

# CLANGOUR

Wotton-under-Edge Branch Newsletter

October 2018

*Hello fellow ringers, long time no Clang! As submissions for the July edition were, like still-green blades of grass at that time, a bit thin on the ground, Summer has rolled into Autumn to make this bumper double edition. Catch up on all the branch news over the last six months, then send me more for the next issue, which will be drifting gently down and settling early January 2019. Last date for submissions is **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**.*

*Now, cast your minds back those lazy, crazy, hazy days, and let's begin with a joyful piece of news from Coaley. Look to! We're off...*

*Lizzie Lindsell, Upper Cam*

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## **The Wedding of Sarah Bucknell and Matthew Lorkin Coaley, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Sarah and Matthew are members of the extremely friendly Coaley band led by Terry Chivers. Sarah learned to ring at Bisley and was taught by her grandfather, Ralph and her parents Ian and Carole, whilst Matt learned to ring at Meopham, Kent.

The ringing celebrations for their marriage began with a quarter at Cirencester on the Monday before the wedding, and then on the eve of the Big Day there was a peal at Bisley. The wedding day ringing was planned to be a fundamental part of the day with lots of ringers (family friends) invited along with instructions "to make a joyful noise". Alongside the flowers and themed decorations inside the Church were bell ropes hung from the stone pillars. The service touch was performed by the Coaley band, conducted



by Terry, and the happy couple were rung out of the church by a band comprising of long-standing ringing friends of the bride's father, conducted by Peter Holden of Cirencester. After photographs, Sarah and Matt rang in a "family" touch of grandsire together with Ian and Carole (of Bisley) and Steve and Allison - Sarah's aunt and uncle (of Royal Wootton Bassett). More photos and then a brass band turned up! The Cotswold Edge Brass Band, led by members of the multi-talented White-Horne family. This was a colourful highlight of the day. There were smiles all round when, either by accident or design, they finished their performance with *When the Saints Go Marching In* - the anthem for Southampton FC, Sarah and Matt's football team. >>

>> The reception was held in Coaley Village Hall and was casual and relaxed. The catering was done by Lisa Roberts, a Bisley ringer - one of Sarah and Matt's best friends. Lisa's daughter Daisy was a bridesmaid, and William, Lisa's son, read during the service. Sarah's sister, Hannah, was the other bridesmaid and she sang during the service, bringing tears to many eyes.



Top: Coloured trombones and White-Hornes; bottom: Bridesmaids Daisy and Hannah flank the newlyweds

The day was an enormous success with only one hitch: during the ceremony, Terry realised he couldn't read the order of service, so needed his glasses which he had left in the ringing chamber. Trying to get in to the ringing chamber, he found that it was locked and with the opener inside the chamber! So, while Sarah and Matt were doing their thing in front of the vicar and the congregation, Terry rushed home to find a screwdriver and then spent the rest of the service on his knees at the back of the church, unscrewing the door handle. Fortunately, he finished in time to let the ringers in to ring Sarah and Matt out of the church. Terry did all this without his specs on, and with only the vicar aware of what was happening - what a hero!

***Ian Bucknell, Father of the Bride***

### ***St John the Baptist, Cirencester, Gloucs (27-1-16 in C#)***

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in fifty minutes  
**1282 Pontefract Surprise Royal**

- 1 Fiona A Hartley
- 2 Jane D Bull
- 3 Sarah B Ewbank
- 4 D Paul Smith
- 5 Ian D Bucknell
- 6 Jonathan C Adkins
- 7 Roger W Haynes
- 8 Peter G Holden
- 9 Philip F Pope
- 10 Andrew M Bull (C)

*50<sup>th</sup> on the bells: 10. In anticipation of the wedding of Sarah Bucknell and Matthew Lorkin of Coaley on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.*

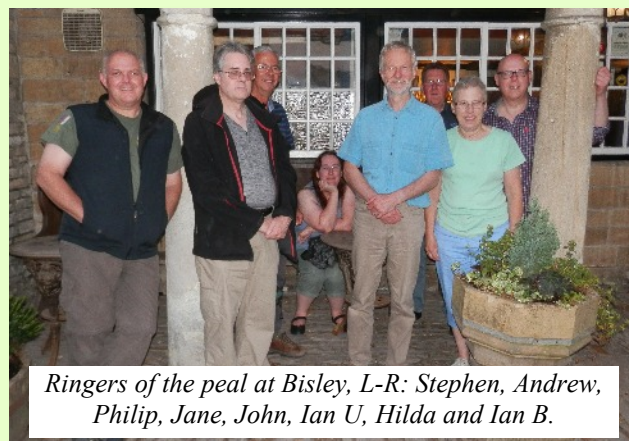
### ***All Saints, Bisley, Gloucs. (14-1-16 in E)***

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018, in two hours and fifty minutes

**5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Major**  
**Composed by J R Ridley**

- 1 Andrew M Bull
- 2 Jane D Bull
- 3 Hilda C Ridley
- 4 Ian P Unsworth
- 5 Stephen J Bucknell
- 6 Philip F Pope
- 7 Ian D Bucknell
- 8 John R Ridley (C)

*Rung as part of the wedding celebrations of Sarah Bucknell and Matthew Lorkin, who are to be married at St Bartholomew's, Coaley tomorrow. Ringer of the 7<sup>th</sup> is father of the bride and ringer of the 5<sup>th</sup> is her uncle.*



*Ringers of the peal at Bisley, L-R: Stephen, Andrew, Philip, Jane, John, Ian U, Hilda and Ian B.*



## **Dursley Tower News**

We were delighted to hear that a local lady, Kathryn Halford (née Grant), had been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Kathryn was at school with Anne Pope and learnt to ring at around the same time. She is married to Roland and has three children, all in their twenties. After leaving school Kathryn trained as a nurse, as is now chief nurse at Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust. She gained the award for services to nursing, and particularly her work with early HIV and AIDS patients, and for treating victims of the 7/7 London bombings. A lengthy article about her appeared in the Dursley Gazette. Kathryn rang nine quarter peals at Dursley, the last one being in September 1984 (*details overleaf*) before she was married.

In 2001 we taught Tara and Kenneth MacCullum to ring at St James' while they were living in Dursley. This was just before they were to return home to Vancouver, Canada, and we worked to bring them to a stage where they could both attempt a quarter peal. This was duly achieved at Berkeley\* on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2002 with a quarter peal of 1260 changes of Bob Doubles with Tara ringing the treble and Kenneth ringing the tenor behind. This year they returned to the UK for a holiday with their two children, Julia and Ian, and paid us a visit at practice on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Despite it being some sixteen years since they had last rung a bell, they each had a turn and managed well.

*\* Why ring it at Berkeley? It was before we had our simulator and the then Rector would not allow any additional ringing during Lent.*

### ***Dursley and Friends in Hampshire and the South Downs, May 2018***

Rather a misnomer, as there were only two of us from Dursley on this, the 35th annual tour. Only Liz, Frank and Tim have now been on all of them. Organised by Sandra and John Underwood from Lincoln, they sensibly chose the same hotel as last year, as we had been treated so well and there were still plenty of churches to visit round and about. We were a much smaller group than in

past years, only fourteen ringers, one supporter and one Guide Dog.

We met at Whitchurch, Hampshire, Sandra's deliberate mistake in the schedule giving the postcode for Whitchurch, Shropshire, which could have been disastrous for any relying solely on their satnav. These are a lovely ten (26cwt) and got us off to a good start for the weekend. Lunch was at The Coach and Horses, Sutton Scotney, where there is a special bar for doggies outside.

As is usual on these occasions, convoys of cars travel together, relying on the first one to be in complete command of the OS map and where exactly the church is. In trying to find Preston Candover church, the first car in the convoy left the main road, following a little brown tourist sign featuring a church, which was completely wrong. The fourth car in the convoy, whose navigator was strictly following the OS map, arrived at the correct church way before the others. These are a delightful little ring of six, only 3cwt. Heather Grover, anxious to keep up her step count, left as soon as she had finished, to get in a walk before the afternoon towers.

At Wonston (6, 8cwt) there is a very steep ladder accessing the ringing room with another ladder up the wall at the top to hang on to. Micheldever (6, 8cwt) is a very odd church architecturally, in three distinct parts, the tower in stone dating from 1540, a central round nave in brick, dated 1808, and a chancel of unknown date in concrete,

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>> Base for the weekend was again the Alton House Hotel, and for our evening meal we were in the Austen Room, all the rooms aptly named around Jane Austen places and characters.



*Everyone is catered for at the Coach and Horses, Sutton Scotney!*



*The organisers - Sandra and John - came prepared.*

Sunday morning saw Tim and Andy set off early for a ring at Winchester Cathedral with the locals, while the rest of us rang either at St. Lawrence (8, 18cwt) or All Saints (6, 6cwt), both in Alton.

The rest of the day was free and various activities took place, including a trip on the Watercress Line. After overnight rain, heavy showers had been forecast for the day, but we were all very lucky to escape them. A quarter peal of 1280 Yorkshire was rung at St Lawrence for evensong by:

- 1 Steve Lamb (local ringer)
- 2 Janet Morris
- 3 Heather Grover
- 4 John Underwood
- 5 Sandra Underwood
- 6 Chris Cooper
- 7 Andy Ward
- 8 Philip Grover (Conductor)

Our evening meal this time was in Pemberley 2, and because several people were leaving after

the next day's ringing, it was decided to hold the AGM after dinner. Sandra and John were presented with bottles as a thank you for their organisation, and Andy offered to organise the 36th tour next year around Staffordshire, or possibly somewhere else.

First tower on Bank Holiday Monday was Upham (as in "they don't like it, you know"), again a light ring (8, 7cwt). Apparently Cromwell used the church for stables during the Civil War and paid for the mess to be cleared up afterwards. The church log records the event "payment for the use of the church" which a later churchwarden changed to "abuse", showing clearly which side he was on. Navigators spent the rest of the day shuttling between two OS maps, first to Curdrige (8, 25cwt), then to Swanmore (6, 6cwt), where the lady in the village shop was wrapped up in jumper and scarf, complaining about over active air conditioning, while we were basking in the warm sunshine outside. Lunch was just along the road at the Brickmakers, and then on to Hambledon (6, 10cwt), Liss (8, 12cwt) and finally Hawkley (8, 8cwt). Heavy showers all day had again been forecast, but we saw none.

Many thanks to Sandra and John for another very successful tour. Here's to next year - wherever.

*Elizabeth Byrne, Dursley*

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### **Thanks from Anita!**

May I say a great big thank you to everybody who has sent me get well wishes, cards, messages via telephone, or actually come in person, following my recent unexpected illness. I have now been signed off by the community early discharge scheme and it is up to me to work hard, regain strength and get back to living life again. Thank you for the tower cards with member signatures and a great big thank you to everyone for their kindness and get well wishes.

*Anita E Matthews, Branch Secretary*

## ***Quarter Peals Rung at St James the Great, Dursley:***

Quarter Peal No: 220

On Sunday, 30 September 1984

### **1280 Plain Bob Major**

- 1 Kathryn Grant
- 2 Anthea Fairey
- 3 Sara Taylor
- 4 Judith Cotterell
- 5 Janet Fox
- 6 Anne Pope
- 7 Gillian Carey
- 8 Elizabeth Byrne (C)

*Birthday compliment to Sara Taylor and Samantha Martin by the 'Dursley Belles'*

And more recently...

On Sunday, 25 March 2018

### **1344 Plain Bob Triples**

**Composition: D Morrison**

- 1 Lizzie Lindsell
- 2 Judith Cotterell
- 3 Anne Pope
- 4 Dave Clark
- 5 John Taylor
- 6 Philip Pope
- 7 Ian Unsworth (C)
- 8 Andrew Ward

*1st on 8 bells: 1*

*Rung on Palm Sunday prior to 'come and sing' Faure's Requiem*

On Sunday, 1 April 2018

### **1250 Lincolnshire S Major**

- 1 Jane Bull
- 2 Anne Pope
- 3 Ian Unsworth
- 4 Elizabeth Byrne
- 5 Frank Byrne
- 6 Andrew Ward
- 7 Andrew Bull
- 8 Philip Pope (C)

*For Easter*

On Sunday, 15 April 2018, in forty-eight minutes

### **1280 Cambridge S Major**

- 1 Helen Binstead
- 2 Jane Bull
- 3 Elizabeth Byrne
- 4 Ian Unsworth
- 5 Andrew Bull
- 6 Frank Byrne
- 7 Andrew Binstead (C)
- 8 Philip Pope

*For Healing Service and Matthew Thewsey's birthday*

On Sunday, 6 May 2018, in forty-six minutes

### **1280 Spliced S Major (6)**

**(6m: C, Y, N, S, P, R)**

- 1 D. Paul Smith
- 2 Jane Bull
- 3 Andrew Binstead
- 4 Hilda Shipp
- 5 Ian Unsworth
- 6 Philip Pope
- 7 Frank Byrne (C)
- 8 Andrew Bull

*Remembering Keith W. Scudamore*

On Sunday, 20 May 2018, in forty-six minutes

### **1264 Plain Bob Major**

- 1 Elizabeth Byrne (C)
- 2 Lizzie Lindsell
- 3 Judith Cotterell
- 4 Ian Unsworth
- 5 Timothy Soanes
- 6 Frank Byrne
- 7 Jane Bull
- 8 Andrew Bull

*First of Major and on 8 inside - 2*

*For Evensong and engagement compliment to Brendan Skelton and Kathie Rebbeck*

All that, plus one very special peal:

On Saturday, 19 May 2018

in three hours and two minutes

### **5056 Ruthenium Surprise Major**

**Composition: E. Shuttleworth**

- 1 Ian P. Unsworth
- 2 Jane D. Bull
- 3 Alison M. Holliday
- 4 Hilda C. Ridley
- 5 John R. Ridley
- 6 Ian D. Bucknell
- 7 Andrew A. Ward
- 8 Andrew M. Bull ©

*For the wedding of HRH Prince Henry of Wales and Ms Meghan Markle*





## Wickwar Tower News

Ringling continues to be successful and regular at Wickwar, with the Tuesday evening practice nights fairly well attended and Sunday morning ringing as frequent as we can make it.

Ringer Kevin Bateman has replaced a couple of tired stays on the bells and they appear to be in pretty good order. A recent exercise has been to replace the rope handrail from top to bottom of the tower, as it was becoming a health and safety issue, particularly up near the roof. This has been done and some new wall fittings have been inserted where the old ones were either too small for the new, bulkier rope or were just too flimsily attached into the lime mortar. The result is a lovely new handrail which smells wonderfully of hemp... no wonder the ringing is of a "high" quality.

On Saturday 9th June, the Friends of the Church held a fundraiser headlined by a Tower Open Day. This was very successful - raising over £700 - and lots of visitors enjoyed guided tours of the tower, ringing chamber, belfry and the views from out on the roof. Several people expressed an interest in learning to ring, which was a bonus, and we have already welcomed Derek Fletcher as a new Sunday ringer - well new to us....he last rang fifty-five years ago but has not lost the knack! We are going to hold some additional beginners' nights for those new to ringing in the hope that they will soon be able to join us on regular practice evenings as well. The current ringers did a splendid job in manning the tower and shepherding the visitors up and down before they made their way to the Churchroom for a cream tea. We also welcomed the Sodbury Handbell Ringers who gave two performances in the church and churchroom. The day was concluded with a quarter peal, and among the band was Richard Usherwood from Thornbury who has been a regular on Tuesday evenings and was able to ring his first QP on the tenor.

One of the visitors was Mary Chappell, from Wotton, a former ringer and choir member at

Wickwar, and also mother of Dee Bateman and grandmother to Hannah Chappell, who are both current ringers. Mary is still fit enough to get up and down the tower fairly easily and we have a suspicion that she could probably still manage the treble. Unfortunately, the circumstances did not allow that to be tested.



*Hannah Chappell (neé Bateman), Mary Chappell (neé Iles), Kevin Bateman and Dee Bateman (neé Chappell).*

We have a couple of visiting parties coming to Wickwar during the summer but have only one wedding this year - most unusual. Sunday morning ringing is a priority but even that is quite difficult to maintain with a relatively small core of ringers. Perhaps the newcomers alluded to above will make 6-bell ringing on Sunday the rule rather than the exception.

*Peter Juniper, Wickwar*



*Some of the ringers from Stone with their Tower of the Year award.*

## American Visitors to Horton Tower

On Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Brueggemann family from Chicago, Illinois arrived at our practice wanting to experience, first hand, the joys of bell ringing.

The family comprised of mum and dad together with their three strapping sons. Rumour has it that a special dispensation was granted for this absence from the July 4th celebrations at home. We did point out that if it wasn't for us Brits there would be no 4th July celebrations!



*The Americans hit Horton*

Tower captain, Rex, put on his patience hat and all five visitors were given a lesson in first, pulling the sally, and then the tail stroke. Then it was our turn to perform! Luckily our audience did not have a "tuned ear" and thus was most impressed.

It was decided there would be no prospective learners amongst our guests, so at the end of our busy practice evening we followed up with a debriefing at The Compass. A good time was had by all.

*Mike Gordon, Horton*

## Give Me a Place to Stand

"Give me a place to stand and with a lever I will move the whole world," is a quotation attributed to Archimedes of Syracuse. He lived from somewhere around 287BC to 212BC. Whilst he had understood the power and the principles of the lever, he wasn't given a place to stand and the world has carried on its merry course ever since. But this note is not to debate the philosophy of the philosopher, more to make some observations on the power of the lever.

It was a Wednesday practice at Coaley when the tail of the treble rope commenced an upward journey. A visit to the belfry showed that the stay had failed but not completely broken. However, other things were a little worrying. The stay is anchored to the headstock by two bolts and one had dropped out and the other was now severely distorted by the power of the lever as the stay failed - see figure.



*Exhibit A, M'lud*

To impart the level of deformation seen required a considerable force, but fortunately there was no damage to the cast iron headstock. The failure was precipitated by poor maintenance as loosening of the bolts should have been noticed far in advance of it falling out. The steeple keeper has been suitably admonished and now all stay retaining bolts have Nyloc nuts. So beware - keep an eye on your nuts!

The practice continued with experienced ringers on the treble.

*Terry Chivers, Coaley*

## **'The Boston Belle'**

### **Margaret Homer Nichols**

The following is a short extract from the memoirs of Margaret Homer Nichols concerning her six-week visit to London in 1902. The visit was with her father, Dr Arthur Nichols M.D., and its purpose was for her to learn change ringing. These memoirs were collected, edited and published under the title '*Lively Days*' by her daughter Alice Shurcliff in 1965. It's hoped that the verbatim record of her and her father's experiences while in London will enable us to hear their authentic voices. What we don't hear, apart from a very brief description of her first attempts to ring a plain course of Grandsire Triples, are the voices of the London ringers (all male) and their thoughts about helping teach a twenty-two-year old, six-foot-tall American woman to learn change ringing. It must have been a unique experience for them too.

Dr Nichols' fascination with bells began in childhood when he heard the bells of Christ Church, Boston, MA, ringing for Sunday Service, eventually helping the sexton chime the tunes. After he graduated and during a visit to London, he heard the bells of St Martin-in-the-Fields and was able to visit the ringing chamber and inspect the bells. From that time he developed a life-long ambition to introduce English-style change ringing to Boston. It was not until Margaret finished school in 1898 that she was taught to handle a bell at Christ Church. Dr. Nichols' ambitions were dealt a blow when they were asked to stop practising by the church authorities due to complaints. It seems the neighbourhood around the church was changing from English immigrants to Italian, who were less fond of the sound of bells unless it was for a special occasion.

In bringing his daughter to London, Dr Nichols had an additional ambition, unknown to her - for her to ring a full peal. In the event and during her six weeks there, she progressed from being unable to ring a plain course of Grandsire Triples to ringing five full peals - two in-hand, and four being for the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY). She became the first woman to ring both peal of Stedman Triples in-hand and a touch of Stedman Cinques at St Pauls Cathedral. Her progress must have exceed her father's wildest dreams.

The late Mr A J Phillips writes in 1999, the year women were finally allowed membership of the ASCY, calling her 'The Boston Belle'. He considered her the most remarkable woman ever to grace the ringing scene. Whatever, her achievements during such a short period are outstanding by any standards. Her peals were rung with some of the finest ringers of the day; William and Earnest Pye, Challis F Winney, Bertram Prewett among

others. Such strong bands would have provided a secure framework, but these ringers would also have demanded an adequate performance even from a novice.

In 1902, discouraged by the lack of ringing opportunity in Boston, Dr Nichols announced that he would take his daughter to London where 'the more they ring, the better they like it'. Also, he had faith that his daughter was 'made of ringing stuff'. Despite this, Margaret was less enthusiastic. She was a talented tennis player - twice New England Ladies Champion - and didn't relish missing a summer of tennis. However, her memoirs record that she was swept along by her father's confidence and on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1902 they boarded the SS New England and set sail for London. Once there, her father lost no time in notifying his ringing friends that his young, hopeful, daughter was in the capital and all set to learn to ring.

Her account of attempts to ring a plain course of Grandsire Triples is described in her first visit to a practice:

*"The first belfry we climbed was in the tower of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green, in the Whitechapel region, famous for its crooks and poverty. Much out of breath after climbing the circular stone stairs leading up to the ringing chamber, I was introduced to the ringers, who had already gathered. Matthew Wood, a well-known ringer of over sixty, was the conductor. He asked me if I would like to have a go at the bells and which bell I preferred. I spoke for the third and then set to work to raise her. I knew that was the best way to get the feel of a bell and learn the exact place to grasp the tufting. After four or five minutes of hard pulling my bell was raised and set, but the rope was too long. I was so much taller than the average ringer that I nearly always had to have the rope shortened. This was quite necessary as otherwise the tail of the rope flapped in my face.*

*"Ringing is exercise and the day was warm. Before starting each ringer removed his coat and dicky and rolled up his sleeves. All I could do was roll up my sleeves and hope my shirt tails would not rise above my skirt band. After the bells were set, each ringer rose on his toes, reached high up on the tufting and pulled slightly on the rope. The conductor shouted 'here goes Grandsire'. The treble ringer shouted 'she's going, gone'. We all pulled off our bells at what we judged to be the correct interval to produce an even scale.*

*"In contrast to our ringing at the Church of the Advent in Boston, these bells rang with perfect precision. Mine was the only bell out of place and I soon corrected that. When the conductor judged bells were running smoothly, there came the exciting moment when he shouted, 'Go,' and we started the changes. >>*



<< *For a while I kept my place, but my experience in change ringing was almost zero. The bells rang in very rapid succession, all seven striking in one revolution of the tenor. It was difficult to pick out the bell I should follow as my ropesight was poor. There were times too, in the excitement, when I lost control of my bell and it rang sooner than I intended. To the other ringers this plain course of Grandsire Triples was child's play. On my part it took every bit of concentration and every muscle I possessed. The ringers all kept an eye on me and tried to help me. Suddenly the ringer of Number Five took one hand recklessly off the rope and beckoned to me. How was I to know that this was his way of telling me that he and I were dodging? The would-be helpful coaching, shouting at me in cockney bell-ringing vernacular drowned by the noise of the bells, was completely unintelligible to me... Fortunately a less-excitable ringer stood behind me, and his directions really helped. It is a breach of etiquette to stop ringing till the conductor gives the command. I simply could not say, 'I am lost, let's start again'. At last he called 'stand' and without the least difficulty all bells were set except mine, Number Three. We tried again and again. Each time we got a little further before the conductor called, 'stand'. After while Mr Wood said to me in his most polite cockney, 'I 'ope you don't moind if I swear at you, Miss, but I eye'nt used to ringing with a loidy'. By that time no amount of swearing could have deterred me from ringing.*

*"We came home hot and tired but my father was pleased with my performance and I was determined to master the art of change ringing. Invitations to ring were received, and daily Papa and I would start off by train or bus to some remote church on the outskirts of London."*

Margaret's subsequent progress must have impressed the ringing fraternity and was reported on several occasions in *Bell News*. All of Margaret's peals and failures, including handbells, were observed by her father who sat through them including two handbell peals rung on the same day, the second being a spontaneous attempt after they had had tea. Margaret was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths (ASCY) in 1902 for whom she rang four of her five peals.

Her first peal attempt resulted in failure, she records it thus:

*"When I was considered sufficiently proficient in change ringing, arrangements were made for me to try for my first peal with the College Youths. We met at six o'clock at St. Mary's Acton and by 6:15 the bells were going well and we started to ring a peal of Grandsire Triples. All went well for about two hours. Then a little excitement occurred and the conductor called 'stand'. He had discovered that that two bells had exchanged places, and presumably anxiety about my bell had caused the mix-up. Heated argument followed, as is customary,*

*and each ringer was positive the fault was not his. Gloom prevailed and we all went home after arranging to meet again at the same tower the following week."*

Interesting that Margaret attributed the mix-up to anxiety over her. She'd yet to learn the art of belfrymanship where you never admit to any fault. (Ohhhhhh - Ed) Before the re-run of the failed peal she had another attempt which was successful. Dr Nichols' account of this peal:

*"At 6:20 P.M., the ringers having got together, the bells were raised and the ringers assigned to their posts by Mr. Brighton, who was to act as conductor. To Margaret was given the Third Bell. The ringers of the two trebles, Pratt and Eden, struck me as very young but I was told the former had rung in more than sixty successful peals of the method about to be tried, while the second was a skilled conductor. (NB: Dr Nichols had misheard, it was Prewett, not Prat - Bertram Prewett was an accomplished ringer and conductor.)"*

*"As the only privileged spectator in the tower, I held the watch while the tower doors were securely bolted to keep out any intrusive stragglers. Of course Margaret was a very uncertain quantity and was sure to be a constant source of anxiety to the others, who had never seen a woman ring and were naturally doubtful as to her powers of endurance and her capacity for retaining a level head and acting promptly in the emergencies sure to arise. And her position, an inexperienced ringer among performers of the highest repute, all strangers to her, was embarrassing, for the slightest fumble or hesitation would be instantly noted and the loud call necessary to set her aright might disconcert her and lead to hopeless confusion. One of the brothers Pye was put therefore on her left at number four to pilot her through the difficult places. The chances of success were further lessened by the fact that the method to be rung, Stedman, was the one in which she was least proficient. The start-off was far from reassuring, and two successive attempts ended within a few moments in a hopeless tangle, which led the conductor to suggest after the bells had been stopped, 'Perhaps, Miss, you would prefer to try Grandsire (a less intricate method)?'"*

*"Margaret, not disposed to give in, appealed for one more trial, a request which amused and pleased the men, and accordingly at 6:29 the leader having shouted 'Go it again,' the bells swung off into changes, and the compass being gradually gauged and improved the striking soon became perfect, while the sequence of changes with increased interval after each sixteenth stroke became as regular as the notes of a music box. Margaret's good striking imparted an air of confidence to the men who no longer thought it necessary to >>*

<< watch her movements while she settled down into steady, quiet work, nothing being heard but the even music of the belfry, the rise and fall of the ropes, and the occasional bob-call of the conductor. Thus things ran smoothly along with only an occasional error of interval or in one instance the omitting of a bob-call, instantly observed and corrected by some of the men who, as well as the conductor, kept count of the course ends, when, all at once, the ringer Number Two, who was apparently engrossed in Margaret's work with the friendly notion of easing her dodging, failed to grasp his tufting at handstroke, his bell having cast the rope, and his bell thus unchecked at a critical moment, rolled over, rebounded against the stop stay and going wild caused the greatest confusion and dismay, for the peal was now within three fourths of an hour of its completion. Great excitement at once ensued amongst the men, for this vexatious accident seemed irremediable and with any ordinary band extrication from this maze would have been out of the question. Not so easily baffled, however, were these old ringers. Holding up their bells while the delinquent ringer, springing for his rope, brought his bell to its proper position and indicated that he was all right for the next change, the shouting of the ringers heard above the clashing of the bells signified to each one just what was to be done in this emergency. Meanwhile Margaret kept a level head and maintained her count, and to my surprise and relief on the following change the correct sequence was resumed and for the remaining three-quarters of an hour the ringing was most excellent.

"Margaret came out of this prolonged effort in better condition than I supposed possible. She was certainly overheated for the ringing chamber was imperfectly ventilated and the night was close; her hands had developed eight large blisters."

A note in *Bell News*:

#### The Peal at Upper Clapton.

This, the first peal of Miss Margaret H. Nichols, of Boston, U.S.A., after a comparatively brief study of the method, is almost unique in the annals of the Exercise. It is not often that a peal of Stedman Triples is rung as a first peal in any circumstances, but when a young lady comes triumphantly through the ordeal, it speaks volumes for her ability, and stamps her as no ordinary ringer. The peal was rung practically without a hitch, save for the slipping wheel of the rope of the 2nd bell. It was William Pye's birthday, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day.

Margaret stated: "As far as I have been able to discover, I have the honor of being the first citizen of The United States to ring any kind of peal, and just missed being the first woman."

This was the first of five peals Margaret rang in four days. All are listed overleaf.

Further, in the *Bell News*:

It is worthy of note that Miss Nichols is the first lady ringer to score a peal of Stedman Triples double-handed .... All the foregoing ringing was witnessed by Dr. Nichols. During her visit to London Miss Nichols has been a regular attendant at the meetings of the St. Mary Abbots (Kensington) ringers. The band wish through the medium of this paper to return thanks to Mr. Hughes for very kindly lending his handbells, and to Mr. Joseph Barry, of the Royal Society of Cumberland Youths, and Mr. William E. Moss, of the Ancient Society of College Youths for acting as umpires to both peals.

Margaret's reflections on ringing two handbell peals in one day:

"One Sunday afternoon we met at Mr Winney's home in Fulham to try for a peal on handbells. I chose the easiest bells, 7 and 8, and in two and one half hours we scored a peal of Grandsire Triples with excellent striking. Mr. Winney's mother and sister served me a hearty tea with ham and bread and butter after which Mr Winney suggested we try for a peal of Stedman. We all accepted with alacrity and tapped off a second peal in another two and a half hours, after which my father, who had sat silently umpiring both peals said 'Please don't suggest any more ringing tonight.' For once he had reached the limit of his power of enjoyment. The ringing of two handbell peals in a day was considered a feat and Mr Hughes, the owner of the handbells on which we had performed, very generously presented me with the bells, a set of ten with an exceptionally fine tone."

The *Bell News* also reported that Margaret was the first woman to ring on twelve bells and the first to ring a touch of Stedman Cinques at St Paul's Cathedral. She and her father also visited Painswick, Gloucestershire where they were welcomed by the local ringers. Apparently the local parishioners came into the belfry, intrigued to witness a woman ring their bells. Mr A. J. Phillips records that a peal tablet was erected to commemorate her fifth peal and is the only College Youth peal tablet he knows of that contains the name of a woman in the band. >>

## Miss Nichols' Peals

### **The Middlesex County Association**

On Thursday August 14, 1902 in two hours and fifty-nine minutes

At the Church of St Matthew, Upper Clapton

#### **A peal of Stedman Triples**

5040 Changes, Thurston's Four-Part

Tenor 14 cwt

Bertram Prewett	Treble
Hubert Eden*	2
Miss Margaret H Nichols*	3
William Pye	4
Isaac G Shade	5
Alfred Brighton	6
Ernest Pye	7
Arthur T King	8

*Conducted by A W Brighton*

*First peal \**

### **The Ancient Society of College Youths**

On Sunday August 17 1902, in two hours and thirty minutes

At the residence of Mr C F Winney,  
13 Harbledown Road, Fulham S.W.

On handbells retained in hand

#### **A peal of Grandsire Triples**

5040 Changes, Thurston's Four-Part

George N Price	1-2
Herbert P Harman	3-4
Challis F Winney	5-6
Miss Margaret H Nichols	7-8

*Conducted by George N Price*

*Umpires Joseph Barry and William E Moss.*

*Witness Dr Arthur N Nichols*

*The conductor has now called this peal from each pair of bells, being only the third person to attain this end.*

### **The Ancient Society of College Youths**

On Sunday August 17 1902, in two hours and twenty-six minutes

At the residence of Mr C F Winney,  
13 Harbledown Road, Fulham S.W.

On handbells retained in hand

#### **A peal of Stedman Triples**

5040 Changes, Thurston's Four-Part

George N Price	1-2
Herbert P Harman	3-4
Challis F Winney	5-6
Miss Margaret H Nichols	7-8

*Conducted by Challis F Winney*

*Umpires Joseph Barry and William E Moss.*

*Witness Dr Arthur N Nichols*

*Every six-end was ticked off from manuscript by the umpires of this peal*

### **The Ancient Society of College Youths**

On Monday August 18, 1902 in two hours and fifty-six minutes

At the church of St Mary, Acton

#### **A peal of Grandsire Triples,**

5040 changes, Holts Original

Tenor 14 cwt

George Bush	Treble
William E Garrard	2
Miss Margaret H Nichols	3
Albert V Selby	4
Arthur Cutmore	5
William E Judd	6
Challis F Winney	7
John T Kentish	8

*This peal was arranged on August 11 but was unfortunately lost after ringing 1900 changes and was Miss Nichols' first attempt at a peal.*

### **The Ancient Society of College Youths**

On Saturday August 23, 1902 in two hours and fifty-nine minutes

At the Church of St George-the-Martyr,  
Southwark

#### **A peal of Stedman Triples**

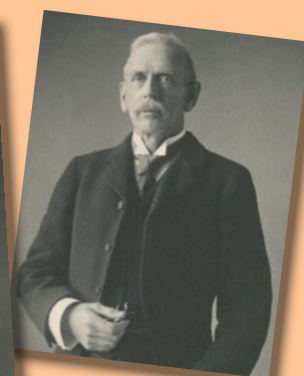
5040 Changes, Thurston's Four-Part

Tenor 16cwt 3 qrs 7 lbs

Challis F Winney	Treble
Edward P O'Meara	2
Miss Margaret H Nichols	3
Samuel E Joyce	4
Thomas Langdon	5
Herbert P Harman	6
Thomas H Taffender	7
Herbert Langdon	8

*Conducted by Challis F Winney*

*Dr Arthur Nichols M.D. sat in the tower during the whole time, and was most delighted at the success of his daughter in change-ringing.*



*Left: Margaret Nichols pictured in 1898, aged 19. Above, her father, Dr A.N.Nichols*



<< At the end of Margaret Homer Nichols' chapter 'Ringing in England' she records an account of the very unusual circumstances under which the first peal ever to be rung outside the UK came to take place: The peal was in Philadelphia, USA in 1850, of Grandsire Triples in which the tenor ringer had to be relieved of his rope after two hours' ringing because, having only one leg to stand on, he became too tired to stand for longer. This fact has been substantiated. She also records that in 1844, P.T. Barnum had been so impressed by the Lancashire Bell Ringers that he offered them a trip to the US if they posed as Swiss bell ringers. Five of these ringers rang in the 1850 peal with four other ex-pat Englishmen, making up the band of nine. Barnham's wish that they be titled "Swiss Bellringers" seems not to have been adopted. That the peal was rung only by Englishmen is subject to uncertainty due to the possibility that some of the ex-pat ringers might have become naturalised American citizens

but this cannot be substantiated. A letter in *Bell News* in 1983 from C. Rahill, one of the two last remaining ringers of this peal, insists that the band was, 'an Englishmen's peal through and through: "Whatever the fact, all the ringers had begun life as English and had learned bellringing in England."

Margaret returned to America shortly afterwards, and resumed her pre-London life. She helped her father promote ringing in Boston, including establishing ringing on handbells. She married in 1905 to Arthur Shurcliff and had six children. She died in 1959 and her memoir 'Lively Days' was compiled, published and so titled by her daughter, Alice Shurcliff, in 1965. Though Margaret's intended title had been 'Sporting Days'.

*Frank Byrne, Dursley*

## **Joint Meeting with Bristol Rural Branch** **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

Here was another successful mingling of the branches. There was ringing at Tytherington first, with a slight confusion as to *exactly* when. No similar problems ensued, as we all made it on time to the Wheatsheaf, Thornbury, for a delicious Ploughman's supper accompanied by a game of skittles. Once again, a Matthews wiped the floor with the rest of us - this time it was Ernest wielding the mop. Thanks to Linda for organising the shindig, and to young Ruby, also from the very friendly Bristol Rural Branch, who performed the thankless task of "sticking up" most efficiently.



*Clockwise from below: The Wheatsheaf, scene of the social; Organiser Linda hands out the prizes; Action shot - Ernest the Victor, a second before he won!*



*Words: Lizzie Lindsell, Upper Cam*  
*Pictures: Andrew Ward, No Fixed Abode*



## **Wotton Branch Outing:** **The Cotswolds** **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

This outing was organised by Rachel Parker of Chipping Sodbury, and took us to the far end of the Cotswolds, and some rather different towers. Sadly it was not a well-attended outing, with only twelve of us to begin with. While there were a few arrivals at lunchtime, there were also a few departures. I can't talk, as I was one of those who left early, with the excuse that I had to be both murder victim and investigating officer in a hen night entertainment. (It might sound unlikely, but work is work!) This meant I missed the spectacle of the final stop - St Peter & St Paul's at Northleach - a somewhat controversial choice.

Knowing of my busy day, I drove myself for the first time on an outing, and thus joined the ringers at Willersey St Peter (6 bells, 12 cwt) just as they were finishing. The day was not quite as sticky as in recent times, which was lucky as space was

at a premium. Many a narrow stairway led to the ringing chambers - "Not for the circumferentially-challenged," declared one ringer. Having broad shoulders proved more problematic, as bone tends to resist being squeezed through small gaps!

The breathtaking medieval church of Saintbury St Nicholas (8 bells, 12 cwt) is no longer used as a place of worship. It is visited by appointment only, and this includes the bells - a ground floor ring of eight, with extremely low sallies. The tower contacts were keen that we should sign the visitors' book, as high numbers here keep ringing feasible.

Also rarely rung are the bells of Bourton-on-the-Hill St Lawrence (6 bells, 11.75 cwt). There is no regular practice here, prompting another ringer to quip that "they've been awarded the No-Bell Prize." The neglect was painfully evident, with piles of dust from the woodworm-inhabited beams covering most of the seats. >>







A more uplifting affair was lunch at the Black Horse in Naunton, where chips and ice cream make everything better (though not on the same plate). Some might say beer has a similar effect, but my innocence in such matters renders me unable to comment. (Much the same as several pints would... so I have been told.)

One low point of the day was being accosted by residents of the group of houses next to Naunton St Andrew (6 bells, 7.5 cwt), emphatically telling me to park somewhere else! They were quite right of course.

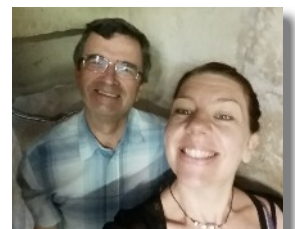
Alas I can give no more detailed accounts of concluding destinations (Guiting Power, St Michael - 6 bells, 8 cwt - and the aforementioned Northleach St Peter & Paul - 8-ish bells, 20 cwt) as I was keen to make the journey to Wickwar in time for my evening performance.

This was my third branch outing, having taken up ringing in February 2016. I thought of how

much more I was able to participate in this year, and how it contrasted to the two previous outings, in Wales and Devizes respectively. To have gone from being a bag of nerves, only able to manage rounds and calls, to being a bag of nerves who can ring treble to Surprise Major made me proud of my progress and extremely grateful to my fellow ringers for getting me to this point.

A very big thank you to Rachel, on behalf of all the participants, for putting together such an interesting and challenging day. Planning an outing is not an easy task. Rachel's hard work gave us the opportunity to stretch our ringing legs and to see how lucky we are to have such well-maintained towers for our own regular practices.

*Words: Lizzie Lindsell,  
Upper Cam  
Pictures: Andrew Ward,  
Ralucitrap Erehwon*





## Young Ringers' Update

### *Firsts for Alistair White-Horne and James Joynson*

*St Peter's, Leckhampton, Gloucs. (9-1-14 in Ab)*

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018, in two hours  
and fifty-one minutes

**5024 Yorkshire Surprise Major**  
**Composed by A J Cox**

- 1 Anthony M Bulteel
- 2 John Cornock
- 3 Andrew A Ward
- 4 Alistair White-Horne
- 5 Stuart E Tomlinson
- 6 James M Joynson
- 7 Anthony J Cox (C)
- 8 Rebecca J Cox

*First peal: 4. First peal on 8: 6.*

Both Alistair and James rang very well. James made only a handful of minor trips which he corrected immediately himself. Alistair rang well as anticipated, and made only a handful of minor trips too which didn't put him off. He was "quite" happy to have rung his first peal afterwards.

The future's bright.

They both need encouraging and a few more peals under their belts.

### *Exam Results*

Ben <White-Horne> did well with his A levels: A\* in Maths, Further Maths, Physics; A in Chemistry. He's off to Oxford to study Maths. Ed <Miller> passed his A levels too and will study Physics at Nottingham.

After Ben's results, his brother Alistair was under a bit of pressure to do well. Overall he achieved:

- Seven grade 9s: Maths, Physics, Chemistry,  
Music, French, Spanish and History.
- Three grade 8s: Latin, Biology, RS
- One grade 7: English Literature
- One grade 6: English Language

Clangour October 2018

Anyway, it's all Greek to me!

Yuhan <Jiang> from Stone achieved nine grade 9s and three grade 8s in her GCSEs. She also completed her first quarter peal (on treble) recently then followed that up with her first inside about four days later.

There is an interview with Taya <Green> on the Gazette website about her GCSE results, but all she says is "Fine"!

We have a talented bunch of people at Stone. Alice <Franklin> is about to start her final year at Warwick - I suspect she'll get a first in Maths too.

Oh to be young again!

*John Cornock, Stone*



*Pictures from the Ringing World National Youth  
Contest, held in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

*The G&B Youth Team, conducted by James  
Joynson, only just missed a place in the finals.  
Ringers from the Wotton Branch were Ben and  
Alistair White-Horne, with Ed Miller as reserve  
tenor. A good effort - well done lads!*

## **Branch Striking Competition**

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

### **St Andrew's Cromhall**

On the coldest, wettest Saturday after summer so far, I took part in my first striking competition. My tower, Upper Cam, were once again unable to field a team, so I had decided to turn up anyway and hope that I could join in. There had been a wedding at Berkeley beforehand, and it wasn't worth going home in the interim. Thus, my arrival at St Andrew's was preceded by an hour's nerve-wracking lunch in the Salutation with some of my soon-to-be rivals.

I knew nothing of what to expect, save what Frank had talked me through while sitting in the pub - the premise and rules of the competition. What I was unprepared for, as I stood in the church watching everyone else come in, was the sudden silence and secrecy between us. Funny that we're all ringing pals, but make us compete with each other and it's glares and stares all round!

The teams were assembled and the order drawn. Chipping Sodbury went first - Phil and James Joynson, Robin Shipp, Dave Lee, Andrew Ward and Tim Soanes. Initially, they had needed a sixth ringer and looked pleased when I said I was floating. Wow, I thought - I was going to get to compete... and as part of a team! However, my big mouth got the better of me, and when I said that Tim was also available, they never looked in my direction again. (*I am over this now, honest - Ed*) I bore the snub manfully, of course, and settled down behind my laptop, compiling puzzles while still hoping for a chance to take part.

Dursley were up next: Frank and Liz Byrne; Anne and Phil Pope; Andy Binstead and Ian Unsworth. Then it was Stone A (aka "The Boulders"), which included John Cornock and Catherine White-Horne, followed by Stone B: (The Pebbles?) Zoe Bonnett, Yuhang Jiang, Alistair, Ben and Chris White-Horne, and Jeremy Sergeant.

By now I was beginning to worry that I wouldn't get a ring after all, but Frank had asked Tim to captain a scratch team. A bit of scraping, and "The Floaters" (unofficial name) were created: He, me,

Helen Binstead, Mark and Sue Wray - whose home tower Cromhall is - and Jill Carey.

As a scratch team we couldn't win the Beeny Trophy but we could still come first. Giggling, we made our way up to the ringing chamber. Looking back, I should have had a bit more faith in our team and its abilities, especially my own, but my nerves had pushed rational thought very far down my list of priorities. There had been mumbling of an oddstruck second, so Jill nobly took that rope. Mark took tenor, as it was a bell he was familiar with. Tim took conductor's fifth; Helen the treble. Sue had already assumed fourth, so I was left with the also slightly-oddstruck third, and we launched into our practice rounds.

I was not comfortable and produced the worst rounds since I was a beginner. "I can't do it" I wailed plaintively, near to tears. It's funny that I have no trouble standing in front of an audience of hundreds, spouting rubbish off the top of my head while singing or dancing or playing, but in a chamber with five other ringers, I fall apart! The worry of letting anyone down is much greater than that of being a sub-standard performer. Luckily everyone was very supportive, especially Helen and Tim, who said: "Just ring like you would at a practice". I may have been our team's Weakest Link, but everyone there believed I was capable, and knowing that helped me relax.

It went rather well as it happened, and we were all grins at the end. We had done our best - the most that anyone can do. My goal was only this: not to come last. Frank had asked me earlier if I'd ever come last in anything before, and my mind went blank. What had I ever competed in? How could I forget the tonnes of auditions over the years, where you don't really come last, but you definitely can fail to win, and I have done. Many times. I *did* come last in sports' day races at primary school, most notably the obstacle one, where my derriere got stuck in the chair I was supposed to crawl under. What about secondary school, and all the inter-house stuff, like verse speaking, drama and public speaking? My teams never really won or lost them - middle contenders. Or the one and only time I participated in the swimming gala? I came last in both my races. I am not a great competitor. >>



<< There followed a long drawn-out wait for the judges - Simon and Sue Tomlinson from Bristol branch - to return. They'd been sitting in their car listening as nowhere else had been available! It was a miserable day, soggy and grey. I didn't envy them. They looked surprisingly chipper as they came to give us the results. Simon explained how he'd marked us - half a fault for general mistakes; a full one for serious clashes and the like - to give a numeric score.

The ringing on the whole was good, he said, and it was close. He gave a crit on each performance, saying we were all a bit slow with our peal times. Our team had been the slowest, but our steady tenor ringer got a mention:

	TEAM	METHOD	PEAL TIME	FAULTS
1	Chipping Sodbury	Plain bob doubles	3h 8m	39.5
2	Dursley	Grandsire doubles	3h 10m	49.5
3	Stone A	Plain bob doubles	3h 5m	67.5
4	"The Floaters"	Plain bob doubles	2h 57m	70
5	Stone B	Plain hunt	3h 13m	106.5

To be honest, I was just happy to have been a part of it. It was a bonus to have come a close fourth place, against four established teams: we hadn't known what, even if, we were going to ring until minutes before. For someone as inexperienced as me, this was a real achievement. A big thank you to Simon and Sue Tomlinson, who must have a very warm car; to Cromhall, for excellent competition hosting; massive thanks to Sue Wray, whose delicious bakes kept us going, and again to Sue and Peggy Collett for dishing them up with hot drinks. As for a rematch next year... well, let's not be hasty.

**Words: Lizzie Lindsell, Upper Cam and Floating Pics: Andrew Ward, C Sodbury, it would seem!**



*We're all winners really*



*Chipping Sodbury, the proud winners of the Beeny Trophy, who go on to represent our branch at the Croome Trophy competition in Spring 2019. L-R Andrew Ward, David Lee, James Joynson, Robin Shipp, Phil Joynson and Tim Soanes.*



*Winners of the Stinchcombe Trophy for second place, the team from Dursley. L-R Andy Binstead, Liz and Frank Byrne, Ian Unsworth, Anne and Philip Pope.*



*Left: It's not about the winning, it's about the cake! Lizzie Lindsell eats Victorious Sponge, with Sue Wray and Peggy Collett*



**Shoeing Smith William John Crane**  
**RTS/8710,**  
**Remounts, Army Service Corps**

William John Crane was born to William and Elizabeth Crane on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1876. His place of birth is given as St George, Bedminster, Somerset (this was the registration district). His parents lived at Easton in Gordano and he was baptised there on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1877. His place of residence in the 1881 census is given as Rudgely, Easton in Gordano. His father's occupation at this time is listed as brewer's labourer. In the 1891 census, William John is shown as living in Wraxall and employed as an agricultural labourer. By 1901 he was living with his paternal aunt on Chipping Sodbury High Street and working as a blacksmith.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1902, he married Emily Watkins at the church of St John the Baptist, Old Sodbury. Emily's family home was Fairy House, Hatters Lane, Chipping Sodbury and her father was a blacksmith/wheelwright. William and Emily went on to have seven children, two of whom died in infancy. The five children who survived were: Edward, Louise, Frank, Mary and Herbert. In 1911 William's address was given as The Caretaker's House, The Grammar School, High Street, Chipping Sodbury and his occupation as blacksmith. His place of work as blacksmith was in the High Street, opposite the Grammar School, close to the surgery of one Dr W G Grace.

He enlisted at Bristol in 1916, service number RTS/8710, and was sent to the Remounts Depot at Shirehampton. It is possible that he worked for the Army Service Corps either before enlisting or immediately afterwards in Chipping Sodbury as the ASC had a wagon depot there. His service number indicates that he was enlisted to the Remounts specifically because of his trade. In November 1917 he moved to No 3 depot at Le Havre and later, in 1918, to Italy where he died of bronchio-pneumonia on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1918, at Cremona, Lombardia aged 41 years. He is buried in the British Military Cemetery there, located within the Cremona Town Cemetery.

***Army Service Corps - Remounts Service***

The ASC Remounts Service was responsible for the provisioning of horses and mules to all other army units. It was not a large part of the ASC, despite the huge numbers of animals produced. In 1914 there were just four depots, at Woolwich, Dublin, Melton Mowbray and Arborfield.

A Remount Squadron usually consisted of some two hundred soldiers, who obtained and trained five hundred horses. They were generally older, experienced soldiers. As the army expanded several more ASC Remount Squadrons were established. During the war, four more depots were established in England: at Shirehampton, for horses received at Avonmouth; Romsey, for Southampton; Ormskirk, for Liverpool and, at Swathing, a collection centre for horses trained at the other three centres for onward shipment overseas. Something in the order of 300,000 horses were imported via Avonmouth.

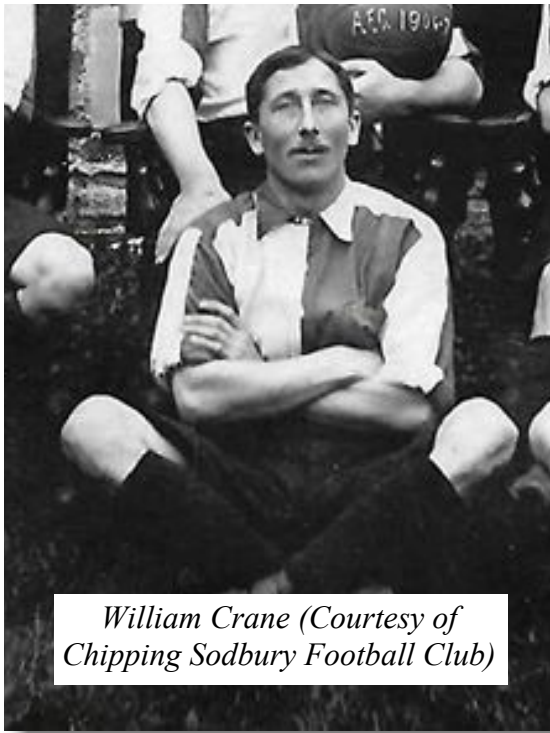
*For more information about the Remounts at Shirehampton see [www.locallearning.org.uk/Remounts-depot-display.pdf](http://www.locallearning.org.uk/Remounts-depot-display.pdf)*

I have recently been in contact with William's grandson Keith, who lives in Devon. Keith's father was Herbert William Crane, youngest son of William John. He lived and worked in Chipping Sodbury until the mid-1950 and was, like his father, a bell ringer at St John the Baptist, Chipping Sodbury. It appears that William was also something of a sportsman. Keith has a medal that belonged to his grandfather - a member of the Chipping Sodbury team, winners of the Wotton-under-Edge Football League, 1911-12 Season.

To date no-one has managed to locate a photograph of William but enquiries are continuing and it is hoped that the football connection might provide something.

***Ian P Unsworth, Branch Chairman***

*(Amazingly, it worked - see over. Ed.)*



*William Crane (Courtesy of  
Chipping Sodbury Football Club)*

***St John the Baptist, Chipping Sodbury, (16-0-8 in E)***

On Tuesday, 9 October 2018 in forty-eight minutes

**1274 Grandsire Triples**

- 1 Alison M Holliday (C)
- 2 Ian P Unsworth
- 3 Rachel M Parker
- 4 Philip J Joynson
- 5 David I Lee
- 6 David J Clark
- 7 Ruth Beavin
- 8 James M Joynson

*Rung following a service to remember Shoeing Smith William John Crane, RTS/8710 Remounts, Army Service Corps. He died in No.29 Stationary Hospital, Cremona, Italy on 9th October 1918 of bronchio-pneumonia. William was a bell ringer at this church and a member of the G&B D.A.*

Goodness me, that was epic! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another interesting issue. If you fancy rustling something up for the next one, please send your pictures, articles etc by **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December** to me at: [thewizzylizzie@gmail.com](mailto:thewizzylizzie@gmail.com) I look forward to hearing from you.

We've only a couple more events to round off our 2018 calendar:

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

Ringling at Upper Cam

3.00 - 4.30 pm

Followed by AGM at North Nibley  
Tea, Service and AGM from 5.00pm  
Then ringling until 8.00pm

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Ringling at Stinchcombe

3.00 - 4.30 pm

Followed by Advent Carol Service  
And then refreshments

Please do your best to attend and support the Branch, especially at the AGM.

The best of luck to anyone participating in any Ringling Remembers events over the weekend. With all the competitions and outings, it's easy to forget that ringling is a meaningful activity, particularly at this time of year.

Speaking of which, this is *not* all...

***Lizzie Lindsell, Clangour Editor***

## **Bertram Prewett – Renowned Bushey Bell Ringer**

*While editing Frank Byrne's interesting article about Margaret Nichols (p.8), I had to check the spelling of "Bertram Prewett", whose name appeared frequently within. I found the following, and, in the spirit of the current celebrations of remembrance, have included it here - Ed.*

### ***A Double Wedding 1913***

Bushey Parish Church was the scene of a very pretty double wedding on Saturday, July 12 when Mr Bertram Prewett of Bushey was united to Miss Ida Lizzie Elton of Parfey Street, Fulham, and Mr William Franklin of Twickenham, to her sister, Miss Maud Mary Elton. The brides, who were dressed in white satin and carried bouquets of white carnations and lily-of-the-valley, were given away by their mother. A large company witnessed the ceremony, which was performed by the Rector, assisted by the Vicar of Oxhey. As each of the parties passed through the chancel and the nave, the organ played the Wedding March and the bells crashed forth a joyful peal. The whole company re-assembled at Buck's Restaurant, Watford and thoroughly enjoyed the wedding breakfast. Mr and Mrs Prewett left at 4 pm en route for Scotland and Mr and Mrs Franklin for Shanklin.

In the evening the Bushey Bell Ringers rang a peal of Kent double-bob-major in 2 hours 54 minutes. The previous Sunday Mr Prewett was presented with a very handsome bar by the Bushey Church Officials and the Bell Ringers' Band

### **(Bushey Parish Magazine, August 1913)**

Soon after war was declared Bertram Prewett joined the Rifle Brigade. Serving in France in 1917, he injured his foot but was able to cook for others in his battalion. He wrote:

*"1 June, 1917. They went over the top the other night and took the village of B\_\_\_\_, which has changed hands ten times lately. You can hardly imagine the ruin over here. Hardly a wall standing in the villages; fruit and other trees wantonly cut down; huge craters in the roads; and churches blown to pieces. In a village near here the only part of the church standing is the west end, and also a huge crucifix in the churchyard. In the latter lay German and our dead side by side and I saw the grave of a Queen's man, surmounted by a cross, who had been buried by the Germans on 11th March last.*

*There are no traces of any bells – I expect they have gone to Essen for cannon. I saw, in a huge ruined sugar refinery the stock and lever of the factory bell, but there was no trace of the bell itself. It is very hot out here now,*

*and it is a great contrast to a month ago, when we had frost and snow. I'm glad to say that I am quite well, with the exception of my foot, but the life is rather trying."*

Bertram Prewett was killed in France on 31 August 1918.

The death of Mr Bertram Prewett is a great loss to Bushey and the ringing world in general. Born in Hampstead, he was brought as an infant to Bushey. He was educated at Watford Grammar School, at 16 years he won a place in the Civil Service. Mr Prewett began ringing at St Matthew's Church at the early age of 16. He rang nearly a thousand peals, two hundred and thirty six of which he himself conducted. He rang all over England and Ireland, in thirty-seven counties, and in two hundred and forty towers. He was a member of the following associations – College Youths, Middlesex, Kent, Hertfordshire, Sussex and Midland counties. No one hated fighting more, but at an early date of the war he offered himself and joined the Rifle Brigade. He was wounded in the German offensive on 23 March 1918. When in hospital at Etaples, his ward was heavily bombed and all its occupants killed. He had just gone out to help the orderlies. We offer our sincere sympathy to his aged father and mother, who live in Bushey Grove Road, and to his wife.

### **(Bushey Parish Magazine, December 1918)**

Rifleman Bertram Prewett of Alderbury, Oxhey Avenue, aged 39, is buried at the Saily-Saillisel British Cemetery in France and is commemorated on the Bushey Memorial on Clay Hill, and at the churches of St James and St Paul in Bushey.

**Source: Bushey's World War One commemoration website, <http://www.busheyworldwarone.org.uk>**

