

THE
HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION
OF
Change-Ringers.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1891-92,

WITH A

➤ LIST OF MEMBERS ◀

For the Current Year, 1892-93.

St. Albans :

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CARTMEL, VICTORIA STREET.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE-RINGERS.

Founded 29th October, 1884.

Patrons :

THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS.
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON LAWRENCE.
THE REV. CANON DAVYS.
THE REV. CANON WIGRAM.
THE REV. W. J. SKILTON.
THE REV. F. H. HODGSON.
THE REV. J. A. CRUIKSHANK.
THE REV. T. H. KYNASTON.
THE REV. K. F. GIBBS.
THE REV. LORD W. GASCOYNE CECIL.
HENRY HUCKS GIBBS, Esq., M.P.
C. E. KEYSER, Esq.
W. HARFORD, Esq.
H. J. TOULMIN, Esq.

President :

LEONARD PROCTOR, Esq., Benington.

Hon. Secretary :

MR. EDWARD PERCY DEBENHAM, St. Albans.

Assistant Hon. Secretary :

MR. GEORGE W. CARTMEL, St. Albans.

Hon. Auditor :

MR. ERNEST E. HUNTLEY, Bushey.

Committee :

MR. JOHN KENTISH.
MR. ROBERT JACKSON.

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 belongs 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.—The 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.

Names of Life Members are printed in italics.

The LORD BISHOP of ST. ALBANS.
 Rev. T. T. BLOCKLEY, St. Albans.
 Mr. WILLIAM CARTMEL, St. Albans.
 Rev. J. A. CRUKSHANK, Sandridge.
 Rev. Lord WILLIAM GASCOYNE CBCL, Hatfield.
 Rev. Canon DAVYS, Wheathampstead.
Henry Hicks Gibbs, Esq., M.P., Aldenham.
Rev. Kenneth F. Gibbs, Aldenham.
 Rev. G. H. P. GLOSSOP, St. Albans.
 WILLIAM HARFORD, Esq., Bushey.
 Rev. F. H. HODGSON, Abbot's Langley.
 C. E. KEYSER, Esq., Bushey.
 Rev. T. H. KYNASTON, Bushey.
 Archdeacon LAWRANCE, St. Albans.
 Rev. W. C. MORGAN, St. Albans.
 ANDREW OLIVER, Esq., Bedford Row, London.
 F. W. SILVESTER, Esq., Hedges, St. Albans.
 H. J. TOULMIN, Esq., The Pré, St. Albans.

Ringing Members.

The Asterisk denotes the Secretary or Correspondent of each Company.

THE ALDENHAM BAND.

S. John the Baptist

W. Bennett.
 A. Childs.
 H. Hart.
 W. Hewitt.

H. Jones.
 G. Layzell.
 W. Norwood.
 *H. G. Rowe.

Eight Bells.

C. Williams.
 F. Wright.
 H. J. Wright.

THE BALDOCK BAND.

S. Mary the Virgin

W. Bidnell.
 W. Bidnell, jun.
 J. Cawdell.

G. Gentle.
 Richard Jackson.
 *Robert Jackson.

Eight Bells.

J. Phillips.
 G. T. Spicer.
 T. Webb.

THE BUSHEY BAND.

S. James

W. Atkins.
 F. Edwards.
 G. Gibbard.
 G. Hunt.

*E. E. Huntley.
 A. Hussey.
 I. Hussey.

Eight Bells.

A. Maynard.
 W. Oakley.
 A. J. Pate.

THE BENINGTON BAND.

S. Peter

L. Chapman.
 John Kitchener.
 Joseph Kitchener.
 S. Page.

*L. Proctor.
 C. Shambrook.
 W. Smith.

Eight Bells.

N. Warner.
 J. Warner.
 O. Warner.

THE GRAVELEY BAND.

S. Mary

J. Gray.

G. Munns.

Six Bells.

J. Wright.

THE HATFIELD BAND.

S. Etheldreda

*J. Kentish.
J. T. Kentish.
W. E. Powers.
W. J. Richardson.

W. J. Rumney.
A. Shepherd.
H. Shepherd.
J. Shepherd.

Eight Bells.

R. Shepherd.
G. Smith.
H. Tharby.

THE HERTFORD BAND.

S. Andrew

Rev. Canon Wigram.

H. Baker.

Eight Bells.

*J. Staples.

THE HITCHIN BAND.

S. Mary

*J. Hare.

Eight Bells.

THE HUNSDON BAND.

S. Dunstan

J. Crabb.

Eight Bells.

THE KNEBWORTH BAND.

S. Mary-the-Virgin

J. Dennis.

Six Bells.

W. R. Dennis.

THE S. ALBANS BANDS.

The Cathedral

S. Peter

S. Stephen

The Cathedral.

W. Battle.
C. H. Biggs.
W. H. Buckingham.
C. Burrell.
G. W. Cartmel.
E. Chapman.
R. E. Hammond.
R. T. Kent.
T. Long.
E. R. Mitchell.

J. C. Mitchell.
S. E. Mitchell.
H. Parkins.
J. E. Randall.
H. L. Waddington.*
R. H. Weatherley.

S. Peter.

H. Brewer.
J. W. Brewer.
W. H. L. Buckingham.
T. Conley.

Eight Bells.

Ten Bells.

Six Bells.

*E. P. Debenham.

A. Hull.
E. Hull.
H. Lewis.
W. Little.
T. Waller.
W. T. Waller.

S. Stephen.

*A. Godman.

Non-Resident Members.

J. Barber.
A. Barnes, Birmingham.
C. W. Clarke, Bedford.
Rev. G. F. Coleridge, Caversham, Oxon.
E. J. Comb, London.
G. Cornell, Wanstead, Essex.
Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Ringmer, Lewes.
F. L. Davies, London.
H. N. Doughty, Haverstock Hill.
J. W. Driver, London.
R. A. Fowler, London.
J. N. Frossell, Bedford.
W. Goodchild, London.
J. George, Rugby.
J. R. Haworth, London.
A. Percival Heywood, Derby.

I. Hills, Bedford.
G. B. Lucas, Tottenham.
F. G. Newman, Walthamstow.
J. Pettit, London.
Rev. F. E. Robinson, Drayton, Berks.
F. Sharpe, Clapham.
W. Short.
J. W. Taylor, Loughborough.
J. Waghorne, sen., Tottenham.
J. W. Washbrook, Oxford.
H. Watson, Haverstock Hill.
H. Weston, Brighton.
Rev. W. S. Willett, Monkleigh, Torrington, Devon.
C. F. Winny, London.
R. T. Woodley, London.

REPORT.

Read at the Annual Meeting, at St. Albans, on Easter Monday,
April 18th, 1892.

In submitting my Report for the year ending Easter, 1892, I am glad to be able to congratulate the Members upon the improved financial position of our Association. The Balance Sheet shows that the year commenced with a Balance in hand of £5 4s. 0d., and this has now grown to £7 4s. 1d., or, excluding a few subscriptions paid in advance, a net increase on the year of £1 14s. 1d. The roll of Members has been lengthened, there being 111 ringing members, of whom 83 are resident and 28 non-resident. The Honorary Members have also increased in number; and I must continue to rely upon the assistance of the Members generally to add to the list.

The Annual Meeting last year was held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, and the bells of the Cathedral and St. Peter's Church were rung during the day. The meeting was the greatest success of any in the annals of the Association, as Members attended from Aldenham, Bennington, Baldock, Bushey, Hatfield, Hitchin, and Knebworth, besides the representatives of the local bands; and there were several Honorary Members and visitors present. During the morning a special Service was held at St. Peter's, conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Lawrance, assisted by the Revs. V. Faulkner and William C. Morgan. The Archdeacon's address was listened to with attention by the goodly number of ringers present. A feature in connection with the service was the kind assistance rendered by the Organist and Choir to add to its beautifying effect. It is gratifying also to testify to the large attendance of Members at the Service. The dinner was held in the Corn Exchange, and at its conclusion the Members had the pleasure of welcoming the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who became a Patron of the Association, and expressed his warm approbation of the work it carries on.

District Meetings have been held during the year as follows:—at Bennington, on June 27th; at Hitchin, on October 17th; and at Hertford, on February 20th, but they have hardly been so well attended as I should have desired. The thanks of the Association are due to the President for the hospitality which the Members received at his hands at the first-mentioned meeting.

With regard to the progress of change ringing in the County, 20 peals have been rung—18 on tower bells and two on hand-bells. Of the tower peals, eight were rung at Aldenham, four at Bushey, three at Hatfield, two at Oxhey, and one at St. Albans, and comprised one of Grandsire Caters, one of Bob Major and 16 of Triples. The Cater peal was rung at St. Peter's, St. Albans, on October 10th, conducted by Mr. Buckingham, and the Bob Major at Hatfield on October 6th, conducted by Mr. Short. A peal of Stedman Triples was rung at Aldenham on

November 14th, and one of Bob Triples at the same church on December 10th, both being under the conductorship of Mr. Buckingham. The rest were Grandsire peals, six being rung at Aldenham on the several dates of May 2nd, November 7th, 9th, and 29th, and January 28th, the conductors being myself for the first, Mr. Buckingham for the second, and Mr. Rowe for the remainder; four were rung at Bushey, on October 22nd, November 12th, December 21st, and January 11th, Mr. Buckingham conducting the first and third, and Mr. Rowe the others; two took place at Hatfield, on September 1st and January 26th, and were conducted by Mr. J. Kentish and Mr. A. Shepherd respectively; and the same number at Oxhey, that on August 30th being conducted by Mr. Newman, and the other on October 27th, by Mr. Rowe. The handbell peals, if few in number, were of a high standard, the first being 5040 changes in seven minor methods, rung by the brothers Mitchell on June 3rd, and a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major on June 13th, conducted by Mr. Buckingham. Summarised, Mr. Buckingham and Mr. Rowe have each conducted seven peals, and Messrs. Newman, J. C. Mitchell, Short, Kentish, and A. Shepherd and myself have one apiece to our credit. It is pleasing to notice the stride that has been made in the art at Bushey and Aldenham, as evidenced by the number of peals in which members of those companies have taken part.

Passing on to individual performances, 13 members have scored their first peal, viz. Messrs. Huntley, Edwards, Pate, Oakley, Hunt, and Atkins of Bushey; Messrs. Hewitt, H. J. Wright, Childs, Hart, and Norwood of Aldenham; Mr. Hammond, of St. Albans; and Mr. J. T. Kentish, of Hatfield. In addition to the foregoing three have rung their first peal of Caters, five their first of Major, two of Treble Bob, and one of Stedman. One has conducted a peal for the first time, viz. Mr. J. Kentish, of Hatfield, and I would add that his eldest son—a boy of 13—scored his first peal on the same occasion. The best performance for the year was the handbell peal rung by the Messrs. Mitchell, and they claim the credit of having scored the first peal in seven minor methods rung on handbells.

It is with sorrow that I have to record the death of Mr. Henry Hunt, of Bushey, which occurred in May last after a short illness. He was a Member of our Association for only a few months, but had the promise of taking a high position as a change ringer, and the local company have keenly felt his removal from them.

All Saints' Church, Hertford, was destroyed by fire on the morning of December 21st, and the fine peal of ten—the pride of the Hertford College Youths—was lost. It is to be hoped that in rebuilding the Church—which may soon be commenced—the peal will be replaced.

In former years I have alluded to some of the difficulties in the way of extending the work of the Association, and they have been recognised as such by the general body of Members. I think that the time has now arrived when they may authorise some contribution being made out of the funds towards the travelling expenses of an Instructor for Companies desirous of affiliating themselves to the Association. It has also become apparent that the Association has not the support it deserves from change ringers in the Eastern, or Hertford Division. The chief complaint seems to be that the Meetings are held at centres inconvenient for a small minority; to that I have replied that if they will pledge themselves to support a meeting at any given place I should be happy to do my part in the matter to meet their wishes; but when, as on a previous occasion, a meeting was held in the Eastern Division, and out of the members of the local company only the Steeple Keeper was present at the business meeting, and one other subsequently came to the tower, it is extremely difficult to know how to act. I have been in communication with Canon Wigram, an ex-secretary of the Association, and a retiring member of the committee, and one of his suggestions is that districts should be formed in the county. I think it a good suggestion in the abstract, but before it is adopted it must first be seen what the requirements of a given district are, and then how those requirements can be met; and at the outset a difficulty presents itself by there being no promise of support even if such a scheme was set on foot. The matter practically rests in the hands of our friends at Hertford, Bishop's Stortford, and Sawbridgeworth, and if any of them will bring it forward there is no doubt that something could be done towards meeting the demand, should it exist.

In conclusion, I feel I cannot sufficiently thank Mr. Cartmel for his invaluable assistance to me during the past year.

E. P. DEBENHAM.

St. Albans, 16th April, 1892.

Analysis of Peals Rung by the Association during the Year ending Easter, 1892.

TOWER PEALS.

Church.	No.	Method.	Conductor.	Date.
S. John the Baptist, Aldenham	8	Grandsire Triples	Mr. E. P. Debenham	May 2, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. Buckingham..	Nov. 7, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Nov. 9, 1891
" "		Stedman Triples	Mr. Buckingham..	Nov. 14, 1891
" "		Grandsire Triples	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Nov. 28, 1891
" "		Bob Triples	Mr. Buckingham..	Dec. 10, 1891
" "		Grandsire Triples	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Dec. 28, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Jan. 28, 1892
S. Matthew, Oxhey....	2	" "	Mr. F. G. Newman	Aug. 30, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Oct. 27, 1891
S. Etheldreda, Hatfield	3	" "	Mr. J. Kentish	Sept. 1, 1891
" "		Bob Major	Mr. W. Short	Oct. 6, 1891
" "		Grandsire Triples	Mr. A. Shepherd..	Jan. 26, 1892
S. Peter, S. Albans....	1	Grandsire Caters	Mr. Buckingham..	Oct. 10, 1891
S. James, Bushey	4	Grandsire Triples	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Oct. 22, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. Buckingham..	Nov. 12, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. H. G. Rowe ..	Dec. 21, 1891
" "		" "	Mr. Buckingham..	Jan. 11, 1892

HANDBELL PEALS.

Place where Rung.	Method.	Conductor.	Date.
St. Albans	7 Minor Methods	Mr. J. C. Mitchell....	June 3, 1891
St. Albans	Kent Treble Bob Major	Mr. Buckingham	June 13, 1891

BALANCE SHEET,

TO EASTER, 1892.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, Easter, 1891	5	4	0	Expenses of Annual Meeting at St. Albans	2	19	3
Arrears of Subscriptions for 1890	0	6	0	Expenses of Three District Meetings	2	13	6
Subscriptions from Ringing Members	5	13	0	Printing	2	11	0
Subscriptions from Honorary Members	3	0	6	Advertisements of Meetings in <i>The Bell News</i>	0	7	10
Miscellaneous Receipts	0	3	2	Entry of 20 Peals in Peal Book	1	0	0
Subscriptions received in ad- vance	0	7	0	Stationery and Postages	0	5	6
				Fee to Central Council	0	2	6
				Balance in hand, Easter, 1892	7	4	1
	£14	13	8		£14	13	8

Examined and found correct,

RALPH A. FOWLER, *Hon. Auditor.*