

## "Drakes Island Bells and Josiah Tyke"

I would be much obliged if you would allow me, through your columns, to place a finishing touch to this fascinating account; with a little additional researched information and a correction or two.

It was in fact 1883 when the veins of the famous Tamerton treacle mines were exhausted. A plaque recording their closure remains to this day.

Silas Mitchelmore was certainly the person who encouraged Josiah back to ringing circles. He also introduced Josiah and other members of the peal ringing fraternity to frequent sessions of late night gambling associated with the consumption of large quantities of local scrumpy. Josiah was also a habitual pipe smoker his published photograph in *The Ringing World*, 3rd April, without his well-worn pipe, is indeed a rare occasion.

Turning lastly to the 1895 peal, the recorded time is not correct and the performance was completed three minutes shorter than that recorded. After ringing several rounds before the peal of Stedman Cinques commenced, the bells were stood to allow Godwin Mudge, a local farmer, to remove his gaiters and enable him to conduct the peal in more relaxing circumstances. This, together with last minute adjustments to personal clothing by Patrick O'Parkes delayed the start of the performance by three minutes.

NATHANIEL MALLET (Jnr.)

*Our little escapade into flights of fancy is now at an end. Drake's Island and Josiah Tyke revert to the imagination from which they originally emerged. - Ed.*

## Womens World Day of Prayer

A team of lady ringers rang at Upton upon Severn for the Centenary Service representing the towers, Longdon, Tewkesbury, Twynning and Upton upon Severn.

## STAINED GLASS PEAL BOARD RESTORED AT QUEX

Ringers who know the Waterloo Tower at Quex Park will be familiar with the 40 or so peals recorded on the tower walls. The peals recorded are the opening day peal by the Cumberlands, one peal by John Powell Powell's Quex Institution of Change Ringing, 39 peals rung between 1884 and 1904 and one rung in 1952 by the reformed Quex Park Society of Change Ringers. A peal rung on Saturday 26th November, 1904 was rung "to celebrate the recording in the ringing chamber of all the peals known to have been rung in the tower". In fact there had been more, but that is another story.

Previous to the recording of these peals on the walls there had been just one peal board in the tower. It was unusual in that it was made of stained glass and held in a wooden frame. It hung in front of one of the windows. The peal recorded was the first one rung by the original Quex Institution and the ringer of the tenor was John Powell Powell himself.

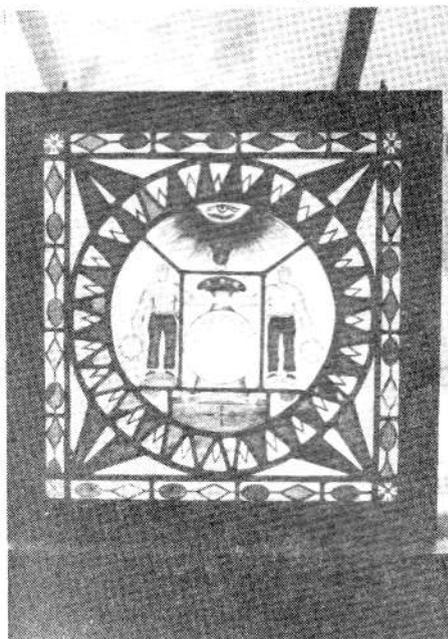
Unfortunately several years ago vandals broke into the tower and the peal board was severely damaged. Repairing it was discussed from time to time but nothing was done, it was put in one of the side rooms and began to gather dust.

The Quex ringers are now very happy to report that due to the fortuitous coming together of several circumstances, repairs have been completed. The circumstances in question are: the Secretary began researching the history of ringing at Quex, finding an excellent local craftsman, a new member who is a talented artist and the discovery of a record of the inscription on the peal board.

The design of the peal board reflects the nautical interests of John Powell Powell in addition to ringing. Two sailors stand either side of the inscription which is set on a capstan. They are joining hands above it and holding bell ropes. At the bottom is the motto "Unanimi(ty) and Perseverance", in other places reported as being the bellringers motto! At the top is the all seeing eye, a sunburst and an upturned bell, all of which feature on other Quex Institution peal boards to be found in east Kent.

Along the bottom of the original peal board can be distinguished the words "1820 G Francis Canty Pin . . .". We believe that the final word is Pinxit meaning "painted this". George Francis was a ringer from Canterbury and Warner of the Cathedral Company. He also rang regularly with the Quex ringers. It is known that he painted the peal board at the Cathedral which recorded the first peal on the bells following their augmentation to 10 and which was rung by a combined company of Canterbury and Quex ringers.

When it came to restoring the peal board one of the problems was that the central panel recording the peal was badly damaged and parts were missing. Enough was left to be sure which



peal was involved but only a guess could be made at all the original words. However, we then had the biggest stroke of luck. The Ringing Master owns a copy of John Powell Powell's publication on Stedman Triples and lying loose inside is a copy of the handbill produced at the time of the opening of the Quex bells. On the back of this someone had many years ago written in pencil "this is a copy of a peal tablet recording a peal . . .". Sure enough the words fitted and we could go ahead and restore the peal board with the correct wording.

All the lead has been completely renewed by a local stained glass craftsman. He has replaced the broken pieces of plain coloured glass with new and where the painted and stained glass was irretrievably damaged he has put in plain opaque glass. This was not an easy job as some of the original glass was very thin. Jack Peppiatt then painted new editions of the damaged pieces copying as exactly as possible the original and using special glass paints. The result is, we consider, an excellent restoration of the original.

The inscription on the central panel reads "On Friday May 26th, 1820 was rung in this Tower a Compleat Peal of 5040 Bob Triples in 3 Hours & 8 mins by the Quex Comp(any) only and the first Peal of their performance. Their Stations in the Peal were as follows. Viz

E. Emptage	1	J. Austin	5
W. Shipway	2	W. Clark	6
J. Beer	3	G. Miller	7
T. Clark	4	J. P. Powell Esq	Tenor

The above Peal was conducted by William Shipway".

H.B.

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