

THE
HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION
OF
Change Ringers.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1889-90,

WITH A

LIST OF MEMBERS

For the Current Year, 1890-91.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CARTMEL, VICTORIA STREET.

, and Auditor.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.

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Founded 29th October, 1884.  
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Patrons :

THE RIGHT REV. LORD BISHOP CLAUGHTON.
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON LAWBRANCE.
THE REV. CANON DAVYS.
THE REV. CANON WIGRAM.
THE REV. W. J. SKILTON.
THE REV. LORD W. GASCOYNE-CECIL.
HENRY HUCKS GIBBS, Esq.

President :

LEONARD PROCTOR, Esq., Benington.

Son. Secretary :

MR. EDWARD PERCY DEBENHAM, St. Albans.

Assistant Secretary :

MR. GEORGE W. CARTMEL, St. Albans.

Son. Auditor :

MR. RALPH A. FOWLER, St. Albans.

Committee :

MR. JOHN KENTISH.
MR. ROBERT JACKSON.
THE REV. CANON WIGRAM.

With the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Auditor.

Rules.

1.—That this Association shall be called "THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS," and that its objects be :—

I. Belfry reform, and

II. The promotion of Change Ringing, and of social intercourse amongst Change Ringers within and around the County by means of the various Annual and District Meetings.

2.—That the Association shall consist of Honorary and Ringing Members. The Hon. Members shall subscribe not less than five shillings annually, and Ringing Members not less than one shilling annually. That these Subscriptions become due on Easter Monday in each year, and be payable in advance. Either Honorary or Ringing Members may at any time become Life Members on payment of a sum equal to ten years' subscriptions.

3.—That no one shall be eligible for election as a Ringing Member unless he can ring at least 120 changes in one of the Standard Methods, or cover with the tenor for 500 changes. The proposer of any candidate for election must be in a position to vouch for one or the other of these qualifications. That every candidate be duly proposed and seconded at an Annual or a District Meeting, and elected by a majority of the Members then present by a show of hands. Ringers residing out of the County may join the Association on the same terms as those specified in this and the preceding rule. A duly qualified ringer may be provisionally elected in the tower if required to take part in a peal, if not less than six votes be recorded in his favour, subject to such election being confirmed at the next Meeting.

4.—That the government of the Association be vested in a President, Secretary, and Auditor, *ex-officio*, and one representative from each local band, eight or more Members of which belong thereto. These Officers shall constitute a Committee of Management, of whom five shall form a quorum. That it shall be the duty of the Conductor or Secretary of each band to inform the Secretary of the Association, in writing, of the name and address of the person deputed to act on the Committee, and until notice shall be given to the contrary, such person chosen shall be deemed to be a Member thereof, subject nevertheless to the limitations contained in Rule 6.

5.—That three District Meetings be held in the year, on a Saturday, in the months of February, June and October. That the Annual Meeting be held on Easter Monday, on which occasion there shall be a special Service in one of the Churches. That at the Annual Meeting the Members shall elect the President, the Secretary, and Auditor for the ensuing twelve months.

6.—That it be the duty of the Conductor or Secretary of each local band to collect the subscriptions of the several Members thereof, and transmit them on the day of the Annual Meeting, or within one calendar month thereafter, to the Secretary of the Association; and in the event of any band having a representative on the Committee being in arrear in the payment of such subscriptions after the time above specified, such representative shall cease to act until at least the qualifying subscriptions have been paid. Any member being more than twelve months in arrear with his subscription shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association as from the commencement of the preceding year; and no one whose current subscription is unpaid shall be allowed to speak and vote at any Meeting.

7.—In cases of important motions intended to be brought forward at any Meeting, notice thereof shall, if possible, be given at the preceding one, but where this is impracticable it must be sent to the Secretary in sufficient time to enable him to give the Members due intimation of the same.

8.—That notice of the various District and Annual Meetings be inserted by the Secretary at least two weeks previously in *The Bell News*, or such other paper or papers as the Members shall from time to time determine, and such notice shall be considered sufficient without the necessity of further intimation of such Meetings being sent by circular to the local bands and unattached Members.

9.—No peal of less than 5,000 changes on seven bells and upwards, or 5,000 in seven different methods on six bells, shall be entered in the Peal Book. The particulars of each peal shall be supplied to the Secretary by the Conductor, who shall be responsible for the payment of the subscriptions of any persons elected in the tower upon the occasion. No peal of Triples, Caters or Cinques, rung without the Tenor covering, shall be entered in the Peal Book.

List of Members.

Honorary Members.

Mr. WILLIAM CARTMEL, St. Albans.
 Rev. Canon DAVYS, Wheathamstead.
 HENRY HUCKS GIBBS, Esq., Aldenham.
 Rev. KENNETH F. GIBBS, Aldenham.
 Mr. E. ORAM, Hertford.
 Rev. W. J. SKILTON, Baldock.

Ringing Members.

*The Asterisk denotes the Secretary or Correspondent of each Company.
 Names of Life Members are printed in italics.*

THE BALDOCK BAND.

S. Mary the Virgin - - Eight Bells.

W. Bidnell.	G. Gentle.	G. T. Spicer.
W. Bidnell, jun.	Richard Jackson.	A. Thurgood.
E. Bray.	*Robert Jackson.	T. Webb.
J. Cawdell.	J. Phillips.	
J. Craft.	J. Smith	

THE BENINGTON BAND.

S. Peter - - - - Eight Bells.

L. Chapman.	S. Page.	H. Warner.
W. Hobbs.	*L. Proctor.	N. Warner.
John Kitchener.	C. Shambrook.	J. Warner.
Joseph Kitchener.	W. Smith.	

THE HATFIELD BAND.

S. Etheldreda - - - - Eight Bells.

T. Gathard.	W. J. Richardson.	J. Shepherd.
J. Hollingsworth.	H. G. Rowe.	G. Smith.
*J. Kentish.	A. Shepherd.	
W. Powers.	H. Shepherd.	

THE HERTFORD BAND.

S. Andrew - - - - Eight Bells.

All Saints' - - - - Ten Bells.

Rev. Canon Wigram.	J. Cull.	H. Holifield.
H. Baker.	M. Ellsmore.	J. Jauncey.
H. Bottrill.	F. George.	S. Knight.
F. G. Crawley.	J. Gray.	H. Phillips.
J. G. Crawley-	E. Holifield.	*J. Staples.

THE HITCHIN BAND.

S. Mary - - - - Eight Bells.

*W. Allen.
T. Dobbs.J. F. Foster.
F. Furr.J. Hare.
J. Randall.

THE HUNSDON BAND.

S. Dunstan - - - - Eight Bells.

C. Ladley.

THE S. ALBANS BANDS.

The Cathedral - - - - - Eight Bells.

S. Peter - - - - Ten Bells.

S. Stephen - - - - Six Bells.

*The Cathedral.*W. Battle.
G. W. Cartmel.
E. Chapman.
R. A. Fowler.
T. Grant.
N. N. Hills.
R. T. Kent.
T. Long.
E. J. Mitchell.
E. R. Mitchell.
J. C. Mitchell.
S. E. Mitchell.R. M. Pratt.
*H. L. Waddington.*S. Peter.*
A. Barnes.
H. Brewer.
J. W. Brewer.
W. H. L. Buckingham.
T. Conley.
*E. P. Debenham.D. Gibbons.
A. Hull.
E. Hull.
H. Lewis.
W. Little.
T. Waller.
W. T. Waller.*S. Stephen.*
*A. Godman.

THE SAWBRIDGEWORTH BAND.

S. Mary - - - - Eight Bells.

W. Morris.

P. Springham.

Non-Resident Members.

H. A. Barnett, Tottenham.
Rev. G. F. Coleridge, Caversham, Oxon.
E. J. Comb, London.
G. Cornell, Wanstead, Essex.
Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Ringmer, Lewes.
J. W. Driver, London.
B. Foskett, Hampstead.
J. N. Frossell, Bedford.
W. E. Garrard, London.
J. R. Haworth, London.
A. Percival Heywood, Derby.Rev. A. D. Hill, Downton, Salisbury.
G. B. Lucas, Tottenham.
G. T. McLaughlin, London.
M. Myhill, Romford.
N. J. Pitstow, Saffron Walden.
Rev. F. E. Robinson, Drayton, Berks.
J. W. Taylor, Loughborough.
J. W. Washbrook, Oxford.
Rev. W. S. Willett, Monkleigh, Torrington, Devon.
C. F. Winny, London.
R. T. Woodley, London.

Report.

Read at the Annual Meeting, at Hertford, on Easter Monday,

April 7th, 1890.

It is with much gratification that I can again report a steady increase in the Membership of our Association. At the present time there are 101 Ringing Members; of these 83 are resident and 18 non-resident; and there are also three other non-residents whose provisional elections will be laid before you for confirmation. I should like, however, to see the list of Honorary Members increased, as for a County like ours it is small to a degree, although I am happy to say that we have gained the support of Henry Hucks Gibbs, Esq., of Aldenham House, as a Life Member, and Canon Davys, of Wheathampstead, as an annual one.

As regards our finances, I cannot show quite so large a balance in hand as last year, but the expenses of the last Annual Meeting will more than account for it. I would call the attention of the Members to the very kind donation of 10s. 6d. from the Cathedral Society, St. Albans. The success of this Association, and consequently the pleasure and advantage derived from it, must depend in a great measure upon the exertions of the existing Societies to extend and strengthen it. I hope, therefore, that all will try and increase the number of Honorary Members. The subscription for Ringing Members is necessarily a small one, so that to carry on the work of the Association the assistance of Honorary Members is requisite, and if their number could be increased greater advantages would be offered to the Ringing Members. Before passing from this subject, I must not forget to thank Members for the prompt payment of their subscriptions, and to mention that, of the number published with my last report, four only have failed to "pay up."

The Annual Meeting was held on Easter Monday last, at St. Albans, the rings of eight at the Cathedral and of ten at St. Peter's having been put at the service of the Members. There was a good attendance of the local ringers and Members from Hertford, Benington, Hatfield, and Baldock, besides visitors from London and Bushey. A special service was held in the Cathedral, at which Archdeacon Lawrance delivered an impressive address, and he afterwards took the chair at the dinner and the business meeting. District meetings have also been held at Hitchin, on June 22nd, and at Hatfield, on October 12th and February 15th, and all were well attended. At the meeting in June a resolution was passed recognising the benefits which would accrue by the establishment of a Central Council, and at the following meeting Mr. Proctor, as the President, was appointed to represent this Association on the Council. The first meeting will be held in London, on Tuesday next, when I trust a good number of the representatives will be present.

As regards the progress of change-ringing in the County, 22 peals have been rung, 16 on tower bells and six on handbells. Of the tower peals four have been rung at St. Peter's, St. Albans, three each at the Cathedral and St. Andrew's, Hertford, two at Hatfield, and one each at All Saints', Hertford, Benington, Braughing, and Waltham Abbey, and they comprise four of Caters, two of Major, and ten of Triples. The Cater peals consisted of one of Stedman rung at All Saints', Hertford, conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, and three of Grandsire

at St. Peter's, St. Albans, one on September 21st, conducted by Mr. Buckingham, one on October 26th by myself, and the last on February 8th, by Mr. Cartmel. The Major peals were one of Superlative Surprise rung at St. Andrew's, Hertford, on November 21st, composed and conducted by Mr. Washbrook, and one of Double Norwich at the same Church on November 18th, composed by Mr. Washbrook, and conducted by Mr. Baker. Four of the Triple peals were of Stedman, one at St. Albans, conducted by Mr. J. C. Mitchell; one at Braughing, on November 22nd, composed and conducted by Mr. Washbrook; one at Benington, on November 20th; and one at Waltham Abbey, on November 23rd, both being a variation of Thurstan's Peal composed by Mr. Washbrook and conducted by him. Canon Wigram informs me that the variation "was composed extempore without a figure being put on paper and its exceptional features seen, considered, and provided for while it was being rung." One peal of Bob Triples was rung at the Cathedral on September 30th, conducted by Mr. Cartmel, and the remaining five were of Grandsire; two of them were rung at Hatfield, one on May 7th, conducted by Mr. A. Shepherd (notable as being that gentleman's first peal), and another on December 31st, conducted by Mr. Rowe; one at St. Andrew's, Hertford, on August 13th, conducted by Mr. Baker, on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. Jasper Crawley; one at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on December 4th, conducted by myself; and one at the Cathedral, on December 7th, conducted by Mr. Cartmel. The handbell peals were all rung at St. Albans, and comprised one of Bob Major, two of Bob Triples and three of Grandsire Triples. The Major peal was rung on February 1st, composed and conducted by Mr. Buckingham; one peal of Bob Triples was rung on April 22nd, also conducted by him, and another on October 7th, conducted by Mr. Cartmel, who also conducted a peal of Grandsire on September 19th. The remaining two were conducted by myself, and were rung on September 7th and January 18th respectively. Summarised, Mr. Cartmel has conducted five peals, Mr. Washbrook and myself four each, Mr. Buckingham three, Mr. Baker two, and the Rev. F. E. Robinson and Messrs. Rowe, J. C. Mitchell and A. Shepherd, one each, and out of the Ringing Members 48 have rung in one peal or more during the year. I had hoped to have reported that some new towers had been gained for the Association, but before the next report is laid before you I have every reason to believe that we shall have got at least four more. The Benington band still hold their own at the head of the Hertfordshire ringing companies, but at the same time the two Societies at St. Albans, the Hertford College Youths and the Baldock Guild, all deserve a word of praise and encouragement. The Bishop Stortford and Sawbridge-worth hands also do some good performances, and I shall be glad to see more of the names of their Members in the books of the Association than at present. It is satisfactory to note that at Gravely a decided attempt has been made to introduce change-ringing, and all praise is due to the Churchwarden, Mr. J. Wright, for taking the matter in hand. At Bushey, Oxhey, and Sandridge: I hear good news, and before long I look for better still from those quarters.

Passing on to individual performances, four "first peals" have been scored, *viz.*, Messrs. Conley and E. R. Mitchell, of St. Albans, and A. and H. Shepherd, of Hatfield. Three firsts on handbells have also been obtained in the persons of Messrs. E. Hull and J. W. Brewer, of St. Albans, and H. Rowe, of Hatfield. Five others have rung their first of Stedman Triples, one first Major, two of Double Norwich, and two in a Surprise Method; three firsts of Caters and two of Stedman Caters. Mr. J. C. Mitchell has rung as conductor his first peal of Stedman Caters (a non-Association one, however), and Mr. Cartmel having conducted "Holt's Original" off 7-8 has completed his conductorship of that peal from each even pair of handbells—a performance hitherto unknown in the annals of change-ringing.

Mr. Haworth celebrated his jubilee as a Member of the College Youths in August, and in commemoration of the event he was invited to take part in a peal at St. Albans which, it is satisfactory to add, was successfully accomplished.

During the past year the existing rings of six at Bushey and Aldenham have been increased to eight; two trebles have been added to Gravely Church, and at Sandridge the 2nd bell has been recast and four others added, thus making a ring of six at both places.

I learn with regret that our esteemed Bishop has sent in his resignation, after being connected with this County for 23 years—as Bishop of Rochester from 1867 to 1877, and since then as Bishop of St. Albans. I am sure that the Members will join with me in wishing that he may be spared for many years to enjoy that rest he has so nobly earned.

E. P. DEBENHAM, Hon. Sec.

St. Albans.

5th April, 1890.

Analysis of Peals Rung by the Association during the Year ending Easter, 1890.

TOWER PEALS.

Church.	No.	Method.	Conductor.	Date.
S. Peter, St. Albans ...	4	Grandsire Caters	Mr. Buckingham.....	Sept. 21, 1889
		" "	Mr. Debenham	Oct. 26, 1889
		" "	Mr. Cartmel	Feb. 8, 1890
Cathedral, St. Albans	3	Grandsire Triples	Mr. Debenham	Dec. 4, 1889
		Stedman Triples	Mr. J. C. Mitchell ...	Nov. 2, 1889
		Bob Triples	Mr. Cartmel	Sept. 30, 1889
S. Andrew, Hertford...	3	Grandsire Triples	Mr. Cartmel	Sept. 7, 1889
		Superlative Surprise Major ...	Mr. Washbrook	Nov. 21, 1889
		Double Norwich Court Bob Major	Mr. Baker.....	Nov. 18, 1889
		Grandsire Triples	Mr. Baker.....	Aug. 13, 1889
S. Etheldreda, Hatfield	2	" "	Mr. Shepherd	May 7, 1889
		" "	Mr. Rowe	Dec. 31, 1889
All Saints', Hertford...	1	Stedman Caters..	Rev. F. E. Robinson	Nov. 21, 1889
S. Peter, Benington ...	1	Stedman Triples	Mr. Washbrook	Nov. 20, 1889
S. Mary, Braughing ...	1	" "	Mr. Washbrook	Nov. 22, 1889
Waltham Abbey	1	" "	Mr. Washbrook	Nov. 23, 1889

HANDBELL PEALS.

Place where Rung.	Method.	Conductor.	Date.
St. Albans	Bob Major	Mr. Buckingham ...	Feb. 1, 1890
"	Bob Triples	Mr. Buckingham ...	April 22, 1889
"	Bob Triples	Mr. Cartmel.....	Oct. 7, 1889
"	Grandsire Triples	Mr. Debenham	Sept. 7, 1889
"	Grandsire Triples	Mr. Cartmel.....	Sept. 19, 1889
"	Grandsire Triples	Mr. Debenham	Jan. 18, 1890

BALANCE SHEET,

TO EASTER, 1890.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
Balance in hand, Easter, 1889	4 2 6	Expenses of Annual Meeting at St. Albans	3 10 0
Subscriptions from Ringing Members	4 15 0	Expenses of 3 District Meetings	2 1 0
Subscriptions from Honorary Members	3 0 0	Printing	2 13 0
Donation—Cathedral Society, St. Albans	0 10 6	Cost of Advertisements of Annual Meeting in <i>The Bell News</i>	0 2 8
Miscellaneous Receipts	0 8 6	Entry of 23 Peals in Peal Book	1 3 0
Subscriptions paid in advance	0 14 0	Stationery, &c.	0 2 10
		Postages and Secretary's Incidental Expenses	0 9 6
		Balance in hand, Easter, 1889	3 8 6
	<u>£13 10 6</u>		<u>£13 10 6</u>

Examined and found correct.

RALPH A. FOWLER, *Hon. Auditor.*



With regard to the progress of change-ringing in the County, 19 peals have been rung—14 on tower bells and five on hand-bells. Of the tower peals, six have been rung at Aldenham, three at St. Peter's, St. Albans, two at Hatfield, and one apiece at the Cathedral, and Baldock and Bushey. They comprise one of Bob Royal, four of Major, and nine of Triples. The Royal was rung at St. Peter's on February 14th, composed and conducted by Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham. The Major peals were one of Kent Treble Bob, rung at the Cathedral on April 19th, conducted by Mr. Newman, and three of Plain Bob—the first rung at Aldenham on July 12th; the second at St. Peter's on October 27th, both conducted by Mr. Buckingham; and the third at Baldock on December 11th, conducted by Mr. Spicer. Two peals of Bob Triples were rung at Aldenham on November 8th and January 10th respectively, both being under the conductorship of Mr. Buckingham, and the remaining seven were of Grandsire, three of which were rung at Aldenham; the dates were May 15th, October 25th, and February 21st, Mr. Rowe being the conductor of the first, Mr. Cartmel of the second, and Mr. Buckingham of the third. Two were rung at Hatfield, the first on April 22nd, conducted by Mr. A. Shepherd, and the last, on November 29th, conducted by his brother, Mr. J. Shepherd. I was responsible for conducting the rest, namely, at Bushey on October 4th, and St. Peter's on March 14th. The hand-bell peals consisted of one of Bob Major, and two of Bob Triples, all conducted by Mr. Buckingham; and two of Grandsire Triples, one conducted by Mr. Cartmel, and the other by Mr. J. C. Mitchell. Summarised, Mr. Buckingham has conducted nine peals, Mr. Cartmel and myself two apiece, and Messrs. Newman, Mitchell, Spicer, Rowe, A. Shepherd, and J. Shepherd one each. Forty ringing members have taken part in one or more peals during the year. New centres have been opened at Aldenham and Bushey, and a start has been made at Graveley; there also seems a possibility that Oxhey, Sandridge, and Apsley End may follow suit before next year's report will be laid before you. The Benington band, under the guidance of our worthy President, still maintains their position, and, as regards the others, the Baldock Guild, the two Societies at St. Albans, and the Hertford College Youths all deserve mention. The Baldock ringers are to be congratulated upon scoring their first peal, and I hope soon to hear of their having mastered one of Stedman. Credit is due to Mr. Rowe for his untiring exertions in introducing change-ringing at Aldenham, and for his kind assistance to me in establishing a centre at Bushey.

Passing on to individual performances ten first peals have been obtained, viz., Mr. S. E. Mitchell (on handbells), and Messrs. Long, Randall, Weatherley, Chapman, and W. T. Waller, of St. Albans; and Messrs. Bray, Cawdell, Craft, and Thurgood, of Baldock; and besides Mr. S. E. Mitchell two others have scored their first on handbells, namely, Mr. E. R. Mitchell and Mr. Randall. Six have rung their first peal of Royal, eight their first of Major, one of Treble Bob Major, and one of Stedman. Two have conducted a peal for the first time, namely, Mr. Spicer, of Baldock, and Mr. J. Shepherd, of Hatfield, and Mr. J. C. Mitchell has followed Mr. Cartmel's example, as he has completed his conductorship of Holt's Original, from each even pair of handbells. In September last Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham rang his 100th peal, and in referring to the list published in the Ringing Papers I find that in a little over five years he took part in 60 peals on tower bells, and 40 on handbells—a truly unique record.

It is with regret that I mention the loss, through death, of two members of the Association, Mr. R. M. Pratt, of St. Albans, who died on May 27th, and Mr. J. Jauncey, of Hertford, whose death occurred just two months later.

I have already alluded to the fact that a number of former ringing members have not renewed their subscriptions, and consequently must be taken to have resigned from the Association. This may be partially accounted for by members having retired from their local bands, and therefore do not take an active interest in the Association; another cause, in several instances, seems to be that the District Meetings have been held at places accessible to the majority, although a small minority find it difficult to get to them, hence the allegation that the Association confines its operations to the western rather than the eastern side of the County. There have been no members from the Bishop's Stortford Company since I have

occupied my present post, and the two subscribers from Sawbridgeworth have withdrawn their support for the reason I have just stated. However much this state of affairs may be regretted, yet unless a decided advantage can be gained by holding a Meeting in a District inaccessible to four-fifths of the present members, and without a guarantee from a good proportion of the remaining fifth that a meeting would be supported by them, it is hardly feasible that such a place should be selected.

In conclusion, I must express my obligation to Mr. Cartmel for the assistance he has rendered me during the past year in carrying out the duties of Secretary to the Association.

E. P. DEBENHAM, Hon. Sec.