

THE GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS: WOTTON BRANCH

CLANGOUR NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2020

EDITED BY SARAH LORKIN

Deadline for articles for the next edition of Clangour (May 2020): 19th April 2020 to
mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

Ringling at Coaley

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

Ringling at Wickwar

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

G&B training day

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

Ringers Spring Lunch – Horton village hall

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL

G&B AGM and Striking Competition

SATURDAY 2ND MAY

Ringling at Slimbridge

Followed by Service, Tea,

Branch Meeting and

Ringling at Stinchcombe

NEWS FROM...

COALEY

Terry Chivers

We manage to ring for our Sunday service on most Sundays. Seldom do we get six ringers. It seems that every time we manage to grow the team something happens to deplete it. However, our practices are usually well supported and we do get the opportunity to ring quarter peals with help from some very good friends.

Our quarter peals are Doubles, but we do try to do things differently usually by ringing multiple methods and variations. For example for a sixtieth birthday we would have six methods/variations with sixty calls. For other anniversaries we would also try to link the calls and methodology to the event.

Our most recent quarter peal was to celebrate Terry Clarke's eightieth birthday. Terry has been ringing in the tower for a number of years and is a very special member of our team. So the intention was to keep it simple to be confident of the quarter being achieved. Grandsire doubles with eighty calls. The first 60 lead ends were fine, then the conductor, who shall be nameless, miss called. A restart for a very successful quarter peal! The six ringers plus eight others assemble at the Lammastide Inn at Brookend for a very nice meal and a few drinks accompanied by Terry's tales of yor. A very pleasant evening.

But the most pleasurable ringing has to have been associated with celebrating the arrival of new family members into the village.

Sally Allen's grandson Arthur Fredrick Charles entered this world on the 21st September, but the celebratory quarter peal was delayed until November when the family moved into the village



Above: Corinne Unsworth created these for the Tewkesbury Exhibition last year.

accompanied by 1260 mixed doubles with Nanny ringing the treble.

And a month later came a quarter peal to welcome Lana Isobel Lorkin born into this world on the 11th December 2019; the daughter of Sarah and Matt, both ringers in the tower, and granddaughter of Carole and Ian Bucknell, ringers at Bisley. Dad and Gramps rang whilst Gama opted to spend time with the baby. We stayed with simple methods to stay safe and successful – which it was.

DURSLEY

Frank Byrne

Leslie Edward Martin

17 March 1952 – 2 December 2019.

Many of us in the Branch will remember Les. He was taught to ring at Dursley by his father, Norman, and is first recorded as being a member of the G&B in 1967. He supported the ringing at Dursley very faithfully until he retired from ringing in about 2005. His last ringing was most probably for Norman's funeral in 2007. Our quarter peal records show that he rang 209 quarter peals at Dursley, conducting 3 which included the first for his daughter, Samantha. He and Norman rang 110 quarter peals together at Dursley and over, or around, 100 with 4 other members of the current band. In total he rang 39 peals, his first being at Stone, Glos. on 14 Nov. 1970 and his last at Dursley on 14 June 2003. Thirteen of his peals were rung at Dursley with his next highest 'pealed' tower being at Great Whitcombe (a tower seldom mentioned in the peals columns these days) where he rang 4. His later years were marred by ill health. His working life was spent at Listers in Dursley.



We had our tower AGM instead of our usual practice in January. This arrangement has been a regular fixture for many years. It's formal in that we have a chairman, usually the Rector, minutes are taken, tower officers elected. Officers for 2020:

Tower captain: Liz Byrne

Assistant: Andy Binstead

Secretary: Liz Byrne

Treasurer: Ian Unsworth

We have re-installed our re-designed wooden shafted tenor clapper which was removed because of a split developing in the shaft and repeatedly breaking bolts. It was replaced with the previously Taylors supplied spheroidal graphite (SG) clapper. This was subsequently modified to improve its performance but it was still inferior to the WS clapper in sound quality. Fingers crossed that we will have no more problems.



HAWKESBURY

Ian Unsworth

On 6 December 2019 Terry Chivers, Chris Cooper and I met with Colin Dixon and Ian Macfadyen at St Mary's church Hawkesbury. The main purpose of this meeting was to present a cheque for £500 from the Wotton Branch to the Friends of St Mary's for their appeal to install a ring of bells at Hawkesbury. This was the sum agreed at the Branch AGM in November 2019.



The details of the proposed work were explained to us before we climbed the tower. The two older members of the party waited in the first room while Colin took me on to the two floors above. On arriving at the next level one cannot but be impressed by the size of the bell frame above and the beams on which it sits. Massive is not an exaggeration! The frame is supported on beams running east/west while the bells would have all swung north/south.

On the floor in this space is an old elm headstock and a large bell wheel, presumably those replaced by Whitechapel when they rehung the one remaining bell for chiming in 1976. Whitechapel drilled out the cast-in crown staple, quarter turned the bell and renewed the fittings. The bell was hung on an iroko headstock and fitted with an iron chiming lever.



The frame, probably constructed in the 14th century is considered to be the finest Medieval bell frame in the Gloucester Diocese. It is thought to have contained three bells. The bell weighs some 9 cwt, has a diameter of 36.75 inches and, was cast at the Bristol foundry in the 14th century. Its fittings included a Medieval stirrup-topped clapper, an inverted pendulum slider and keyed ironwork to

attach its canons to the headstock. It has plain canons and was tuned by hand.

(details from: 'Church Bells of Gloucestershire' - Mary Bliss & Frederick Sharpe, 1986).

The tower also dates from the 14th century and is thought to have been built on the foundations of a previous, much older structure.



Following the visit I made contact with Chris Pickford, a knowledgeable bell historian. I sent him a couple of the photographs I had taken of the frame and asked if he could provide any comment on the installation. In return he sent copies of notes made by Christopher Dalton when he visited Hawkesbury in December 1989 with John Eisel and added a couple of comments.

Dalton's notes make very interesting reading as he and John are two ringers both regarded as authorities on old bell frames. When I visited I thought the frame looked as though it may have once held four bells not the three noted above in the Bliss/Sharpe book. Dalton's first note describes the frame as 'massive, tall and rugged' - I wouldn't disagree with that! His notes go on to say that he considers that it was once a ring of five bells. There were four bells swinging north/south, hung in a straight line with the fifth bell in a frame on the north side, the bell swinging east/west. This frame

has been removed at some time in the past. The treble would have been in the East pit of the straight line frame and the tenor in the separate pit on the north side. He also states that this would have meant that the ropes would have fallen so as to give an anti-clockwise ring. The notes go on to give the size of the bell hole under the frame: 53 inches x 48 inches. Chris Pickford suggests that this indicates a tenor of perhaps up to 15-17 cwt.

What happened to the four missing bells? When were they and the fifth pit removed? Now there's a project for someone! I look forward to reading the results of your research in a future issue.

TORTWORTH

Fen Marshall

It's funny how quickly a regular idea becomes almost tradition and Christmas and New Year at Tortworth seem to be rather steeped in tradition these days! As for the last 40 odd years, we dressed up smart and had a Christmas meal together; this year at the BA in Berkeley. A lovely evening with 18 of us making the event.

A slightly more recent tradition has been the rendition of a few carols on the hand bells. A Victorian evening raising £400 for the Sense charity, as well as a Carol service, meant that many people had the chance to hear us! A big "Thank you" to Christine for her patience in training us to give a creditable performance this year!

11 of us made it across the fields to ring in the New Year. It's good to have so many in the tower but the injuries bench was rather long so only 6 of us were fit enough to actually ring. A positive note is that we have two learners just starting, so perhaps there will be the chance of a rest between rounds!

2019 was unique for us in that we had 9 weddings! We are really grateful for all the help we received from other towers for the ringing and visitors are always welcome to join us on a Thursday evening practice (although it may be worth checking that we are definitely ringing that week!)

UPPER CAM

Alex Reeves

Ringing at Upper Cam is really good at the moment. Usually on Sundays we are now able to ring at least five of our six bells. On Tuesdays we usually are

able to ring some Minor and hope to be able to ring Surprise soon.

We ring a range of methods, depending on who is there, and have recently been joined by Steve, a lapsed Ringer from Derbyshire and Devon, and we are building him back up to where he used to be.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

WICKWAR

Peter Juniper

We currently have a good core of ringers who regularly turn up for Sunday morning services and Thursday evening practise. The local Wickwar ringers are reinforced by potential members of the band at St Mary's Hawkesbury, to be ready when their bells are installed later this year. It has been our pleasure to provide basic bell handling training for a couple of other starters from Hawkesbury, and there are more in the pipeline with some dedicated Beginners' evenings commencing in late January.

Meanwhile there are now sufficient numbers of Wickwar ringers to fairly competently ring Plain Hunt on 5 and we have even managed to get some of them to leave their favourite bells and successfully ring this, our first "method", on another bell. This complements the rather dodgy call changes which are usually our stock in trade, but which frequently fall into mayhem when the tower captain makes a wrong call..... Sadly, we have lost a couple of ringers recently as they have moved away from the area - Steve Amos had been ringing with us for about 20 years and Martin Summers, although a relatively new ringer, was making some good progress. We wish them well and hope that they will find new towers to ring at.

A second Tower Open Day in September 2019 appeared to have attracted some further interest from potential ringers but, sadly, none of them pursued that interest into actually coming along to have a go. Nonetheless we usually manage to fill at least 5 ropes on a Sunday morning and sometimes have more than the full compliment. When we altered our practice evening to Thursday, to accommodate new ringers while not inconveniencing the existing ringers, this now coincided with the Scouts who meet in the Churchroom, which is right at the bottom of the tower. Thus they get the full force of our ringing to accompany their activities. When their leader asked

if some of the scouts could come up to the tower one evening, we could hardly refuse and, of course, we had an entertaining time showing them the bells and getting them to do a few back strokes and hand strokes. There was definitely some potential shown but we are still waiting to see if any of them come up for another go, perhaps when the Scouts themselves are not meeting.

We continue to be grateful to John Cornock and Rex Isaac who attend the Thursday practice when they can and are very useful in improving our bell handling.

The Let's Ring group use Wickwar tower once a month (on the third Tuesday) and, of course, attempt all sorts of fancy methods that, with the best will in the world, our current local ringers will never achieve. We have also had a few visiting groups coming to the tower in 2019, including two lots on the same day! It is a privilege to have a decent ring of bells to be able to offer this facility.

The bells themselves are in good order, as was confirmed by a clean bill of health given by the engineer from Taylors of Loughborough who carried out the quinquennial review of the bells in December. After over 20 years' service, the tail ends of all six bell ropes were replaced last year by Avon Ropes and have now settled in nicely. They are much better to handle and look much tidier. Oh, and the exercise was considerably cheaper than replacing the entirety of the ropes, which had been the original idea.

In April 2019, the Wickwar ringers rang call changes in solidarity with the people of Paris and France following the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral on 15th of that month. We also rang for two weddings during the year, including that of the grand-daughter of our former Rector, David Small, who sadly died earlier in the year. The bells were

rung half-muffled for Remembrance Day as usual and we also rang out the old year and rang in the new at the turn of 2020 - which occasion is suitably illustrated.



During 2019, ten quarter peals and one peal were rung at the tower, including a quarter in July to celebrate the birth of the tower captain's first grandchild.

We received an interesting call from the Farnham and District Model Railway Society towards the end of 2018. They have constructed a model of Wickwar railway station and surrounds as it was in the 1950's and early 1960's prior to the station's closure post Beeching. The working model has been displayed at Wickwar Brewery in the past, and was a popular attraction. However, they now wished to add the dimension of sound to their model and, as the church appears in the scenery (perched above the NE tunnel entrance), they requested a recording of the bells. This took rather longer to achieve than it should have done, but they are now in possession of 5 minutes of the Let's Ringers at their best. This is good ringing and, with no offence to our current ringers, probably more like the sort of quality that the Wickwar ringers were achieving at the time. We now await the opportunity to view the model again once the sound has been added.

PEALS AND QUARTER PEALS

QUARTER PEALS AND PEALS RUNG AT DURSLEY SINCE LAST CLANGOUR

On Friday, 18 January 2019; In 53 minutes

1344 Lessness S Major

- 1 Barbara Pettit
- 2 Tony Natt
- 3 Roger Hunt
- 4 Roy Williams
- 5 Reg Hitchins (C)
- 6 Hilda Ridley
- 7 Stuart Tomlinson
- 8 Michael Seagrave
- 1st Lessness 2

On Sunday, 20 January 2019; In 46 minutes

1250 Yorkshire S Major

- 1 Lizzie Lindsell
- 2 Anne Pope
- 3 John Taylor
- 4 Timothy Soanes
- 5 Elizabeth Byrne
- 6 Frank Byrne
- 7 Ian Unsworth
- 8 Philip Pope (C)

In thanksgiving for the life of Sylvia Fincham,
mother of Anne

On Sunday, 17 February 2019 In 46 minutes

1250 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Elizabeth Byrne
- 2 Hilarie Bateman
- 3 Ian Unsworth
- 4 Andrew Binstead
- 5 John Taylor
- 6 Philip Pope
- 7 Frank Byrne (C)
- 8 Mike Bateman

To celebrate Lionel Jones 85 years as a member
of St James' church choir

On Tuesday, 16 April 2019 In 46 minutes

1250 Cambridge S Major

- 1 Helen Binstead
- 2 Lizzie Lindsell
- 3 Anne Pope
- 4 Ian Unsworth
- 5 Andrew Binstead
- 6 Frank Byrne
- 7 Jonathan Adkins
- 8 Philip Pope (C)

Rung for 'Come and Sing' event. First inside to
Surprise - 2

On Sunday, 5 May 2019 In 46 minutes

1250 Cambridge S Major

- 1 Anne Pope
- 2 Catherine White-Horne
- 3 Jane Bull
- 4 John Cornock
- 5 Alistair White-Horne
- 6 Andrew Ward
- 7 Philip Pope
- 8 Andrew Bull (C)

First Major inside: 2. For St Mark's
Woodmancote patronal festival.

On Sunday, 19 May 2019 In 45 minutes

1250 Yorkshire S Major

- 1 Carole Bucknell
 - 2 Anne Pope
 - 3 John Cornock
 - 4 David Pouncey
 - 5 John Taylor
 - 6 Ian Bucknell
 - 7 James Joynson
 - 8 Philip Pope (C)
- First of Yorkshire SM - 4

On Sunday, 16 June 2019 In 46 minutes

1250 Lincolnshire S Major

- 1 Catherine White-Horne
 - 2 Anne Pope
 - 3 Yuhan Jiang
 - 4 John Taylor
 - 5 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 6 Timothy Soanes
 - 7 Alistair White-Horne
 - 8 Philip Pope (C)
- First of Lincolnshire - 3, 7

On Sunday, 7 July 2019

1344 Superlative S Major

- 1 Helen Binstead
 - 2 Lizzie Lindsell
 - 3 Anne Pope
 - 4 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 5 Philip Pope
 - 6 Timothy Soanes
 - 7 Andrew Binstead
 - 8 Jonathan Adkins (C)
- First in method - 2

On Sunday, 1 September 2019

1250 Yorkshire S Major

- 1 Hilarie Bateman
 - 2 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 3 Anne Pope
 - 4 John Taylor
 - 5 Andrew Binstead
 - 6 Timothy Soanes
 - 7 Ian Unsworth (C)
 - 8 Philip Pope
- 35th Wedding anniversary compliment to the ringers of 3 and 8
In memory of Tim Arnold, a member of the Parish church choir for over 50 years.
First of Treble Bob: 1

On Wednesday, 18 September 2019

1260 Plain Bob Doubles (on the simulator)

- 1 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 2 Ian Unsworth
 - 3 Lizzie Lindsell
 - 4 Timothy Soanes
 - 5 Frank Byrne
 - 6 H. Rex Isaac
- Jointly conducted by 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
In thanksgiving for the life of Bert Gough, 1929 - 2019, by those that rang with him at the Dursley, Simulator practice which he enjoyed being part of.

On Tuesday, 15 October 2019 In 45 minutes

1274 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 2 Anne Pope
 - 3 Carole Bucknell
 - 4 Richard Page
 - 5 Timothy Soanes
 - 6 Frank Byrne (C)
 - 7 Philip Pope
 - 8 Ian Unsworth
- In memory of Laurence Edgar Hitchins (1928 - 2019) ringing master of St Laurence, Stroud for 25 years, on the day of his funeral. Rung by friends who knew and had rung with him.

On Sunday, 27 October 2019 In 50 minutes

1344 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Mike Bateman
 - 2 Hilarie Bateman
 - 3 Anne Pope
 - 4 John Taylor
 - 5 Ian Unsworth
 - 6 Elizabeth Byrne
 - 7 Frank Byrne (C)
 - 8 Philip Pope
- First of Major 1 and 2
This performance is linked to the event Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association — 2019 G&B Quarter Peal, Peal and Firsts Fortnight Festival

On Sunday, 1 December 2019 In 47 minutes

1274 Plain Bob Triples

- 1 Hilarie Bateman
 - 2 Lizzie Lindsell
 - 3 John Cornock
 - 4 Andrew Binstead
 - 5 Timothy Soanes
 - 6 Ian Unsworth
 - 7 Frank Byrne (C)
 - 8 Mike Bateman
- For Advent Carols by Candlelight
Also for the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Frank and Liz Byrne

On Sunday, 15 December 2019 In 46 minutes

1280 Cambridge S Major

1 Catherine White-Horne

2 Ian Unsworth

3 Elizabeth Byrne

4 Ben White-Horne

5 Andrew Binstead

6 Andrew Ward

7 Frank Byrne (C)

8 Philip Pope

Remembering Les. Martin ringer here for almost 40 years

On Sunday, 22 December 2019, In 46 minutes

1260 Plain Bob Triples

1 Ian Unsworth

2 Judith Cotterell

3 Anne Pope

4 Elizabeth Byrne

5 Andrew Binstead

6 Philip Pope

7 Frank Byrne (C)

8 Mike Bateman

For Carols by Candlelight Service.

Also with best wishes for a speedy recovery to

Ron Fincham, father of Anne Pope

Lancashire Association

Dursley, Gos. tt St James the Great; Tenor:

19.5 cwt in E-flat

On Saturday, 16 February 2019; In 2 hours and 55 minutes

5024 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composition: J. Warboys

1 Malcolm J. Lodwick

2 Charlotte M. Smith

3 Anthony H. Smith (C)

4 Stefan R. Zientek

5 Ian P. Unsworth

6 Philip F. Pope

7 Derek J. Thomas

8 James E. Andrews

With best wishes to John Cornock on his 60th birthday

Glos. and Bristol D.A.

Dursley, Gos.

At St James the Great

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E-flat

On Wednesday, 10 July 2019

In 3 hours and 5 minutes

5152 Cooktown Orchid Delight Major

Composition: Anthony J. Cox

1 Raymond Haynes

2 Hilda C. Ridley

3 Sarah B. Ewbank

4 Andrew H. Ball

5 Christopher R. Field

6 Adrian P. Beck

7 Anthony J. Cox

8 Rebecca J. Cox

Conducted by: Anthony J. Cox

Glos. and Bristol D.A.

Dursley, Gos.

At St James the Great

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E-flat

On Saturday, 7 December 2019

In 3 hours and 2 minutes

5056 Lincolnshire Surprise Major

1 John R. Ridley

2 Jane D. Bull

3 Ian P. Unsworth

4 John Cornock

5 Sarah B. Ewbank

6 Philip R. Grover

7 Philip F. Pope

8 Andrew A. Ward

Conducted by: John R. Ridley

To mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Frank and Elizabeth Byrne.

LET'S RING! ROUNDS UP 2019

BY CATHERINE WHITE-HORNE

IT'S BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR FOR OUR YOUNG BELLRINGING CREW!
Three years have dashed by since *Let's Ring!* was born; it's about time for a round-up of our news, views, facts and figures.



SO "LOOK TO" AS *LET'S RING!* ROUNDS UP THE YEAR BY NUMBERS.

WE ARE:

16 ringers who make up the current membership of *Let's Ring!* We're all new ringers; less than 5 ringing years old.

WHAT A PERFORMANCE IN 2019!

Get ready for the statistics!

9 peals,

60+ quarter peals and

4 handbell quarters rung by members of *Let's Ring!*

3 of our ringers scored first peals and

3 scored first quarters in hand.

1 BellBoard event where we link our performances. Check out '*Let's Ring!* peals and quarters'.

WELCOME OUR NEW CLUTCH OF *LETS RING!*

6 new ringers recruited and retained in 2019 – let's extend a warm welcome to Evie, Russell, Will, Sharon, Dan and Jim.



Learning the ropes: L-R, Evie, Alistair, Will and Russell and.... Yuhan, Richard, Chris and Zoe



DEVELOPING OUR RINGING

2 week-long training courses designed, delivered and greatly enjoyed. We think this innovative approach is one of the reasons we've had success recruiting and retaining young ringers.

16 special *Let's Ring!* practices organised by us and supported by experienced local ringers. We plan even more for 2020.

3 quarter peal days organised by members of our band to develop our ringing and enjoy together.

1 G&B Association Youth Training Day both attended and supported by *Let's Ring!* youngsters and adults.

ON THE ROAD

4 *Let's Ring!* tours with the group staying overnight in Wiltshire, Oxford, Staffordshire and Hertfordshire, wearing...

6 tie-dye T-shirts created by our newest youngsters.



7 (probably more but we lost count!) fish and chip lunches enjoyed together. The *Let's Ring!* bottle of ketchup is always to hand.



Countless birthday cakes baked and shared.



THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

3 *Let's Ring!* youngsters in The G&B Youth Team for the 2019 Ringing World National Youth Contest in Liverpool, one as conductor, making up nearly half the competition band. They did us proud, coming 5th out of 24 teams from across the UK.

3 striking competitions had team members from *Let's Ring!* both locally and nationally, in 2019.

ACHIEVED!

1 band created for Thornbury. Eight bells are now rung almost every Sunday. this local band was what drove the creation of *Let's Ring!* (see RW, 24 March 2017).

1 new method learned and rung entirely by a *Let's Ring!* band and named "*Let's Ring!* Minor". (RW, 1 February 2019.)

2 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards earned by our youngsters with ringing as their



Reviving

Delight

chosen skill.

THANK YOU!

To everyone who has helped us with all our adventures in 2019. Particular thanks go to Ward and John Cornock our key mentors. Also to Marcus Booth, Edna & Chris Cooper and Andrew Bull for all their ringing help. To Jeremy Sargent for his teaching and enabling our ringing at Stone, also to Robin Shipp at Thornbury and Peter Juniper at Wickwar and to Sharon Newnham for being my co-driver and *Let's Ring!* partner. Special thanks to my family for supporting my mad ringing plans, and in particular Ben and Alistair who tirelessly help our new learners as they begin their ringing journeys.

to Andrew and Jane &

Go.... *LET'S RING* 2020!

BRANCH ARCHIVES

By IAN P UNSWORTH (APRIL 2019)

As you may recall Anita gave up the post of Branch Secretary at the AGM in November 2018 and we were unable to fill the position. Sometime later Anita contacted me to say that she would like to pass on the records

that she was holding as she felt that they should be with an active officer rather than left with her as her ringing future was still in some doubt. As a consequence, a few days later Anita and Ernest arrived at my house with three large plastic crates of Branch materials!

I gradually went through the crates and identified five main groups of material: minute books, G&B Annual Reports, copies of Clangour (and its predecessors), remains of the Branch library and a collection of current folders containing a wide variety of items.

The minute books go back to the beginning of the Branch in 1910, with just one small gap. Jennifer Rogers went through these when 'Wotton Surprise' was being put together and produced a summary of each decade for the book. What to do with this valuable collection was discussed by the Branch Officers and it was agreed that they should be housed somewhere safe - somewhere dry and inaccessible to elements that might lead to deterioration, eg. insects, mice, damp. It was also considered that they ought to be accessible should someone wish to build on the research initiated by Jennifer Rogers. It was decided therefore to contact the Gloucestershire County Archives to see if they would be interested in the collection. The collections manager at what is now called the Gloucestershire History Hub was very positive about holding the collection at Gloucester and making it available for inspection etc.

The Officers subsequently approved the deposit of the minutes books which are now at Gloucester where they are on 'long-term loan'. The Branch continues to hold the copyright for all the enclosed material. The Archivist has been granted authority to allow researchers to quote from the records providing that the original source is properly acknowledged. We have a formal agreement with Gloucestershire County Council and a receipt for the books which will be held in the 'current' documents folder. We have been asked to deposit further minute books as they become full so that a continuous record of the Branch's activities is maintained.

The second large group of items was a collection of Association Annual reports, complete from 1962 to the present day. Again it was considered that these should have a safe home and be accessible. There are extensive sets of reports held in the ringing room at Wotton and Upper Cam. At Cam they are displayed in a cabinet with glass doors and have some dating back to the 1950s, left by Clive Legg. Alex Reeves and the Cam ringers have undertaken to house the Branch collection and replace poor quality copies if there are some in a better condition. This applies to a couple of years in the 1970s when a 'new' binding was used instead of stapling and proved to be very inferior.

The collection of Clangours is physically the largest set of memorabilia and goes back well into the last century.

The remains of the Branch Library contains around twenty books, mostly aimed at beginners/learners. Perhaps we might have these for inspection at practices and should you wish to purchase one, or more, I'm sure the Treasurer would be happy for them to go for a small donation to Branch funds. However, there appears to be some twenty books still 'on loan'. Thanks to Tim Soanes' meticulous record keeping I have the names of the people who have not returned their library books!!

With fines for late return standing at 10p per week the offenders may wish to negotiate an installment plan in order to clear their debts or perhaps discussing an out-of-court settlement with the Treasurer. At this stage I will not be naming-and-shaming these people all of whom have been members for over twenty years. If this stirs your conscience do ask me if you need to consider talking to your bank manager!

Finally, there is the box of current materials - minute books, attendance books, competition certificates and random pictures. I am hoping to pass on one box in the next few days and then the last one at the next Officers meeting.

WOTTON BRANCH OFFICERS

Chairman	Chris Cooper
Ringling Master	James Joynson
Assistant Ringling Master	David Clark
Secretary	Barbara Metcalfe
Treasurer	Gill Carey
Clangour Editor	Sarah Lorkin
Publicity Officer	Terry Chivers

REGULAR PRACTICES

Monday

Chipping Sodbury	19:30-21:15	Antony Gay	07970 797 742
Cromhall	19:30-21:00	Sue Wray	01454 294 387
Stone	19:30-21:00	Jeremy Sargent	01454 260 376
Yate (1 st and 3 rd only)	19:30-21:00	Barrie Fletcher	01454 316 339

Tuesday

Wotton-under-Edge	19:30-21:00	Adrian Davis	01453 844 393
Upper Cam	19:30-21:00	Alex Reeves	KateAndAlex4@Gmail.com

Wednesday

Berkeley	19:30-21:00	Tim Soanes	01453 811 006
Coaley	19:30-21:00	Terry Chivers	01453 890 497
Horton	19:30-21:00	Rex Isaac	01454 311 701

Thursday

Dursley	19:30-21:00	Elizabeth Byrne	01453 543 536
Tortworth	20:00-21:00	Michael Goom	01454 414 826
Stinchcombe	19:30-21:00	James Joynson	James-Joynson@Hotmail.co.uk
Wickwar	19:15-21:00	Peter Juniper	01454 294 524

Friday

North Nibley	19:30-21:00	Wynne Holcombe	01453 542 091
Slimbridge	By arrangement	Huvin Thompson	01453 890 469

SPECIAL PRACTICES

Berkeley – 3 rd Wednesday of the month	19:30-21:00	10 bell practice	Tim Soanes	01453 811 006
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Cromhall – 2 nd Thursday of the month	14:00-15:30	Surprise Minor	Peggy Collett	01454 294 545
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Chipping Sodbury – 3 rd Friday of the month	19:30-21:00	8 Bell practice	Dave Clark	07414 191 777
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