

**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.**—Gloucester Branch.—A.G.M., Sat., Dec. 11, at Barnwood. Brockworth (6) 3 to 4 p.m. Barnwood (8) 4 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting in the Reading Room. Ringing after meeting until 9 p.m. Names for tea to A. K. P. Poole, 13, Swift Road, Heron Park, Gloucester (Tel.: Glos. 37405), by Dec. 9. 4340

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—Monthly meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, at Waltham Abbey (12), 6.30–8.30 p.m. 4356

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western District.—Sat., Dec. 11, King's Langley (8). Bells 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Mrs. D. Barker, 7, Langley Hill Close, King's Langley. 4350

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—Meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, at Beaconsfield (8). Bells available 5–8 p.m., followed by wine and cheese evening. Tickets (£1) available from Ken Darvill, Amersham 3875. 4294

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—City Branch.—A.G.M., Sat., Dec. 11. Ringing at Iffley (6), 2.30–3.15; Cowley (6), 3.30–4.30. Service at Cowley 4.30. Tea 5, followed by O.D.G. Bell Fund Christmas Draw and business meeting. All welcome. Names for tea to Mrs. K. Ranklin, 13 Dodgson Road, Cowley, Oxford, by Dec. 6. please—preferably earlier! 4348

**SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION** joint with **HEREFORD D. GUILD** (Church Stretton Branch). Sat., Dec. 11, at Shrewsbury, St. Chad (12). Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Evening ringing until 8 p.m. Social to follow. Special methods: Cambridge Surprise Royal and Major. Names for tea to Mr. E. Willcox, 44 Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury, Salop (Tel.: Shrewsbury 58891), by Thurs., Dec. 9, please. 4317

**SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Bingham District.—Meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, Shelford. Bells 3. Service 4.30. Tea 5. Evening ringing 6.30–8 at East Bridgford. Names for tea, please, to F. R. Barber (Tel.: Plumtree 4535), by Wed., 8th. 4333

**SUFFOLK GUILD.**—South East District.—Quarterly meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, at St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich. Ringing 2.30–4.30 p.m., followed by service, tea and business meeting. Please provide own food—cups of tea provided. Evening ringing to be arranged. 4321

**SURREY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern District.—Nomination meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, at Addington (6). Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Evening ringing at St. Peter's, South Croydon (10). Names for tea, please, to Sheila Davison, 104 Woodpecker Mount, Pixton Way, Addington (Tel. 01-657 8075).—R. J. T. 4325

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Northern Division.—Practice meeting and carol service on Sat., Dec. 11, at Crawley (8). Ringing 3.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Evening ringing until 8 p.m. Names for tea to George Jennings, 5, Malthouse Road, Crawley (Tel. 23596).—Judy A. Howard. 4323

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Western Division.—Practice meeting at Washington (6). Sat., Dec. 11. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. followed by tea and evening ringing until 8 p.m. Names for tea to Gill West (Midhurst 4147). 4358

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Western Branch.—Quarterly meeting, Sat., Dec. 11, at Guiseley (8). Ringing 3 p.m. and after tea. Café tea at 5 p.m. Names to R. Crabtree, 20 Hope Lane, Baildon, Shipley, by Tues., Dec. 7, please. Visitors very welcome. 4318

**BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Luton District.—Evening meeting, Sat., Dec. 18, at Houghton Regis. Ringing from 6 p.m. All welcome.—C. Catlin.

**HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—St. Albans District.—Sat., Dec. 18, Harpenden (8), 3–5 p.m. Service, tea and meeting. Evening ringing until 8.30. Names for tea essential—phone Harpenden 4621. 4402

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Blackburn Branch.—A.G.M., Whalley, Sat., Dec. 18. Ringing 2.30 and after meeting. Tea 5 (moderate charge). Names to Mr. J. Pilkington, 6 Whitlam Road, Whalley, BB6 9SE, by Wednesday. Meeting to follow tea.—R. Leigh, Branch Sec. 4400

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**—Bolton Branch.—Annual General Meeting, Sat., Dec. 18, at St. Peter's, Bolton (13), 3–5. Tea 5. Names for tea to Mr. A. Forrester, 7 New Hall Lane, Smithills, Bolton (Tel.: Bolton 42138), by Dec. 15, please. Evening ringing till 8.15.—M. Southworth. 4401

**LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Hinckley District.—Meeting, Leire (6), Sat., Dec. 18. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5 in "White Horse". Names must be given to Mr. D. Simpson (Tel.: Leire 209635) by Mon., Dec. 13. No name—no tea. 4386

**LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Market Harborough District.—Meeting on Sat., Dec. 18, at Great Bowden, 3 p.m. Service 4.30. Cup of tea and business meeting 5. Evening ringing until 7.30. 4403

**LEICESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Melton District.—Evening meeting, Harby, Sat., Dec. 18. Bells 7–9 p.m. 4406

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.**—Sonning Deane Branch.—Branch practices: Binfield (6), Sat., Dec. 18, 6 p.m., and Twyford (8), Sat., Jan. 15, 1977, 6 p.m.—S. G. S. 4396

**SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**—Southern Division.—Quarterly meeting on Sat., Dec. 18, at St. Peter's, Brighton. Ringing 3 p.m. Service 4.30, followed by tea and meeting. Evening ringing. Names for tea to R. Peckham (Burgess Hill 43958) by Wed., Dec. 15, please. 4387

**ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.**—Ely District.—Annual Carol Service and District A.G.M. at Ely, Sat., Jan. 1. Bells (8) 3–4 p.m., followed by carol service, tea, A.G.M. and evening ringing. Names for tea, please, to B. C. Bass, 67, Cambridge Road, Ely, or phone Fordham 507.—Season's greetings and a happy 1977 to all.—B. C. B. 4351

**SUFFOLK GUILD  
ANNUAL SOCIAL**

On Saturday, December 18th, 7 for 7.30 p.m.

At the Victory Hall, Bramford  
Entertainment - Dancing - Bar - Buffet  
Tickets (75) from Mrs. M. Egglestone,  
58 York Crescent, Claydon, Ipswich, IP6 0DR  
(S.A.E. please) 4280

**SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS  
ANNUAL DINNER**

Saturday, February 5, 1977

Rembrandt Hotel, S.W.7

Tickets £4.50p

from Mrs. P. M. Wilkinson, Holly House,  
West Ashling, Chichester, Sussex 4366

**LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD  
(West Lindsey Branch)**

"RINGERS RAVE"  
BUFFET DISCO DANCE

at Corringham Village Hall

Friday, January 14th, 1977

8.30 p.m.—12.30 a.m. Licensed Bar  
Tickets (£1) from: S. A. Selby,  
53, High Street, Epworth, Doncaster (s.a.e please) 4388

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD  
ANNUAL FESTIVAL—OXFORD**

Saturday, January 8th

Service 11.30 a.m. in Christ Church Cathedral  
Luncheon 1 p.m. in Christ Church Dining Hall  
About 25 towers open afterwards in Oxford,  
the surrounding area and the Witney area  
Luncheon tickets £2.30 each from Miss D. J.  
Pollard, 49 Foxborough Road, Radley, Abingdon,  
Oxon, before 1st January.

Cash with order and S.A.E. please  
List of towers from Miss Pollard or myself  
Don't get tied up with Christmas and New Year:  
do it now  
K. J. Darvill, Gen. Sec., 11 Highfield Close,  
Amersham, Bucks (Amersham 3875) 4359

**RINGING IN BRISTOL FROM THE  
TURN OF THE CENTURY**

Reminiscences of Jack Brown, as told to Pat Bird in 1975, and for this account Mrs. Angela Newing had the tapes transcribed.

Jack Brown died last year, but his wife, now in her eighties, lives in Bristol in the same house as when they married 53 years ago. As well as being "a ringer living before his time", always pressing for progress among many ringers content to continue their ringing at the same level, Jack was a master craftsman. He made peal boards, hand-modelled bells, stained glass windows, painted in watercolours and made perfect scale models of churches (R.W., p. 645/75). His model of Redcliffe has the stained glass windows reproduced exactly. The model lights up from inside to display those windows and the sound of bells and the singing of a choir can be heard from a small speaker inside.

Mrs. Brown was also a good ringer, and their one son is clerk to the Bristol City Council. Jack's active ringing had to cease in 1958 for health reasons, but he could still ring 4-in-hand to Plain Bob Minor and always was keen on handbell ringing.

He said to Pat: "I have been ringing since about 1915. I started by going up to St. Philip's Sunday mornings and evenings to chime for service, and then to St. Peter's for the same thing. After that I went to Redcliffe and could ring a six for service. They didn't let people into ringing easily in those days, but before that, in the days of the Rats and Mice, a young chap had no chance at all to learn ringing.

"Round about the turn of the century the ringers of Bristol divided into two sections, one lot called the Rats and one lot called the Mice. They did all the special ringing at all the churches; the Rats had their section of the towers and the Mice had theirs. They never sort of mixed too much and they didn't encroach on each other's towers. It was something like the College Youths and the Cumberlands in London. Of course, it was all paid ringing, and if a young ringer did manage to get into the circle 'his boots were chalked', as they say, and he was expected to find the beer for the rest of the company. There was nothing other than Grandsire rung at any time in Bristol at that time. They rang the first peal of Cambridge Maximus at Redcliffe in 1912 three years before I started. Bill Cave started around 1900. He was a good conductor and heavy-bell ringer. After he rang the tenor to the peal of Maximus at Redcliffe in 4 hours and 17 minutes, he wanted to ring another course for somebody who had just come up. He was a printer in partnership with Percy Came—Came and Cave the printers. Percy Came was the steeple-keeper at Redcliffe. The little printing firm is still there, next to St. Thomas's Church (now trading as White and Savage).

"Redcliffe had no ringers at that time. The only ringing there was the special paid ringing. St. James had a fairly lively band, when Henry Porch was a good conductor.

(continued overleaf)

**RINGING IN BRISTOL**—continued  
St. Thomas had eight and their chaps would do any special ringing needed at Temple.

"There was no ringing at St. Mary-le-Port and not much doing at SS. Phillip and Jacob when I started. Later on the ringers at St. Nicholas walked out and came and joined us. Even with the chaps in the forces, St. Michael's could still ring their six and St. Stephen's their ten. There was no band at St. Peter's nor at the Mayor's Chapel. St. Matthew's, Kingsdown, didn't have a very strong band. St. George's had a keen band and by dint of a lot of hard work on the part of the ringers they got two new trebles and had the place done up. Almost immediately they had a Barney with the vicar and walked out, and later formed the nucleus of the band when St. Ambrose got a ring of eight. There was no Sunday ringing at All Saints, but it was a very popular peal tower. George Daulty, the steeple-keeper, was a huge great fat man; however he got up that little spiral staircase I don't know. Christ Church had a sort of band—they kept themselves very much to themselves.

"During the First World War Miss Parker came to Bristol and started a rumpus going about getting some lady ringers. Several of us took the hint and we trained a complete band of women at St. Phillip's. Fred Tylor and I were the only ones to do the training. I made slings and put them on all the bells. We got them to the stage that they could ring rounds provided we watched them carefully. We stood in the centre of the circle. One night someone turned the lights off at the main—he couldn't hear anything with the silenced bells. It frightened us all to death. Fred said: 'Leave go your ropes and turn your faces and get as close to the wall as you can, everybody.' Then he and I fished around and got them down between us. It was a miracle one of us was not injured.

"St. Stephen's had Mrs. Wilkins and Bill Thomas's wife, Mrs. Thomas. St. Michael's had a Miss Smith, a Miss Ray and others. Brislington had several ladies, including the Stall sisters.

"Bankes James came to Bristol and gave the St. Stephen's chaps the figures of Clifton Surprise Royal. We rang two peals of it.

"I used to go to the 'do's' of the Ancient Society of St. Stephen's Ringers to ring handbells with Jack Burford and Edgar Guise—we rang tunes from the gallery of the Red Lodge. The only change-ringing we did was when Stephen Wood became a member of the Ancient Society. He must

have been their only ringing member and we rang a course of Stedman Triples."

[Stephen Wood, a brilliant young Bristol ringer, son of the Vicar of Almondsbury, died in the blitz on Bristol. With him, and J. A. Trollope and E. C. S. Turner, I have rung handbells at Ealing, but the real pleasure was to hear him 'ring' Double Norwich Caters on the piano. W. G. W.]

"The members of the Ancient Society were not ringers at all, but they do a lot for St. Stephen's Church. If the tower fell down tonight, they would get together and stick it together tomorrow.

"In those days we had to travel about by train. We rang the first peal of Cinques in Somerset at St. Mary's, Taunton. Before that a band of us was paid to ring at the opening of the twelve. We were nearly half-an-hour ringing rounds before we could get them steady—new ropes and a long draught.

"I rang a Victory peal at Wells in 1918. We went up in the tower at 4 p.m. and didn't come down until nearly ten. We made four or five starts. The two poor blokes that were ringing the tenor were badly gayed—they had to be massaged, they were that stiff.

"We used to hire a wagonette to take 8–12 of us to local meetings. If it was a dry day you got covered in dust—if it rained you got very wet.

"I was one of the founder members of the old Bristol United Ringing Guilds, formed about 1921, to organise a big annual dinner. At the last one, in 1939, there were 300 people at the Grand Hotel. Jack Goldsmith replied to the toast of 'The Ringing World'. Other speakers included A. A. Hughes of the Bell Foundry and J. Frank Smallwood.

"Bankes James's brother, Rev. H. Law James, came up to St. Nicholas one practice night, keen to ring the tenor—a brute of a bell at that time. He took off everything except his trousers. He made a good job of ringing the bell, but when he got down off the box, out came his favourite theme—lady ringers in the tower not wearing hats. It was always a strong point with him—he brought it up wherever he went. I said to him: 'Now look, Mr. Law James, would you consider getting up in the pulpit and preaching a sermon in the manner in which you have just stepped off that block now? You've got everything off except your trousers.' He didn't know what to say. The ladies don't ring in hats because hats are inconvenient. That was the end of the incident.

(READY MID-DECEMBER)

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### LETTERS RECEIVED

The Editor acknowledges receipt of correspondence from: Henry Grimwood, Alex Weekes, Claude Rush, Frank Reynolds, A. D. Lilley, W. A. Farmer, Joanne Mount, Wendy Campbell, P. T. Bassett, Mark Stubbings, Jim Shepard, Lester Yeo, Geoff Dodd, Paul Rigby, Edgar Shepherd, G. Hebden, Peter Smith, Rose Quint, Paul Cattermole.

The Office Manager acknowledges remittances from: Miss R. A. Went (Great Bromley).

Please note that, to save space, subscriptions paid by cheque are not acknowledged here.

"Some of us went to Tiverton for a peal. There's a long draught and the tenor and seventh are exceptionally close together. After about three-quarters-of-an-hour there was a great commotion, the ringers of the tenor (Sam Hector) and the seventh (Bill Knight) had each grabbed the wrong sally.

"In St. Phillip's tower we went for a handbell peal once—my sister, Roy Seager, Tom Harris and me. We had been ringing about 40 minutes when I detected a movement over by the skirting. It was a mouse which would disappear and then come back again. I thought—this peal's not going to last long, and a quarter-of-an-hour afterwards my sister put her bells on the floor and said: 'I can't go on—there's a mouse'.

After the Second World War we got a good band at St. Phillip's in the 1950's: used to ring about a dozen Surprise methods and once a month practised Surprise Maximus at Redcliffe.

"It was terrible seeing so many towers destroyed during the Blitz. They took the bells out of Temple. When ringing there, it was a strange sensation with the tower leaning like it does. When you got to the ringing chamber you would think you were in Never-never Land, because the ropes all hung down at an angle—you could not see it was the tower that was leaning."

W. G. W.

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### STOP PRESS

1,000 PEALS AT 24!

At Aston Clinton, Bucks, on Tuesday, David Brown of Slough, Bucks, rang his 1,000th peal—four-Spliced Surprise Major. David is 24 years old and the youngest ringer ever to attain this magic (?) number.

Ringing has restarted at Frensham, Surrey, where beams supporting the bell frame and bell chamber floor have had to be replaced following the discovery of beetle and dry rot.