

**LONDON'S OLDEST RINGING PEAL.****BELLS OF ST. OLAVE'S, HART STREET, RESTORED.**

The City of London has now gained another peal of eight. The old ring of six at St. Olave's, Hart Street, has been retuned and rehung, and two new trebles, which make an admirable splice, have been added. The work has been carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and it was from the Whitechapel Foundry that the old bells originally came; the back five cast by Anthony Bartlett in 1662, and the old treble (now the 3rd) by James Bartlett in 1694. The back six are now the oldest peal, available for ringing, in the City of London. The bells at St. Bartholomew-the-Great are an older peal, but ringing on them has been forbidden.

St. Olave's ringing chamber formerly had the unpleasant distinction of being the dirtiest in the city. Thanks to the efforts which have been made in connection with the restoration, a complete transformation has been effected, and when some further improvements, now in hand, are finished it will be quite a comfortable little ringing chamber.

The dedication of the bells took place on Monday (St. Olave's Day), the ceremony being performed by the Lord Bishop of London. A special service was arranged, the dedicatory prayers being said in the baptistery. After the Bishop's address, the ringers attached to the tower rang the bells. The retuning has resulted in a great improvement in the old six, and the new trebles have added to the effect, and Messrs. Mears and Stainbank are to be congratulated upon providing the city with an admirable right ring of eight. The tenor is 10 cwt. 3 qr. 25 lb. in F sharp, and bears the names of the churchwardens of 1662. 'Anthony Bartlett made mee, 1662,' is inscribed on each of the back five, and 'Jacobus Bartlett me fecit 1694' on the third. The new trebles bear the inscription: 'Mears and Stainbank made me 1929. The gift of Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield; Bart.' On the second is added, 'Tom Welland, Rector, D. O. Kerr, F. H. D. Man, Churchwardens.'

**WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH GUILD.****PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT AT BRAMSHOTT.**

A very successful meeting was held at Bramshott on Saturday last in fine weather, about 30 ringers and friends being present from Bishop's Waltham, Blackmoor, Bramshott, Gosport, Portsmouth (St. Thomas' and St. Mary's), Shedfield, Steep, Titchfield and Rogate, also Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pulling (Guildford).

The bells were set going shortly after 3 p.m. in various methods. A short service was held, at which the Rector (Rev. E. H. Polehampton) officiated, and an excellent address was given by the Vicar of Steep (Rev. E. R. Day), which the members greatly appreciated.

By the kindness of Bramshott friends (to whom the district is always greatly indebted), an excellent tea was provided in an adjoining garden, and as the weather was ideal, it was a most enjoyable meal. At the business meeting which followed, the Vicar of Steep was voted to the chair.

It was unanimously decided to hold the next meeting at Gosport on Saturday, October 26th, and the meeting also sanctioned a by-meeting to be held at Hambleton on September 14th.

Capt. A. R. W. Woods, D.S.O., R.N. (Alverstoke), who was present at the meeting, was elected an honorary member, and W. B. Batts (Hambleton) a ringing member.

Before the close of the meeting the Rector of Bramshott in a few remarks welcomed the Guild on their visit, and also thanked those who kindly provided the tea and made the necessary preparations.—Mr. F. W. Rogers (district secretary), on behalf of the members, thanked the Rector for his kind welcome, and also those kind friends whom he had mentioned.—Messrs. E. Woods and W. H. Wright (Bramshott), in the course of a few remarks, said how delighted they were to see their old friend, Mr. A. H. Pulling, present with them, mentioning that he had done yeoman service for the Bramshott ringers in the past.

Touches on handbells were indulged in on the lawn, whilst others returned to the tower for further ringing, which during the day included Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise Minor.

**SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT.**

A quarterly meeting of the Southampton District of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild was held at Dibden on Saturday, July 27th. During the afternoon the bells were kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Bob and Kent Treble Bob Major. Tea and business meeting were held in the Old School, presided over by the Rector of Dibden, the district chairman, supported by Mr. Geo. Williams (vice-president), Mr. G. Pullinger (general secretary), and Messrs. J. W. Faithfull and W. Andrews.

Four new members were elected from Dibden, and one from Romsey. The election of Capt. W. Linter, of the Church Army, St. Davids, Exeter, was ratified as a compounding member.

Mr. Pullinger proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, Rev. G. T. Tritton, for the use of the bells and also for presiding.

The towers represented were Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Eling, Romsey, North Stoneham, St. Mary's, Southampton, Ringwood, Exeter, King's Somborne, Winchester and Dibden. The next meeting will be held at Upham on October 12th.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

A by-meeting was held at Appledore on July 20th, when about 20 members and friends attended from Ashford, Hythe, Rolvenden, Rye, Stone and Tenterden, and the locals. Ringing began at three o'clock, and owing to the excessive heat the bells were not fully utilised, as the shady spots were preferable. Service was conducted by Rev. M. M. Vicker, who also gave an address. Tea was provided at the Vicarage through the kindness of the Vicar and Messrs. G. and A. Johnson, whose hospitality was much appreciated in the cool shade. There being no business, Mr. C. W. Player voiced the thanks of those present to the Vicar and Messrs. Johnson's for the excellent tea. Some strolled round the garden, while others enjoyed a game of bowls, which was abruptly ended by the great gale which broke upon them. Ringing was then kept up till 8.15, the methods rung being Double Norwich, Stedman, Kent Treble Bob and Grandsire Triples.

**TONBRIDGE DISTRICT.**

The summer meeting of the Tonbridge District, held at Westerham on Saturday, July 20th, was favoured by brilliant weather. A delightful old-world town, Westerham is famous as the birthplace of General Wolfe. It has also a beautiful old church, in which the font at which Wolfe was baptised still remains, and the register is still preserved recording the christening of the general). There is, in addition, a good peal of bells, and it was not surprising that nearly fifty ringers attended. Ringing commenced about three o'clock, and with the interval for the service and tea was kept going in various methods from Grandsire to Superlative. It was the members' own fault if they did not get a pull in any method they wished.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. J. A. Castle (who also gave an excellent address), while Mr. W. E. Pitman, of Canterbury, presided at the organ. An excellent tea was partaken of in the Parish Hall, and the business meeting followed, the Vicar presiding. One new hon. member (Rev. E. L. Langston, Rector of Sevenoaks) was elected.—Votes of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, for conducting the service and for presiding at the meeting were passed, and, in reply, the Vicar expressed his great pleasure in meeting the members. It was the first time since he came to Westerham that a meeting had been held there, and he hoped that another one would be held in the near future.

Votes of thanks were also passed to Mr. Pitman for his services at the organ, and to the local members for making the arrangements. These having been responded to, the members adjourned to the tower.

**ROCHESTER DISTRICT.**

A quarterly meeting of the Rochester District was held at Newington on July 27th, and ringers attended from Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Frindsbury, Ramham, Borden, Queenborough, Gravesend, Upchurch, Sittingbourne, Tunstall, Milton-next-Gravesend, York, and also the local band. Various methods were rung on the bells during the afternoon, and the association form of service was taken by the Rector of Halstow, who very kindly deputised for the Vicar of Newington, who was away on holiday.

After the service a move was made towards the schoolroom, where a splendid tea had been provided by the generosity of the Vicar of Newington and the local band. The company were waited upon by the wives and friends of the local band, and full justice was done to the good things which were provided.

The business meeting followed, and at the end hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Rector of Halstow, the Vicar of Newington, the local band, and the ladies who had all made the visit, which all agreed was long overdue, such a success and a very great pleasure. The tower was again visited, and ringing was indulged in until nine o'clock, touches, including Cambridge Surprise, being successfully brought round.

**BIRTHDAY BELLS AT OLD HILL, STAFFS.**

On Saturday, July 20th, eight members of the Dudley and District Guild met in the belfry of Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill, to celebrate the birthdays of two of their highly-esteemed members, Mr. John Price and Mr. Bert Price. They rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: John Price 1, S. J. Hughes 2, B. Gough 3, G. Swallow 4, W. Green 5, H. Sheppard 6, J. Goodman, jun. (conductor) 7, G. Guest 8. The band and several other friends were generously entertained to tea and supper by Mr. and Mrs. John Price on their beautiful lawn, and between these two meals tunes and changes were indulged in on the handbells, also bowling on the lawn and strolling round the well-kept garden. At the supper table, Mr. S. J. Hughes, on behalf of those present, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Price for their generous hospitality, at the same time extending to them best wishes for a long life full of happiness. Mr. Price returned thanks on behalf of himself and Mrs. Price, and said what a pleasure it had been to them to have their friends with them that day.