

# The Ringing World

November 24, 1989

The weekly journal for church bell ringers

no. 4100 75p

## Back to twelve at Quex

The Saturday dawned cold, windy and, as it turned out, very rainy. The Quex members arrived at the tower early, but not early enough to beat the builders who were already starting to install scaffolding across the top of the frame to allow us to roll the recast ninth into place.

Outside there was already scaffolding up the side of the tower, and one of the louvres and its associated brickwork had already been removed. It was intended to winch the bell up the side of the tower bit by bit and then roll it in through this new temporary aperture. By 9.30 a.m. all was ready and we awaited the

arrival of the bell which had been collected from the foundry the previous weekend. Soon the noise of the tractor was heard approaching across the field with our new bell on its fork-lift.

By this time several other interested parties had turned up including our president and benefactor, Christopher Powell-Cotton, and a contingent of photographers from the local press. The bell was manoeuvred to the side of the tower, nearly demolishing a sizeable bush in the process, and lifted up on to the first stage of the scaffolding. Now the slow process of lifting the bell up started, only to be halted while extra poles were added to reinforce the structure. Once the lifting was under way and we had all taken enough photos, the volunteers (?) went up to the bell chamber to start some of the additional work required. This

## New treble for Southwick

A Memorial Bell, to be dedicated to former Southwick Estate owner, Mrs. Eva Borthwick-Norton, has been hung in the tower of St. James Without-the-Priory Gate Church, Southwick, Hampshire.

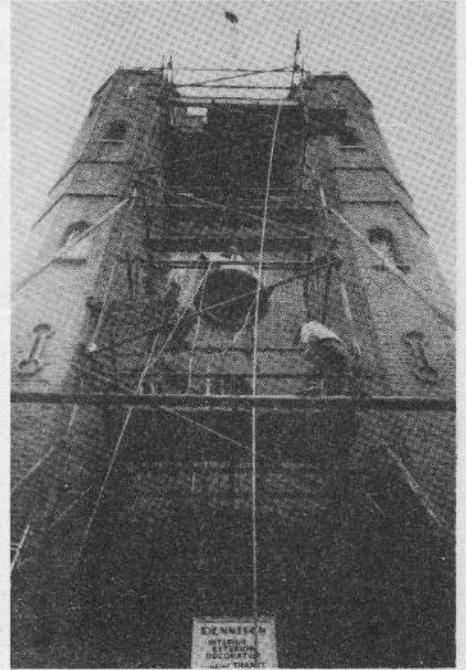
The bell, a treble, weighing 2-2-20, was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and inscribed "Serve the Lord" - "In Memory of Eva Sardinia Borthwick-Norton 1891-1988, by public subscription".

The existing ring of five bells was hung with all new fittings and framework by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, and dedicated on 1st November, 1981, in memory of Mrs. Borthwick-Norton's husband, Squire Hugh Frank Pakenham Borthwick-Norton, who died in 1950.

The Memorial Appeal was launched in March by the new Squire of Southwick, Mr. Robin Thistlethwayte, and the target was reached within three months, with donations from villagers and friends of Mrs. Borthwick-Norton.

The Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth will dedicate the Memorial Bell on Sunday, 26th November, 1989. Ringing before and after the service will take place by the regular Sunday service band of ringers.

It is hoped to hold a practice meeting at Southwick during the early part of 1990 to enable ringers to try out the new ring of six.



The 9th on its way up the tower.

included painting all the exposed woodwork with wood preservative, and other general maintenance.

Once the bell had reached the final stage of the scaffolding it was all hands on deck to help man-handle the bell across the planks above the frame until it was above its own pit. The hoist was quickly mounted on to the beam, which we had installed to lift the bell out back in July, and lifted off the planks. These were quickly removed and the bell lowered into place. With mounting excitement and impatience we lined up the bearings and bolted them down. Next the wheel, but the wheel will not go between the bell and the frame! Unbolt the bearings and lift the bell back out. Now we must be all right.

The builders were clearing up ready to depart and enquired whether we would need the chain hoist any more. "No," say I, "but if you take it we surely will", so it stayed. At this point we took the opportunity to break for lunch.

The inner-man satisfied, we returned to work with a ready will, the two Mikes slapping on more preservative, Alan and I fitting all the sundries to the bell. Suddenly we panic. Surely Whitechapel have supplied the wrong stay, the bolt holes do not line up. But no, Alan has picked up the stay from the six which we removed to allow the ninth through. Funny how the right stay is a better fit! We then discovered that when I put in the lower half of the wheel it was the wrong way round, so we will

(Continued overleaf)



The new treble arriving outside Southwick Church. Left to right: Rev. Bob Moore, Chaplain; Eileen Jane-Wood, Captain; and John H. Hunt, conductor.

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## Obituary

### Arthur Hibbert

On 11th October the townspeople of the Derbyshire town of Chapel-en-le-Frith filled the ancient parish church of St. Thomas-à-Becket to pay their last respects to a well-known and respected fellow citizen, Arthur Hibbert, who died on 6th October after a long illness. He was born almost in the shadow of the church, and appropriately was laid to rest a few yards from the church entrance and in the shadow of the tower where he had spent so much of his time.

He was born on 2nd April 1918, and apart from his Army service in the Royal Army Service Corps with the Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy, he had lived in the town all his life. He served on the Parochial Church Council for 37 years, for much of which he was treasurer, and he was captain of the ringers from 1947 until his death. He came of an old local family who had cared for the church clock - grandfather, father and Arthur - winding twice a week from its installation in 1856 until February 1989, a continuous period of 133 years. On leaving school he joined the Trent Valley and High Peak Electricity Board, which ultimately became Norweb, until he retired in 1982 after 48 years' service.

His ringing career began in 1933 at the nearby tower of Taxal, because at his home tower

there was no vacancy for him. This seems strange in these days, but then it was the practice to have a fixed band who rang for all services and only entertained learners when the necessity arose. From Taxal he was encouraged to go along to Disley, where the writer and he were taught the elements of change-ringing by J. A. Milner. In those days Disley attracted learners from most of the towers round about - New Mills, Buxton, Marple, Stockport, Taxal. He joined the Chester Guild in 1934 and rang his first peal at Taxal on 6th November 1935 for the wedding of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester - the writer's first peal as conductor. He was delighted when 50 years to the day and date we were both able to ring a repeat performance, but this time with his three children, Elizabeth, William and Peter, taking part. He kept no record of his peals and was not a prolific peal ringer but spent much of his time teaching learners and must have taught hundreds of people to handle a bell in his native town. Two peals of which he was very proud were a peal of Plain Bob Major at Marple in the Chester Guild's Jubilee Year, conducted by his son, and a peal also at Marple also in the same year, Cambridge Surprise Major, in which his old colleague from working days, Jack Pryor, took part. He had collaborated with Jack in the days when Jack was teaching the band at Marple.

He was very keen that old customs should not die and for many years rang the curfew at Chapel daily, also the Passing Bell which he rang for the last time for the death of his father. Up to the present year he rang the Pancake Bell on Shrove Tuesday, which used to inform the apprentices in the town that they had a holiday for the rest of the day. His interest in these customs earned him a place in the book "Old Derbyshire Customs" in which a photograph of him appears. When Arthur Whiting started his annual trips for the benefit of learners, Arthur supported him, and after Arthur Whiting's death he joined the Whiting Society which continues this work. He was extremely proud to be a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and also of the recently-formed Faraday Guild. When the Derby Diocesan Guild was formed he felt in duty bound to give it every support, and for a time was chairman of the Peak District, but he still continued his interest and membership of the Chester Guild.

He married in 1954 Frances, daughter of the late Peter Laflin, and a competent ringer her-

We have achieved our target to have the bell back in by Christmas with two months to spare. This has only been possible through the hard work and generosity of many people, to whom we are very grateful. Of those I would single out for special mention the most important must be Christopher Powell-Cotton, who has not only made a sizeable contribution to the cost but has also supplied transportation and other facilities. I would also like to thank Alan Andrews and Mike Cook, who made themselves available whenever I needed them to help with the work, and also to the other members of the committee for all their work. The R. W. Editor has also been most generous with supplying space for our appeals at very short notice.

We still have more fund-raising to do, but now we know the worst is over.

DAVID SHEEKEY

*We understand that the Appeal Fund will remain open until next July. Any donations should be sent to: Mrs. Hazel Barford 1 Edge End Road, Broadstairs CT10 2AH.*

self with a wealth of ringing background. Small wonder then that their children, Elizabeth, well known among the Society of Cumberland Youths, William and Peter are all competent ringers, and to them we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy. The bells of the Parish Church were rung before the service y members of the Chester and Derby Diocesan Guilds, and as the cortège left the church a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells.

An In Memoriam peal was rung on handbells at Wilmslow on 10th October and quarter peals on 8th October at Pott Shrigley, 11th October at Chapel-en-le-Frith and at Bredbury, and 15th October at Poynton. C.K.L.

**Pott Shrigley, Cheshire.** 8 Oct, 1440 Kent and Oxford T.B. Minor: Alyson Kerr 1, Dorothy Sharpley 2, A R Mays 3, S Armes 4, B Schofield 5, S Poole (C) 6. Half-muffled in memory of Arthur Hibbert of Chapel-en-le-Frith. **Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbys.** 11 Oct, 1440 Oxford T.B. Minor: J P Hibbert 1, Elizabeth A Hibbert 2, Rosemary Spencer 3, W A Hibbert 4, P Dyson 5, D W Friend (C) 6. On the evening of his funeral, in memory of Arthur Hibbert. **Bredbury, Cheshire.** 11 Oct, 1260 P.B. Minor: A R Mays 1, E Alyson Kerr 2, F Johnson 3, S D Armes 4, B Schofield 5, C J Armes (C) 6. Half-muffled for Arthur Hibbert who died Friday, 6th October, 1989, whose funeral at Chapel-en-le-Frith took place this day. **Poynton, Cheshire.** 15 Oct, 1260 P.B. Minor: P G Spencer 1, S Hough 2, Sue Dyson 3, Rosemary S Spencer 4, C J Armes 5, P Dyson (C) 6. In memory of Arthur Hibbert of Chapel-en-le-Frith, who rang in the first peal on these bells.

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*In she goes.*