

AN INTERESTING COURSE

(Continued from p1039)

The last two weeks of the course were most enjoyable; one for being a handbell spectacular and the other for relevance to ringing today and in the future, (earlier parts of the course were reported on 19 November and 10 December).

The handbell evening was opened by Mr John Mayne, who described different ways of learning change ringing, and demonstrated ringing PB Minor. He described more complex methods and a course of London S Major was rung by John Mayne, Roger and Kathleen Baldwin and John Southey.

Mr Richard Fentiman and the Concord Ringers set up tables and five octaves for a demonstration of music on handbells. Mr Fentiman explained the background of the group, and how the several sections may practice independently, coming together for full rehearsals.

The evidence of controlled damping during one piece played prompted a question regarding "afterglow." Mr Fentiman described the use of damping on foam rubber hard enough to induce a secondary burst of tone and using the effect in an arrangement.

Eric Coates well known "Dam Busters" march concluded the demonstration, the culmination of good arrangement, efficient practice and teamwork applied to a large set of bells.

CONCLUDING LECTURE

The concluding lecture by Mr Wilfrid Wilson was based on the story of the 'Ringing World', during which interesting references were made to ringing in the present era, which it undoubtedly reflects. He told of the various editors of the past and their contribution to the success of the paper.

Mr Wilson spoke of ringing in general at the present time, problems for the future, and the necessity, **to take due care about sound control, the length of ringing and to promote the authentic use of bells rather than ringing as an end in itself!** Ringing organisations must concern themselves more in financing restoration and care of bells and belfries as the Church was becoming less wealthy, less effective, or representative. He spoke of the usefulness of handbell ringing, not only for training purposes, but as an outlet for more advanced ringing.

SUMMARY

Methods: Various types of delivery and aids were used, which may be of interest to subsequent speakers on such topics. Excellent use of the Overhead Projector was made by Mr Wratten in the analysis of the development of modern ringing societies. Overlaid map slides showed increasing geographical coverage, and graphs showed increasing membership and related Central Council representation.

Mr Elphick used an epidiascope to project a collection of photographs and drawings which he used as the basis of the first half of his lecture. The advantage of this instrument is that a wide variety of authentic material can be projected with the minimum of preparation.

Mr Butler brought plaster casts of founders marks and also rubbings and sketches on cards, of marks not collected by plaster.

Change Ringing was delineated most effectively using the chalkboard. Mr Blagrove used coloured chalk to mark the path of difficult bells and Mr Mayne indicated the various features of construction by shading in different colours; eg: cross sections, internal places, etc. Precise alignment was maintained by the use of a blackboard with painted squares.

The visit to the Whitechapel Foundry, and the handbell evening were perhaps highlights of the course, and served to deepen understanding of the modern scene in the respective activities.

CRITIQUE

The review of a course, especially one that is largely a new venture, and an activity within the Exercise that requires development, cannot pass without some observations. Having less experience than the speakers, the writer hesitates to make any comments on their performance, which was excellent. However, regarding the subject matter for the individual lectures, the following observations are proffered in an attempt to be constructive for any future similar occasions.

The talk on early ringing societies, and also the talks on early bell foundries, etc tended to concentrate on the London area. It is suggested that the Norwich scene, and the Exeter and Winchester foundries for example, would be an added interest.

The West Country lecturers both gave provocative statements, mainly to stimulate, but with a hint of belief. More documented presentation of such theories could lead to interesting and objective discussion.

Contradiction became evident on touring the foundry regarding the exact nature of the tuning positions of the notes of a bell. In view of recent work, and general interest since the time of Canon Simpson it would be stimulating to hear other theories, (contradictory or not!).

As a climax to the Change Ringing lectures, it was unfortunate that only half a session was devoted to change ringing on handbells. Though excellently performed, possibly London was not the best method to ring after more elementary examples, as, to the uninitiated, the natural coursing order is not so evident as a right place method, (due to its complex structure). This secondary rhythm can be demonstrated so well on handbells, and methods containing it and/or large blocks of

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (St. Paul's Cathedral)

3 Nov. 1260 Stedman Triples: Sue Wright 1, Robin Turner 2, Helen Pettet 3, Joan Gray 4, Jennifer Murphy 5, Bill Randall 6, Craig Herbert (cond.) 7, Brian Pettet 8. Wedding compliment to Lorraine Hardy and Mat Roper. Also 17 Nov. 1250 Yorkshire S. Major: Sue Wright 1, Helen Pettet 2, Jennifer Murphy 3, Robin Turner 4, Magnus Peterson 5, Craig Herbert 6, Henry Rossell (cond.) 7, David Taylor 8. Also 15 Dec. 1250 Rutland S. Major: Sue Wright 1, Helen Pettet 2, Jennifer Murphy 3, Jeffrey Price 4, Craig Herbert 5, Robin Turner 6, David Taylor 7, Henry Rossell (cond.) 8. 1st in method 2, 3, 4, 5. Also 1 Jan. 1264 P.B. Major: Fred English 1, Jennifer Murphy 2, Brian Pettet (1st Major inside) 3, Craig Herbert 4, Sue Wright 5, Jeffrey Price 6, Helen Pettet 7, Robin Turner (cond.) 8. For New Year. Also 5 Jan. 1260 P.B. Minor: Denise Ferris 1, Sue Wright 2, Robin Turner 3, Bob Ferris 4, Jennifer Murphy 5, Craig Herbert (cond.) 6. Also 31 Oct. 1264 Pl. Bob Major: Jennifer Murphy (1st Major on handbells) 1-2, Joan Gray 3-4, Robin Turner (cond.) 5-6, Bill Randall 7-8. Also 7 Nov. 1260 Spliced Minor (11 m.): Jennifer Murphy 1-2, Robin Turner (cond.) 3-4, Bill Randall 5-6.

DORSET AND SOMERSET

Charminster, Dorset. 24 Dec. 1260 P.B. Triples: Vivienne P Brown 1, E H Amey 2, Emma T L Hutchinson 3, Janet M Rose 4, H D W Bishop 5, P R Board 6, T F Collins (cond.) 7, A F House 8. For Midnight Mass.

South Perrott, Dorset. 4 Jan. 1260 P.B. Minor: R P Selway 1, A F House 2, M J Medley 3, M G Willis 4, M R Best 5, T F Collins (cond.) 6.

Merriott, Som. 12 Jan. 1260 Double Oxford Bob Minor: Carolyn E Cade 1, M R Best 2, D A Robinson 3, S Fitchett 4, M J Medley 5, T F Collins (cond.) 6. First in method 2, 3 and 4.

Crewkerne, Som. 17 Jan. 1260 P.B. Doubles: D A Robinson 1, Mrs. B A Roberts (first in method) 2, T F Collins (cond.) 3, M J Medley 4, M R Best 5, Carolyn E Cade 6.

Maiden Newton, Dorset. 18 Jan. 1260 Pl. Bob Minor: R P Selway 1, Carolyn E Cade 2, M R Best 3, M G Willis 4, D S Beaufoy 5, T F Collins (cond.) 6.

Charminster, Dorset. 19 Jan. 1280 P.B. Major: E H Amey 1, Carolyn E Cade (first in method inside) 2, H D W Bishop 3, H A Richardson 4, D A Robinson 5, P R Board 6, N J Medley 7, T F Collins (cond.) 8.

recognisable rows (eg Bristol) would have been more identifiable—and also more entertaining!

In the musical handbell session, the skilful rendering of 'Skye Boat Song' was of most practical use, being set on only 12 bells. Many change-ringers seldom ring tunes and need examples of this type of setting. More of this next time perhaps, and some information on musical arrangement.

The Committee: Only three or four meetings were used to get the course off the ground, and they had no idea who would support it. The course was an experiment; but perhaps future courses of this nature could be aimed at specific groups, this allowing greater depth of study per session. It is regretted that only 36 took advantage of the opportunity to attend the lectures.

A mistake in the report (10 December) of Mr Butler's lecture must be corrected. The bellfoundress who was twice widowed was, of course, Joanna, as Mr Butler described. The Julia referred to was widow of Mathew Bagley, and likewise carried on her late husband's foundry, but 2½ centuries later than Joanna Hille/Sturdy.

The Committee express thanks to all the lecturers for their contribution which was invaluable. Comments from those interested in similar events, either in the London area or elsewhere would be welcome. The Institute has issued another invitation.—It is hoped that this course will be supplemented and further developed.

DWS



John Vigar, Dennis Fryer and Christopher Lee. Ninety years ago St. Peter's, Aylesford (Kent) Church gave a small bell to nearby Eccles Church, and as the latter has now closed the bell has been returned. The Kent Messenger, from which the picture and report are taken, told how archivist and bell-ringer John Vigar (16) is endeavouring to trace the history of the bell in order to find out if Warners of London recast the present bell from an older (medieval?) one. The Eccles church was built in 1885 and the bell was given to them by Aylesford then.