sunday in July just as he was leaving home at Broadstone to travel to Wimborne Minster for morning ringing.

Bill spent his early years at Poole in the 1930's where, as a chorister at St. James' Church, he progressed to the belfry at 14 years old to learn to ring. Poole was still an eight-bell tower until the bells were augmented to ten in September 1937. Bill rang in a peal on the eight to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the College Youths on 17th April 1937. At this time the Poole band was one of the strongest in the area with such ringers as Alan McDonald, Roy Hurst, Fred Townsend and Ivon Davis.

During the war years Bill served with the Dorset Regiment and after this took up work with the local bus company which led in 1956 to his being transferred to Winchester in neighbouring Hampshire to work in the accounts department as chief clerk. Bill naturally got involved with ringing at the Cathedral and he became deputy tower captain, a post he held for many years. Whilst there he rang in a peal of Grandsire Cinques by a local band conducted by Richard Youdale.

Early retirement enabled Bill to return to his native Dorset and to devote more time to his life long love of gardening; he was a keen member of the Broadstone Horticultural Society. He also took up handbell ringing again, which he had learned in his early days at Poole, and rang many peals with Daniel Matkin, Brian Woodruffe and John Bramley.

Bill will always be remembered for this cheerful greeting and smile, regardless of wind or weather he turned up for Sunday service ringing and will be greatly missed by us all.

A quarter peal was rung at the Minster on Sunday 16th August, as a tribute to Bill's memory and service.

KEITH H. FLEMING.

Wimborne Minster, Dorset, 16th Aug, 1277 Grandsire Caters: J W Bramley 1, Rosemary J Fleming 2, Cathy L Hobbs (1st on 10) 3, Nancy Bramley 4, T J Barnes (1st Caters) 5, A F R Matthews 6, M J Hobbs 7, P R Keough 8, L H Turner (C) 9, K H Fleming 10. A thanksgiving for the life of William G. Young, a loyal ringer at the Minster for many years, who died 31st July, 1987.

Frederick Charles Taylor

Frederick Charles Taylor, who died aged 88 at his home in Great Easton, Essex on April 5th 1987, was a keen and skilled ringer for over 50 years, a Life Member of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, and a member of the Veteran Ringers' Association.

Son of a farmer, Fred Taylor's roots went back in unbroken line in Great Easton for over 400 years. He began his education at Great Easton Church School. He was a keen Scout. At 14 he was already driving a sraight furrow with the horse plough. He served in the Scots Guards in the First World War, after which he went to work for the Metropolitan Water Board where he remained until his retirement, and rose to a position of considerable responsibility. This took him away from the village but he often came back with his wife – daughter of the farmer whose lands adjoined the Taylor's – and their daughter and two sons. To his lasting sorrow his wife predeceased him.

Fred Taylor, all his life a regular churchgoer, took up ringing when a young man and was for many years a member of the Walthamstow band. He rang at St. Paul's and in many other churches in and outside London, also on the fine new ring of 12 in the Cathedral at Washington D.C.

With the Veteran Ringers, Fred Taylor was present when, on 8th November, 1979, the Queen Mother honoured them with a visit. *The Ringing World* carried an excellent photograph of this happy and memorable occasion.

He came back to Great Easton when he retired and was a regular ringer in Dunmow and Great Easton where he helped to train and always encouraged ringers and ringing. Almost to the end of his life, although not well enough himself to ring, he would come to the tower on practice nights.

His funeral took place on April 9th in the village where he was born. The bells were rung, as he wished, unmuffled.

On Wednesday, July 29th – arranged and conducted by Mr. Ron Suckling, Master of the Northern District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers – a quarter peal of Bob Doubles was rung in thanksgiving and to the memory of this good man, good friend, good ringer who is greatly missed.

MARY BLAKEY.

Dorset towers open

The fourth Dorset County Association Open Day was held on Saturday 25th July, 1987. As in previous years proceeds were divided equally between the towers open and the Association's Bell Restoration Fund, for which £100 was raised.

This year's route started in the West of the County with the three at Charmouth. Ringing moved East during the morning to Wyke Regis. Heavy sixes at Lodders and Netherbury contrasted with Askerwell's light ring and the three at Puncknowle. The afternoon's frenzy started with lots of people rushing about at Dorchester, unable to find the tower door! The most popular towers were Toller Welme, with its interesting ring of five steel bells. Ryme Intrinseca's three and Sherborne Abbey.

Thank you to all those who participated. It is encouraging to see an increase in the number of ringers and to hear the complimentary comments about the day.



Bellfounders' Gift Page



> POINT LEAD <

Apologies for Absence

Most meetings have near the beginning of the Agenda "Apologies for Absence". Does it matter whether X or Y is absent, particularly if they merely preferred to go to tea with Cousin Flo? I have even sat through an apology for absence from someone whom I knew to be grabbing a tower - at another Association's meeting! I suppose it does matter if the officers are absent, and perhaps the reason why does too, but anyone else? What do other ringers think?

First peal congratulations

Roger S. Briscoe, Roderick A. Coles, Julian M. Atkins, Brian J. France.

Ruislip Golden Wedding

Veterans among the Middlesex Association will probably remember many of the "old" band at St. Martin's, Ruislip: the Kilbys, Bill Piethall, Tom Collins and William Bunce Sr. are sadly no longer with us; but happily we still have Elsie Savory, Bill Bunce Jr. and Charlie Poulter ringing with the regular band.

Charlie has rung at St. Martin's for more than 40 years now, and he and his wife Margery have just celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

With major depletion due to the peak holiday period, Audrey Andrews could only muster a band for Doubles; but an enthusiastic quarter peal was rung to mark the occasion. It carried with it the good wishes of the band and of the other members of the St. Martin's Guild, who wanted to be associated with the event.

D.G.R.

Ruislip, Middx. 16 Aug. 1300 P.B. Doubles: R Andrews 1, Elsie Savory 2, Audrey Andrews 3, Elizabeth Kimber 4, D G Rowlands (C) 5, F Bedford 6. A Golden Wedding Compliment to Charles and Margery Poulter from all their friends in the St. Martin's Guild. £1

Swindon Royal at High Wycombe

The peal of Swindon S. Royal rung at High Wycombe on 15th August was noteworthy on a number of points.

It was a wedding day compliment to David and Susan Agg who were married later that day at Spalding, Lincs. The peal perhaps sets a precedent for the remaining three Agg children, Elizabeth, Philip and Andrew? For Peter Bruce (the composer, Michael Bruce is his brother) it was his first peal for over ten years. For Marion Ainsworth it was her first peal of Royal "inside" for over 25 years. Lastly the composition was that arranged and called by John Mayne for the first peal in the method rung at Swindon on 18th July 1959.

J.A.A.



Old photograph

This old photograph was taken at Dursley, Gloucestershire in August 1932 during one of the Old Bristol United Ringing Guild's Annual tours.

Those in the photo are, back row: A. King (Luton); D. Cooper (Croydon); J. H. Swinfield (Burton-on-Trent); W. H. Thomas (Bristol); H. H. Fearn (Birmingham). Front: F. Kirk (St. Albans); R. A. Post (Oxford); S. Briggs (Rotherham).

The photograph was sent to me by Henry Fearn some time ago to recall memories of these most enjoyable tours by coach from Bristol through Somerset and Gloucestershire.

CANON A. S. ROBERTS.



Golden wedding of Wimborne ringer

George and Dorothea Peck celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, 7th August. George learned to ring at Eynesbury near St. Neots and they were married at Great Stoughton in 1937.

George was stationed at Leicester whilst in the Army and his career in teaching took him to Southgate, Middlesex. His retirement to Wimborne, Dorset, enabled George to join the Minster band where he is a regular ringer.

The photograph shows the happy couple celebrating the event on Sunday afternoon at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne, where the family, friends and ringers enjoyed a memorable party which included handbell ringing.

Ringing room fireplaces

We are indebted to Mr. Archie Fitch of Sudbury, Suffolk for the information that St. Machar's, Aberdeen (RW p.720) is not the only ringing room to have a fireplace, nor, indeed, a vaulted ceiling preventing vertical access. Both exist at Cavendish, Suffolk. Mr Fitch says: "This may in the past have been a priest's room, as there is also a window giving a good view down the nave and up to the altar. Unique for an upstairs ringing chamber, is a brick floor under which is a fine vaulted ceiling.

For the record I was a lad in the adjacent village of Glemsford, becoming interested in ringing when, in the mid 1920s the Cavendish tenor fell into the pit during ringing. "Day of Eye", famed for a good few excellent hanging jobs in this area, got the job of complete rehanging for £400. They had the money, cleared the tower, and went broke. Only a small fraction of that amount was recovered from the sale of their effects, and another substantial effort raised the amount once again. I was delighted and privileged to ring in the first 720 Oxford Treble Bob at the rededication on December 18th 1930. Two bells were recast and all rehung in a new frame by Taylors. Two large scaffold poles had been lashed across the top of the tower, a bellchamber window removed and the bells drawn in sideways. They were hand-winchd".

When you are taken in you feel put out.

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Letters

Postal not Administrative Address for London

In welcoming anticipation of another edition of "Doves Guide" and in connection with the comments made recently by Chris Rogers and Teddy Barnett concerning the listing of London Towers in "Dove" may I make one or two observations.

The listing of London Towers does seem to have been a problem. Back in the third edition, the guide started with "City of London" followed by "Metropolitan Boroughs". By the fourth edition "City of London" remained but now under "L" and towers in the Boroughs were listed alphabetically with the rest of the country. The coming of the GLC caused further complications. The guide has always been very "un-London" in the way it identified towers by their boroughs. For example St. Mary's, Putney has always been known to the general population as "Putney" and not thought of as part of Wandsworth. The Boroughs have only ever mattered to the Administrators (and not to the rest of us until it comes to paying rates). London Boroughs are actually administrators and not lecturers. With the advent of the GLC the Boroughs moved their boundaries outwards in many places - however this was not entirely welcomed and "special arrangements" were made which demonstrate the point about Boroughs being merely administrations. Barnet for example was needed to head-up a Borough in the extreme North of London. Barnet was formerly a Hertfordshire town and it remains in the Diocese of St. Albans. It was agreed that although it would form the centre of the new London Borough of Barnet it would retain its old postal address of Barnet, Herts. This was repeated in various places on the perimeter of London and the "Guide" is clearly wrong in describing such places as Barnet as "Barnet, London".

May I suggest therefore that in the next edition of "Dove" all references to Boroughs are deleted. Instead only towers with London Post Codes should be considered to be London Towers. (That is: N, NW, W, SW, SE, E, EC and WC). The London towers might then be listed alphabetically under their proper name and under their post-code. Thus under the general heading of "London" we would find starting from the centre, EC1 and the towers therein listed alphabetically viz: Clerkenwell, S. James, 8, 24-2-21 in E flat; Holborn, S. Andrew, 8, 18-1-21 in F; Holborn, S. Sepulchre-without-Newgate, 12, 28 in C sharp; Smithfield, S. Bartholemew, 5, 5½ in B.-Anti-clockwise.-Thurs. etc. followed by EC2, EC3, EC4, WC1, WC2 - then the outer codes.

With some reluctance I would suggest that the distinction of the "City of London" does not help as it is not co-terminus with Postcodes. It is clearly absurd to list Clerkenwell under "general England" and Barts and the Holborns under "City of London" when all four are within 4 minutes walk of the same station (called Farringdon just to add confusion!). So although the "City" as a separate listing is pleasant it should go along with the Borough names for the sake of consistency.

Letters for publication should be signed and address of sender appended. If not for publication kindly put "Not for Publication" at the head of the letter. We do not guarantee to print all of or any letter received, neither does publication imply agreement with or approval of a letter's content by the Editor, or the Directors of The Ringing World Ltd.

If the compiler sees fit to accept this suggestion the Barnets, Bexleys and Isleworths can all be returned to their traditional addresses and those of us concerned with London ringing will be able to find London Towers under expected postal names. Peace may then break out symbolised presumably by a Dove?

In conclusion may I say how welcome the new edition of "Dove" will be. Foundry Focus and other reports of bell work carried regularly in *The Ringing World* show how many alterations take place to the bell stock in only a short period of time. It is quite clear that any edition of "Dove" gets out of date very quickly and therefore we should all look forward to obtaining copies of the next edition. Mr. Dove continues to deserve our thanks for producing the guide.

ANDREW W. R. WILBY.

Towcester,
South Northants District!

Faults and beauty in ringing

The marking of striking competitions certainly seems to be a topic which stirs the feelings, judging from recent letters. Among those who have written, I detect a consensus that marks for "impression" are to a greater or lesser extent suspect. Certainly it is harder to quantify "impression" and there is no obvious "correct" weight to give to it when combining marks with those derived from "faults".

I am however concerned at the way "faults" are referred to by some of your writers as if they were immutable things which were either clearly present or equally clearly not. This is nonsense. We are all human, and we are all subject to ultimate perceptual limitations. To pretend otherwise is at best arrogant and at worst dangerous. Really good ringing will tend to be nearly as good as, and not much better than, what it is possible to detect by ear so the judge will be presented with a rhythm whose irregularities are near the limit of his perception.

In a piece of real ringing, then (as opposed to one generated by a machine), the intervals between successive bells will all be slightly different. Some will differ so much that they are obviously wrong; some will be marginal and open to different interpretation by different people; some will be so close to the "correct" interval that the human ear and brain will not be able to tell the difference.

It is true that there is often a natural segregation between blows which are obviously out of place, (say by more than 30% of the interval), and the rest which are all much closer to the ideal (say less than 10% of the interval). It is very convenient to call these faults and non-faults respectively but there is often no such clear distinction and a judge must set a mental threshold, or tolerance, to determine what constitutes a fault. He may set two thresholds, one for minor irregularities, (half faults), and one for "clips" (whole faults). He may choose to set a higher or lower threshold on different occasions, to suit the prevailing standards of the contestants or the difficulty of the bells. But the point at issue is that he is setting his own threshold and how he sets it will not only determine whether the scores are large or small, but could influence the placing of the teams.

To illustrate this point, consider two pieces of ringing. One has a slightly unsteady rhythm, and the other has a more even rhythm but contains several trips. If the judge sets a low threshold, the first piece will accumulate a very large number of faults, albeit half ones, as few rows will be really even. If he sets a higher threshold, the first piece may score very few faults since it contained no major disturbances, but the second piece will pick up virtually the same score as before, since the trips will all come through as clear faults in either case.

This is not a hypothetical situation. It can and does happen and there is nothing wrong in it. The judge is expected to use his skill and experience to set standards which will find an acceptable degree of consensus, and this will involve him in making value judgements of the relative importance of different kinds of irregularity in the ringing.

With good ringing, and particularly on the higher numbers of bells, I do not find it surprising that some judges can detect differences in the quality of the rhythm even when they cannot identify and count the individual tiny irregularities which contribute to the effect. Indeed, I would be surprised if this were not so.

Having detected a difference in the quality there still remains the vexed questions of how to mark it, (it can't be counted), and how to combine it with a score based on faults which can be counted. There is no simple answer. It is probably best to err on the side of giving more weight to the countable faults than to the subjective impression, but my reason for saying this reflects human weakness rather than any divine virtue in fault counting.

If they are to be respected and asked again, judges must, on average, produce results which other listeners with a vested interest can accept as reasonable. Sadly, our materialistic society leads us to accept the countable as authoritative and to challenge the qualitative judgement of anyone who disagrees with us. In ringing, this is a pity, since it drives us to think more about faults, particularly the other teams', rather than about the beauty of what we are trying to create.

I have a great respect both for experienced judges, and for ringers who achieve the peaks of competition performance. All are stretching their perceptual skills to the limit. This is an exhilarating experience which we would miss if there were no competitions. But when I hear a team standing in the churchyard cheer as their opponents make a trip, I do wonder whether our obsession with countable faults is in keeping with our true aims as ringers.

JOHN A. HARRISON.

Wokingham, Berks.

Long length attempt

I wish to give notice of an attempt to ring 10,080 Lyme Surprise Major at Lyme Regis, Dorset on Saturday October 3rd, 1987 starting at 10.00 a.m.

BRIAN J. WOODRUFFE.

Whiteparish, Wiltshire.

* * *

Pleasure of the week

All those readers who have taken the trouble to send their pet "hate of the week" to the Editor.

Logical and presumably feasible

What made me sit up and take notice, in Peter Church's article, *Ringling Computing Observations*, was his plea for a computer system which would "mark" a piece of ringing with supreme accuracy, and thus have the capacity to replace the judge in a striking competition.

Whilst being no expert in computing, I did in fact put forward a similar proposal as long as ten years ago. (RW, 19 Aug 1977). If I may quote from that article:

By the adoption and widespread acceptance of such an electronic device, good striking would immediately be given its proper status in the Exercise, since it would be able to be measured precisely and objectively, in units which would be universally valid from Inveraray to Adelaide.

I even made so bold as to suggest that the peal (the figure of 5000 changes being, after all, purely arbitrary) would begin to diminish in status in the face of a widespread and long overdue interest in the quality, rather than the quantity, of changes: that the concept of ringing as a sort of sporting marathon would pass unlamented, and that change-ringing would at last be respected as a legitimate and important branch of serious music.

As it turned out, response to these ideas was absolutely nil, and I do hope Peter Church has more luck, in this respect, than I did! There is no doubt that Parkinson's law tends to govern debate in these pages: *The volume of correspondence generated by a given subject is in inverse proportion to that subject's relevance to ringing.* (One loony letter in response to the Thatcher pic, and the postman's kept busy for weeks!).

Seriously, though, Peter Church's proposal surely has obvious potential to transform the ringing scene. It's logical. It's overdue. And, if Peter says so, it's feasible. Let's have some feedback!

PETER DEVENISH.

All Hallows', Twickenham.

Not by design

As a member of the Dorset County Association and a ringer in the now controversial peal at Wareham (30th May), I wish to set the record straight.

To my first hand knowledge, the event was arranged as a College Youth Peal for the Stedman Anniversary. Both the organiser and conductor endeavoured to get a band during the preceding weeks. In the event, they were unsuccessful, and the peal was ultimately rung by members of the Dorset County Association, not all of whom were also members of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild.

This was, however, by default and not by design, as has been suggested.

The D.C.A. is an active local body in the Dorset part of the Salisbury Diocese, providing a valuable complementary input in the form of teaching courses and practices.

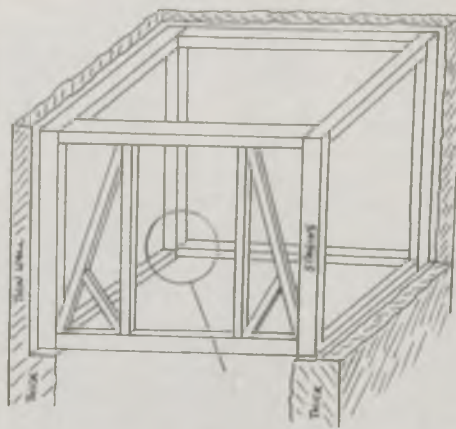
It is therefore very sad that some people display such a negative attitude towards it, particularly within Dorset itself.

Chichester. N. D. BUCKNALL.

PHOTOGRAPHS/REPORTS

We rely on you to send in reports, comment, articles, short features, cartoons, etc., etc. Photographs should be prints, any size, B/W or colour. They need to be of good quality (definition) and not too dark. Please inform us if you want them returned after use.

IRTON - continued from front page



Detail of the staging support

The bells are rung from the ground floor of the tower and the font was moved from there to its present position on the south side of the nave.

The bells are tuned to the key of F, and the note of the tenor is E natural. Each bell is inscribed in latin, (and I give each a translation), as follows:

THE BELLS OF IRTON CHURCH

Treble	29½"	6-1-5
Suscito voce pius. Tu Jesu dirige mentes. (With my voice I arouse the pious, O Jesus direct their minds).		
2nd	30½"	6-2-5
Nomen sanctum Jesu serva nos mortis ab esu. (Holy name of Jesus, keep us from the bite of death).		
3rd	32"	7-0-1
Sit nomen Domini benedictum. Laudate illum cymbalis sonoris. (Blessed be the name of the Lord. Praise Him on the loud cymbals)		
4th	34"	7-1-23
Morabor in domo domini in longitudinem dierum. (I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever).		
5th	36"	8-0-25
Sancta Trinitas unus Deus miserere nobis. (Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy upon us).		
6th	38"	10-1-1
Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei. (Let everything be done to the glory of God).		
7th	41"	12-0-6
Vivos voco. Mortuos plango. Fulgura Frango. (I call the living, I toll for the dead. I break the lightnings).		
Tenor	46"	16-1-25
In honorem Dei et in piam memoriam Ann Brocklebank. (To the honour of God and in loving memory of Ann Brocklebank).		
Total Weight = 74-1-27		

Rung in war

The bells of Irtton were rung in the middle of the Second World War. In 1942 the Vicar appealed to the Prime Minister for permission to have the bells rung for Easter that year. And so, after a silence of some two and a half years, the bells rang out again over the parish with Winston Churchill's approval.

On Easter Day in 1965 the tower was badly damaged by lightning. Repairs were carried out, though the condition of the tower remained a cause for concern. In 1975 consultants decided that normal ringing was, because of the design of the bell frame and its supporting oak staging, damaging the tower. The wooden staging had developed excessive movement in all its joints and was cracking the walls. This situation was exacerbated by previous "repairs" which had caused wedges to be driven into the spaces between the "legs" and the walls. It was clear that the whole structure would need to be strengthened.

Restoration task undertaken

For almost a decade therefore only very limited ringing was possible with just four of the bells being used. And then in 1983 a Blacksmith and Agricultural Engineer, Mr. Albert G. Preston of Holmrook, undertook the task of restoring the tower. Mr Preston supplied his free time and all the materials and was assisted by Mr. Viv Goodwin, a ringer, and Mr. Jimmy Craghill, churchwarden.

The restoration took up most of that summer. Work began with the removal of the wedges that were pushing against all four walls. Steel brackets were fixed around tall corner joints providing anchor points for pre-stressed steel rods which brace the staging in diagonals across the tower. Numerous adjustments were then carried out to make good the staging by tightening the rods. Marker pens were installed on the four vertical "legs" and have recorded only small acceptable movements during ringing. Mr Preston must be congratulated for his skill and the ingenuity used in the restoration of St. Paul's bells.

A peal was rung at Irtton in December 1985, and as I walked near the foot of the fells, it was difficult to imagine a more delightful setting in which to hear church bells.

Striving to keep going

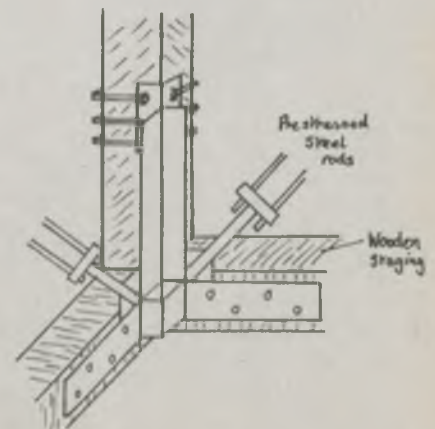
The local band, Mr. Preston and Mr. Goodwin among them, are striving now to keep the ringing going and carry out necessary maintenance work on the ropes and fittings. The Captain, Mrs. Kathleen Egglestone, is coaching the band at their practices. I understand that they hope to be able to remove the old chiming apparatus which appears to be a real threat to the safety of the bells. Most of them bear the scars of having large chips knocked out by a striking hammer left in the wrong position.

The church itself has some fine stained glass windows and is well worth an inspection, (but be warned, access is by rough track or field paths).

I am pleased to acknowledge the help of Mrs. Anne Trembath of Holmrook who researched much of the local material used in this article. Also Keith A. Simpson for the line drawing of the staging supports.

K. WILLIAM MORRIS.

1. *The Gosforth District* by C. A. Parker, published by Michael Moon (1986).
2. *The Whitehaven News* 29th December, 1887.
3. K. William Morris, personal communication, (1985).



The oak staging below the bell frame showing in the inset area details of the staging supports



Just to show you're never too young to have a go. Martin Parsons ably assisting his mum Penny.

"Greenwich bells broken?!"

On a very humid Saturday morning several members of the Greenwich band and several more friends met to erect the Jubi-Peal (a ring of six hand bells, tenor 7lbs) in time for the fete that afternoon.

It was like a giant Meccano set and with only a photograph to show us how the finished product should look, it perhaps took us a little longer than expected.

Finally the frame was erected turned the correct way up and ready to receive the bells and sliders. It was at this point one of the locals walking past the churchyard was heard to comment to her friend that perhaps we were going to use the small bells because the big ones in the tower were broken!

At least the bells were ready and six eager ringers caught hold to try their hand at this new style of ringing. How embarrassing, bells bouncing off stays, sallies being missed and bells ringing themselves down.

We eventually mastered the bells and some of the styles were quite respectable. A 240 of Plain Bob Minor was rung.

We were pleased with the response and several people had a go, the children making a much better job of it than the adults. The people who had initially asked us "What all the fuss was about, after all it was only pulling a bit of rope", did admit that we made it look a lot easier than it actually is.

By the end of the afternoon we were hot, sticky and in need of a rest, but we were very pleased to find we now have a new recruit.

It would take a lot of space to thank everyone concerned, but I feel special thanks must go to Walter Dobbie for making and lending the Jubi-Peal, to Tony Baker for the idea and to Philippa Rooke who helped to man the Jubi-Peal all day.

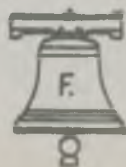
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Eye-catching, but not too often

A different way to publicise the Chester Diocesan Guild Centenary was tried at St. Chad's, Over in July. During the annual well-dressing and flower festival, the ringers mounted a display in the tower area highlighting the centenary. We used the chiming bell which came from Christ Church, Winsford (the Watermen's church, now sadly demolished), and a rough frame, not to scale, was made by a member of the church. The artistic members of the band decorated this with flowers - not many bell-flowers were available, though we did use a lot of foxgloves; the rest of us toiled away to make a long "rope" of flowers, which was placed round the "wheel" and onto the floor, finally to coil round the notice bearing the centenary logo - kindly done by a member of the Hartford band. It did prove quite eye-catching - but we don't think we could cope with it too often!

Over 1500 people visited the church during the festival, so we hope we did bring news of the centenary to a wider public.



Part of the display publicising the Chester D.G. Centenary.

Which call is which?

For the second time this year (the other occasion was May), the day of the Hertford County Association Western District monthly meeting at Berkhamsted was blessed with hot sunshine, and several pairs of legs that are not usually on show were to be seen in tower and churchyard. Unfortunately, holidays (especially among the better ringers) kept the numbers down, but those who were there during the early part of the afternoon had the excitement of trying to ring a touch of Bob Major accompanied by the strident screams of the conductor's younger sons. Once we had sorted out which voice was actually putting the bobs in, we were all right, but no sooner had we stood than we were treated to a nose-bleed from the other young Crawley. Unfortunately the proffered tissues were obviously of the wrong sort, as they were flung across the room in disgust, and Dad decided that a hasty exit was in order. Ringing continued on a more civilised note after this. (One visitor had come all the way from Glasgow - the fame of the Western District is obviously spreading!)

The service was taken by the vicar, the Rev. Roger Davis, and tea and the business meeting followed in the courthouse next to the church. At the meeting, Gus Good and Bill Puddifoot thanked members for the cards they had received, occasioned by their absence from the Apsley outing.

In spite of the heat, ringing continued afterwards until 8 o'clock but although we were successful with one of the special methods, Double Oxford Bob Major, not enough people had learnt the other, Uxbridge (blame those holidays again!), and Malcolm's offer of a 347 bus did not help. However, four other Surprise methods were rung, so we did not do too badly.

Then either a short drive or a walk along the towpath to the Rising Sun, where we could sit on the lock gates (there were no boats to disturb us) and enjoy some welcome and well-earned refreshment.

PENNY WATSON



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Spliced at last

Ron Andrew was taught to ring at Marple by Bob Smith and it seemed fitting that when Ron announced his engagement to Pam Crosby, also a ringer at Marple, a peal should be rung to mark the occasion and that Bob should be invited to conduct it. London Surprise Major was chosen as the method because Ron and Pam have been working hard at learning this over the last few months.

Hence on Saturday, 1 August a band gathered comprised of members of the Whiting Society and other friends of Ron and Pam at All Saints. Ringing commenced a little later than expected due to large distances travelled by some of the band, but it came round to the relief of many with comments like "Never again!" (till next time?). Thanks to the band for ringing and congratulations to Roger Briscoe on ringing his first peal.

The marriage took place on Friday, 14th August, with ringing before and after the wedding. The groom had expressed a wish to join in the ringing afterwards but it was not to be. The organist, though, did earn his keep by rushing across the graveyard, robes flying, to join in the ringing having just finished the Wedding March. Refreshments provided by the bride and groom in the tower may have given him more incentive to ring.

We all wish Mr. and Mrs. Andrew every happiness in their years together.

S. HOLROYD.

The Saints' Way - Forth an Syns

There has been an increasing interest in recent years in the routes across Cornwall, from Padstow to the south coast, followed by the Dark Age Christian missionaries on their way to Brittany and elsewhere from Wales and Ireland. The Fowey ringers, in a moment of rash enthusiasm, decided it would be an interesting idea to walk one of the routes and ring at each of the churches which had been founded on the way. So it was on a grey July morning that 12 ringers and friends, assembled at Fowey to get the minibus to Padstow.

Ringing started at St. Petrock, Padstow, at nine in the morning, the church being on a site where Petroc, son of Glywys, Chieftain of Dyfed, built a small settlement in 520. The walk then started at the south door and we were bound for Little Petherick almost three miles away. Not a good start. Two disappeared for coffee already and drops of rain were felt. Pleasant walking with views of the Camel river and estuary (but no signs of the dragon which Petroc saved by removing a splinter from its eye), until we reached Little Petherick. What a beautiful little church this is, with lovely colouring and carved pew ends, and the church itself set into the hillside so that you can almost reach down and touch the bells from the steep ground at the back. Little Petherick is the site of a shrine founded by Petroc, and was once known as St. Petroc Minor. We had some pleasant ringing on the light six.

Off next to St. Issey, where it was warned that the tower had fallen down once, so watch the



Ron, Pam and the band at the celebration after the peal. (anticlockwise round the table) Peter Broadbent, Geoff Gardner, Roger Briscoe, Ron Andrew, Pam McFall (visiting), Stuart Bamforth, Pam Crosby, Stuart Holroyd, Ruth Smith and Bob Smith.

striking. The origin of the saint is uncertain but our book favours Yse, an offspring to King Brychan of Powys. The half hour's ringing went well enough, with everyone having a go until a well planned lunch was taken at the Ring o' Bells (where else?).

Greatly strengthened we set forth for the longest stretch of almost eight miles to Withiel, crossing over St. Breock downs with lovely views to Brown Willy and Rough Tor, and the Camel again, past two standing stones and within reach of unseen sites of an ancient past - the Giant's Quoit, 5000 years old. Then over the Ruthern River, red in colour and a reminder of the tin in this area, and up the hill to Withiel church. Six tired ringers not doing very well on the not very heavy six, enough to make McGee raise his mouth and howl. The next six didn't do much better either. Never mind. Off to tea at Meneghyjy (The Sanctuary) a splendid welcome and much tea and the discovery of the phantom bagpipe player of Helman Tor in person. The name Withiel might have come from the Cornish word for Irishman, but the church was dedicated in the XVth century to St. Clement, with no known evidence of an earlier Celtic patron, but there is a cross nearby and a cross base in the church grounds. Next stop, and the last of the first day, was Lanivet 4 miles away, mostly on tarmac roads and the rain started in earnest. Nice eight and the ringing not too bad in spite of a few signs of tiredness creeping in. Welcome rest and an enormous breakfast to prepare us for the walk over the moor - and it was raining. It rained with with that special wetness which these Western moors seem to produce, when the rising ground seduces the most succulent drops from the fresh clouds before passing them on to England. Dressed in an amazing collection of wet weather gear, (most of which was ineffective) we set off for Lanlivery. Along little lanes on to the moors, to the top of Helman Tor, from which the tall granite church tower could be seen in the distance, and eventually into the village itself. The dedication of the church is difficult to

identify, Liviri being perhaps the name of a forgotten Celtic saint, and there is a holy well of St. Brevita nearby. The bells used to be difficult, but now go very well and we enjoyed ourselves before an early lunch in the fascinating medieval Crown Inn.

Boots on again, off towards Fowey, slight detour because of an impassable farm, still raining, near Milltown where Trystan and Iseult courted in the woods, and through a field with views, even in the rain, down the Fowey estuary. Short stubby tower, five little bells, which spin along nicely, and refreshments waiting. A gem of a little church with St. Sampson's holy well outside and named after the Saint who travelled the route to Brittany. Now for the last stretch, along known paths above the Fowey river, through Sawmills and into Fowey town, up Bull Hill and into the church now dedicated to St. Fimbarus, a 13th Century saint. The original Celtic settlement was Langurtho, possibly after St. Corron. Up the steepening stairs to the spacious ringing chamber to ring these lovely bells for the evening service.

What a splendid walk: eight towers, four hours of ringing, 32 miles all along the paths trodden by those Christians of long ago. Many old stone crosses and older relics providing evidence of a much earlier ancient history all around us. The organisation by the Fowey captain and his team was faultless.

(The historical facts have all been taken from the delightful guide book we used - "The Saints' Way" by Gill, Colwill and Leonard, Crown Copyright 1986).

A.H. BAKER.

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The Society of College Youths 1637–1987

by W. T. Cook

6. The Late Nineteenth Century

(In the late 1830s and the 1840s the College Youths, having found that if they wished to continue as a Ringing Society, they would need to recruit members from ringers of a lower social class than before, including members of paid bands, known as "Scroofs", accepted such people into their ranks. They included some of the best ringers of the time, such as John Cox (for a while), Henry Haley, Matthew Wood and James Robert Haworth, who scored several peals of note. Among these was the then record length of 8580 Stedman Cinques, rung at St. Michael's Cornhill in 1861. This was beaten in February 1881, when 9238 changes were rung at Birmingham).

It seems likely that during the 1880s the Society was dominated by the older members, who were scoring a steady succession of peals (57 were rung in 1888), but were less keen on the other activities of the Society, particularly the weekly practices. The arrival on the ringing scene of the weekly journal *Bell News* made it easier for such a state of affairs to be publicised, and it is probable that the description of the College Youths' meeting given by "The author of Thumb-nail Sketches" (Edward F. Strange) in the issue for November 22nd, 1884, was accurate:

"At Bow Church, St. Bride's and St. Giles, Cripplegate, there is no change-ringing at all, except a very infrequent peal, although at two of these towers, the Ancient Society of College Youths profess to meet monthly. At St. Michael's there is an occasional practice – at St. Paul's the meeting is much interfered with by the Cathedral services. Last and worst, at St. Saviour's (Southwark), a visitor may see once a fortnight an attendance of thirty or forty ringers in the meeting room, including some of the most accomplished in the art; but if he go into the tower, he will only find five or six of the youngest members, who wait about for half an hour or so, on the bare chance of some extraordinary circumstance procuring them a touch on twelve."

There is some evidence in the admittedly scanty records of the meetings contained in the oldest surviving Minute Books, together with correspondence in *Bell News*, that many of the younger members were anxious for reform. George Muskett, who had been Secretary of the College Youths for many years, continued to be elected to this office, but he seldom appeared at the business meetings. In 1886 he offered to resign, but his old friends carried a motion "that the resignation of Mr. Muskett be not accepted." He did, however, resign in the following year, and his place as Secretary was taken by Richard T. Woodley, a young man who had been taught to ring by Haworth at St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, and who had been elected a College Youth only two years previously.

This election took place three days after the Society had celebrated its 250th Anniversary by reverting to the former practice of holding its Annual Feast on or near November 5th. (For many years previously, the Annual Feast has been combined with the summer outing to places not far out of town such as Walthamstow, Crayford and Beddington). During the year, the rules had been revised, and now stated that "The Society's Anniversary Dinner shall take place in London, the Saturday preceding the Election of Officers", which was fixed as "the meeting night following the 5th of November in each year". The Dinner in 1887 was held on

Saturday, November 5th, at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge. One wonders how the members of today would react to an "after-dinner" programme such as was had that year, with sixteen speeches interspersed with as many songs and other musical items!

Richard Woodley served as Secretary for just over four years; during his period of office the affairs of the Society seem to have been put on a more business-like footing. However, Woodley left London suddenly in June 1892, and his place was taken by William T. Cockerill. Born in 1860 in Frodingham, Yorkshire, Cockerill came to London as a school teacher, and eventually became headmaster of Holy Trinity School, close to Vauxhall Bridge. He learnt to ring at Lambeth and St. John's, Waterloo Road, was elected a College Youth in 1886, and by the time he became Secretary was taking part quite regularly in the Society's peals, almost invariably at the heavy end.

The meeting at which Cockerill was elected Secretary had a double significance, for just before Woodley's disappearance, it had been resolved "That this Society do remove their Head Quarters" (from the King's Head in Southwark) "to the Rose and Crown, London House Yard". Cockerill's election as Secretary therefore took place at the first meeting the Society had held in the City of London for over a century. The College Youths who were members of the St. Paul's Cathedral Sunday band, started in 1880, were by now the most influential members of the Society, and the practices at St. Paul's were the ones which were the best attended, so this was a logical move; London House Yard was just off Paternoster Row, hard by the Cathedral. It has often been stated that the Goose and Gridiron, also close by St. Paul's became the Society's headquarters. The College Youths used often to meet socially at the Goose and Gridiron, and kept a set of handbells there, but presumably could not secure a room there for their exclusive use. The famous ringer Arthur Percival Heywood (later Baronet) of Duffield, Derbyshire, who had joined the Society in 1885, wrote a letter to Woodley in which he said: "So important do I think it that this move should be made in the interests of the Society that I will gladly give £10 towards the expenses thereby entailed". Members of today will no doubt agree that this move of headquarters to the City was indeed a significant one for the Society – a move which finally brought it back to the City of London where it had its origins.

Shortly before this move took place, Heywood had been successful in bringing into being the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The prestige of the College Youths and other old London Societies was such at this period that Heywood knew he could not succeed in his object without their support, and this the College Youths gave – albeit somewhat grudgingly, for they felt that the new Council would to a certain extent usurp what they considered to be their position as the leaders of the Exercise. The Society's first four representatives on the Central Council were all present at the first meeting, held at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, on Tuesday March 31st, 1891. They were F. E. Dawe, J. R. Haworth, W. D. Smith and R. T. Woodley. Francis Dawe was elected at this meeting as first Secretary of the Council, but he resigned after one year. After this first

meeting, though, it became the practice of the College Youths to send only one of their four representatives to Council meetings, except those held in London, and it must be said that the Society used for a long time to regard the Central Council with a certain amount of almost contemptuous amusement. On the other hand, the large majority of those who have served as Officers of the Council have been College Youths.

The Society continued to have its headquarters and hold its fortnightly business meetings at the Rose and Crown (where they paid 1s.6d. rent each time they used the room) until September 1897, when the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, became the headquarters until its destruction by enemy action in December 1940.

The St. Paul's Cathedral band no doubt owed its early success and continued prestige in large measure to its first Conductors, James Pettit, who, since Haley's death in 1886, had been "regarded as the premier among conductors in the College Youths", as one writer put it, and was a much-respected man. On Easter Monday, April 7th 1890, he conducted the first peal on the twelve bells at St. Mary-le-Bow, which was also the first peal in that tower since 1863. The bells had been augmented to twelve in 1881, but the frame was in "such a shaky and rickety condition", as was reported in *The City Press*, "that it became a work of much labour to ring the bells for about twenty-five minutes, the time usually occupied when ringing for Church or State functions". Some temporary repairs were effected, but the peal in 1890 must have been a major feat of endurance. Eight of the band – Pettit, Muskett, Tanner, Wood (then aged 63), Mash, Horrex, Carter and Hayes – were founder members of the St. Paul's band; the other four – Whinney, French, Gibbs and Prime, who rang the tenor – became members later.

Cockerill was elected a St. Paul's Cathedral ringer soon after he became Secretary of the College Youths. On November 24th, 1894, he rang the tenor at St. Paul's assisted by Walter Prime, to the first peal of Maximus on the bells (Kent Treble Bob), and on November 28th, 1896, he turned the tenor in on his own to another peal in the same method. Both these peals were very fine performances, as testified in the columns of *Bell News*.

The College Youths had tried in 1886 to recapture the Stedman Cinques record, and started for 10,030 changes at St. Michael's Cornhill, but the fifth wheel broke after just over an hour. They went for it again on Whit-Monday 1887, but the peal was lost in the last course. The composition was in the titmuss throughout, so this last course was a homing course, in which it appears that the ringer of the tenth (Frederick Newman) failed to make a bob, and threw the rest of the band into confusion. A College Youths band tried again on April 27th, 1895 to ring 10,000 Stedman Cinques, but after just over an hour's ringing, the boss to the tenth rope came down from the ceiling, putting an end to the attempt. Another attempt in 1897 was also unsuccessful after about four hours, and a similar fate befell a final attempt four years later after about three hours.

This is the sixth extract from the forthcoming history of The College Youths which, it is hoped, will be published in November this year. – Ed.

Foundry focus – work of Eayre and Smith

Previous articles in this series have dealt with the work of the two long-established English bell foundries at Loughborough and Whitechapel. Over recent years, a third company has made an impact on the market for the supply and hanging of bells – Eayre and Smith. Though not strictly a foundry, because it does not cast its own bells, Eayre and Smith has its bells cast in Holland to its own specification, including size, weight, profile and tuning – not so much “Dutch bells” perhaps, as “English bells cast in Holland”. Prompted by a number of requests, therefore, and exercising a modicum of editorial licence, *Foundry Focus* is shifting its boundaries a little, and describing work undertaken by Eayre and Smith over the past year.

At the beginning of the period, two major projects in Sussex were completed. At **Rudgwick, Sussex**, the old Lester and Pack six were rehung in a new frame, and augmented to eight by the addition of two trebles. The original six were hung anti-clockwise, and this feature has been retained. Ray Ayres of Eayre and Smith has a theory that all Lester and Pack rings were originally hung anti-clockwise, and certainly their work in Sussex seems to support this idea. The ring of eight at **Hurstpierpoint, Sussex** was rehung on new cast iron headstocks without the bells leaving the tower.

By accident rather than design, the company seems to be becoming an authority on steel bells. Early last summer, the five at **Thornborough, Bucks** were rehung in a new frame with all new fittings, and have turned out to be rather a good Vickers five. Vickers' shape was very good for the period, but the setting of the handbell-style clapper springs was found to be very critical because of the different damping properties of steel. For a full account of this project, see *The Ringing World* September 5 1986, pp.769-770. More recently two conven-

tional bronze trebles have been designed, to replace the trebles at **Hale, Cheshire**, these will be cast in September. Ray Ayres says “If we can match these, we can match anything”. On the relative success of the result of this could hang ideas for a sixth bell at **Thornborough**.

Also completed in the summer of 1986 was the rehanging of **Langleybury, Herts**, a light Mears and Stainbank six of contemporary date to the attractive Victorian church. The bells were rehung with all new fittings, in a frame which was the first example of a new system of fabricated frame construction developed by the company the previous winter. The ring of six is complemented by a sanctus bell of “distinctive” (!) tone which, we are told, was stolen from the Crimea.

At **Pott Shrigley, Cheshire**, the three ancient bells had been rehung in a new frame some 20 years ago. In September 1986, the end of a long project was reached when the ring of six was dedicated. To the original three have been added two newly cast trebles, and a third bell acquired from Leicestershire. Despite the varied origins of the six bells (four different foundries, all operating in different centuries – 15th, 17th, 18th and 20th), they are said to be an excellent splice. The weight of the tenor is 10-3-21.

The last edition of “Dove’s Guide” lamented the loss of the light six from St. Peter’s, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear. The bells had been removed from the tower in the early 1970s, a matter of hours before demolition started, and put into store. At one time, it had been hoped that the ring would be installed in St. Paul’s, Jarrow; but this idea never took root, and, in the stern words of R. H. Dove “... in the absence of any interest in bells either in the Church or in the Town for ten years this ring of six with its modern fittings ended its days in a local scrapyards”. Well – not quite. In 1983, the Durham and Newcastle Association purchased the ring back, and in 1986, donated the ring to St. Mary’s, **Heworth, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear**. The bells are hung in a new frame for eight, with conventional side castings, the first complete frame to be erected in Eayre and Smith’s new works in Melbourne. The bells were dedicated on 21 December 1986, and the first peal in their new location was on 14 March 1987.

Designing six-bell frames can often be more difficult than ten or twelve-bell frames; **Beckbury, Salop** is a good example. The ring of three here has been rehung, with canon-retaining headstocks and all new fittings, in a six-bell frame. Facing an urgent deadline – the bells had to be ringing again for a wedding – Ray Ayres, who to this day has never seen the tower, designed a six-bell fabricated frame from Bob Smith’s survey which was put together locally by Tim Holden of Wednesbury. Not only was it very difficult to fit in the bells but the ropes had to avoid a large clock, pass between the organ pipes and avoid the blower. There are difficulties, too, in designing the frame for **Cartmel Priory, Cumbria**. The diagonally offset belfry is some 20 feet square, and seems at first sight to offer ample space for a six or eight-bell frame. However, after clock medieval timbers, existing bells, weight chutes and tower structure are all taken into consideration, there is really only one possible solution. The existing ring of six here consists of an ancient back four, with two Taylor trebles, and to have a good modern six in a new frame. The four older bells will, however, all be



Langleybury bells on the way back.

retained – hung for ringing – so that it will be possible to choose between two quite separate rings of six.

By contrast, the new ten bell frame for St. Saviour’s, **Eastbourne, Sussex** is simplicity itself. Here, the hundred-year old eight (known locally as “Warners’ Mistakes” because they are tuneful) are being augmented to ten; the two trebles, designed to match both the old profile and the old tuning (minor seventh rather than Simpson, are being cast in June, and the whole project should be finished during August.

A more difficult undertaking has been modification of the very substantial Gillett and Johnston eight-bell frame at St. Thomas’, **Salisbury, Wiltshire**, where again augmentation to ten is planned. One of the aims here is to eliminate much of the bad rope drawing in the clock-room. Work so far has been confined to frame-design. The necessary movement of frame-sides and pits will be carried out by the ringers, and an order for the new bells will be placed when funds permit.

Most exciting is the recently completed newly cast ring of eight for **Darlaston, West Midlands**. Completely new rings are comparatively rare these days; this is the first entirely new ring for Eayre and Smith since the completion of the twelve at East Grinstead in 1985. The dedication here was on 24th May 1987; the tenor weight is 14-3-0.

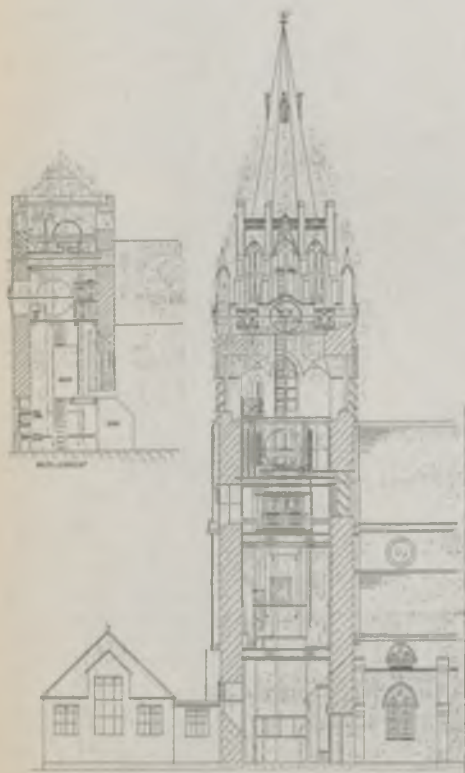
Work on two rings of three is in hand. At **Scruton, North Yorkshire**, the three are being hung for swing chiming, with all new traditional wooden headstocks and fittings, whilst the three at **Bitchfield, Lincs** are being hung on deadstocks with Ellacombe hammers.

The most recent order of significance is for the provision of two trebles for **Oadby, Leics**, to match the existing Taylor six. The frame here has already been adapted to accommodate an octave by David Webster under Eayre and Smith guidance.

Minor Works

An extensive programme of smaller projects and maintenance is being undertaken alongside the major jobs described above. Towers involved include: Waldron Sussex (ball bearings); Taxal, Derbyshire (ball bearings); Stretton, Cheshire (ball bearings); Stoke Golding, Leicestershire (ball bearings); Berkhamsted, Herts (strengthening frame, overhauling bearings); Polesworth, Warwickshire (new SG clappers); Stafford (new SG Clappers); Perth, Western Australia (new SG Clappers); Heston, London (replacing fittings).

Comments on these articles are welcome: they should be sent to David House, 28 Waldegrave Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 6GE, who edits them on behalf of the Central Council Public Relations Committee.



Darlaston and Beckbury (inset) to the same scale.

Peal Reports

LANCASHIRE PEAL WEEK, July 25 - August 1, 1987

Theme: A.M. - Days of week by courtesy of Paul Needham.
P.M. - Popular requests.

Saturday, A.M. Steady start - success with Saturday Surprise at Walkden.

P.M. Mistake to attempt two relatively difficult methods on same day! Struggled with Sunday Surprise at Westhoughton. Baptism of fire for Simon - revival of "Bradford trauma" for Dennis. But just made it and some good bits.

Sunday, P.M. Rare opportunity to ring Maximus. Pleasing effort - more so as a wedding compliment. First of Maximus for Dennis who is to be congratulated on his performance.

Monday, A.M. Good peal of Monday Surprise at Eccles after some initial anxiety when Simon failed to arrive on time. Went to wrong church! No reporter from *Eccles Sentinel* this year - they must be getting used to the sound of bells ringing for three hours!

P.M. Stephen's treat. Not far to go now to his 100th peal on Salford bells. David conducted his first peal of the week with his customary confidence.

Tuesday, A.M. Tower grab for several of band and our most distant foray. Successful peal of Tuesday Surprise despite high humidity in tower. Pub lunch followed by afternoon relaxation at Simon's fine house. Met Simon's geese and cat.

P.M. No problems with 5-Spiced at Fallowfield, apart from usual stuffiness.

Wednesday, A.M. First failure of week again at Fallowfield (should have been Accrington but Anthony seems to have gone on permanent holiday and proved unobtainable. Got tired of his answering machine.) Wednesday Surprise proved to be the only "day" method which we failed. Some other Wednesday perhaps! Unfortunate that this was Martin and Deborah's first attempt of the week.

P.M. Good peal of 8-Spiced at Burnley.

Thursday, A.M. Did not do justice to Whittle bells or Thursday Surprise. Mid-week blues? Hope vicar's wife edits her recording of the peal sympathetically!

P.M. Did much better at Middleton with Rutland Surprise.

Friday, A.M. Joined by Alison and Diane for quick and enjoyable peal of Friday Surprise at New Hey.

P.M. Afternoon peal after ringing for wedding. Profit of £3 per head but London Surprise refused to go and early departure for tea. Last peal of week for David who left for Malvern immediately after the attempt.

Saturday, A.M. Disaster at Stratford. Attempt at 6-Spiced collapsed after a miscall. Peter in disgrace and no longer welcome in Suffolk!

P.M. Decent peal of Superlative at Adlington some compensation. Paul's only conducting venture of the week. Well done!

This year's peal week was only slightly less successful than last year, 12 peals being scored out of 15 attempts. The great misfortune was that Martin and Deborah, having travelled all the way from Suffolk, suffered all three failures! Still it was good to see Martin looking so fit and well, and we shall have greater success in future.

Special thanks are due to Bill Wilson, Alison and Diana for standing in at very short notice on Thursday after Dennis was taken ill. I look forward now to 1988 - any suggestions for a suitable theme?

Donation £8

LANCASHIRE ASSN.

WALKDEN, Lancs, S Peter
Sat July 25, 1987 3h2 (18½)

5088 Saturday S. Major

Comp. J.W. Parker

- 1 Joseph Thornley
 - 2 John P Partington
 - 3 Ian McNutt
 - 4 Stephen R T Pocock
 - 5 Paul McNutt
 - 6 Dennis R Allcock
 - 7 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
 - 8 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 50th peal together: 4, 5 First in the method by all and for the Association.

WESTHOUGHTON, Lancs,
S Bartholomew
Sat July 25, 1987 2h52 (14½)

5088 Sunday S. Major

Comp. J.W. Parker

- 1 John S White
 - 2 John P Partington
 - 3 Paul McNutt
 - 4 Dennis R Allcock
 - 5 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
 - 6 Simon J Poole
 - 7 Stephen R T Pocock
 - 8 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
- Farewell peal for Canon F Gilbert. First in the method by all and for the Association.

BOLTON, Lancs, S Peter
Sun July 26, 1987 3h26 (19½)

5042 Yorkshire S. Maximus

Comp. R.W. Pipe

- 1 Joseph Thornley
 - 2 Michael H Tompsett
 - 3 John P Partington
 - 4 Ian McNutt
 - 5 Paul McNutt
 - 6 John E Heaton
 - 7 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
 - 8 Simon J Poole
 - 9 Malcolm Murphy
 - 10 Dennis R Allcock
 - 11 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
 - 12 Stephen R T Pocock
- 250th peal and first Maximus: 10 Wedding compliment to Rachel Pickup and Carl Emerson, married 25 July, 1987.

ECCLES, Lancs, S Mary
Mon July 27 1987 2h58 (19½)

5088 Monday S. Major

Comp. J.W. Parker

- 1 Simon J Poole
 - 2 Paul McNutt
 - 3 John P Partington
 - 4 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
 - 5 Dennis R Allcock
 - 6 Stephen R T Pocock
 - 7 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
 - 8 David A Warwick
- First in the method by all and for the Association.

SALFORD, Lancs,
Sacred Trinity
Mon July 27, 1987 2h44 (11½)

5024 Spiced S. Major

(4m: 1504 Cambridge; 1280 Bristol; 1216 London; 1024 Superlative; 101 changes of method, all the work)

Comp. A.J. Pitman

- 1 Joseph Thornley
- 2 David A Warwick (C)
- 3 Paul McNutt
- 4 Geoffrey Fothergill
- 5 Dennis R Allcock
- 6 Stephen R T Pocock
- 7 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 8 Simon J Poole

FALLOWFIELD, Manchester,
Holy Innocents
Tues July 28 1987 2h52 (13½)

5280 Spiced S. Major

(5m: 1120 London; 1088 Superlative; 1024 each Bristol, Cambridge, Pudsey; 107 changes of method, all the work)

Comp. A.J. Pitman

- 1 Joseph Thornley
 - 2 Geoffrey Fothergill
 - 3 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
 - 4 Paul McNutt
 - 5 Dennis R Allcock
 - 6 David A Warwick (C)
 - 7 Simon J Poole
 - 8 Stephen R T Pocock
- Circled the tower: 2.

NEW MILLS, Derbys,
S George
Tues July 28 1987 2h46 (13½)

5120 Tuesday S. Major

Comp. W.E. Critchley

- 1 Dennis R Allcock
 - 2 Paul McNutt
 - 3 John P Partington
 - 4 David A Warwick
 - 5 Simon J Poole
 - 6 Stephen R T Pocock
 - 7 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
 - 8 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- First in the method by all and for the Association.

BURNLEY, Lancs, S Peter
Wed July 29, 1987 2h57 (18)

5088 Spiced S. Major

(8m: 768 Superlative; 704 each London, Rutland; 608 each Cambridge, Lincolnshire; 576 Bristol, Pudsey; 544 Yorkshire; 120 changes of method, all the work)

Comp. N.J. Diserens

- 1 Paul McNutt
- 2 John P Partington
- 3 Geoffrey Fothergill
- 4 David A Warwick (C)
- 5 Cyril Crossthwaite
- 6 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 7 Stephen R T Pocock
- 8 Simon J Poole

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS,
Lancs, S John Evan.
Thur July 30 1987 3h (21½)

5088 Thursday S. Major

Comp. S.J. Ivin

- 1 Rev. William G Wilson
- 2 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 3 Paul McNutt
- 4 Cyril Crossthwaite
- 5 Simon J Poole
- 6 David A Warwick
- 7 Geoffrey Fothergill (C)
- 8 Stephen R T Pocock

First in the method by all and for the Association.

MIDDLETON, Lancs,
S Leonard
Thur July 30, 1987 2h49 (11½)

5088 Rutland S. Major

Comp. T. Hooley

- 1 Geoffrey Fothergill
 - 2 A Deborah M Thorley
 - 3 J Martin Thorley
 - 4 John P Partington
 - 5 David A Warwick (C)
 - 6 Stephen R T Pocock
 - 7 Paul McNutt
 - 8 Simon J Poole
- First Rutland: 2. Wedding anniversary compliment to Anne and Peter Bellamy-Knights.

NEWHEY, Lancs, S Thomas
Fri July 31 1987 2h30 (4½)

5024 Friday S. Major

Comp. S.J. Ivin

- 1 David A Warwick (C)
- 2 John P Partington
- 3 Diana J Handley
- 4 Stephen R J Pocock
- 5 Geoffrey J Brittliff
- 6 Alison J Brittliff
- 7 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 8 Paul McNutt

First in the method by all and for the Association. Birthday compliment to Mrs Norma Fothergill and the 3rd ringer.

ADLINGTON, Lancs, S Peter
Sat Aug 1, 1987 2h53 (13½)

5152 Superlative S. Major

Comp. A.J. Cox

- 1 Peter G Bellamy-Knights
- 2 John P Partington
- 3 Geoffrey Fothergill
- 4 Dennis R Allcock
- 5 Stephen R T Pocock
- 6 Paul McNutt (C)
- 7 Ian McNutt
- 8 Simon J Poole

WEST COUNTRY STEDMAN TOUR VII PETERBOROUGH D.G.

CULLOMPTON, Devon,
S Andrew
Sat Aug 1, 1987 2h59 (19½)

5019 Stedman Caters

Comp. J.P.

- 1 James Hedgcock
- 2 Jayne M Spencer
- 3 Elisabeth A G Bowden
- 4 John Pladdys (C)
- 5 David J Garton
- 6 Timothy Wylie
- 7 Malcolm J Lodwick
- 8 Fergus M S Stracey
- 9 D Paul Smith
- 10 Peter L R Hayward

BRIXHAM, Devon, B V M
Sat Aug 1 1987 2h48 (15½)

5005 Stedman Caters

Comp. J.P., arr Groves'

- 1 James Hedgcock
- 2 Jayne M Spencer
- 3 David J Garton
- 4 Elisabeth A G Bowden
- 5 John Pladdys (C)
- 6 Timothy Wylie
- 7 Fergus M S Stracey
- 8 D Paul Smith
- 9 Peter L R Hayward
- 10 Malcolm J Lodwick

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

NEWTON ABBOT, Devon,
S Leonard's Tower
Sun Aug 2, 1987 2h19 (8)

5040 Stedman Triples

Arr J.P. (No. 7 HQ)

- 1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
- 2 David J Garton
- 3 Peter L Bill
- 4 John Pladdys (C)
- 5 Judith M Corby
- 6 Fergus M S Stracey
- 7 D Paul Smith
- 8 Michael E C Mears

BUCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR,
Devon, S Peter
Mon Aug 3 1987 2h11 (7½)

5040 Stedman Triples

Arr. J.P. (No. 24)

- 1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
 - 2 John Hyden
 - 3 D Paul Smith
 - 4 Peter L Bill
 - 5 David J Garton
 - 6 John Pladdys (C)
 - 7 Michael E C Mears
 - 8 Fergus M S Stracey
- 250th peal: 4

Peal Forms are available (free)
from the R.W. Office, Guildford.
Send a stamped/addressed (9"x4") envelope now.

CHAGFORD, Devon,
S Michael
Mon Aug 3, 1987 2h47 (18½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Comp. J J B Lates
1 John Pladdys (C)
2 Judith M Corby
3 Elisabeth A G Bowden
4 Richard J Bowden
5 Rev. Lester J Yeo
6 Fergus M S Stracey
7 Michael E C Mears
8 D Paul Smith

TRURO D.G.

LANSALLOS, Cornwall,
S Ildierna
Tues Aug 4 1987 2h35 (12½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 20)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 E Anne Body
3 John Pladdys (C)
4 David J Garton
5 D Paul Smith
6 Mark G H Hood
7 John M Body
8 Christopher M Wulkau

ST. STEPHEN-IN-BRANNELL,
Cornwall, S Stephen
Tues Aug 4 1987 2h37 (13½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 14)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Pladdys (C)
3 David J Garton
4 Fergus M S Stracey
5 Mark G H Hood
6 Michael E C Mears
7 D Paul Smith
8 Christopher M Wulkau

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

PLYMOUTH, Devon,
S Andrew
Tues Aug 4 1987 2h50 (35½)

50550 Stedman Caters
Comp. J.P.
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 Judith M Corby
3 A William Myers
4 John Hyden
5 Richard J Bowden
6 John Pladdys (C)
7 Fergus M S Stracey
8 Michael E C Mears
9 D Paul Smith
10 Christopher M Wulkau

TRURO D.G.

ST. ANTHONY-IN-MENEAGE,
Cornwall, S Anthony
Wed Aug 5 1987 2h15 (12½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 15)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Hyden
3 Mark G H Hood
4 Fergus M S Stracey
5 John Pladdys (C)
6 David J Garton
7 Michael E C Mears
8 Christopher M Wulkau

MADRON, Cornwall,
S Maddern
Wed Aug 5 1987 2h20 (9½)

5040 Stedman Triples
(Brook's)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Pladdys (C)
3 John Hyden
4 Mark G H Hood
5 David J Garton
6 Michael C C Mears
7 Fergus M S Stracey
8 Christopher M Wulkau
300th Stedman: 1.

TOWEDNACK, Cornwall,
S Tewinnock
Wed Aug 5, 1987 2h8 (7½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 17)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 David J Garton
3 John Pladdys (C)
4 Robert J Perry
5 Fergus M S Stracey
6 Michael E C Mears
7 Ian G Campbell
8 Christopher M Wulkau

WERRINGTON, Cornwall,
S Martin
Thur Aug 6 1987 2h42 (14½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 7)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Pladdys (C)
3 John Hyden
4 Mark G H Hood
5 Fergus M S Stracey
6 John M Body
7 Ian G Campbell
8 Christopher M Wulkau

PROBUS, Cornwall,
SS Probus & Grace
Thur Aug 6 1987 2h43 (20)

5040 Stedman Triples
Comp. J W Washbrook
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Pladdys (C)
3 Ian G Campbell
4 Fergus M S Stracey
5 David J Garton
6 Robert J Perry
7 Michael E C Mears
8 Christopher M Wulkau

ST. BUDOCK, Cornwall,
S Budocus
Thur Aug 6 1987 2h13 (10)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 26)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Hyden
3 David J Garton
4 John Pladdys (C)
5 Robert J Perry
6 Mark G H Hood
7 Michael E C Mears
8 Ian G Campbell

PHILLACK, Cornwall,
S Felicitas
Fri Aug 7, 1987 2h53 (14½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 14)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 Fergus M S Stracey
3 Robert J Perry
4 Mark G H Hood
5 David J Garton
6 Ian G Campbell
7 Michael E C Mears
8 John Pladdys (C)
Called a peal of Stedman Triples from each bell in the tower: 8.

GULVAL, Cornwall,
S Gulval
Fri Aug 7 1987 2h36 (12½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 20)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Hyden
3 Mark G H Hood
4 Fergus M S Stracey
5 Timothy J Barnes
6 John Pladdys (C)
7 Robert J Perry
8 Michael E C Mears
First Stedman Triples: 5

CARBIS BAY, Cornwall,
SS Anta & All Saints
Fri Aug 7, 1987 2h29 (9½)

5031 Stedman Caters
Comp. J.P.
1 David J Garton
2 John Hyden
3 Elisabeth A G Bowden
4 Mark G H Hood
5 Timothy J Barnes
6 John Pladdys (C)
7 Robert J Perry
8 Fergus M S Stracey
9 Michael E C Mears
10 Ian G Campbell
300th peal: 8. First Stedman and on ten: 5. Farewell compliment to Canon A S Roberts, 47 years in Carbis Bay, Vicar of this church for 39 years, prior to his departure to Somerset

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

WOLBOROUGH, Devon,
S Mary
Sat Aug 8, 1987 2h42 (15½)

5040 Stedman Triples
Arr. J.P. (No. 8)
1 Elisabeth A G Bowden
2 John Pladdys (C)
3 Timothy J Barnes
4 Philip Stevens
5 John Hyden
6 Simon K Gianfield
7 Fergus M S Stracey
8 Michael E C Mears
Wedding compliment to Ian and Lesley Avery £5

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSN.

HENLOW, Beds, S Mary
Wed Aug 12 1987 2h41 (14½)

5040 Carlisle S. Minor
1 Valerie Willard
2 Anthony H Smith (C)
3 Richard M Hobbs
4 Owen A Davis
5 Jason R Turnock
6 Philip Mehew

CAMBRIDGE UNIV GUILD

KILKENNY, Eire,
S Canice's Cathedral
Tues Aug 4 1987 3h26 (22)

5152 Yorkshire S. Major
Comp. J S Warboys
1 N C Sturgess (Wolfson)
2 S L Nicholson (St. John's)
3 K A Oldershaw (Clare)
4 J D Shanklin (Magdalene)
5 J A Ferrar (Selwyn)
6 C A Gould (Homerton)
7 P J Agg (C) (Magdalene)
8 R J Webber
(Sidney Sussex)

First in method: 5. Birthday compliment to Philip Agg

COVENTRY D.G.

BICKENHILL, W Mids.
S Peter
Sun Aug 16, 1987 2h32 (9½)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
(7 different extents)
1 Andrew Russell-Laing
2 David J P Stanworth
3 Rodney A Swallow
4 Christopher Bostock
5 Robert J Taylor
6 George Pluckrose (C)
Rung by request on the 40th anniversary of the first peal of Grandsire Doubles rung on these bells by members of the Coventry Diocesan Guild. £120

CHESTER D.G.

MARPLE, Cheshire,
All Saints
Sat Aug 1, 1987 2h55 (13½)

5088 London S. Major
Comp. J W Washbrook
1 Roger C Briscoe
2 Stuart Holroyd
3 Ruth Smith
4 Geoffrey Gardner
5 Peter Broadbent
6 Michael Foulds
7 Stuart I Bamforth
8 Robert B Smith (C)
First peal: 1. By six members of the Whiting Society of Change Ringers and four Freemasons, for the forthcoming marriage of Pam Crosby and Ron Andrew, both local ringers at Marple. £5

CREWE, Cheshire,
Christ Church
Sun Aug 16, 1987 3h (20)

5088 Plain Bob Major
Comp. R Bailey
1 Christopher J Henshall
2 William F Gibbons
3 A Doreen Edwards
4 Wilfred Kerr
5 David J Phillips
6 Paul Maddock
7 Frederick S Sutton
8 Frank R Morton (C)
First on eight: 1. 100th peal together: 3, 8. On the official closing day of the Crewe Heritage Festival, by members of the South Cheshire Branch of the Chester D.G.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

SHOREDITCH E, S Leonard
Tues Aug 4 1987 3h29 (28½)

5136 Amersham S. Maximus
Comp. D E Sibson
1 Stephanie J Pattenden
2 Linda M Cox
3 Alan Regin
4 Geraldine R Lea
5 Frank T Blagrove
6 Marcus Wheel
7 Gary J Audley
8 Peter M Fleckney
9 Graham A Duke
10 Derek E Sibson (C)
11 Colin J E Wylde
12 John P Loveless
First in the method by all the band except 12.

WESTMINSTER, London
WC, Liberties of
S Mark-in-the-Fields
Sat Aug 15 1987 4h47 (30½)

6805 Trafalgar S. Maximus
Comp. D E Sibson
1 Stephanie J Pattenden
2 Elisabeth A G Bowden
3 Simon Humphrey
4 Geraldine R Lea
5 Graham A Duke
6 David A Warwick
7 Michael Maughan
8 Alan Regin
9 Howard W Egglestone
10 Derek E Sibson (C)
11 Ian G Campbell
12 John P Loveless
First peal in the method.
Trafalgar S. Maximus:
CCC 105 G
Sponsored in aid of St Martin-in-the-Fields Bell Restoration

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

CALSTOCK, Cornwall,
S Andrew
Sat Aug 8, 1987 2h45 (9½)

5040 Surprise Minor
(7m: 1 extent each Wells, London, Durham, York, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge; 7 different callings)
1 Wendy M Harvey
2 Anne Body
3 Elaine Clutterbuck
4 John M Body
5 James Grant
6 Donald B Carter (C)

DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DA

NEWCASTLE-upon-TYNE,
Tyne & Wear, S George
Wed Aug 5, 1987 3h (18½)

5024 Cambridge S. Major
Comp. J S Warboys
1 Duncan G Walker
2 John A Craggs
3 Lynda K Gibson
4 Andrew R Oliver
5 Thomas F Lawrence
6 Darren Murray
7 David V Craggs
8 Denis Crowe (C)
First inside: 3, 4, 6. 1st in method; completes "Standard 8" as conductor: 8. £1.50

DARLEY DALE, Derbys,
S Helen
Mon Aug 10, 1987 2h52 (15½)

5056 Painswick S. Major
Comp. C H Martin
1 Fiona H Burton
2 Lynne P Craven
3 Richard A M Turner
4 John A Craggs
5 Michael Chester
6 David V Craggs
7 Paul L Carless
8 Denis Crowe (C)
200th peal: 5. First in the method by all and on the bells. Engagement compliment to Fiona Burton and Michael Chester.

ELY D.A.

MELDRETH, Cambs,
Holy Trinity
Fri June 26 1987 2h39 (10½)

5152 Quarkonium S. Major
Comp. A J Cox
1 Graham Bloom
2 Andrew J Mitchell
3 Wendy Bloom
4 Geoffrey Pearson
5 Anthony H Smith
6 Derek E Sibson (C)
7 John G Gipson
8 Paul S Seaman
A welcome to Charlotte, grand-daughter of the ringer of the 7th, born this day. £2

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THE RINGING WORLD
PENMARK HOUSE
GUILDFORD

TRUMPINGTON, Cambs,
SS Mary & Michael
Thur July 2 1987 2h33 (10½)

5024 Spiced S. Major
(2m: 3520 London 1504
Bristol; 56 changes of
method, all the work)
Comp. J W Parker
1 Derek E Sibson (C)
2 John G Gipson
3 Walter Hunt
4 Geoffrey Pearson
5 Richard Green
6 David J Garton
7 W John Riley
8 Philip Mehew

MELDRETH, Cambs,
Holy Trinity
Fri July 17 1987 2h43 (10½)

5088 Cambridgeshire S. Major
1 Geoffrey Pearson
2 Andrew Mitchell
3 Donald F Murfet
4 Andrew D Sibson
5 David J Garton
6 Derek E Sibson
7 Walter Hunt
8 Joan F Gipson
First in the method by all the
band.

MELDRETH, Cambs,
Holy Trinity
Fri July 31 1987 2h40 (10½)

5056 Hampshire S. Major
Comp. J R Mayne
1 Donald F Murfet
2 Richard Green
3 John G Gipson
4 Geoffrey Pearson
5 Andrew D Sibson
6 Derek E Sibson (C)
7 Walter Hunt
8 John P Loveless
First in the method by all the
band except 8.

MELDRETH, Cambs,
Holy Trinity
Fri Aug 7, 1987 2h41 (10½)

5088 Huntingdonshire S. Major
Comp. W E Critchley
1 Richard Green
2 Andrew Mitchell
3 Walter Hunt
4 Geoffrey Pearson
5 Andrew D Sibson
6 Derek E Sibson (C)
7 John G Gipson
8 W John Riley
First in the method by all the
band.

CRIMPLESHAM, Norfolk,
S Mary V
Fri Aug 14, 1987 2h18 (6½)

5040 Doubles (42 extents, 7
m/v: 6 extents each
Grandsire, St Simon, St
Martin, St Nicholas,
Winchendon Place, Rev.
Canterbury Pleasure, Plain
Bob)
1 Pamela C Dane
2 Philip G Waterfield
3 Helen J Waterfield
4 David J Wooler
5 Peter J Waterfield (C)
Most Doubles inside: 4.
Half-muffled in memory of
Ronald G Seymour of
Nazeing, Essex.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION

HATFIELD HEATH,
Essex, Holy Trinity
Sat Aug 15, 1987 1h58 (4½)

5040 Norwich S. Minor
1 Heather M Semken
2 David A Childs
3 Alison M Godfrey
4 Andrew J Dickinson
5 Adrian G Semken
6 Tim J Peverett (C)

GLOS & BRISTOL DA

£2 BUCKLAND, Oxon,
S Mary V
Sat Aug 15, 1987 3h (17)

5040 Grandsire Triples
Comp. J J Parker
(12-part, 7th obs.)
1 Eric Sutton
2 Tracey K Hodgkinson
3 Cynthia E Howell
4 Gordon L Belcher
5 David J White
6 David C Ockwell
7 Allan G Keen (C)
8 Desmond L Jones
First Grandsire Triples: 3.
First Triples inside: 2. First
Triples and Grandsire as
conductor. 50p

LECKHAMPTON, Glos,
S Peter
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h34 (9)

5040 Stedman Triples
Comp. J W Washbrook
1 Alex F Byrne
2 Janet L Fox
3 Peter J Aylott
4 Derek Harbottle
5 Mark R Kingston
6 Sheila Taylor
7 John R Ridley (C)
8 John K Smith
First Stedman: 3, 5. 80p

TORTWORTH, Avon,
S Leonard
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h50 (12½)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
(7 differently-called extents)
1 Mary Ward (née Burlton)
2 John F Bowler
3 Andrew J Binstead
4 Graham Robertson
5 Colin Ward
6 Michael W Fairey (C)
First Minor: 1. Ruby Wedding
compliment to the Rev. and
Mrs W F Burlton, married on
August 14th, 1947. (The Rev.
Burlton is a former Rector of
Tortworth and Cromhall.)
Also a compliment to Mr and
Mrs J F Bowler, married on
June 26th, 1987. £3

HEREFORD D.G.

KIMBOLTON, Herefords,
S James Gt
Thur July 16, 1987 2h30 (10)

5040 Minor (2 extents Kent;
2 Cambridge; 3 Plain Bob)
1 Leslie Evans
2 Rev. A Talbot-Ponsonby
3 David J Thompson
4 Laurence T Mainwaring
5 A Harold Fitter
6 Andrew L Mainwaring (C)
First Minor: 3. In memory of
Cyril Jaime, tower captain of
Kimbolton and Leominster,
who was buried at Kimbolton
the previous day. 50p

EARDISLAND, Herefords,
S Mary V
Fri July 17 1987 2h50 (12½)

5040 Plain Bob Triples
Comp. J Clatworthy
1 Michael V Powell
2 Frederick R Harris
3 Brian Werry
4 Leslie Evans
5 Laurence T Mainwaring
6 W Anthony Price
7 Andrew L Mainwaring (C)
8 David J Thompson
First in method: 3. 50th peal
together 5, 6. Half-muffled in
memory of Cyril Jaime.

KENT C.A.

EAST FARLEIGH, Kent,
The Parish Church
Tues Aug 12, 1987 2h38 (7)

5184 Cambridge S. Major
Comp. A W T Cleaver
1 Thomas Cullingworth
2 Valerie S Keeler
3 Valerie J Howard
4 John A Howard
5 Thomas M Barlow
6 Anne L Martin
7 Malcolm J Lodwick
8 John B Keeler (C)
Circled the tower twice: 7.
300th for the Association: 6

THROWLEY, Kent,
S Michael & All Angels
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h47 (12)

5120 Bristol S. Major
Comp. W T Perrins
1 Phillipa J Rooke
2 Valerie J Howard
3 Anne L Martin
4 Stuart C Palin
5 F Paul Lewis
6 Thomas Cullingworth
7 John A Howard
8 John B Keeler
600th peal: 8

LEICESTER D.G.

GREAT BOWDEN, Leics,
SS Peter & Paul
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h53 (14)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
1 Camron Fraser
2 Eric Parkin
3 David Lightfoot
4 Clifford W Nunn
5 Raymond H Martin (C)
First Minor inside: 4. Ruby
Wedding compliment to Nora
and John Hunt.

LISS CAMPANILE

YOUTHS

BEDDINGTON, Surrey,
S Mary V
Sun Aug 16, 1987 2h56 (18)

5039 Grandsire Caters
Comp. A CD Mayes
1 Martin B Hough
2 Mark A Wilson
3 Gwynneth A Jones
4 Linda R Eames
5 Alison K Surry
6 Peter J Sawyer
7 Simon M Alford
8 Toby Arkless (C)
9 Michael J Clay
10 Roger Bailey
First Grandsire inside: 6. First
Grandsire Caters: 2, 8. First
on 10 as conductor.

LLANDAFF & MONMOUTH DA

BLAENAVON, Gwent,
S Peter
Thur Aug 13, 1987 2h51 (9½)

5056 Plain Bob Major
Comp. J R Pritchard
1 Catherine A Hayman
2 Peter S Bennett (C)
3 Helen L Thomas
4 John A Freaney
5 Kelvin S Clayton
6 William E Thompsett
7 Adrian Fawcett
8 Barry J Hayman
First Bob Major inside: 3. First
on eight bells: 4. By ringers
from St Woolos' Cathedral, to
celebrate the wedding of
Helen Thomas and David
Mould, on 15th August; also
to welcome Bethan Marie
Phillips, born on 12th
August. £1

LLANFEIGAN, Powys,
S Meugan
Sat Aug 15, 1987 3h4 (12)

5040 Grandsire Triples
(Parker's 12-Part, 7 obs.)
1 Jackie Cooper
2 Donald G Cliff
3 Lynda Davies
4 Alison J Leaker
5 Alwyn R Lewis
6 David J Hughes
7 Andrew J Phillips (C)
8 Kenneth Phillips
First attempt as conductor.
550th peal: 2. Arranged and
rung as a compliment, and
with the best wishes of the
band to Alison Leaker for her
forthcoming marriage.
(Messrs. Hughes and Cliff
would like to pay tribute to
Andrew Phillips for the
manner in which he
conducted his first peal. He
could not be faulted in any
way, and called it like a
veteran.) 80p

LONDON C.A.

LITTLE BADDOW, Essex,
S Mary V
Sun Aug 9, 1987 2h38 (11½)

5088 Wembley S. Major
Comp. J W Washbrook
1 Simon J David
2 Catherine N Merlane
3 Stephen A Coaker
4 Connie A Barter
5 Ian Wiltshire
6 Andrew J Watkins
7 James G A Prior
8 John E Hawes (C)
First Wembley: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
100th peal: 1. Farewell
compliment to Andrew
Watkins, returning to
Herefordshire.

PURLEIGH, Essex,
All Saints
Sun Aug 16 1987 2h48 (9½)

5040 Wells S. Minor
(4 720s; 1 2160)
1 Michael J Hall
2 Simon J Davies
3 Connie A Barter
4 Richard M Hobbs
5 James G A Prior
6 John E Hawes (C)
50th together: 2, 5. First
Wells for all

MIDDLESEX C.A. & LONDON D.G.

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL,
Middx, S Mary
Sat Aug 15, 1987 3h12 (19)

5000 London S. Royal
(No. 3 Version)
Comp. J R Mayne
1 Joan Hooton
2 Dorothea M Robotham
3 Ruth M Foreman
4 Robert A Partridge
5 Eric Edmondson
6 Walter Hunt
7 Thomas J Lock
8 Murray A Coleman
9 Neil V Avis
10 John R Mayne (C)

WINDSOR, Berks,
S John Bapt
Sun Aug 16 1987 2h55 (17½)

5040 Plain Bob Major
Arr. F T Blagrove
1 Monica Blagrove
2 Joanna Sheppard
3 Percy Newton
4 Edward Armstrong
5 Eileen Stevenson
6 Mark Instone
7 John R Martin
8 Frank T Blagrove (C)
For the birthday of H.R.H. the
Princess Royal

NON-ASSOCIATION

WEST HAM, London,
All Saints
Wed July 22, 1987 3h9 (27)

5040 Spiced S. Royal
(14m: 360 each Bristol,
Cambridge, Clyde,
Derbyshire, Lanchester,
London No. 3, Ludgate,
Middlesex, Mirfield, Pudsey,
Redcliffe, Savernake,
Superlative No. 2, Wembley;
125 changes of method, all
the work and every lead
different)
Comp. J R Taylor
1 Jason R Turnock
2 David C Brown
3 Stephanie J Regin
4 David J Dearnley
5 Joanna M Ainsworth
6 John P Loveless
7 Simon J L Linford
8 Stephen A Coaker
9 Ian G Campbell
10 Alan Regin

READING, Berks,
S Mary V
Sun Aug 16, 1987 3h29 (26)

5024 Rutland S. Major
Comp. N Smith
1 Ronald F Diserens
2 Noel J Diserens (C)
3 Helen M Diserens
4 Philip A B Saddleton
5 Roger D Diserens
6 Colin M Turner
7 Timothy P Bradley
8 Brian P Diserens £1

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Points from Peals

A larger number of towers than usual passed "land marks" in the first half of this year. Some of these do this frequently these days and so will just be mentioned since I have given their details within the past few years. It will be just the ones reaching 250 or more and which have taken their time about it that I shall give more details. In the first category, Shoreditch has reached 650, South Wigston 500 (the 14th tower to do so), Grundisburgh 450, Bristol Cathedral 300, Windsor, St. John 300, Farnworth and High Wycombe 250. In the second category, North Stoneham has scored 450. All these have been rung this century. A 6-bell tower at first, ten peals were rung on the bells from 1905 to 1909. Mr. George Williams had come to live there in the meantime, and so the six became eight in 1909 and 52 peals were rung on the eight before the 1st war. It is one of the few towers which had at least one peal every year of that war! The 100 came up in 1923 and the total was 174 when the bells were further augmented to ten in 1932. The 200 came in 1935 and the pre second war total was 226. This war ended Mr. Williams' prolific peal ringing activities (he rang 1504) and he died in 1949 in his 92nd year. Thus the 200 were rung in 30 years - just twice as fast as the third hundred which came in 1965. The next hundred took 14 years in 1979 and now we have another 50 in eight years. So the overall average is just about five a year. If we omit the years which did not have a peal (1906, 1940-1945, 1948, 1950 and 1959) we get an average of over six a year. Of course, the variety is immense.

Walsall has reached 350. When I surveyed its peal history in 1972, my figures did not agree with the local ones. I suggested a comparison to put the record straight, but it was not taken up. So I hope my figures this time will be more in

agreement with the tower's since more peals have come to light in the intervening years. The peal history is more than 200 years old and I have six peals in the 18th century. A peal came every few years in the first half of the 19th century (I have ten peals from 1809 to 1845) but they were more frequent from then on - 31 from 1854 to 1879. Another 41 peals came from 1882 to 1914 and there were 39 from 1929 to 1939 with one during the first war in 1916. The 100 came up in 1932. The 200 came in 1952 and the 300 in 1972, so it has been a popular tower since the last war, the best period being from 1944 to 1959 when 131 peals were rung. Peals have gradually been getting fewer recently - only 16 in the eighties so far. Without a doubt, Stedman has easily been the most popular method in the tower's history, but there has been much greater variety since 1970.

Painswick and Leeds (St. Peter) both passed 250 this last six months. Both have a very ancient peal history - the first peal at the former was in 1731 and in the latter, 1742, but they have a different story to tell until recently. Leeds had more peals in the 18th century (20) than Painswick (6) whilst it was the other way round in the 19th century - 33 to 84. No peal appears to have been rung at Painswick between 1737 and 1811. At the end of the last century the tower totals were Painswick 96, Leeds 48. The former's first 100 came in 1904 and the latter's not until 1965! Painswick was nearly 200 by this last date - it reached it in 1967. But Leeds went wild in the 1960s and 109 peals were rung in that decade so that 200 came up in 1970. Since then both towers have an average of three or so peals a year so that they reached the 250 almost together. It doesn't take long to work out the average per year from the first peals - 250 peals in about 250 years! In both cases, an interesting mixture of methods have been rung once the Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent T.B. period was passed.

Now for the remaining land marks. **200 peals:** Thatcham, Derby Cathedral, Birstwith, Heywood, Birstall and Anstey (in the last case it was the peal printed very late on March 6th and rung last year). **150 peals:** Chapel Allerton, Crewe (as claimed), Coalbrookdale, Northampton (St. Giles). **100 peals:** (a) as claimed - Ashford, Danbury, Harmston, Basingstoke (St. Michael), Chelford, East Grinstead, Belper, Tushingham; (b) not claimed - East Farleigh, Ormesby, Billingham. **50 peals:** (a) as claimed - Great Tey, Wiveliscombe, Newton St. Cyres, Stotfold, Hatfield Broad Oak; (b) not claimed - Wilmslow, Thornbury, Histon, Whitchurch (Hants), Bucklebury, Market Weighton, Petham, Radlett, Oakley (Suffolk), Patrington.

Now we come to first peal on the bells. I confirm first peals at Barton (4) Heworth (but there had been 18 at St. Peter's, Jarrow previously), Staverton, Peterborough Cathedral

(but there had been 135 peals at St. John the Divine, Leicester), Thorn Falcon, Seacroft, Lydeard St. Lawrence, Yarnscombe, Oxton, Hilton (4), Petrockstowe, Scotter and Sandbach (4). Minstead and North Molton also seem to have had their first peals.

Finally, rare visitors to the peal columns. An article mentioned the only three previous peals at St. Edmund's, Salisbury, the last of which was in 1906. One other tower last had a peal before that in 1894. Four towers last had peals between the wars - Canon Pyon in 1926, as mentioned - it was the only previous one; Eynsham, where the only previous one was in 1927; Durham, St. Oswald, which was slightly claimed as the first for over 50 years actually it was 59 years in 1928, although there had been one in 1927, the first on the bells; and Monewdon - first for 54 years as claimed (i.e. in 1933) There had been 23 peals rung here from 1890 to 1914 and one more in 1928. All the peals were of Minor in seven methods except one of Bob Minor and two in three methods Minor.

Doddington (as claimed) had the longest peal silence since the last war. That peal was in 1948 with former ones in 1911 and 1946. Next came Birling - 1949 - with peals in 1891, 1913, 1923, 1926, 1927, 1929 and 1936. Two towers last appeared in 1954 - Little Dewchurch (as claimed - but like Anstey above, rung last year and published late) and Shute. The former had had a peal in 1935, but the latter none. The only previous peal at Offwell was in 1955 whilst Upwey had had six - in 1933, 1934 (2), 1935, 1945 and 1949, before the 1955 one. Feniton and Kilmington, last being mentioned in the peal list in 1958, had each had one other peal - in 1926 at the former and 1955 at the latter. Newton Ferrers now has two peals - in 1960 and 1987. Disley is one of the exceptions to the general rule that towers mentioned in this section have hardly had any peals before. I confirm that it hadn't appeared here since 1964, but before that there were 13 peals from 1901 to 1913, 29 from 1921 to 1940, and 43 from 1943 to 1964. Tower total 86. Only three peals in this number have been of Doubles, the remainder are Minor in many varieties. Whittlesey, St. Andrew also has had more than usual former peals, but still not many for an 8-bell tower. Last seen here in 1965, there had been peals in 1904, 1907, three between 1931 and 1937 and 15 from 1948 to 1959 with just one more in 1962. Fifteen of the 22 peals were Plain Bob. Finally, two towers just get into this part of the article with 20 years silence. Holmer, with other peals in 1914, 19 between 1922 and 1938, and 1948, and Horspath with three former peals in 1955, 1964 and 1965.

To conclude, the claim that Ewhurst's recent peal was the first for 20 years is not so. The last peal here was on October 23rd, 1976.

K. W. H. F.

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OXFORD D.G.

SUNNINGWELL, Oxon,
S Leonard
Sun Aug 9, 1987 2h29 (8½)

5040 Spliced S. Minor
(14m: (1) Lightfoot,
Netherseale; (2) Alnwick,
Newcastle; (3) London, Wells;
(4) Cambridge, Ipswich; (5)
Berwick, Hexham; (6) York,
Durham; (7) Beverley,
Surfleet)
1 John G Harwood
2 Joy Freeman
3 Timothy G Pett
4 Mark Vincent
5 Colin M Turner
6 Donald B Carter (C)
Most Spliced S. Minor: 2.

HIGH WYCOMBE, Bucks,
All Saints
Sat Aug 15 1987 3h23 (29½)

5040 Swindon S. Royal
Arr. J R Mayne
1 J Alan Ainsworth (C)
2 Andrew M Reeve
3 Hugh Neill
4 Elva R Lucas
5 Marion S Ainsworth
6 Stephen A Rossiter
7 Peter J Bruce
8 J Michael Cole
9 Stephen S Russ
10 Kevin I Lucas
First in method: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
9. A compliment to David and
Susan Agg on their wedding
day.

LANE END, Bucks,
Holy Trinity
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h30 (6)

5040 Minor (7m: 1 extent
each Cambridge S., Oxford
T.B., Kent T.B., Single Oxford,
Double Oxford, St Clements,
Plain Bob
1 Geoffrey J Tyler
2 Julie A Haseldine
3 Valerie W Willard
4 Gillian N Hazell
5 Roger G Hazell
6 Andrew Haseldine (C)
Wedding compliment to Colin
Meakes (tower captain) and
Mandy Whines, married at
Little Marlow on Saturday, 8
August. £2

OXFORD SOCIETY

OXFORD, Lincoln College
Sat Aug 1, 1987 2h39 (7)

5120 London S. Major
Comp. S Ivin
1 David C Woodward
2 Brian R White
3 Ian Roulstone
4 Andrew A Ward
5 David K Barrington
6 David Ockwell
7 Bernard J Stone
8 Stephen Ivin (C)
In memoriam Lord Trend,
Rector of this College
1973-83.

PETERBOROUGH D.G.

BURTON LATIMER,
Northants, S Mary V
Tues July 14 1987 2h47 (10)

5152 Gallium S. Major
Comp. A J Cox
1 D Sheila Griggs
2 Alison R Willgress
3 David J Garton
4 Ian N Willgress
5 Andrew D Sibson
6 Derek E Sibson (C)
7 Christopher J Groome
8 Murray A Coleman
First in the method by all the
band.

BURTON LATIMER,
Northants, S Mary V
Tues July 28 1987 2h41 (10)

5088 Osmium S. Major
Comp. S J Ivin
1 Christopher Stephenson
2 W Eric Critchley
3 John Weaver
4 Andrew D Sibson
5 Jonathan R B Speed
6 Derek E Sibson (C)
7 David J Mossop
8 W John Riley
First in the method by all the
band.

BARTON SEAGRAVE,
Northants, S Botolph
Sat Aug 1, 1987 2h37 (9½)

5040 Stedman Doubles
(42 extents, 15 different
callings)
1 E Jane Sibson
2 Nicola R Sibson
3 Keith R Sibson
4 Andrew D Sibson
5 Derek E Sibson (C)

BURTON LATIMER,
Northants, S Mary V
Tues Aug 11 1987 2h55 (10)

5280 Warkworth S. Major
Comp. J R Mayne
1 Alison R Willgress
2 Dorothea M Robotham
3 W Eric Critchley
4 Andrew D Sibson
5 David J Garton
6 Derek E Sibson
7 Murray A Coleman
8 John R Mayne
1,200th peal: 6 350th
different Surprise Major
method: 2.
First peal in the method.
Warkworth S. Major:
mx. -34-14-1256-
36.14-12 58.16-14.58.

RUSHTON, Northants,
All Saints
Fri Aug 14, 1987 2h40 (8)

5040 Minor (3m: 2 extents
each St Clements, Single
Oxford; 3 Plain Bob; 13
callings)
1 Roderick A Coles
2 Helen R Coleman
3 David G Carling
4 Simon C Rice
5 Michael J Hawkins
6 Murray A Coleman (C)
First peal: 1.

ST. JAMES' GUILD

WEST HAM, London,
All Saints
Wed June 24, 1987 3h6 (27)

5080 Spliced S. Royal
(8m: 720 Rutland; 680 each
Bristol, London; 140 each
Cambridge, Pudsey; 600
Superlative; 560 each
Lincolnshire, Yorkshire; 119
changes of method, all the
work)
Comp. R C Kippin
1 Stephanie J Regin
2 John P Loveless
3 Christopher S Leach
4 Simon J L Linford
5 David G Hull
6 Tim J Peverett
7 Joanna M Ainsworth
8 David J Sheppard
9 Stephen A Coaker
10 Alan Regin
First Spliced S. Royal: 5
Birthday compliment to
Stephanie Regin. £1

SALISBURY D.G.

EVERSHOT, Dorset,
S Osmund
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h36 (8½)

5040 Doubles (10m:
Stedman Slow Course, Union
Bob, New Bob, St Simon's
Bob, St Martin's Bob, St
Nicholas Bob, Stedman, Plain
Bob, Rev. Canterbury Bob,
Grandsire)
1 William E Turner
2 H Dennis W Bishop (C)
3 Margaret M Godley
4 Martin D Bishop
5 Timothy F Collins
6 Harold C R Vine
Especially to mark the
conductor's 80th birthday on
12th August. £1

SOUTHWELL D.G.

LEICESTER, S Margaret
Sat Aug 15 1987 3h40 (32½)

5120 Bristol S. Major
Comp. W T Perrins
1 John Pladdys
2 Abigail M Hind
3 Sally A Mason
4 Richard I Allton
5 Andrew B Mills
6 R Brian Mills
7 R Kingsley Mason
8 Christopher M Wulkau (C)

SUFFOLK GUILD

GREAT THURLOW,
Suffolk, All Saints
Sun Aug 2, 1987 2h55 (12)

5040 Minor (7m: Double
Court, Oxford T.B., Cambridge
S., Kent T.B., Double Oxford,
St Clements, Plain Bob)
1 Christopher R Nunn
2 Christine A Knight
3 Anne L Martin
4 Peter Mayle
5 Alan P Mayle (C)
6 Richard A Knight
Birthday compliment to H M
the Queen Mother; also to
mark the installation of Rev.
David Wardrop (Clare) as
Rural Dean.

BLYTHBURGH, Suffolk,
Holy Trinity
Tues Aug 11, 1987 2h38 (10)

5040 Minor (4m: Cambridge
Surprise, Single Canterbury
Pleasure Bob, Plain Bob,
Ballfeary Bob, Plain Bob,
Single Canterbury Pleasure
Bob, Plain Bob)
1 H William Barrett
2 J Martin Thorley
3 Patricia M Bailey
4 Katharine J Whittell
5 Frederick C Gunton
6 David G Salter (C)
Circled tower thrice: 2 A 33rd
Wedding anniversary
compliment to Paddy and
Martin Thorley.

BENHALL, Suffolk, S Mary
Thur Aug 13 1987 2h36 (8½)

5040 Doubles (8m: (1-7)
Grandsire, 3 240's being
Price's, Pitman's and
Morris's, and 1 extent; (8-12)
Winchendon Place Bob;
(13-17) St Nicholas Bob;
(18-22) Rev. Canterbury
Pleasure Bob; (23-27) Plain
Bob; (28-32) Eynesbury
Bob; (33-37) St Martin's
Bob; (38-42) St Osmund
Bob)
1 H William Barrett
2 Mary Allum
3 David G Salter (C)
4 Katharine J Whittell
5 Michael M Rolph
6 A Harry Archer
An 89th Birthday compliment
to Mrs Violet Woolnough,
sister of the tenor ringer.

ASHBOCKING, Suffolk,
All Saints
Sat Aug 15, 1987 2h29 (10½)

5040 Minor (9m: (1)
Hereward, Single Oxford; (2)
Norwich; (3) Cambridge; (4)
Double Oxford, St Clements;
(5) Oxford T.B.; (6) Kent T.B.;
(7) Plain)
1 Frederick C Gunton
2 Patricia M Bailey
3 Frank C J Arnold
4 J Martin Thorley (C)
5 Trevor N J Bailey
6 David G Salter
The conductor has completed
the circle.

SUSSEX C.A.

FAIRWARP, Sussex,
Christ Church
Sat Aug 15, 1987 3h (15½)

5088 August S. Major
Comp. J Washbrook
1 Edgar R Rapley
2 Jacqueline M Hunter
3 Valerie J Howard
4 Margaret E Oram
5 Linda M Cox
6 Stuart M Cox
7 David Kirkaldy
8 John A Howard (C)
Birthday compliment to
ringer of 4.

WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH D.G.

RINGWOOD, Hants,
SS Peter & Paul
Sat Aug 1, 1987 3h (19)

5040 Grandsire Triples
(Holt's Ten-part)
1 Rosemary Fleming
2 Nancy Bramley
3 Stella James
4 John W Bramley
5 Martin D Bishop
6 Keith H Fleming
7 Timothy F Collins (C)
8 Lewis F Cobb
100th peal on the bells. On
the centenary anniversary of
the first peal.

FRESHWATER, I-o-W,
All Saints
Sat Aug 8 1987 2h56 (16½)

5040 Norwich S. Minor
1 Julian M Atkins
2 Jane Elliott
3 David A Weir (C)
4 Darren Avey
5 Jonathan K F Tait
6 Graham A Nobbs
First peal: 1. Circled tower as
conductor. To celebrate the
Queen Mother's birthday.

BISHOPSTOKE, Hants,
S Mary
Mon Aug 10, 1987 2h50 (10)

5040 Minor (5m: 1 extent
each London S., Norwich S.,
Grandsire; 2 Cambridge S.,
Plain Bob)
1 Brian J France
2 Sandra G Moore
3 Kay Le Marechal
4 Ann P Le Marechal
5 Moya A Court
6 Roy Le Marechal (C)
First peal: 1. First on 6: 2, 3, 5.
By the Sunday service band.

BOW, London, S Mary
Sat Aug 15, 1987 3h41 (42)

5088 Ealing S. Maximus
Comp. R Le Marechal
1 David A Weir
2 Fr. Barry J Fry
3 Alison K Surry
4 Julia R Cater
5 Toby Arkless
6 Roger Bailey
7 Michael E C Mears
8 Malcolm S Turner
9 Michael J Clay
10 Paul T Young
11 Martin B Hough
12 Roy Le Marechal (C)
75th 12-bell tower pealed: 2.
First Ealing S. 12 by the Guild.

NEWCHURCH, I-o-W,
All Saints
Sun Aug 16, 1987 2h42 (8)

5040 Plain Bob Minor
1 Julian M Atkins
2 David A Weir (C)
3 Darren Avey
4 Jane Elliott
5 Jonathan K F Tait
6 Graham A Nobbs
Circled tower and as
conductor: 2. To celebrate the
Newchurch Gourmet
Festival.

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REDDITCH, Worcs.
S Stephen
Sat Aug 8 1987 2h34 (10½)

5120 London S. Major

Comp. C Middleton
1 Colin G Andrews
2 Robert E Havard
3 Alan E Hartley
4 Stuart D Piper
5 David A Burt
6 David G Franklin
7 Andrew D Evans
8 Gerald C Hemming (C)
350th peal and 275th
Surprise: 1 To mark 50 years' ordination to the Ministry of the Rev. William Bill

STUDLEY, Warks, B V M
Mon Aug 10, 1987 2h33 (11½)

5040 Cambridge S. Minor

Comp. R Bailey
1 Beryl Hartley
2 Charles Haywood
3 Richard H Spray
4 Alan E Hartley
5 Gerald C Hemming
6 Andrew J Hartley (C)
999th peal: 4

YORKSHIRE ASSN.

BIRSTALL, Yorks, S Peter
Sat Aug 15 1987 3h8 (22½)

5056 London S. Major

Comp. R Baldwin
1 Mary S Dixon
2 Patricia North
3 Neil R Aspland
4 Richard Scott
5 David S Lockwood
6 Clive W Longden
7 Ian North (C)
8 Richard E Price
With best wishes to Richard E Price on his birthday.

Before posting peal reports, check that you have included all ESSENTIAL details.

Peal Forms are available (free) from the R.W. Office, Guildford. Send a stamped/addressed (9"x4") envelope now.

HANDBELL PEALS**HERTFORD C.A.**

WATFORD, Herts.
15 Harford Drive
Wed July 22 1987 2h33 (14½)

5040 Spliced S. Royal
(5m: 2640 London (No. 3); 720 Yorkshire, 600 Cambridge; 560 Clifton; 520 Fulham; 101 changes of method)
Comp. J R Mayne
1-2 S Kathleen M Baldwin
3-4 John R Mayne (C)
5-6 Roger Baldwin
7-8 John R Peverett
9-10 Dorothea M Robotham
First Splice: S. Royal on handbells: 7-8 and 9-10. (Peal re-submitted in place of detail on p. 734) £1

LEICESTER D.G.

LEICESTER,
57 Hartopp Road
Wed Aug 12, 1987 2h44 (15)

5040 Plain Bob Royal

Comp. R Le Marechal
1-2 Lucy Smith
3-4 Alan Cattell (C)
5-6 Sally A Mason
7-8 Clive M Smith
9-10 Garry W Mason
First Royal in hand: 9-10

NORWICH D.A.

LANGHAM, Norfolk,
The Bungalow, Hollow Lane
Tues Aug 4, 1987 2h33 (12)

5004 Grandsire Caters

Comp. H Poyner
1-2 Mary C Poyner
3-4 Christopher M Gould
5-6 William H Jackson (C)
7-8 Harry Poyner
9-10 H William Barrett
To compliment Helen Poyner and Philip Gurney on their engagement

OXFORD D.G.

LANGLEY, Bucks,
8 Halkingcroft
Wed Aug 12, 1987 2h54 (17)

5042 Cambridge S.

Maximus
Comp. R W Pipe
1-2 Patricia M Newton
3-4 David F Moore
5-6 Katharine J Firman
7-8 Jean A Darmon
9-10 Graham A C John
11-12 Robert H Newton (C)

Please send details as soon as possible after ringing and PRINT names to avoid mistakes. Peal forms are available free from "The Ringing World" office - please send SAE.

Peals received more than four weeks after date of ringing are treated as late.

Quarter Peals

ALL ON A SUMMER'S EVENING

Ainsworth Promotion No. 2 of 1987 was a jaunt into Hertfordshire to sample three of their 10s on August 1st. Buckinghamshire has no ten bell towers so we have to travel to get the experience.

Rickmansworth's ton mixed ring was the first stop for the 22 strong party and the methods for the evening, Swindon and London Royal, Stedman Caters and Rounds/Call changes were respectfully rung. The timing for Watford, 5.30 p.m., had been specially chosen to avoid the town's myriad of shoppers and the fine Gillett and Johnston 24 cwt ring were heard to advantage, the Swindon being especially well rung. On to the final ring, St. Peter's in St. Alban's, with its 22 cwt mixed ring, heavy ninth (18 cwt), roomy ringing chamber with many interesting boards and tablets and other items and a Tenor with the longest continuing hum, when up, known to the writer. At least 30 seconds! Does anyone know of a longer hum?

Summer came up to its reputation and rained us out of the tower to finish up at a very successful ad hoc party at the Lucas's of St. Albans. Our thanks to David Hibbert, Richard Hunt and Vic Frost who cheerfully gave up their time to welcome us.

J.A.A.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION - CENTRAL BRANCH ANNUAL RINGING TRIP

At about 10.00 on what started off as a cloudy July day, the coach picked up the last group of people from the Yorkshire Association Central Branch for the trip into North Yorkshire. Rodney Padgin (an established ringer himself) drove the coach in which few seats were left unfilled but unfortunately we had to make an unscheduled stop on the M62 when an overheating problem developed. The hour spent waiting for the new coach was devoted to answering the sheet of quiz questions based on Yorkshire which were handed round by my dad. A passing coach offered to take us to Howden, our first tower, but on arriving an hour late we found a wedding in progress and so unfortunately had to forfeit our ring. Instead, the time was pleasantly spent looking round the village.

The new coach dropped off about a dozen of us in Bridlington and took the rest of the ringers to the four-bell tower of Flamborough. I had an enjoyable day with my family in Bridlington and as it became warm, we even paddled in the sea! It seemed though, that the gods were against the ringers when the group arrived at Flamborough only to find the tower locked. They did eventually find the captain but soon had to leave to get back to Bridlington

Priory for the next ringing session. Meanwhile it had taken us longer than we had thought to find the priory. Guided by the sound of the bells we found it at last, too late for a ring. Once everyone was back on the coach we set off for Hutton Cranswick where we had a very pleasant ring, and then on to the ten-bell tower of the impressive church at Beverley. Being used to cartwheel ringing on six bells, I found open leads on ten very enjoyable but not very easy.

During the drive back the answers to the quiz were given and, once the controversial answers had been sorted out, we waited in suspense to find out the winners... Philip and Carolyn Charlesworth (helped by Jonathan and Verity and David Sunderland!) who subsequently went home a bottle of wine better off.

We arrived back in South Yorkshire with a beautiful sunset to end a lovely day.

JOANNE YEOMANS

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BORDER RINGERS' TOUR OF DARTMOOR AND SOUTH DEVON 1987

How excited our party was as we made our way to Torquay and the hotel which was to serve as our home for the coming week. The management there was to care for our full party of ringers, wives and friends superbly.

Sunday morning was to see us ringing at Paignton Parish Church and after the service we enjoyed a coffee with the clergy and congregation, and when one of the ladies serving refreshments asked "Are there eight of you?", my wife was to stagger her by saying "No, there are fifty-one of us!" - some extra milk was soon found and we remember that tower and place with affection.

Monday morning and it was to be ringing at Marldon first, where we climbed the "thirty-nine steps!", coped well with the long tail-ends and high sallows leaving me particularly pleased with my recording of our touch of Cambridge there. Then on to Abbotskerswell, and with the sun now warming my back and listening to some Norwich Surprise, I was beginning to relish this tour. Newton Abbot and those lovely little bells, tapped in beautifully to six different methods, led us up to lunch and our large party recommends any one of five local hostels that we sampled there! Combe in Teignhead was found amongst gentle hills, and it is really superb weather we are experiencing as we listen to bells rung in joy there. Stoke in Teignhead brings an end to our first day's ringing.

Tuesday morning begins a little damp and misty and the tall, thin-looking tower at Ipplepen is first on the programme with the almost inevitable long tail

ends, but nice bells. The Double Norwich we rang there was a pleasure. Ashburton came next and I don't think we did them justice. We had lunch there and then climbed high to the Buckfast Abbey ringing chamber - rang well and enjoyed our visit there. On to Buckfastleigh, with all those steps leading up from the road to a tall grey spire topping the tower. First impressions were a little misleading, it had a lovely interior and good bells, and I truly enjoyed some Stedman rung there. The very fine eight at Totnes was to bring another very good day's ringing to a close.

Collaton and its little six started Wednesday for us and next came Harburton, with another lovely interior screen and decorative pulpit. We padded the bells round and then made our way to Kingsbridge to lunch. After a short delay we eventually tapped those bells in very well. On to Stokenham, and I particularly liked this six, highlighted for me by a touch of Ipswich Surprise. Our final tower that day was the very nice eight at Dartmouth.

Thursday morning saw us at Kingsteignton and a near perfect start to the day. Lovely bells and good ringing. The strong red stone tower of Kenn came next and I was to listen to some very good striking there. Heavitree and its superb eight was to be our next pleasure and I felt so much at home in that tower. Lunch tasted even better there, and after our visit to Exeter Cathedral we rang well enough at Exminster.

Friday came all too soon and at Bovey Tracey I well remember the Cambridge rung there. The most lovely village and tower of Lustleigh came next and how we all enjoyed our all too brief time there. Moretonhampstead next, and with a good lunch taken, we rang and did some shopping, then made our way to Christow with its good going bells. Chudleigh was the final tower on our programme and a fair enough finish.

We had attended practice nights at Dawlish and a lovely evening at Cockington.

What of our thoughts then as we remember our 1987 tour? Soft, lovely countryside, fine rings of bells and thanks due to all the people that made their towers available and made us welcome in that special part of England.

Such a brief account of another very well planned and unhurried successful tour.

£2
GEOFF TEBBLE

Diss

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY TO OXFORDSHIRE

This year's summer tour was to Oxfordshire and the village hall at North Leigh, with its hard floor provided our accommodation for the week. First we

rang at Coombe and North Leigh. On Thursday, it poured with rain and we rang at the six-bell towers of Stonefield, Ascott-under-Wychwood, Chadlington, Charlbury, Spelsbury, Enstone and Wootton. In the evening the local ringers at Wodstock kindly let us join in their practice.

Friday dawned bright and sunny and we rang at six bell towers again - Freeland, Church Hanborough and Bladon (where we saw Winston Churchill's grave) in the morning followed by Tackley, Rousham, Lower Heyford, North Aston and Steeple Aston, where two new trebles had just been added.

In the evening we rang at the only 8 of the day (as the trebles at Steeple Aston were not to be rung yet) at Southleigh where the seventeenth member of our party joined us.

Saturday was another fine day and we rang at Cassington followed by the heavy, anti-clockwise 6 at Yarnton which proved interesting. Kidlington was followed by lunch and then Weston-on-the-Green where most people could only stand the smell of dead pigeons for 10 minutes before leaving to sunbathe and then on to Middleton Stoney, Steeple Barton, Sandford St. Martin and Great Tew.

On Sunday the only ringing we did was for service at Witney. The rest of the day was spent at Blenheim Palace to give the blisters a chance to rest!

On Monday the long, iron ladder up to Brize Norton ringing chamber showed up those suffering from vertigo. Then it was on to Bampton, Buckland and Hinton Waldrist before lunch.

In the afternoon we visited the only 10-bell tower of the tour, Appleton and the final tower was Cunnor.

We returned to Sheffield on the Tuesday and thanks should go to Guy Nelson for organising a very enjoyable and successful tour with no lockouts, no broken stays or ropes and no breakdowns of the minibus!

STROUD BRANCH OUTING

On June 13th the Stroud Branch members and friends, totalling about 40 headed South West to ring at five towers in Devon and one in Somerset.

At the first tower, St. Andrews, Cullompton, we were greeted by a Special Constable who was on ordinary duty nearby and said he would be checking the ringing as well as the traffic. The ringing included something for everyone, Grandsire Caters and Plain Bob Royal as well as call changes. St. John the Baptist Church at Broadclyst resounded to Cambridge Major and Stedman Triples with more call changes and plain hunt for the test. Broadclyst must have had a very eager band even at the beginning of the century, judging by the number of certificates from Ringing Festivals pre-1914.

Every outing seems to have at least one "incident" and our first one occurred on the outskirts of Exeter, when we had to stop to close the boot of the coach. After lunch in Exeter some non-ringers stayed in the city for a few hours, with plenty to see, including a charity fair in the Cathedral close, and the bellringers set off for Topsham.

We did manage to get a ring at St. Margaret's near the Quay. The key had to be collected - nothing strange in that, but the "runner" who went for it did a round trip and he appeared on the main road nearly 1/4-mile ahead. For the last few hundred yards along the narrow streets he ran ahead of us, and for the return to the main street, a red flag might have been a help to warn other traffic. In between, the more purposeful among us rang Doubles and call changes.

St. Michael's at Heavitree must have pleased everyone, with several opportunities in call changes for those wanting the lighter bells, with Cambridge Major and Grandsire Triples for those happy on the heavy ones.

St. Mark's in Pinhoe Road resounded to Stedman and Grandsire and more call changes and happily rounded off an interesting day in Exeter.

A stop in Weston-super-Mare on the way home provided ringing at St. John the Baptist church, Stedman, P.B. Major and call changes, and a range of refreshment for all tastes.

The weatherman was kind to us - the only rain was a shower for a few minutes about 10 miles from home. We thank Philip and Heather Grover and Terry Baker for organising an enjoyable outing for us again this year. Last year, Oxford - next year? we must wait and see!

HOT WORK FOR EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

The Derbyshire/Staffordshire border was the chosen area for this year's gathering of present and former Guild members.

Sawley was the meeting point on Thursday evening and provided an enjoyable first tower. We

returned to Church House, Melbourne, well fed and watered after an ample meal at a local restaurant. The more weary were lulled to sleep by traditional late-evening handbell ringing.

A glorious summer day dawned on Friday. It was clearly going to be a hot day's ringing. Our first stop was Hoar Cross. At 28 cwt, it was a bit daunting at that time in the morning but the bells soon dispelled any misgivings. Many thanks to the kind lady who provided orange squash as we left. Abbotts Bromley (of horndance fame) was a sharp contrast in weight but an equally enjoyable ring. The afternoon saw us at Marchington and Uttoxeter and the day finished with Ticknall's merry, light 10. From here the 12 (ringers, weights various!) headed for an Indian restaurant. Once again, eating was almost as important as ringing on an EUGCR trip.

On Saturday, we got off to a good start at Breadsall. At Duffield, the resident method was duly rung and we admired the skilfully woven bench-runner of the "Line". At Belper, we changed places with the local band as they finished ringing for a wedding. The continuity of settlement in the area was symbolised by the 2,000-year-old tree in Darley Dale churchyard. This was the last ring of the day before some "relaxation", i.e. boating, walking and a very hot and dusty game of frisbee. Later in the evening, a fireworks display at Melbourne Hall (adjacent to Church House) provided some unexpected entertainment.

Sunday morning saw most of the group rising early for Shardlow ringing (8.30 start!) and then service ringing in the magnificent Norman church at Melbourne. After the service, courtesy of Mr. Smith, John Jenkins gave us a very interesting tour of the new Eayre and Smith workshops. Of particular note for us "northern" ringers was the bell-frame for St. Machar's, Aberdeen, all set up and ready for installation. Lunch followed and we all went our separate ways. Special thanks are due to Clare Caley and John Jenkins for their hard work in organisation and to the Rev. Frederick Ross for allowing us to stay in Church House.

It would be hard to combine a better section of people, bells, churches and weather for a long weekend.

SALISBURY BRANCH LOSE THE LOOS!

Saturday July 11th started bright and warm for the annual ringing outing, and fortunately the weather remained that way all day long.

The tour started at a tower in the Salisbury Guild, but right on the sea at Lyme Regis. We had to leave the coach for short walk to the church as the roads were far too narrow for it to negotiate; the bus driver was last seen speaking to a policeman. . . . However, narrow lanes appeared to be the order of the day as we wound our way to Shute. This is a ground floor ring of six, which appeared to have two sets of "disco lights" to illuminate the ringers and the altar behind them.

We then moved onto Sidmouth where two of our company even braved the sea. The bells are a nice, relatively modern ring of eight, with the church just a minute's walk from the sea front.

The next tower, Otterton, provided a ring of six with rather a small ringing chamber, so there had to be a constant flow of ringers in and out of the tower. Otterton is a lovely village with lots of friendly cats, but don't believe the "Toilets" sign - I couldn't find them!

We travelled further inland to Ottery St. Mary yet again had to abandon the coach as there was nowhere for it to park near the church. This has a ground floor ring of eight with rather springy ropes, but a big circle around the piano. The church is very ornate with brightly-painted ceilings and altar screen.

The outing finished at Honiton where the church was being renovated. We had a nice ring on the eight here before trying to find a decent pub for some refreshment - I don't think any of us were too successful!

We boarded the coach back to Salisbury after a lovely day in "Long Rope Country". Does Scrumpy stunt the growth of one's arms?!

APRIL K. ROBERTS.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS EXETER BRANCH OUTING SATURDAY, 4TH JULY

This year's annual branch outing was organised by Tony Crabtree and was different for two reasons:

1. It didn't rain . . . in fact, it was the hottest day of the year so far.
2. The transport was not a bus, car or bicycle . . . but by train and ferry.

A group of 30 ringers and friends congregated at Exeter St. David's to catch a train to Teignmouth. At

St. Michael's, the St. Mark's, Exeter team showed why they are "probably the leading tower band in the South West" by firing out Belfast in the second lead.

After ringing at St. James, it was a short walk to the station to catch the train back to Dawlish. The ringing at Dawlish coincided with lunch-time and the absence of several ringers was noted.

The highlight of the tour was catching the Starcross ferry across the estuary to Exmouth. Here once again many of the party used the opportunity to visit the beach rather than ringing. In keeping with the idea of doing things differently, we did not ring at either of the Exmouth towers but visited the "other rings" at Bapton Lane. Frank Mack's two rings "the bedroom ten" and the "garage six" (why aren't the "garage six" in "Dove"?) after initial trepidation were enjoyed by all our party.

The tour finished by catching the train back to Exeter, ringing at Lymington and Topsham on the way. Again some ringers were missed . . . Devon is famous for its cream teas.

Tony Crabtree is to be congratulated in his superb organisation, as the bells, weather and even British Rail did not let us down.

Our sincere thanks to the incumbents, local ringers (and of course the Mack's) for making us welcome at their towers.

A.J. SINDEN,
Guild P.R.O.

PUTNEY ON THE ISLE

While Martina Navratilova and Pat Cash were logging it out for their successes in the Wimbledon Championships during the first weekend in July, Putney ringers were enjoying a successful tour of the Isle of Wight. H.Q. was the Calvert's Hotel, Newport, where the landlord, Peter Wright, and Chris Harris recognised each other, having been apprentices together in Tolworth in the 1950's.

Ringing was kindly arranged by local supremo David Weir, and took place at all of the island's towers (with five or more bells!) except unfortunately, Godshill.

For this fourth annual "weekend" since we re-started ringing, we were joined again by old friends Keith and Frances Beale from Halse, David Hughes from Liss and Keith Sansom from Petersfield. We were also, by chance, sharing the Island for the weekend with the Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild, and we crossed paths with their two coach parties during Saturday morning. It was a great pleasure to have a natter with Ted Collins, who called first peals for many of the old Putney band (1959-62) and Olive, and also Les and Prisca Tremear.

Ringing ventured as far as Cambridge Major and Stedman Triples, quite an advance from our first tour, in Warwickshire, three years ago, when Bob Doubles was our pinnacle! Much enjoyed, too, were two swimming sessions in the sea near Brightstone in which most of the party, bravely, took part, whilst others looked on in amazement.

Particularly memorable were touches of Stedman Triples at Carisbrooke and Shanklin, Bob Minor at Whitwell and Cambridge Minor on the lovely six at Freshwater. Thank you Isle of Wight, and particular thanks to David Weir and Kate Bonathan for their kind assistance.

M.J.U.40

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Change of Address

BOSWORTH, Bos & Sue - From 4th September, our address is "Little Wilverley", 9 Shaston Road, Stourpaine, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8TA. Telephone (unchanged) 0258 54605 Ad No. 1721

HARDEN - Gary is pleased to announce his long-overdue entry into the ranks of those owning property. New address: 5 Milton Road, Croydon CRO 2BG Tel: 01-689 2988. A warm welcome awaits all callers - but please telephone in advance to avoid the disappointment of a wasted journey. 1691

POYNER - Harry and Mary have moved to The Bungalow, Hollow Lane, Langham, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7BY. Tel: Binham (032875) 455.

Ad No. 1723

RANK - John and Margaret have moved to Lawrence Cottage, 2 Hailey Lane, Hertford SG13 7NX. Tel: Hoddesdon (0992) 462922.

Ad No. 1700

Shortbreak Holidays

AUTUMN BELLS - the perfect ringing holiday for all the family, within a beautiful lakeside setting near sandy beaches. 12th - 15th October, 1987. £59 per adult inclusive of VAT, rope fees, full board, bathroom or shower, and all entertainment. Big reductions for children. Opportunity to ring at 5-, 6- and 8-bell towers in Norfolk and Suffolk. Additional family entertainment includes Fitness Centre, Heated Pool, dancing and cabaret. Ring 0502-730288 for free Autumn Bells programme, or write to Gunton Hall Holiday Centre, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 5DF.

Publications

BELLS OF SOUTH LONDON: a guide to towers giving location, description, times of ringing and Tower Secretary. Proceeds to Surrey and Kent B.R.F. £2.00 post free from R J Cooles, 8 Lebanon Gardens, London SW18 1RG. 359

CHURCH BELLS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE Bliss and Sharpe. Obtainable from bookshops or from Mary Bliss, Beech Pike, Elkstone, Cheltenham GL53 9PL. £46 including post and packing. 1236

RINGING BOOKS. 8 titles. (See occasional display advert.) General and commercial printing. PAPHYRUS, 11 Well Street, Exeter, Devon.

Tower Announcements

ALL SAINTS', TOOTING GRAVENEY, SW17 - Sat, Sept 5, Open Day and Fete. Tower open for ringing 10 am - 5 pm. All welcome. 1582

ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM - 19 cwt, 8 South Hackney. Practice night every Wednesday, 7.00 to 9.00. Tel: 01-520 6524, most evenings. New to London? Come and join us! 1714

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES. Sorry, there will be no practice on Tues, Sept 8. Back in business Tues, Sept 15. DB 1706

ST. MARY ABBOTS GUILD

St. Mary Abbots, Kensington;
St. Vedast, Foster Lane EC4;
St. Luke's, Chelsea;
St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, SW1
New Officers, 1987/1988:
Master: Stephanie Pattenden
Tower Captains:
Kensington: Tim Bradley
Foster Lane: Lorna Champney
Secretary: Robert Lewis,
45B St. Charles Square, North Kensington,
London W10 6EN.
Tel: (H) 01-969 7764, (W) 01-634 6227

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Foster Lane, Mondays - 7.30

Sundays:
Kensington 8.45-9.30
Foster Lane 10.15-11.00

Evening Quarters also arranged and
Service ringing at Chelsea and Rochester Row. 1682

Association Announcements

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. Central Bell Fund. At a Special General Meeting on Sept 12 the Trustees will propose grants of £350 to Upwell (repairs to the tower), £250 to Croxton (welding the tenor), £2,500 to Balsham (augmentation to six and rehanging). A.T.W. 1678

ESSEX ASSOCIATION. - Don't forget the Annual Dinner/Dance on Saturday, October 10th, at the Marconi Club, Chelmsford. Tickets, £12.25. More details soon. Book the date now. 1704

University Announcements

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GUILD welcomes all freshers of any standard to join its activities. Practices are: St Andrew-the-Great, Wed. 7.30-9.00; St Benet's, Fri. 8.00-9.00. Sunday ringing at St Benet's, 9.15-9.45 am, and Great St Mary, 7.30-8.30 pm. Further details from Alison Godfrey, 4 Shirley Church Road, Croydon, Surrey CRO 5EE. 1611

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS would like to welcome all new 1st years. Come and meet us at the Intro Bazaar on Thursday, 1st October. 1705

U.C.W.S.C.R., ABERYSTWYTH - The Society welcomes all new students, beginner and expert, and hopes to see those interested at Freshers' Fayre or at Thursday night practices. Contact Andrew Richman, Cedrine, Owslebury, Hants SO21 1LU. 1567

For Sale

A 3-OCTAVE SET of handbells - 22C to 1C - fully chromatic (37 bells). Good condition. Telephone 04867 80533. Ad No. 1546

SECOND-HAND HANDBELLS are risky. New Malmark precision bells in six weeks from Mayola Music, Clapham, Beds (0234 62474 any time). Personal recommendations. 1621

Mid-week Meetings

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. Practices: Sept 9th, Spitalfields; 16th, St Mary-le-Bow; 23rd, Southwark; 30th, St Sepulchre; Oct 7th, Shoreditch. All 6.30-8 pm. 1713

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. Practices: Sept 9th, St Mary-le-Bow; 16th, Spitalfields; 23rd, Southwark; 30th, St Sepulchre; Oct 7th, Shoreditch. All 6.30-8 pm. 1713

DERBY DA, Ilkeston District. Evening practice, Sept 11, 7.30-9 pm, at Ripley. All welcome. J.E.P. 1702

DERBY DA, Peak District. Surprise Major practice, Wed, Sept 9, Ashover, 7.30 to 9.00. Special method: Bristol. All welcome. J.T. 1683

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL, Bristol City Twelve-bell practice at St Stephen's, Sept 14 (Spliced Maximus). Ten-bell practice at Christ Church, Sept 28. Contact Bs 830867 for method. Both 7.30 pm. No Saturday practice in September. 1565

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION. Practices, September 1987. Fri, Sept 4: Spitalfields, 6.30 pm. Surprise Major. Special method: Preston S. Major. Wed, Sept 16: Cripplegate, 6.30 pm. 12-bell. Special method: Newgate S. Maximus. Fri, Sept 25: St Sepulchre, 6.30 pm. Surprise Maximus. Special method: Newgate S. Maximus. M J Turnock (Senior Steward). 1613

SOUTHWELL DG, North Notts District. Teapot Trophy Contest, followed by evening meeting, Tues, Sept 15, at Gamston (6). Ringing 7 to 9 pm. All welcome. 1634

SURREY ASSOCIATION, Northern District. Practice night, Fri, Sept 11, 7.30-9 pm at Esher. Lots of support for this one please. See you there. Please bring sweat-shirt orders with you. 1658

SURREY ASSOCIATION, Southern District. Fri, Sept 11, evening practice at Stoke D'Abernon (6), 7.30-9.00. 1719

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, Leeds and District Branch. Thur, Sept 17: 12-bell practice at Bradford Cathedral, 7.30-9 pm. Special methods: Grandsire Cinques and Little Bob Maximus. All welcome. Coach outing to Co. Durham, Sat, Sept 26. 1598

Saturday Meetings & Practices

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION, Ilchester Branch. AGM, Preston Plucknett (6), Sat, Sept 5. Bells 3 pm. Corporate Communion 4.30 pm. Tea 5.15 pm. Meeting 6 pm, bells after. Names for tea to Jackie Parsons (Yeovil 206863) or David Herman (Long Sutton 296). Ad No. 1663

ELY DA, Ely District. Meeting on Sat, Sept 5, at Sutton (6). Ringing 3 pm. Service 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Evening ringing until 8 o'clock. 1609

ESSEX ASSOCIATION, SE District. Meeting, Sat, Sept 5, High Easter, Ringing 3 pm. Service 4.30. Evening ringing to 8 o'clock. Please bring own tea. 1574

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DA, Gloucester Branch. Quarterly meeting on Sat, Sept 5, at Barnwood, 2.45 to 3.45. Service 4 pm. Tea 4.30. Ringing at Churchdown to follow from 6.30 pm, approx. Names for tea to C Ellis (Glouc. 616158). Ad No. 1680

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSN, Bishop's Stortford District. Sat, Sept 5, 8/10-bell practice at Bishop's Stortford, 7.45 to 9 pm. All, especially visitors, most welcome. 1576

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION, Northern District. Sat, Sept 5, St Ippolyts (6) (subject to confirmation), 6.30 to 7.30 pm; Great Wymondley, 7.30 to 8.30 pm. M.J.C. 1720

HERTFORD CA, St Albans District. Sat, Sept 5, learners' practice, St Paul's Walden, 10 am till noon. 1593

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION, Southern District. Evening meeting at St Mary's, Staines, Sat, Sept 5, 6.30-8 pm. 1668

NORTH STAFFS ASSOCIATION. Sat, Sept 5, 7.00-9.00, evening meeting at Alton, M Jones. 1642

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, North Bucks Branch. Sat, Sept 5, quarterly meeting, North Crawley, 2.30 to 3.30; Chichley, 3.45 to 4.45. Service, tea and meeting at Newport Pagnell from 5 pm. Names for tea by Sept 1 to A Marchbank: (0908) 322549. Ad No. 1632

SUFFOLK GUILD, SE District. Quarterly meeting, Sat, Sept 5, 3-4 pm, ringing at St Nicholas', Ipswich, 4 pm ringing, 4.30 pm service at St Matthew's, Ipswich, followed by tea and meeting. Evening ringing at St. Matthew's. Names for tea to Mrs R Godfrey (Ipswich 45232) by Wed, Sept 2, please. 1667

SUFFOLK GUILD, South West District. Monthly District practice, Sat, Sept 5, at Acton, 7-9 pm. All welcome. 1717

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, Sheffield and District Branch. Sat, Sept 5, Dore (8) 7-9 pm. 1701

BARNSELY & DISTRICT SOCIETY. Sat, Sept 12, Barnsley Shield Contest at Monk Bretton. Entries to Carolyn Charlesworth (Barnsley 790715). Names for tea to Jean Sheeran (Barnsley 287292) by previous Wednesday. Evening ringing at Felkirk 7-9. 1716

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION, Biggleswade District. Meeting and ringing, Sat, Sept 12, Willington 3.30. Tea, Northhill 5.15, followed by business and ringing. Everyone welcome. 1677

ELY DA, Cambridge District. Sat, Sept 12: Association Striking Competition. Six-bell competition at Harston (draw 13 45), followed by tea in Trumpington Church Hall. Names for tea to Alan Ling (telephone 0223 871097) by Wed, Sept 9, please. Eight-bell competition at Trumpington, followed by general ringing. Bells at Little Shelford (6) and Great Shelford (5) available for general ringing during the afternoon. 1638

ESSEX ASSOCIATION, N. District. Meeting at Sible Hedingham, Sat, Sept 12. Service 4.30 pm. Tea 5 pm, followed by business meeting and evening ringing, 6.30-8.30 pm. Names for tea please to Heather Semken (Coggeshall 61183) by Fri, Sept 11. 1674

ESSEX ASSOCIATION, South West District. Don't forget our Learner's Day on Sat, Sept 12, at St Mary's, Ilford, starting at 4 pm. 1619

GUILDFORD DG, Chertsey District. Meeting, Sat, Sept 12, at Walton. Ringing 3 pm. Service 4.30 pm, followed by tea, business meeting and evening ringing. Names for tea by Wed, 9th, to J Mudd (Walton 220939) or Mrs P Miseldine (Walton 225046). Ad. No. 1645

HERTFORD CA, Western District. Sat, Sept 12, meeting at Great Gaddesden (6). Bells 3 pm. Service 4.30, followed by tea, meeting and evening ringing. Names for tea to R Sheppard, 13 Christchurch Road, Hemel Hempstead. Special methods. Annable's London and Buxton. 1594

KCACR, Canterbury District. Call-change Striking Competition, Sat, Sept 12, Preston-by-Wingham. Draw for order of ringing 2 pm. Tea approx 5.30 pm. Ash-next-Sandwich Village Hall, followed by meeting and evening ringing at Ash Entries to Nicola Jakeman before Sept 6. Names for tea to the District Secretary on (0304) 612913, ASAP. Ad. No. 1662

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. Joint meeting, Maidstone and Lewisham Districts, Sept 12, Aylesford. Ringing 3 pm. Service 4.30, Ash-by-Wrotham. Tea 5.30, followed by evening ringing. Names for tea to Mrs Briers (0474 872379). Ad. No. 1591

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION, Furness Branch and L.A.C.R. Committee Meeting at Kendal on Sat, Sept 12. Ringing from 2.30 pm. Names for tea to Mrs E M Jackson, 12 Appleby Road, Kendal (Tel: Kendal 22838), by Wed, Sept 9, please. 1666

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION, Liverpool Branch. Monthly meeting on Sat, Sept 12, at Christ Church, Bootle. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5, followed by business meeting. Evening ringing at St Mary's, Walton. Names for tea to Miss J Roberts, 75 Bedford Road, Bootle L20 7DN, by Wed, Sept 9. 1718

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION, Preston Branch. Meeting, Sept 12, Holy Trinity, Hoghton. Ringing 3 to 8 pm. Tea at 5 pm. Names to Raymond Clayton (Blackburn 21979) by 9th. 1275

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION, Rochdale Branch. Meeting to be held on Sat, Sept 12, at Milnrow, St James. Ringing 3 till 5 pm, 7 till 8.45 pm. Special methods are London Surprise Major and Single Oxford Bob Triples. Own tea arrangements. 1707

NORWICH DA, Northern Branch. Quarterly meeting at Barton Turf, Sat, Sept 12. Ringing from 2.30 pm. Service 4.15 pm. Names for tea to Mr Williamson (Smallburgh 6183) by Tuesday before, please. 1681

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Old North Berks Branch. Half-year Meeting at Radley, Sept 12. Service 3.30. Tea 4.30. Meeting to follow. Branch practices: Oct 10, West Hanney, 7 pm. Nov 14, Appleford, 2.30; Long Wittenham, 3.30; Aston Tirrild, 4.30. Dec. 12, Sutton Courtenay, 7 pm. 1550

SOUTHWELL GUILD, Bingham District. Meeting, Sat, Sept 12: Granby 3.30, Whatton 6.30. Names for tea please to Fiona Walters (Nottingham 892057). Ad. No. 1589

SUFFOLK GUILD, NW District. Monthly practice at Hinderclay, Sat, Sept 12, 7-9 pm. 1427

SUSSEX COUNTY, W. Div. Sat, Sept 12, Upper Beeding (8), 3-4.30. Service 4.30. Tea 5.00, followed by quarterly meeting. Evening ringing till 8 pm. Special method: Stedman. Teas: Chichester 779544, by 9th. 1660

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, Western Branch. Sat, Sept 12, quarterly meeting. Sunday Service Striking Competition at Batley during afternoon. Ringing at Birstall 2.30. Tea and meeting, Dewsbury 5 pm, followed by evening ringing. Names for tea by Thurs, 10th, to Mr G Richardson (Tel: 0924 467415). Ad. No. 1694

CHESTER GUILD, Chester Branch. Autumn meeting on Sat, Sept 19, at St Mary's, Handbridge, Chester (8, 19-3-12 in E-flat). Ringing 2.30-4.30 pm, followed by service, tea and meeting at 6 pm. Evening ring at All Saints', Handley (6, 14-2-0 in F), 7.30-9 pm. 1697

ELY DA, Huntingdon District. Monthly meeting, Sat, Sept 19. Afternoon ringing 3-4.15 pm, Wistow St John (4). Also Ramsey, St Thomas-a-Becket (6) 3-4.30, followed by service, tea and business meeting. Evening ringing until 8 pm, continuing on the bells at Ramsey. 1679

ESSEX ASSOCIATION, Southern District. Sept 19, meeting at Rochford Bells 3.15 pm. Service 4.30 pm, followed by tea and business meeting. Evening ringing until 8.30 pm. Names for tea please to Mr J Tipping (0702 544200) by Sept 17. 1688

KENT C.A.C.R., Ashford District. Call-change Competition, Sept 19, Smarden (6) (note new venue), 2.30. Service 4.30. Names for tea by Wed, Sept 16, please, to Brian Blythe (Smarden 578). Special methods: London and Wells Surprise Minor. 1685

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, Sonning Deanery Branch. 8-bell Striking Competition at Sonning during pm of Sat, Sept 19. Entry forms to me by Sept 11 latest. General meeting after competition. Branch practice 7-9. All welcome. L.G.D. 567

WORCESTERSHIRE & DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION, Northern Branch. Annual meeting at Cradley (8), Sept 19. Bells 3 pm. Service 4.15 pm, followed by tea and business. Names for tea to Mrs B Bolter, 54 Beecher Street, Halesowen (Tel: Cradley Heath 68696), by Sept 15. 1612

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, General Meeting, Sat, Sept 19. Striking Competition, Market Weighton, 9.30 am onwards. General ringing: Beverley Minster (10), 11 am - 12.30 pm; Walkington (6), 1-2 pm; Beverley, St Mary (10), 2.30-3.30 pm. Service, Kirk Ella, 4.30 pm. Tea and meeting, Memorial Hall, Kirk Ella, after the service. Evening ringing, Kirk Ella (8), until 8.30 pm. Names for tea by previous Wednesday to Mrs A B Cooper, 97 Fairfield Avenue, Kirk Ella, Hull. Tel: (0482) 652582. Ad. No. 1671

L.G.C.R., Western District. Sept 26, outing to Devon (N.E. of Exeter). Please send SAE or contact Rosemary Higman (address in Ringers' Diary) for details in September. 1676

ESSEX ASSOCIATION
(N.E. District)

OPEN DAY

Saturday, 12th September

- 9.30 Wormingford (6)
- 10.00 Great Horkeley (6) [30 mins. only]
- 10.30 Little Horkeley (5)
- 11.00 Langham (6)
- 11.30 Ardleigh (8)
- 12.00 Great Bromley (6)
- 12.30 Tending (6)
- 1.00 Kirby-le-Soken (8)
- 1.30 Thorpe-le-Soken (5)
- 2.00 Great Holland (8)
- 2.45 Harwich (8)
- 3.15 Mistley (6)
- 4.00 Saint Osyth (6)
- 4.30 Great Bentley (8)
- 5.00 Thorington (6)
- 5.30 Wivenhoe (6)
- 6.00 Colchester, St. Leonard-at-the-Hythe (6)
- 6.30 Colchester, St. Peter (8)
- 7.00 Colchester, All Saints', Shrub End (6)
- 7.30 Great Tey (8)

All towers open for one hour
30p per ringer per tower or £3 for a day ticket,
obtainable at morning towers.

All proceeds to the
Essex Association Bell Restoration Fund

1614

St. Andrew and St. Mary
WATTON-AT-STONE, HERTS
FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday, 19th September:
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, 20th September: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Bell available both days, 2.30-5 p.m.
Quarter peals by arrangement.
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THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LINCOLN
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

Tickets - £11.50 - from
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FLOWER FESTIVAL

September 12th and 13th

Ringling Times:
Saturday 3.00-4.00
Sunday 3.00-4.00
5.30-6.30

Visiting ringers welcome

1695

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION
KIMPTON CUP STRIKING COMPETITION
Saturday, September 26th, 1987

St. Peter's Church, Tewin
Draw 1.45. Ringing starts 2.00 p.m.
Service 5.00 p.m.
Tea (£1.50) in Hall (on Village Green) 5.45 p.m.
Names for tea to Miss Pat Darby
(Tel.: Stevenage 814725) by September 17th
1690

THE 1988 TEWKESBURY SHIELD
COMPETITION

The 1988 competition will take place on
Saturday, May 7th, 1988
at Tewkesbury Abbey
The Chief Judge will be Mr. F. Shallcross
and the test piece will be a touch of Erin Caters.
Guilds and Associations intending to enter a team
should apply as soon as possible to:
The Competition Secretary, Mr. Richard Hart,
25 Apperley Park, Apperley, Gloucester GL19 4EB
The entry fee will be £5.00 and places will be
awarded on a first come, first served basis.
1402

ESSEX ASSOCIATION
OF CHANGE RINGERS
EXHIBITION OF BELLS AND
BELLRINGING

Harlow Museum:
Open Monday - Sunday, 10.00-17.00
Tuesday and Thursday, open late to 21.00
Demonstration of handbell ringing,
Sunday, 6th September,
3.30 p.m. till 4.30 p.m.
1695

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Episode Three

Having long wanted to visit New Zealand and to ring in the seven possibles, I looked to the ANZAB AGM this year at Christchurch, but all that way for two towers? I began to think of ways and means, travel before or after, perhaps travel 300 miles to find the practice had been cancelled; all very difficult.

Then eureka! I learned that Christopher O'Mahony of Turramurra was organising a trip with hopefully six ringers to start a fortnight before ANZAB weekend, and to visit both North and South Islands. I rang Chris and was accepted - after various drop-outs the total was four: Yvonne Ferris from Parramatta, Louise Hart from St. Andrew's Cathedral, Chris and your scribe.

On Friday May 15th we met at Sydney airport to catch the mid-day plane to Auckland, North Island, our adventure had begun. The flight took approximately three hours, but we did not arrive till 5.00 p.m. as N.Z. is two hours ahead of Sydney time; still, no further away from Sydney than Perth in Western Australia, such are the fabulous distances in this mighty country of ours.

The next day we met at Auckland, St. Matthew's, to attempt a peal, which was lost. I

was not in it, so cannot be blamed, much ringing afterwards, and then the wonderful hospitality of Mike Stone and his dear wife. Mike is from Somerset, and we had many talks over West Country towers. Only Charles Dickens could describe our reception by these wonderful people, so I will not attempt to copy him.

After Sunday ringing we left to go north to Dargaville, some five hours drive, to have dinner and to spend the night with Sue Bennett at her home there. Next morning back to Auckland via Whangarei. The bells are a peal of eight by Warner, 20-2-12 in E.

On Tuesday we drove to Hamilton to ring at St. Peter's Cathedral. The bells are a ring of eight, 20-2-6 by Whitechapel. Originally 7th and tenor, six were added in 1950. After ringing, it was back to the home of the McAdam family for supper - these kindly folk look after the ringing around here.

Next, to Rotorua, no bells, but what pen could describe "Sulphur City"? Deep holes in the ground, from which emerged sulphurous steam and the sound of boiling water. We visited the thermal springs, acres of boiling mud and geysers, one of which put on a special act for us, hurling boiling water 60ft. into the air. Even burials here are above ground, so close to the surface is the volcanic activity.

Next to the Buried Village, which existed for tourists to visit the famous Pink and White Terraces, which were destroyed in six hours when Mount Tarawera blew up in 1882, and covered thousands of acres in mud. The old hotel cellar is still to be seen, together with still unopened bottles of spirits, even bottles of Guinness, covered in mud, but labels still decipherable.

All this and a boat ride on an underground river through some glow-worm caves in total darkness, with the vault of the roof glowing with millions of phosphorescent worms defies description.

Next to Wellington, the "Windy City", which lived up to its name. Like East Anglia, the wind is a lazy one, which goes through you, instead of going around. It must also be remembered that down here winter begins on June 1. On the way to Wellington we stopped at Cambridge and asked to see the bells. Six bells, 14cwt(?) by Vickers, steel bells, in a wooden tower two above four with the tenors on top. It is doubtful if they were ever really ringable, but in any case, as a new floor has been placed two feet above the tenors, the wheels have been taken off, and it would be impossible to ring them now.

Some of these 19th century installations never cease to amaze me, e.g. Star Street, Paddington, and the old ring at Ilford in E. London. However, we were warmly welcomed by the vicar. The bells are swing chimed by a local band, and one dear old lady of 82 confessed to me how they loved the bells on Sunday and how they reminded her of her village in Cheshire over 60 years ago.

Wellington Cathedral is a 14 of 27 cwt. This ring is built around the old eight of St. Edmund's Northampton, a magnificent job by Taylors, and the tower the last word in comfort, with a lift to the ringing room, electrically controlled louver shutters, etc. Later we visited the unringable bells of St. Peter's, an eight 16 cwt, again hung in a wooden tower, with only three of four corner posts going to the ground. If ever they were rung full circle, it would certainly not have been for long. This is a Warner ring and is sounded by an old style Ellacombe apparatus.

Later we rang at Old St. Paul's, now an inter-denominational church, restored and contain-

ing a light five, 4 cwt by Whitechapel. This is a ground floor ring and a feature is a perspex floor above, through which one can see the bells turning. We were assured it is perfectly safe, and we took their word for it.

Thence to the War Memorial, with a huge tower containing a carillon of 62 bells, originally by Gillett and Johnston, and further additions by Taylors, the largest bell 5.5 tonnes. Not normally open to the public, we established our bona fides and got access, lift and all - a great pity we could not hear them. At 4 p.m. we caught the ferry to the South Island, a three hour trip, and picking up our car, drove to Blenheim and thankfully rested for the night.

Up betimes, as Pepsys would have said, and on our way to Christchurch. The Cathedral is a magnificent Victorian gothic pile overlooking a wide plaza. The bells a 13, 24 cwt with a flat 6th, by Taylors. They do sound out here, and are quite free of that boxey sound often associated with sound control. It always seems to me a paradox, that a church buys the most expensive musical instruments money can buy, and then spends a fortune on ensuring that it cannot be heard, or if heard, completely ruined, as David Potter has so amply demonstrated.

We rang with the local band on their practice night, and then on with a long drive down to Dunedin, the weather getting colder and snow on the high peaks as we approached the Southern Alps.

The First Church of Otago, a presbyterian church, as many of the early settlers were of Scottish descent, has a magnificent tower and spire, and contains a light Whitechapel eight, 6-3-26, plus four semitones for chiming. They

(Continued overleaf)

ALL HALLOWS', WHITCHURCH, HAMPSHIRE FLOWER AND RINGING FESTIVAL

September 25th to 27th

See this issue's coloured insert for details
(including Thurlstone Bell Orchestra)

Watch *The Ringing World*
for details of ringing routes

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1703

ALL SAINTS', HARROW WEALD FLOWER FESTIVAL

September 18, 19 and 20

Ringing: Saturday, 2-4.30 p.m.

Refreshments available

All visitors welcome

1715

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TOWER GRABBER - continued

are a delight to ring and the locals made the tower available to us for two evenings running. At the latitude of 46° South, the writer had the opportunity to have rung in the most Northerly and Southerly rings in the world.

We visited the Early Settlers museum which must surely have the most magnificent collection of early photographs anywhere and also claims to have the only Fairford double-ended standard gauge loco left in the world. It is to be completely restored and used again. Here also, as an officer of the Australian Returned Services League, I was honoured at being entertained and given honorary membership of the local branch of the NZRSA.

More cards to write, and then the long drive to Queenstown, no bells, but the centre of the tourist industry and a skiing centre. Here we struck the only really bad weather of the tour, but the best motel. Much to Chris's disappointment and my heartfelt joy it did not snow, but overnight the mountains around us had a fair sprinkling. Another blow was that the cable car lift to the top was out of action, due to overhaul for the coming snow season. Horrible stuff! Being a Pommie, I never want to see it again, give me 30°C and I'm happy.

I was beginning to feel the pace, although the youngsters did most of the driving. I was allowed to take the wheel once or twice, but up at 7 a.m. and away at eight, and a seven to eight hour drive back north across country to Christchurch. The weather was glorious and we did it in seven hours.

Back to the same motel as our previous stay - the Camelot Court is to be highly recommended. Here we met up with Robert Walters who had just flown in from Sydney - what a difference from the old 15 or 20 towers in a day in Kent etc.

Saturday bright and clear, and it was out to Papanui, a few miles from Christchurch city centre. The bells are an eight, 6-3-0, originally a Warner five, and augmented to six and then to eight by Taylors. The tower is of wood and the frame is supported by a steel girder style construction which, like Expo, goes to the ground, but is here concreted in. There is considerable movement and although a real musical box outside, the clapper clatter inside is unreal, the bells being only half-audible in the ringing room and in the ground floor, something like a boiler-maker's shop. Why this should be puzzles me, as it does not occur at Wangaratta or York, WA. I estimated the flexing of the box girders at ground level as being at least half an inch.

Saturday evening was the dinner, at which I was not present, again being a guest of the R.S.A. On Sunday morning, ringing at both towers, lunch, the A.G.M. and the striking competition. Yvonne had taken the shield with her to N.Z., and we determined to bring it home. And we four, with Robert Walters and Peter Dakin did just that, we won. It here behoves me to wonder whether any of that band will be asked next year when the meeting is in Sydney - methinks not.

From here we had to rush away to get our 5.40 p.m. plane back to Sydney. Was it worth it all? Yes, indeed, 4,800 miles airtravel and about 2,200 miles driving - 7,000 miles or so for seven towers, but marvellous hospitality, wonderful scenery. Good beer (despite the Aussie myth about N.Z. ale). Our thanks to Chris for his arrangements.

You should all try it sometime.

ERNIE ROWE.

Villawood.

"METHODOLOGY" No. 5

By Chico Kidd

1. Brave American lawyer to handle bell.
2. Tenders ring very loud - Queen's.
3. Method backs up, many reverse affirmative.
4. Tedious, odorous course.
5. Bob and lead?
6. Instruction to ring or visit Ireland (2,4).
7. Note racks damages bell.
8. C.O. with gun in Wales.
9. Carriage in England augurs badly.
10. Obscure traces of nine bells.
11. Mass of new eight.
12. Novel hairdo method (3,3).
13. Shout of pain after ring.
14. Aled Jones in belfry?
15. Found in bell-tent, maybe.
16. Pointed towers unripe in ship.
17. Taken from lead by red nut erratically.
18. Early call?
19. Good man to handle thin rope.

The method is: _____

Qwerty quirks

The Point Lead article of 24th July expressing concern over the increasing use of computers for administration tasks struck a chord in my memory and I extracted the following letter from the *Ostrich Weekly* of 1876:

Sir,
I must express my distrust of the increasing use of these new-fangled typewriter gadgets by our flock secretaries throughout the country. The art of calligraphy is in danger of disappearing from the globe as more and more people adjust to these "tap, tap, tap" machines and I fear that it may soon become a pre-requisite that all officers should own these devices before being elected. Otherwise highly competent secretaries will be debarred from office due to unfamiliarity with QWERTY and we shall all come to expect as a norm the totally legible text which these machines provide. I for one enjoy deciphering other people's handwriting!
 Yours etc.
 I. EAT-SAND.

M.M.L. points out that good secretaries are hard to come by, so surely the use of word-processors and the like can enable these people to fulfil their role more efficiently and, perhaps, to undertake more work than would otherwise be the case. Whilst I would not claim to be a "good" anything my computer enables me to undertake a number of voluntary duties, including the production of our Guild newsletter, quickly and easily. On handing over to a successor the information can always be printed out or could be transferred to a different machine - virtually anything is possible and there are companies which specialise in this work.

PHILIP J. TREMAIN.

St. Columb, Cornwall.

Crossword No. 27 - Solution

Across - 7, In the lead; 8, Tours; 10, Believed; 11, Ending; 12, Eton; 13, Interest; 15, Like the clappers; 18, Diaspora; 20, Race; 22, Menace; 24, Call a bob; 25, Ached; 26, Break roll.

Down - 1, Ended; 2, Thrift; 3, Eleventh; 4, Wards in Chancery; 5, Good trip; 6, Grandsire; 9, Kent; 14, Diligence; 16, Enslaved; 17, April Day; 19, Omen; 21, Claire; 22, Folly.

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Sweet leg

I never envisaged writing in this vein to *The Ringing World*, but I can inform your deprived medical correspondent (R.W., August 21st, p. 746) that a Paris Brest is a choux pastry ring topped with flaked almonds and filled with cream and strawberries.

Contrary to what one might expect, it gets its name from a leg - a leg in the Tour de France cycle race, that is.

MRS. M. PAUL

Kingston-upon-Thames

Immaculate performance

The Mitchell Tower in Illinois, Chicago, houses a ring of 10 (tenor 21 cwt) which is notoriously difficult to ring. Most attempts at peals there are for Caters, but we hear that Chris Kippin recently turned the tenor in to a peal of Plain Bob Royal in 3 hours 18 minutes. The temperature and humidity made conditions very difficult, but Chris's performance was much admired by the rest of the band and by local ringers.

Not too well

Durban's senior and most well-known ringer, Cyril Chambers, has not been too well in recent months and he ceased ringing activities in January. During July he suffered a major heart attack and spent some time in hospital. He is now living in an old-age home in Johannesburg, where his son, Patrick, lives. We all wish him a speedy return to good health.

Late Notices

HERTFORD CA, Eastern District Monthly meeting, Sat, Sept 12, at Aspenden (8) from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm 1727

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