

A HISTORY OF THE
Cambridge University Guild
OF CHANGE RINGERS.

VOLUME II.

1929-1954.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
A.H.F. BOUGHEY.
PRESIDENT OF THE GUILD 1879-1935

(Being a supplement to the Jubilee history
which was written and printed by the Rev. B.H.
Tyrwhitt Drake.)

INTRODUCTION.

To the compilers, listed below, of this second volume of Guild history, and especially to E.J.Lindley, all members of the Guild owe a great debt of gratitude. To write such a history is always difficult; Lindley was further handicapped by lack of first-hand knowledge, since much of the period he had to cover was prior to his own membership of the Guild.

That their excellent work should be entrusted to an amateur printer must seem unjust: but under present conditions commercial printing is beyond our means. I hope, therefore, that they will forgive the errors and blemishes to be found in the following pages, and will accept the few minor alterations which I have presumed to make.

R.Leigh

June 1958.

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CHAPTER XII.

After the successful celebrations of the jubilee, it is somewhat of an anticlimax to record a year during which, although many new members are elected, no touches at all are reported by resident members, but such periods of decline are inevitable in the history of any university society such as ours.

September 1930 saw thirteen members assembling at Surfleet Vicarage for what proved to be the last time as the guests of the Rev.H. Law James. Two peals were rung; Bob Major in hand and Stedman Triples in the tower: and once again the ten at Surfleet proved unwilling to allow the Guild to score a peal there. It seems that the gremlins had remembered the seven years, although on this occasion the attempts were only "short". Among the other towers visited were Heckington, Pinchbeck, Fulney and Lincoln, where a course of Grand-sire Cinques was rung on the fine new twelve.

The following year saw a gradual revival of the resident Guild, although it was not yet of sufficient strength to ring peals, and also a Surfleet handbell week-end when after consid-

erable practice several touches of Cambridge Major in hand were successfully accomplished. A weekend at Trumpington however produced a peal of Kent, and, as Double Oxford would not go, a peal of Bob Major with the band ringing the pairs 8-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7,

In the early part of the following year the Guild suffered a sad loss in the death of Henry Law James, whose contribution to the Guild's early successes and continued enthusiasm and hospitality at Surfleet over the years had been responsible for a very large number of peals, and for many of those which were landmarks in Guild history. His knowledge of the mathematical theory and his opinions, if sometimes slightly eccentric, were listened to with attention and were respected throughout the exercise. Of his contribution to the exercise mention must be made of the foundation of the Lincoln Guild of which he was the first master, being re-elected annually until his death, and perhaps reference may be briefly made to the activities of the St. Michael's Juniors at Gloucester of which, in his youth, he was one of the keenest members. Among the peals he had called for the Guild were its first peal and

the firsts of Double Norwich in hand, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Stedman Caters, Cambridge and Superlative in the tower.

On April 26th. the Rev. A. H. E. Boughey attended his last business meeting, and at the end of the term vacated his rooms in Great Court. In effect this marked the end of his active leadership of the Guild, as, although he remained interested in its activities, increasing age prevented his attendance at Guild meetings. The loss of a regular headquarters was a very serious problem to be considered, but by the kindness of a friend of the President's, Rev. H. F. Stewart D. D., practices and meetings were held in the set of rooms opposite Mr. Boughey's until 1939.

During the Lent and Easter terms of 1932 five peals were rung: one of Double Norwich and three of Bob Major, enabling A. G. G. Thurlow and B. J. E. White to ring their first peals, and F. E. Haynes to appear for the first time as conductor, and-

On Saturday, April 23rd, 1932, in 2 hours,
at "Harbledown", Great Shelford,

A peal of 5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor.
Rev. E. B. James' arrangement. Tenor 15 in C.

Rev. E. B. James (Caius) 1-2
 W. H. J. Hooton (Queens') 3-4
 C.W.woolley (Selwyn) 5-6
 Conducted by W.H.J.Hooton.

First Feal of Surprise in hand by the Guild.
 This arrangement is rung in hand for the first time.

The twenty-second tour was held at Brasted, Kent, being attended by twelve members and organised by Edwin H. Lewis. Only two peals (Kent and Bob Major) were booked, but a very gallant attempt for Cambridge Court was made at Wrotham and wide variety of methods were rung in hand and in a number of famous towers. At Maidstone, calling a touch of Grandsire Caters proved a two-man job, as the services of E. M. Atkins were required to call the bells round!. James Barham's home tower at Leeds was visited and handbells rung over his grave. Among the other interesting features of the ringing were a touch of Erin Triples in the tower and a course of Lincoln Court Bob Royal, in which the instigator of the method proved his good faith by ringing 3-4 himself.

The Michaelmas term yielded a few

short touches, but 1933 was heralded by a peal of Bob Major, closely followed by a seven method minor peal in hand, the first by the Guild. The Lent term is a complete blank, but the Summer term yielded a peal of Bob Major and one of Grandsire Triples, both conducted by C. W. Woolley.

Geoffrey Benson had the pleasure of welcoming thirteen of his fellow members to Quatford Vicarage, Salop, for the 1933 Guild week, and although the superstitious may have expected worse, two out of the five peals were safely brought round under Wilfred Hooton's expert guidance. The handbell fanatics rang their course of Cambridge and touches of Cambridge Court and Stedman, whilst in the tower, Grandsire Cinques was rung at Shrewsbury and London Major, at Much Weniock. Of the peal attempts, both successes were Bob Major, and if our failures must be numbered, Cambridge, Stedman and Double Norwich were lost.

The following year saw a slight revival among the residents, a few tower bell touches of Doubles being booked and in hand Kent Major and Grandsire Cinques being achieved, the latter, be it said, with non-resident help.

Cambridge was the headquarters of the week this year and members visited the President, now in his 85th year. Before the Guild gathered, the handbell experts made the first kill, a seven method minor peal, but were unable to record success with Grandsire Triples. The rest of the week yielded a peal each of Bob Major and Double Norwich in the tower and of Double Bob Royal in hand. Soham was visited, but the "go" had so deteriorated since 1929 that Little Bob Royal was impossible - and Stedman Triples failed!. Grandsire Triples proved equally elusive at Mildenhall and Cambridge at Bourn. However Saffron Walden saw a novelty - a touch of St. Clement's Triples, and this affords a cheerful note to close the account of the week.

Chapter XIII.

The academic year 1934 - 1935 was fairly uneventful so far as peals were concerned, the "bag" of three being all by non-residents, the chief feature being the election of R. D. St. J. Smith (Selwyn) and his gradual emergence as a valuable and efficient conductor.

September 1935 saw the Guild at Leicester as the guests of Dr. Poole, where apparently the band worked so hard and late that the handbell peal was rung through midnight and into the early hours. Canon Ridout, on leave from Africa, made a welcome reappearance, although he was unable to score a peal. Visits were paid to a number of towers in and around Leicester, and several touches of London Major found their way into the peal book. The handbell ringers rang a number of touches including Stedman Caters as well as the usual major methods. One tower bell peal - Stedman Caters - was scored, on the fine twelve at St. Margaret's Leicester.

During the following year the resident Guild were proud to add to their number Professor L.W. Taylor of Ohio University, who was in Cambridge for a year and was introduced by A.N.P. Woodard. He joined the weekly handbell practices and was speedily becoming proficient in the art, when to everybody's regret the date arrived for his return to the United States. It is to be hoped that change ringing is among the pleasant memories which he took with him and that he looks back with as much pleasure as do

we on this Anglo-American ringing friendship. His enthusiasm was so great that, when he returned to the States, he took a set of handbells with him.

Wilfrid Hooton's marriage in January to E. H. Lewis' eldest daughter was, not unnaturally the cause of a Guild gathering at Brasted and a peal of Minor in seven methods was rung after the service. The next weekend, at Shelford, the handbell experts were in action, scoring peals of Oxford Treble Bob and Grandsire Triples.

The sudden tragic death of the Rev. B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake in his garden removed one of the Guild's keen and active members. Before all else, he will ever be remembered as the author and printer of the first edition of this history, and this will form a better memorial than any obituary notice; as of Wren, let us say: "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice."

Shortly before his death, Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake had suggested the holding of a commemoration luncheon, and this, postponed on account of his death, was held on April 28th, when the Guild was glad to welcome representatives of "the other place" and from the town as well as seven non-residents. The Pres-

ident was unfortunately so far from well as to be unable to attend. Ringing at St. Bene't's and on handbells was enjoyed after lunch, and the success of the function makes it a matter of regret that so few are held. On May 17th M. B. Shaw had progressed sufficiently to enable a handbell peal to be rung, E. M. Atkins coming "up" to conduct.

The Guild week for 1936 was organised by Gilbert Thurlow at Wokingham and was chiefly memorable for an extremely enjoyable day touring (or, some say, tower snatching,) in Oxford, where no less than eight towers were visited. Two peals were rung on this week, Double Norwich in the tower and Bob Major in hand, this latter once again requiring ringing into the small hours. Of the touches rung, this history cannot tell, but a novelty was added to the list by the inclusion of courses (in hand) of Banksire Caters - the name being sufficiently suggestive of the origin of the method!

On September 22nd, 1936, the Guild lost its President who died at the age of 86. Of his contribution to the Guild, and to the exercise at large, others have spoken, and indeed the pages of this book have told. Within a few months of our foundation, he was our President - a

post which he held for 56 years. His enthusiasm for teaching (and he had taught several hundred undergraduates to ring) combined with his ability as a practical ringer and genial disposition rendered him an ideal President. His tact in handling difficult situations, or in smoothing differences of opinion, has already been the subject of comment in these pages, and were any further proof required of the esteem in which he was held, the articles in the "Ringing World" following his death proved beyond all doubt that, in A.H.F. Boughey, the Guild had a distinguished, unselfish and extremely popular president. His successor, in his tribute, wrote:-

"In its periods of prosperity, the Guild revolved around him; in its periods of depression he had held it together and preserved it from eclipse or extinction".

To those who knew him, his memory will ever remain green; to the younger generation, he will be a legend, the man who more than any other personified the spirit of the Guild. As long as the Guild flourishes his name will be held in honour.

Chapter XIV.

On January 15th, 1937, the Rev. A.C. Blyth (Selwyn) was elected President, in the place of Mr. Boughey, and he has remained our president from then onwards. The thanks of the Guild cannot be too often expressed to Mr. Blyth for accepting the post of President with such a tradition to follow, which, be it said, he has followed with distinction and will, it is hoped, continue to do so for many years to come.

The early months of 1937 saw a considerable revival in Guild activity, six peals being rung; Kent, Grandsire Triples (2) and Bob Major (3), the last enabling D.F.C. Hawkins (Clare) and B.P. Tyrwhitt Drake [Pembroke] to appear in the peal record for the first time.

In September Stephen Wood organised a Guild week at the "Golden Lion", Wrington, known to all as the headquarters for Major Hesse's activities, four peals being successfully scored and two lost. The glorious rings of Somerset and its famous rough cider were sampled and admired and a very large number of short touches rung on an altogether successful

visit to the West - the first since 1912.

The return to Cambridge saw a year of hard practice with, as yet, no band capable of ringing peals, although a considerable number of touches of Bob Major in hand were rung.

Once again it is your historian's sad duty to say farewell to another great and prominent member of the Guild - Harold S. T. Richardson, Priest, who passed away in January, 1938. He had been the conductor of almost all the peals rung by the "Modern Society of College Babes", and indeed, of the 23 peals rung for the Guild between 1903 and 1908, he had called all but three, amongst which 20 peals were the first of Royal and Maximus and of Major by undergraduates, the first of Kent Major and Royal and of Stedman Triples as well as Double Norwich and Bob Royal on tower bells. Of recent years he had allowed other younger men to do the conducting, as it fit, but had in all called 37 peals for the Guild, all but one of these being prior to 1915.

In September Geoffrey Benson acted as host at Burghill and arranged a tour of Herefordshire and parts of Worcestershire. At Ludlow a youngster performed an unexpected

acrobatic turn when he trod on the tenor rope while she was being raised. An eye-witness account says; "Lifted high in the air he fell on the glass panelled trap door sending fragments hurtling eighty feet down to the floor. We thought he would follow them, but fortunately he suffered no damage."

Of the peal attempts, the lack of grease on the tenor prevented scoring Stedman Caters at Leominster; Stedman Triples and Cambridge were lost, although the latter was revenged later in the week. The final score was Bob Major 2 (1 in hand), Cambridge, Double Norwich, Grandsire Triples, one each. Major Freeborn celebrated his silver wedding by calling a 252 of Stedman Triples at Malvern Priory.

This was the last Guild tour before the war, as the arrangements for the 1939 tour in Cambridge had to be cancelled; to complete the pre-war history of the Guild, it remains to add that, after a year's work and one unsuccessful attempt, A. R. Pargeter called a peal of Bob Major in hand, scoring first peals for T. P. Hearn and R. H. Richens.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 and the consequent ban on ringing in 1940

prevented any tower bell activity but the Guild's handbell practices were continued until with the arrival of R. Leigh [St. Cath's] and K. S. B. Croft [St. John's] peals of Bob Minor and Kent Minor were scored in hand, and finally:

On Saturday, March 7th, 1942, in 2 hours
22 minutes at St. John's College,
A peal of Spliced Plain and Gainsborough Little
Bob Major, 5016 changes.

Rev. A. C. Blyth (Selw.) 1-2
Rev. B. F. Sheppard (Trin.) 3-4
R. Leigh (St. Cath's.) 5-6
K. S. B. Croft (St. John's) 7-8

Composed and conducted by K. S. B. Croft.
The first peal in the methods for the Guild
and by all except the conductor.

This band went down at the end of
the year, and we read that "during the academic
year 1942-3 no meetings of the Guild were
held owing to dearth of members."

Chapter XV.

During this period the Guild suffered the loss
of two notable members.

The Reverend William Carter Pearson
died suddenly on January 13th 1942, aged 82.
He learned to ring in his early days and, as
mentioned in chapter I of the Guild History,
he was a leading light in the founding of the
Guild in 1879. After holding curacies at Syston
and Southwold Mr Pearson had for 47 years
been rector of Henley, near Ipswich, where
he restored the bells, completed the octave,
and took part in many peals for the Norwich
Diocesan Association.

His library of rare and early books on
bells and ringing, collected over many years,
was unrivalled outside the British Museum:
from time to time he contributed articles on
historical subjects to the ringing press. This
collection of books he bequeathed to the Guild
with the stipulation that they should be kept
"with other books belonging to the Guild" in
the Cambridge University Library. The terms
of this will were based on a misunderstanding

the University Library did not, and could not, hold books belonging to any body other than the University. What misled Mr Pearson was that previously books owned by the Guild had been presented to the Library. After consultation with the executors it was deemed best for the Guild to accept the collection which was then transferred as a gift to the University Library. Such books as the Librarian did not select remained in the Guild's possession.

Stephen H. Wood was up at Magdalene from 1925-28. During these years, thanks mainly to his efforts, the Guild enjoyed one of its relatively prosperous periods. Possessed of unbounded energy and limitless enthusiasm, coupled with a cheerful and loquacious good humour, he gave his contemporaries little rest. Already a good ringer he quickly developed into a very capable conductor and also met with considerable success as a composer. Especially keen on hand-bells he took part in numerous peals, conducting many of them. "Guild" peals on tower-bells were beyond our capabilities in term-time, but, together with his "local" fellow-members C.W.W. & F.E.H.

Indeed he had much to do with the development of a closer liaison between the Guild and the Association; he was also the first member of the Guild to be elected a Cambridge Youth. He was always a keen supporter of Annual "Weeks," attending for the first time in 1926, - at Grappenhall - while in 1928 he himself was the organiser, with Almondsbury, his father's parish, the centre.

On leaving Cambridge he obtained an appointment with the Imperial Tobacco Company and spent some time in Glasgow, where he continued to ring handbells. He then returned to Bristol, married, and settled at Clifton, where he trained a service band. From 1930 - 1940 he was not only a popular and prominent figure in Bristol ringing but also gained something of a national reputation being a member of the Central Council and part author of the 2nd. edition of *Doubles and Minor Methods*. It was indeed a sad loss to the Guild and to the Exercise when he was killed in an air raid on November 24th., 1940 while cycling into Bristol to carry out voluntary war-time duty.

Chapter XVI.

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term, 1943, several enthusiasts, including, notably, S. E. Darmon (St. John's) and B.D.Price (Emman), came up and the Guild's activity recommenced. From the start it must be made clear that the Guild activity has since then been different in type to that of the pre-war Guild and that the centre of activity has shifted to tower bell ringing. During the first year much progress was made and several 720's of Bob Minor in hand were accomplished as well as some touches of Major. In October, 1944, the band was strengthened by the addition of Richard Speed (Caius), who already knew the fundamentals of ringing, and progress in both tower and hand was rapid, so that during Easter term we read of a peal attempt and of courses of Cambridge Minor and Double Court.

In September 1945 the Guild week was held in Cambridge after a break of seven years. Visits were made to many of the outlying towers and an ambitious peal programme attempted, but of these only one - Bob Major -

was successful, while three attempts lasted over two hours. Several of the residents were on the week and the experience gained then was of very great value on their return to the resident band next term, when the band was strengthened by the addition of J.F.Moor (King's) whilst among the beginners were J.B. Wrenbury (King's) and E.J.Lindley (Trinity). During the term, much practice was spent on handbell ringing culminating in a successful quarter peal, of Bob Major. The return the following term of K.S.B.Croft made possible two handbell peals of Minor, while a visit by Paul Williamson resulted in a tower bell peal of Minor at Somersham. During this term, also, for the first time for many years, the Guild held a regular eight bell practice each week at St. Andrew's, where touches of Stedman Triples and Bob Major were achieved by resident bands.

At the beginning of the following term a visit by six non-residents enabled a ringing weekend to be held, when a peal of Double Norwich in the tower was followed by Bob Royal and Bob Minor in hand, the former being the first of Royal by two of the band

and the latter (the fastest peal for the Guild) taking an hour and twenty-eight minutes. The remainder of the term was spent training and during the long Vacation term after several attempts a handbell peal of Minor was scored - the first by a band all of whom had commenced ringing since the beginning of the war.

In September the Guild was invited to Norwich where, under the expert organisation of Rev. A.G.G. Thurlow, a most enjoyable and successful week was spent among the Norfolk towers, resulting in six peals being scored, all in the tower. Of our losses, one was due to illness and another in the last course caused much disappointment, but London was rung for nearly an hour and the first touch of Spliced Surprise Major found its way into the Guild book. The handbells were rung every evening in the dormitory, although the experts never had time for a peal attempt.

The next term started well, as R. Leigh returned to the University, and this, together with the progress made by the residents, resulted in a steady flow of peals: 4 method Minor in the tower, Bob Major in hand (2), Bob Royal

Double Bob Major, Double Norwich Major and Yorkshire Surprise Major - the first by the Guild - in the tower: also,

On Fri., Nov. 1st., 1946, in 1 Hour & 58 Mins.,
In Trinity College,

A Peal of Bob Major, 5040 Changes.

R F B Speed (Caius) 1-2 S E Darmon (St.J.) 5-6

K S B Croft (St.J.) 3-4 E J Lindley (Trin.) 7-8

Composed by E M Atkins (St Cath's)

Silent and non-conducted.

At the beginning of the Lent term-

On Saturday Jan. 25th, 1947, in 3Hrs.&12Mins.

At the Church of All Saints, St. Ives,

A Peal of Bob Major, 5040 Changes.

æj B Rowsell (Jesus) Treble

K S B Croft (St. John's) 2

J B Wrenbury (King's) 3

J F Moor (King's) 4

J H Hayward (Christ's) 5

R Leigh (St Cath's) 6

E J Lindley (Trinity) 7

R F B Speed (Caius) Tenor

Comp. by B Annable; conducted by E J Lindley

æFirst peal. First peal as conductor.

In this, for the first time, a tower bell peal was

rung by an all-resident band in statu pupillari. The Guild now possessed a band capable of ringing Major in the tower and at its practice at St. Bene't's, Spliced Surprise Minor was regularly rung.

It was at this time that the last link with the Guild's first peals was broken by the death at Surfleet of the Rev. E.B. James who had rung 3-4 to the early Guild peals, including the Double Norwich, which he had composed. By his death, the last of the early members had departed and nobody survives among our active members who was elected during the nineteenth century. A muffled peal was rung to his memory at St. Andrew's the composition beginning the "Barabool" peal which he had composed on board the ship of that name en route for the Australian tour. He was buried near his brother in the village where so many of their peals had been rung, and a last farewell was rung on the bells over which Law James had taken such care and to whose enthusiasm their very existence was due. The band included the secretary, who represented the Guild at the funeral.

In June Their Majesties the King and Queen visited Cambridge; the Guild marked the occasion by ringing a peal of Minor in twelve methods at St. Bene't's - the first time that more than seven had been rung for the Guild. Again the band was a resident one.

The annual "Week", at Birmingham, was organised by Frank Haynes and was notable for the large number of twelve bell towers visited, although the Guild was not strong enough to attempt a peal of Cinques. Touches of Stedman and Grandsire were however brought round on twelve as well as a course of Cambridge Royal. Five peals were rung, all in the tower, and among the novelties produced by Brian Price were Spliced Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Little Bob Royal in the tittums. It would appear that the mantle of Banks James has descended on another's shoulders!

Of the succeeding year there is little to tell; the Michaelmas term saw the return of M.R.D. Harford and G. Dodds from war service and the valuable addition of B.D. Threlfall to the band, but apart from a weekend at the end of term yielding a peal of Kent, and a

a quarter of Stedman, the latter by residents, there was no great activity, but a new step was taken by the introduction of Sunday service ringing at St. Andrew's as well as that at Histon in the mornings.

The Lent Term yielded one peal of Bob Royal in hand and the following vacation one of Double Norwich in London, whilst the Easter term apart from an orgy one week of two peals in a day and one later in the week - all in hand - was very uneventful.

The 1948 "Week", held in the Manchester area with H.Q. at the "Mason's Arms" Hotel at Whitefield, was organised by the Rev. R.D.St.J. Smith. This week started under a disadvantage, in that the ban on private motoring left the party entirely dependent on public transport. However, detailed "movement orders" of trains and buses were issued, and the fact that the programme was carried out in full pays tribute either to the discipline of the party, or to the organisers' powers of persuasion. Five peals were brought round: Cambridge, Superlative, Double Norwich and Stedman Triples, as well as Bob Major in hand

It was generally felt that the standard of ringing, both in peals and touches, was among the best ever produced on a Guild tour. Yet, in the long run, the tour will probably be best remembered for its travel incidents: the "commando course" from St. Thomas' Rectory to the station, Bob Major on the top of a Corporation bus, or the optimist who went for his first day's ringing around Manchester - without a rain-coat.

The 1948 ringing week was also the end of an era in Guild history, since at the beginning of the 1948-49 academic year women were admitted to full membership of the University and were thus eligible for full membership of the Guild. A proposed amendment to the rules to retain the all-male nature of the Guild was defeated and so, at the first meeting of the Michaelmas term, the Guild elected its first full members from Newnham and Girton. None of our would-be legislators appears to have suggested an alternative title, should the master of the Guild be a member of one of these colleges!!

Chapter XVII

Michaelmas term, 1948, saw plenty of activity; there were a large number of beginners, and both tower and handbell practices were held regularly. Sunday service ringing was also carried out at Histon and St. Andrew's. On tower bells a quarter peal of Cambridge Major was achieved, while hand-bell ringing included Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters. On December 4th. a peal of Bob Major was scored at Bourn, in which Miss G.A. Smith rang the second, being the first lady to take part in a Guild peal. The Guild library was put on a firm footing this term, being housed in a bookcase in the Consistory Court of Great St. Mary's. G. Dodds was elected as the first librarian.

Two handbell peals of Bob Major were rung during the Christmas vacation. The main event of the following term was the Reunion Dinner on February 5th, to commemorate the Guild's 70th anniversary. proceedings opened with a peal of Bob Major at Sawston on Friday evening, and on the Saturday morning

a quarter of Bob Royal was rung at Saffron Walden. In the afternoon ringing took place at all four Cambridge towers. At the dinner, which was held in the Dorothy Cafe, some fifty members and visitors were present, including representatives of the Oxford and London University Societies and of the Cambridge Youths. So great was the success of this dinner that it has since then been established as an annual event. On the Sunday, peals of Double Norwich Major and Bob Royal were rung in hand.

Other ringing during the term included a peal of Bob Minor in hand, two attempts for Bob Minor on tower bells, and a peal of Bob Royal at Mildenhall including one non-member. This peal, we read, was preceded by "480 Plain Bob Major in the 10.28. train to Mildenhall".

Another unusual touch opens the Easter term's ringing:- 180 Bob Minor in the porch of St. Paul's Parish Hall, Bedford "On Thumbs". Only one peal, Bob Royal in hand, was scored this term, but a steady stream of touches at the various practices at St. Andrew's and

St. Bene't's is recorded, as well as at handbell practices and for Sunday service ringing, which now includes Fulbourn. Most of these touches were in the standard methods, and rounds and call changes were rung for the beginners.

The Long Vacation, 1949, saw the revival of the Junior Tour, held in the Isle of Wight from June 27th to July 4th. The programme was arranged by Dr. J B Williamson, and most of the sixteen people in the party were resident members of the University. A variety of methods was rung, (including the first plain course ever of Double Erin Triples, composed by B.D.Price,) in twelve towers. A hand-bell peal of Bob Major was scored in the porch of Whitwell church, starting at 11 55 pm and rung by the light of a bicycle lamp.

Many touches were rung in the Long Vacation term at St. Andrew's and St. Bene't's and three outings were held to nearby towers. Two peals of Bob Major and one of Bob Minor were rung on handbells.

The 1949 Tour was held at Brighton, organized by B D Price. Three peals were rung - Kent Royal, Cambridge and Superlative - and

Double Norwich was attempted without success. Once again public transport had to be relied on to some extent, and we read that on one occasion the organiser got on the wrong train, and half the peal party saw their train sail out of the station: and later in the same day "a certain well-known clergyman" was seen running down a street in Chichester eating a meringue on the way to the station! Twenty towers in all were visited, and the ringing included the first course by all of Double Coslany. This year the tour was held a week earlier than had been the custom hitherto, it being alleged that teaching rather than preaching was now the predominant profession among the Guild's members.

The resident band was even stronger at the beginning of the Michælmass term 1949, as several of the new members elected were already competent ringers. The Guild has been fortunate in recent years in having a steady flow of such ready-made ringers to keep up the standards achieved. The handbell enthusiasts made steady progress, ringing peals of Bob Major, Spliced Plain and Medium Bob

Royal and Kent Major, while on tower bells the the main achievement was a peal of St. Clement's Bob Caters, rung at Saffron Walden on November 19th. The footnote to this peal is worthy of remark: "Believed to be the first peal of Caters in the method. First peal in the method for the Guild, on the bells and by all the band." During this term the Guild commenced ringing on alternate Sundays for the S.C.M. services at 8.30.p.m. at Great St. Mary's.

There seems to have been somewhat of a falling-off in the attendances at practices during the Lent term, and Sunday ringing was confined to St. Andrew's, apart from the ringing at Great St. Mary's. Nevertheless quite a variety of methods were rung, while on handbells a peal of Bob Major and many touches were scored.

A peal of Kent was rung at Sawston on the Friday before the annual dinner but Cambridge at Royston on the Saturday morning was lost owing to a rope coming untucked. In the afternoon ringing took place at the various Cambridge towers and the Dinner was again held in the Dorothy cafe.

The name of W.J.Ridgman begins to appear in the Easter term, when once again a good

number of touches were recorded, mostly in the standard methods. An interesting outing was held when Weston Colville was visited - a large bird's nest prevented the master from getting at the bells. Some of the party then had an adventurous journey, including "an error of navigation", to Hadstock, only to find that three of the five bells were cracked while only one had a wheel!

One peal was scored during the term, which is worth setting out in full.

On Thurs. June 1st., 1950, in 2 hours & 12 mins.,
In the Consistory Court of Great St. Mary's.

A Peal of Spliced Plain Major, 5120 Changes.
Being 1024 each of Reverse, Double & Plain Bob,
768 each of Wellington & Gainsborough, and 512
of Little Bob, with 383 changes of method.

† G.A.Smith (Newnham)	1-2
Anne B.Stockdale (Girt.)	3-4
Geoffrey Dodds (Emman)	5-4
Brian D.Threlfall (Trin.)	7-8

Composed & Conducted by G.Dodds.

† First peal of Spliced Major. First peal in six methods by the Guild and by all the band.

A very successful Junior Tour was held from June 23rd to 30th in Gloucestershire. Twenty-five towers were visited by the nine

members and two associates present. At Water-moor one of the party effectively demonstrated the possible consequences of ringing with a slack rope; "his loop curled round an earthenware pot on the shelf behind him and very neatly removed it therefrom with shattering results!" Near Tredington "the map-readers discovered there was an inn called 'Piff's Elm': this was, of course, too great a temptation for some of the members."

Enough members were up for the long vacation term to go for a peal of Bob Major at Over, but the clock hammer of the second bell foiled this - not for the first or the last time!

Cambridge was once again the venue for the 1950 Tour, with headquarters in "Saxon Barns", one of the hostels of Selwyn College, which accommodation had been very kindly arranged by the President. Peals rung during the week were: Rutland Surprise Major - the first in the method by the Guild, - Bob Major & Royal in hand, Stedman caters at Great St. Mary's, and Lincolnshire Surprise Major at Norton, Herts, - also the first in the method by the Guild. A false 'peal' of Kent Major was rung at Bourn, & Cambridge Major was lost at Ickleton. It was at this tower that the Vicar put a notice on the

church door, "It is dangerous to approach or to speak to the ringers." Many towers were visited in addition (not all of them on the programme), including a day trip to Clare, the three towers at Sudbury, Long Melford and Lavenham. Methods up to Spliced Surprise were rung.

CHAPTER XVIII.

In the Michaelmas term 1950, the band was strengthened by the arrival of P. A. F. Chalk and C. M. P. Johnson, and although some of the more experienced had now gone down the band was strong enough to attempt Cambridge Surprise Major at Fulbourn, but this was miscalled. The touch book shows steady activity at St. Andrew's on Sundays and practice nights, and an extra weekly practice is mooted. Indeed, tower bell ringing is practically the only Guild activity, & handbell touches appear only rarely. A peal of Bob Minor was rung at Ashwell, being R.D.Edge's first peal, and during the term the non-residents rang a handbell peal of Bob Royal at Lambeth. The term ended with a peal of Bob Major: at St. Andrew's.

It will be seen from what has been said that the Guild's activities had by now taken a fairly definite shape, which has been followed in subsequent years. St. Andrew's is definitely to be regarded as the Guild's headquarters, where Sunday ringing and a weekly practice take place; and the bells are increasingly used for instruction with lashed clappers. All members who were up in recent years will know how great is the debt we owe to Canon Woodard, without whose active co-operation and encouragement, and generosity in placing St. Andrew's bells entirely at the Guild's disposal, we should have been so much the poorer. Indeed, it is because we can use these bells regularly that we have been able to go from strength to strength in tower bell ringing, which after all is the more important side of our art.

Saturday afternoon peal attempts, alternated with outings, also emerge at about this time as a regular feature, and in addition many peals have been rung in recent years for the Ely Diocesan Association with mainly Guild bands.

In the Lent term 1951 weekly practices were resumed at St. Bene't's and have gone on

ever since, the theory being that these are for the less experienced, while the practices at St. Andrew's are for the rather more advanced. This has not, however, prevented London Minor being rung at St. Bene't's and rounds at St. Andrew's!

Grandsire Triples was lost at Over this term, and Cambridge Royal at Saffron Walden this last attempt preceding the third Annual Dinner, which had by now become a fixed event. As before, ringing took place in the afternoon at the four Cambridge towers, and the dinner was held in the Dorothy, with guests from other Universities and the Cambridge Youths, and Canon Woodard; and again, as before, the gathering was presided over by the President. Peals of Bob Major and Double Norwich were rung on the Sunday, and it is notable that only two residents took part in these. However, at the end of the term, a quarter peal of Bob Major was rung in hand. During the following vacation the non-residents scored Kent Major & Double Norwich on handbells.

Another regular feature of present-day Guild activities was started in the Easter term, that of going for quarter peals at St. Andrew's on Sunday evenings. This has been invaluable in

giving members experience in ringing longer lengths in new methods. Once again enough members were up for the Long Vacation term to hold a weekly practice at St. Bene't's as well as Sunday service ringing at St Andrew's. Unfortunately there was little support for a Junior Tour this year, but four members combined with three from Oxford for a very enjoyable tour in Warwickshire.

The 1951 "Week" was held at Oxford, organised by Paul Williamson. The nineteen members who were present for the whole or part of the time were accommodated in one of hostels attached to St. Anne's Society, and were much better off for transport than in previous years, there being no fewer than nine cars and two motor-cycles at the disposal of the company. This year five tower bell peals were attempted: Double Norwich was rung at Kirtlington, Kent Major was lost at Bicester with only one course to go, Grandsire was lost at Abingdon "because of a superfluous 'correction' of the coursing order by the conductor". Cambridge Major was rung at Buckland and London Major was lost at Harwell after an hour. A handbell peal of Spliced Plain and Little Bob Major was

also scored. Many famous towers were visited, including Drayton and Appleton, and among the methods attempted was Qualis, a mixture of Triples and Major invented by the Rev. E.B. James and printed by the organiser on the back of the programme.

Surprise Major ringing was a regular feature both at practices and on Sundays in the Michaelmas term, 1951, although the minute book contains records of tirades (sometimes justified) about the standard of striking - which every master has determined to improve! Three peals were scored, Bob Minor at Duxford Bob Major at Over and Sawston. Superlative was lost at Long Stanton, after 2½ hours. Among this term's new members was F.E. Roberts (Selwyn).

Quarter peals of Surprise are again recorded on Sunday evenings in the Lent Term 1952, but an attempt for Cambridge Major at Barkway by an all-resident band was lost after two hours. The Annual Dinner on February 2nd was the occasion for a peal of Double Norwich at Fulbourn, and once again some familiar names of old members appear in the touch book in connection with the ringing at the various towers - not at St. Andrew's this year as one

of the bells had fallen a few days previously. Thirty-nine members and guests were present at the dinner, which was once again a great success. The sudden death of His Late Majesty King George VI, was the signal for nation-wide mourning. On the day of the funeral, February 15th, a half-muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung at St. Andrew's. A peal of Doubles was rung at Meltham this term, the first Guild peal of Doubles for 29 years. One member of the band wanted a footnote to his name "last peal of Doubles", but this was not published! At Godmanchester a peal of Stedman Triples was rung by a resident band in spite of the fact that the bells were supposed to be unpealable. Only one peal was scored during the Easter term - Bob Major at Over. During this term Great St. Mary's bells were removed for re-hanging, and the Seage apparatus, which had for some time been out of order, was disposed of by mutual consent.

Plenty of ringing took place in the Long Vacation term, the highlight being a peal of Bob Major in hand by C.M.P. Johnson, the Rev. A.C. Blyth, P.A. Chalk and F.E. Roberts; this peal

is notable for the fact that it was the first for the Guild by members all of one College, Selwyn.

For the annual Week the Guild this year stayed at the Alexandra Hotel in Tunbridge Wells. The organiser was Gillian Anderson Smith, so that this was the first Guild Week to be organised by a Lady. We read that she proved herself more than competent to take charge of the arrangements - so much so that members who sidetracked the programme to the smallest degree had a strong feeling of guilt! This did not, however, prevent a splinter group developing in strict secrecy on one occasion (led, be it said, by the President) to visit Bodiam Castle. Only one peal was lost, Superlative at Burwash, while successes were Double Norwich at Buxted, Yorkshire Major at Salehurst, Bob Major at Rotherfield, and Bob Major (2) and Bob Royal on handbells.

CHAPTER XIX.

The beginning of the next academic year saw the Guild in much the same flourishing state as before, with two practices being held each week, as well as Sunday service ringing and Saturday

peal attempts. Five peals were scored by the resident members - Bob Major at Mildenhall, and also at St. Andrews (R.J.W.Housden's first peal), Three Minor methods at Fulbourn and Seven at Fordham, and Little Bob Major at Ickleton. This term's recruits included J.H.Fielden (St. Cath's) and R.B.Morris (Clare). Bristol Surprise was rung on at least two occasions. A significant remark recorded in the minute book is that one member asked if some handbell ringing were contemplated - something unthinkable in prewar days, but in accordance with a general trend throughout the exercise.

Perhaps the outstanding event of the following term was the peal recorded below.

On Saturday, January 24 th, in 2 hrs. & 45 mins.

At the Church of All Saints, Longstanton.

A peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, 5056 changes.

Johnson's Variation.	Tenor 7 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lbs.	
Miss D.L.R.Turk	(Newn.)	Treble
P.A.F.Chalk	(Selwyn)	2
‡ R.B.Morris	(Clare)	3
‡ J.H.Fielden	(St. Cath's)	4
A.R.Guy	(Jesus)	5
F.E Roberts	(Selwyn)	6

C.M.P.Johnson	(Selwyn)	7
W.J.Ridgman	(Queen's)	Tenor.

Conducted by W.J.Ridgman.

‡ First peal of Surprise. The first peal of Surprise rung for the Guild by a resident band.

This was followed on February 14th. by a peal of Yorkshire Surprise at Great Bardfield, - also by an all-resident band. Two peals were rung in connection with this year's Dinner; Bob Royal on handbells, including two resident members, and Grandsire Caters at Saffron Walden. The Dinner itself was held this year in Clare College, with thirty-eight members and guests present. The Master, in his speech reviewing the Guild over the past year, told of the difficulties of finding bands, which were not lessened by such other activities of members as watching railway engines or breeding pigs! On February 23rd the "back-enders" had a field-day at Clare, where a peal of Bob Major was scored.

In the Easter term an ambitious programme of ringing was arranged for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, in conjunction with local ringers. Peals on the day itself were lost at St. Andrew's, the Roman Catholic Church and Ely,

and ringing took place at St. Bene't's, Fulbourn, Bourn and Sawston. We gather that those who had to cycle to the various towers got extremely wet! The touch book tells us that "Over the Coronation period members of the Guild took part in six peal attempts and seven quarter peal attempts, of which one and two were respectively successful".

On July 15th there passed away Wilfrid H.J.Hooton at the age of 54. Much has already been said of his ringing achievements in these pages, and those who knew him will require no elaboration of these. When he went up to Queens' College in 1919, the Exercise had suffered severely as a result of the Great War. One has only to look at the peal lists of subsequent years to see how little peal ringing was done; for years very few bands were capable of Surprise. By his immense energy and enthusiasm Wilfrid did much to re-establish ringing not only in the Guild but in the district. He soon became an efficient and enterprising conductor. At a time when handbell ringing was little practised he had called, amongst others, peals of Treble Bob Major, Double Norwich and Cambridge Court Bob Major (the first in the method). By April 1922 he had

rung his hundredth peal (his first was in September 1919), and under his leadership the Guild practised Surprise Major in hand. An excellent ringer and striker, a conductor who could inspire all with confidence, he was always calm and unruffled whatever befell. From 1936 until shortly before his death, in spite of illness, he was librarian of the Central Council. Not only the Guild but the whole Exercise feel deeply the loss of such a man.

E.M.Atkins was once again the host for the Summer Tour, held in Devon, with headquarters at Newton Abbot. Towers visited included Plymouth, Exeter, Buckfast Abbey, and Widdecombe - in - the - Moor, where one member got left behind, and found that Tom Pearce's mare was not available to take him back! Only one peal was rung, Cambridge Major at Wolborough, while London Surprise was lost about ten minutes from the end. No handbell peals were attempted, but the bells were put to good use in the evenings at "Rock Cottage".

Many peals were arranged for the Michaelmas term 1953 but only two were scored - Bob Minor in hand, and Bob Major on the restored bells at Godmanchester (in which the name of

W.T.Cook appears for the first time). During the term ringing was on the whole confined to the standard methods in the hope of improving the striking, and towards the end of the term a definite improvement was noticeable in the quality of the ringing. The peal fanatics were unsuccessful on tower bells in the next term, but handbell ringing revived somewhat with the establishment of a regular lunch - time practice. As a result three peals of Bob Minor were scored.

This year's Annual Dinner, held in the West House Hotel, marked the 75th anniversary of the Guild's foundation. In the morning, a peal of Bob Royal was nearly successful at Bury St. Edmund's, in spite of the extreme cold, and in the afternoon there was the usual ringing in Cambridge (though not, of course, at Great St. Mary's as these bells were still out of commission). Two more peals of Bob Minor in hand follow - one during the Vacation (in London) and one at the beginning of the Easter term. These last five peals of Bob Minor included two 'first peals', two 'first as conductor', and one 'first peal in hand'. Great St. Mary's bells were re-opened on Easter Monday and the Guild resumed ringing there on alternate Sunday evenings.

Selwyn College again came to the fore this term with an "all - Selwyn" peal of Double Norwich at Longstanton; and another peal was rung by a similar band in the Long Vacation - Cambridge Major at Norton in Hertfordshire.

The 1954 Tour saw the Guild in Wales - if Monmouthshire is in Wales! Brian Price was again the organiser. Many of the party spent a pleasant week - end at St. David's before joining the rest at the Swan Hotel, Abergavenny. The programme gave full "navigating" instructions including such references to the terrain as "turn left up colossal hill!" While the Guild's 400th peal was being rung at Caerphilly, the rest of the party toured Ebbw Vale steel works. Later in the same day a peal of Superlative was rung at Ebbw Vale. Yorkshire Major was rung at Newport All Saints', and some good touches of Stedman Cinques were scored at St. Woolos' Cathedral. The week finished with a peal of Double Norwich at Llanfigan where E.M. Atkins called the same peal from the same bell as he had done on the 1938 week.

APPENDIX I.

Analysis of peals rung by the Guild up to the end of the academic year 1953-4.

DOUBLES.	Hand.	Tower.
2 methods	-	1
4 methods	.	1
Total	-	2

MINOR.	Hand.	Tower.
Plain Bob	14	3
Kent Treble Bob	1	-
Cambridge Surprise	1	1
2 methods	1	1
3 methods	2	2
4 methods	-	1
7 methods	2	3
12 methods	-	1
Total	21	12

TRIPLES.	Hand.	Tower.
Plain Bob	1	-
Grandsire	6	4
Stedman	-	11
Total	7	15

MAJOR.	Hand.	Tower.
Plain Bob	94	30
Double Bob	3	-
Little Bob	11	5
Cambridge Court	5	-
Single Norwich	2	-
Double Norwich	32	23
Double Oxford	1	1
2 Spliced Plain	3	-
3 Spliced Plain	1	-
6 Spliced Plain	1	-
Kent Treble Bob	27	10
Oxford Treble Bob	2	-
Treble Bob (Gonville)	1	-
Treble Bob (Granta)	2	1
Treble Bob (Cam)	1	-
Cambridge Surprise	-	14
Yorkshire Surprise	-	4
Superlative Surprise	-	4
Lincolnshire Surprise	-	1
Rutland Surprise	-	1
Total	186	94

CATERS.	Hand.	Tower.
Stedman	-	5
Grandsire	8	3
St. Clement's Bob	-	1
Total	8	9
SPLICED CATERS & ROYAL.		
Plain Bob and Grandsire	1	-
Total	1	-
ROYAL.		
Plain Bob	27	4
Double Bob	2	-
Little Bob	3	2
Kent Treble Bob	3	1
2 Spliced Plain	3	-
Total	38	7
MAXIMUS.		
Plain Bob	2	-
Kent Treble Bob	1	-
Total	3	-
GRAND TOTAL	264	139

APPENDIX II.

OFFICERS.

President.

to 1937 Rev. A.H.F.Boughey
1937 - Rev. A.C.Blyth

Vice President.

1933-7 Rev. A.C.Blyth

Senior Treasurer.

1941-4 Rev. A.C.Blyth
1944 - Rev. C.F.D.Moule

Master.

1930. G P.Eastern
1931. A.G.G.Thurlow
1932. B.J.E.White
1933. B.J.E.White

1934. A.E.Mills
Left vacant
1935. R.D.St.J.Smith
1936. R.D.St.J.Smith
1937. M.B.Shaw
1938. A.R.Pargeter
1939. T.P.Hearn

Secretary & Treasurer.

A.G.G.Thurlow
M.H.C.Haines
J.M.T.Boston
J.M.T.Boston
A.E.Mills
Left vacant
A.N.P.Woodard
A.N.P.Woodard
M.B.Shaw
D.F.C.Hawkins
T.P.Hearn
R.H.Richens

Master.

1940. Left vacant
1941. R.Leigh

1942. K.S.B.Croft
1943. Left vacant
1944. S.E.Darmon
E.P.Crowy
B.D.Price
1945. B.D.Price
S.E.Darmon
1946. R.F.B.Speed
1947. R.Leigh
S.E.Darmon
1948. M.R.D.Harford
G.Dodds
1949. B.D.Threlfall
1950. A.S.Watt
1951. W.J.Ridgman

1952. P.A.F.Chalk
1953. F.E.Roberts
1954. C.M.P.Johnson

Secretary & Treasurer.

P.P.Jack
A.F.Ruston
Secretary.
R.Leigh
R.Leigh
S.E.Darmon
B.D.Price
P.W.Thompson
P.K.Williamson
R.F.B.Speed

J.F.Moor
E.J.Lindley

B.D.Threlfall

A.S.Watt
A.W.T.Cleaver
R.D.Edge
C.M.P.Johnson
F.E.Roberts
J.H.Fielden
W.T.Cook

APPENDIX III.
ANNUAL RINGING WEEKS.

Year.	Headquarters.	Host.	Attendance.	No. of peals
1906	Midland Counties	H.S.T.Richardson	8	3
07	Pulford, Cheshire	E.H.Lewis	7	-
08	Darlington	H.S.T.Richardson	10	3
09	Witney	C.W.O. Jenkyn	11	2
1910	Dunstable	W.W.C.Baker	12	3
11	Hythe	E.B.James	11	2
12	Ingledene, Plymouth	W.D.James	10	6
13	Pulford	E.H.Lewis	14	3
19	Trin. Coll. Cam.	The President	-	3
1920	Thundridge Vic.	B.H.Tyrwhitt-Drake	-	3
21	Isham Rectory	E.M.Atkins	-	3
22	"Watermillok", Bolton	H.J.Elsee	16	3
23	Surfleet Vicarage	H.L.James	16	2
24	Trin. Coll. Cam.	The President	18	6
25	Y.M.C.A., Brighton	J.T.Rickman	14	3
26	Grappenhall, Cheshire	C.A.Clements	13	-
27	Isham Rectory	E.M.Atkins	14	3
28	Almondsbury Vicarage	S.H.Wood	10	2

Year.	Headquarters.	Host.	Attendance.	No. of peals
1929	Trin. Coll. Cam.	The President	25	3
30	Surfleet Vic.	H.L.James	13	2
31	St. Nich. Hereford	H.S.T.Richardson	10	1
32	"Moorcocks", Brasted	E.H.Lewis	12	2
33	Quatford Vic., Salop	E.G.Benson	14	1
34	Trin. Coll. Cam.	The President	15	4
35	South Wigston, Leics.	F.S.Poole	14	2
36	Wokingham Vic.	A.G.G.Thurlow	11	2
37	Golden Lion, Wroughton	S.H.Wood	14	4
38	Burghill Vic.	E.G.Benson	14	5
1945	3, Newnham Terr. Cam.	The President	14	1
46	Y.M.C.A., Norwich	A.G.G.Thurlow	23	6
47	Selly Oak, Birmingham	F.E.Haynes	18	5
48	"Mason's Arms" Whitefield, Manchester	R.D.St.J.Smith	10	5
49	Central Hotel, Brighton	B.D.Price	14	3
1950	Saxon Barns, Cam.	The President	18	5
51	27, Banbury Rd., Oxford	P.K.Williamson	18	3
52	Alexandra Hotel, Tunbridge Wells	Miss G.A.Smith	17	6
53	2, College Rd., Newton	E.M.Atkins	18	1
54	Swan Hotel, Abergavenny	B.D.Price	21	4