

THE RINGING WORLD

Weekly totals of Quarter Peals published in the month of December 1991 and the month in which they were rung.

Read down for quarters rung in the month.
Read across for quarters published in the week/month.

PERIOD	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
1st week			1	1	4	5	4	6	23	263	12		339
2nd week	1							4	8	225	185	8	429
3rd week								5	13	72	563	1	654
4th week			(Weeks 3 and 4 are a double issue)										0
5th week			(Week 3 include Terry Maste's celebrations)										0
TOTAL	1	0	1	1	4	5	4	15	44	580	760	7	1422

peal report when compared with the previous year. For December Kirton, Lincs (RW p.1218), presumably Kirton-in-Holland to give its correct name is the tower with the longest silence and was assumed to be unringable in 1985. Its last quarter was rung early in 1987. Brompton-by-Sawdon, N. Yorks (RW p.1151) has scored its first quarter. Then we had the landmarks. These were nothing special but just things that caught my eye which was worthy of praise, the last being St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney, Australia which has now reached 200.

And finally may I thank all who wrote to me enquiring after their tower's quarter peal records. One enquiry was an in depth study where I was able to correct my records, mostly through lack of information given to towers of similar place names and also was able to give him details which he had missing. I shall be glad to continue doing this for anyone who enquires. Reminders of this service are occasionally given in *The Ringing World* by courtesy of the Editor.

ALAN A. J. BUSWELL

Observations on teaching

With reference to the letter from P.D.W. in *The Ringing World* of 8th November 1991, concerning "white-knuckled learners". I feel I would like to pass on my own observations gleaned over the past few years teaching beginners, in the hope that they may prove useful to other teachers.

Firstly, I find there is little need to raise one's voice as this only conveys panic. I always teach with the bell down as I feel this is a safer and more relaxed method.

I start by demonstrating how to test whether the bell is up or down. Safety is one of my prime considerations. I then ring the bell up and down; then I encourage the learner to pull the bell three-quarters up and then down, several times: this gives them rope control and feel of the bell.

I follow this by demonstrating ringing the bell up and explaining hand- and backstroke. I would then progress on to allowing the learner to ring one stroke whilst I ring the other.

Normally by this stage it is possible to judge if the learner is ready to take the bell for themselves; if not, I would normally return to pulling up and down to allow their confidence to develop. By the time this stage is reached learners are usually relaxed (if somewhat erratic) and we can build on this.

To begin with, I give each of my learners 30 minutes of individual tuition, and by the end of four such lessons I would hope that the learner would be confident enough to join the band and embark on ringing rounds.

One thing I must say I have constantly learnt is that being a good ringer does not automatically mean you will be a good teacher or vice-versa; and whilst I would not necessarily profess to be either, teaching is something I greatly enjoy, and I hope brings pleasure to others. MAUREEN BASFORD Dallington



Golden Wedding anniversary celebrated

50 years ago - no ringing.

On Friday, 24th January Cyril and Peggy Crossthwaite of Preston celebrated 50 years of married life together. The actual ceremony took place on 24th January 1942 when of course "the ban" was in force, so they could only have handbells rung in the Church porch.

The local band were therefore, delighted to be asked to ring (somewhat belatedly!) for their wedding. It was decided that the seldom rung tenors should be given an airing for the event, and a quarter peal of Grandsire Caters was rung. Cyril and Peggy are well known to many ringers throughout the country, and I am sure that their many friends will join the Preston band in wishing them heart-felt congratulations and best wishes for many more happy years together.

JOHN REGIN.

Preston, Lincs. 24 Jan, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Mark Palmer 1, Elizabeth Palmer 2, Margaret Crossthwaite 3, Keith M Taylor 4, Cyril Crossthwaite (C) 5, Victor H Criddle 6, Edward Cowperthwaite 7, Alan Gardner 8, John Regin 9, Richard Palmer 10. By members of the local band as a Golden Wedding compliment to Cyril and Peggy Crossthwaite, married in this church on 24th January 1942. £5

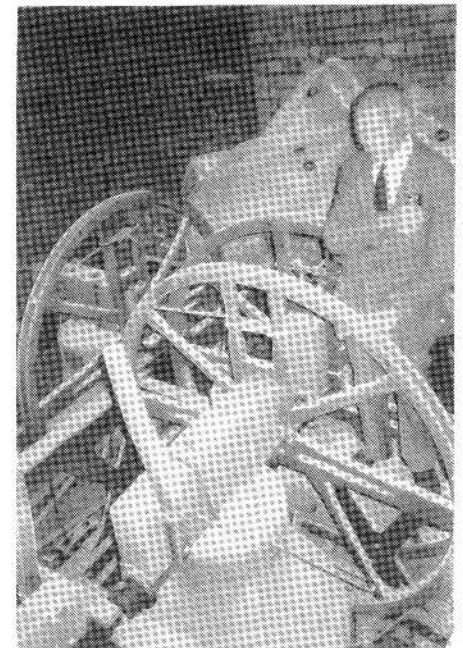
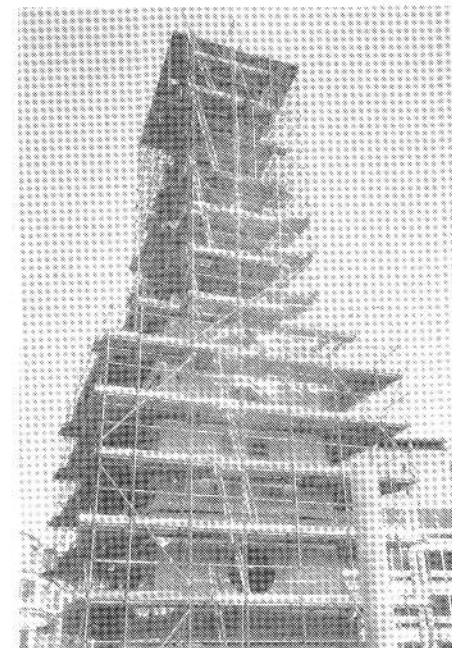
Half-muffled for Holy Innocents' Day?

I have been asked whether the practice happens anywhere nowadays of muffled ringing on Holy Innocents' Day (December 28th). Apparently this was a post-Reformation custom "in many places".

Can anyone answer the query? I had not myself heard of the custom.

Y. L. ELOIE.

Guildford.



As a follow-up to John Euston's article concerning Bishopsgate which appeared on page 99 of *The Ringing World*, the above photographs may be of interest.

These photographs were taken when I visited St. Botolph on a beautifully hot and sunny day last year and recorded the tower encompassed with scaffolding; the other photograph shows John Euston among the bells.

VALERIE PAYNE