

THE GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS: WOTTON BRANCH CLANGOUR NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2021

*Deadline for articles for the next edition of Clangour (April 2021): 28th
March 2021 to mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com*

NEWS FROM...

DURSLEY

Like everybody else, we await the end of restrictions so we can ring as normal or what was once normal. After the first lockdown restriction were lifted, and limited ringing was possible, we have rung for all Sunday Morning Services held at St James'. All but 3 have been of Minor or Doubles. How many bells we were able to ring depended on how many from one household were included and who did not need to social distance. CCCBR rules have been followed, limiting ringing to 15 minutes, including raising and lowering and wearing of face masks, etc. All members of the tower have taken part including several regular visitors, the exception being one of our band who has been advised not to mix.

We have included 4 pieces of ringing in this tower news, they are in celebration for the life of two people.

Jennifer Rogers

Jennifer's sudden death on 11th October was a shock to everybody - an obituary has been included elsewhere. She had been in hospital, initially, for four or so weeks while they investigated the cause of her loss of energy. On 26 August she returned home,

further necessary tests being conducted via day visits to Gloucester Royal hospital. During her period at home, she felt her condition was improving but on 26 September she was admitted once again to Gloucester Royal where she died on 11 October. She had just started a course of chemotherapy for leukemia which had been diagnosed.

Jennifer and husband Mike moved from Abson to Uley in 2000. Sadly, Mike died in 2003. Her positive contribution to the ringing at Dursley and within the Branch was significant whether as Branch Secretary or initiating and editing the publication of the book 'Wotton Surprise' for the 100th Anniversary of the Wotton Branch.

Our memories of Jennifer are all positive. Nothing prevented her from traveling to challenging destinations in different parts of the world, regardless of her limited mobility due to soon-to-be-replaced hip joints. Neither did the challenge of ringing unfamiliar methods on unfamiliar 8 bells deter her. In all she rang 89 quarter peals at Dursley, including Stedman Triples and 6 of the standard eight Surprise Major Methods, conducting two of Bob Major. Above all we remember her for her cheerfulness

and splendid company. We shall miss her.



Taken November 2018 in the Old Spot after simulator practice. Includes two ringers no longer with us Jennifer Rogers and Bert Gough. L-R: Frank, Jennifer, Liz, Richard, Rex, Lizzie, Bert, Tim.

Twelve ringers expressed a wish to be included in ringing in her memory. In these restricted Covid times this was achieved in a modest way and within the 15 minute ringing time allowed.

240 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E flat, On Monday, 19 October 2020, In 10 minutes

1 Andrew Bull, 2 Jane Bull, 3 -, 4 John Taylor, 5 Philip Pope, 6 -, 7 Elizabeth Byrne (Cond), 8 Frank Byrne

In thanksgiving for the life of Jennifer Rogers.

Jonathan Bull wishes to be associated with this performance as he used to go birding with Jennifer

240 Plain Bob Minor

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E flat, On Sunday, 25 October 2020, In 10 minutes

1 Lizzie Lindsell, 2 Jonathan Adkins, 3 -, 4 Timothy Soanes, 5 Philip Pope,

6 -, 7 Elizabeth Byrne, 8 Frank Byrne ©

For Morning Service and in thanksgiving for the life of Jennifer Rogers, a ringer at this church

240 Plain Bob Minor

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E flat, On Monday, 2 November 2020, In 10 minutes

1 Helen Binstead, 2 Andy Binstead, 3 -, 4 Andrew Ward, 5 John Taylor, 6 -, 7 Elizabeth Byrne, 8 Frank Byrne (C)

With fond memories of Jennifer Rogers, friend and fellow ringer, on the day of her funeral

Also rung in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Kathleen Cornock, mother of John, friend and fellow ringer

240 Cambridge Surprise Minor

Tenor: 19.5 cwt in E flat, On Sunday, 1 November 2020, In 10 minutes

1 Helen Binstead, 2 Andy Binstead, 3 -, 4 Andrew Ward, 5 John Taylor, 6 -, 7 Elizabeth Byrne (C), 8 Frank Byrne

For All Saints Day and in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Kathleen Cornock, mother of John Cornock, friend and fellow ringer.

THE HAWKESBURY BELLS

Colin Dixon

The Hawkesbury bells have been cast and fully cleaned with no mishaps. That is, they are reasonably true and none of them needs to be recast. They were cast by Emmanuelle Allanconi in Milan and are to the English pattern. They are currently en-route to England where they will be tuned and set up by Matthew Higby at Radstock.



The Hawkesbury Bells in their pristine condition

The structural work on the Bell Chamber, Ringing Chamber and the Vestry below it is very nearly complete with some excellent craftsmanship on the oak of the ringing floor beams. We had a small delay when the Diocese refused to countenance a hatch entry point in the floor of the Ringing Chamber - for health and safety reasons and we needed to hurriedly establish whether the existing spiral stairway would be useable.

It was very lucky that the spiral met the required level at the right side of the stair - I had visions of it being on the other side. The Chancellor quickly gave a Faculty (may be a Diocesan record) and the architect and the masons got to work just as rapidly. The new doorway will, incidentally, be cost neutral and be a much more elegant solution. But it did give us a few jitters at the time.

For the past five months we have had the benefit of a sensor on the loaned Dumb Bell. This was provided by James Joynson and we have used the Abel3 software. It has helped tremendously with training and practice. We have also had James as our trainer for the past couple of months. In fact, James has stepped into the breach and run our practice sessions for a couple of weeks for me because I needed to go into hospital for a hip replacement.

We are very grateful to James for giving up his evenings to help us - he is a very good trainer especially with the complete novices and has gained everyone's trust. Thank you James from all at Hawkesbury.

Bell number	Diameter	Weight	Weight CWT lb	Strike note	Name
Tenor	1030mm	616kg	12.14	F#	Mary
7 th	915mm	438kg	8.39	G#	Matthew
6 th	826mm	327kg	6.50	A#	Mark
5 th	775mm	267kg	5.14	B	Luke
4 th	711mm	216kg	4.14	C#	John
3 rd	673mm	197kg	3.89	D#	James
2 nd	635mm	178kg	3.57	E#	Arild
Treble	610mm	170kg	3.25	F#	Wulfstan

FROM FACEBOOK

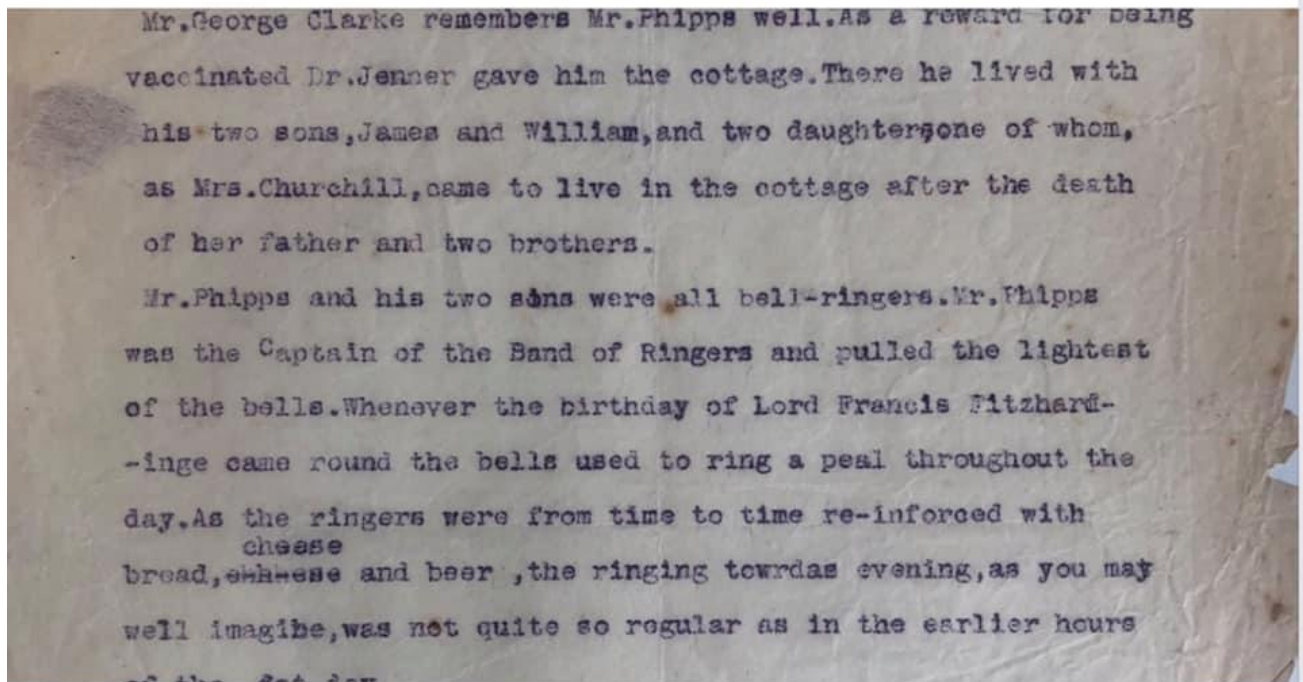
Alex Reeves



David Underdown shared a link.

8 h · 🌐

An interesting connection between the very first vaccination and ringing, via Owen Gower, manager of Dr Jenner's House museum



TWITTER.COM

Owen Gower on Twitter

"I'm often asked what happened to James Phipps, the first person to be vaccinated by E...



24

2 comments

TOLLING FOR KATHLEEN CORNOCK IN MEMORIAM

Stone, Gloucestershire All Saints Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Tolled the tenor full circle.

94 blows total.

Lydia Gallagher, 15

To remember the life of Kathleen Cornock, parishioner of this church and mother of John, long standing ringer and mentor of this tower.



OBITUARY: MARGARET JENNIFER ROGERS

17 DECEMBER 1932 – 11 OCTOBER 2020

Frank Byrne

Jennifer learnt to ring when she went up to Oxford University. She had previously read Dorothy Sayers 'The Nine Taylors' and was recruited by the Oxford University ringing society during their search for new recruits. In those days University practices were held in New College and where she was taught to handle a bell.

Ringling had to compete with several other of her interests and after mastering bell control and plain hunt, Jennifer abandoned ringing to take up, as she described, more restful student-like pursuits.

It was some twenty five years later having married Mike and with more-or-less independent children, she visited her local tower, Abson on their open day resulting in her returning to bellringing again. The G & B Annual report notes she became a member of Abson tower in 1978 and remained so until 1999. During this time she was tower secretary for 15 years and also took responsibility as tower captain at Pucklechurch for two years after Edward Mould left to live in London, although there is no record that Jennifer was ever formally a member of that tower. Jennifer rang four peals, 2 at Pucklechurch in 1979 and 1981, one at North Cerney in 1979 and one at Dyrham in 1980.

Jennifer was responsible for initiating several non-ringing related events while living in Abson including the bellringer's annual ball.

In 2000 Jennifer and Mike moved to Uley where she joined the Dursley band in 2001. Sadly, Mike died in 2003. She is recorded as ringing 89 quarter peals at Dursley before she felt uncomfortable standing still for such long period of time, her last quarter being in July 2015. Included in her 89 quarter peals were 6 of the standard Surprise Major Methods, not including London or Bristol but these could be included in spliced at a practice if she felt in the mood. This problem with balance would eventually cause her to have to give up ringing. Her last ring was most likely to have been at a Tuesday Simulator practice at Dursley in 2019. Even when not ringing Jennifer would enjoy the après gathering in the Old Spot afterwards.

Jennifer served as secretary to the Wotton-under-Edge Branch for 5 years from 2003. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Branch in 2010, Jennifer masterminded, edited and published a book 'Wotton Surprise' to mark this event. It raised over £500 toward the G & B bell fund.

Jennifer's interests in bridge, bird watching, wildlife and travelling were maintained until her final illness. The need for hip replacements were no deterrent to her globetrotting, even to more obscure places such as the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

Her final illness was quite short and eventually diagnosed as leukemia. She died in Gloucester Royal hospital on Sunday 11 October. Her funeral was at Uley, where she had regularly worshipped, on Monday 2 November, attended by her family and by invited representatives of her many interests. Numbers were limited to 30 people, but others stood outside the church, in the rain, where the Service was relayed by speakers. She was buried in Abson.



45TH ANNIVERSARY WOTTON BRANCH NEWS SHEET/CLANGOUR

Frank Byrne

The first edition of the Wotton-under-Edge Branch News Sheet (now Clangour) was published in December 1975. The provocative nature of its first editorial about ringing in the Gloucester Diocese (appended below) may have contributed to its wide circulation outside the Branch. It was published in the Ringing World of 20 February 1976 under the title 'A Gloomy Picture'. It resulted in a threatening response from one ringer outside the Branch and some correspondence from others.

The change of name from 'Newssheet' to 'Clangour' did not take place until May 1983 when the late Rev. William Burlton produced his first, 'temporary' named, 'Clangour', as editor. His idea was to find a suitable name by holding a competition with a suitable prize on offer, the judges being the Chairman, Secretary, Ringing Master and the Editor. In the event only one suggestion was forthcoming but 'Hells Bells' was not thought to promote a suitable image for the heavenly sound we're attempting to create. So, 'Clangour' it has remained.

Here is the first editorial:

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

Wotton-under-Edge Branch

NEWS SHEET

Volume 1, Issue 1
December 1975

At last the great day has arrived – the first publication of our News Sheet. It might look a little 'tatty' at the moment, but after all, it is the first issue, and we look forward to greater things in the future.

When considering ringing throughout the diocese, one is presented with a somewhat gloomy picture. (I omit Bristol deliberately, as this city is part of a different diocese and has a long history of good ringing). What is particularly prevalent in Gloucester is APATHY. Apart from a few notable exceptions, ringing throughout the diocese is decidedly inferior. Scores of silent towers and little effort in most of the others to rectify this situation or to improve their own standards. Our Cathedral Church is hardly an inspiration to any of us, with irregular service ringing and little desire to progress further. It seems that the diocese is beset with 'Rip Van Winkles' who fell asleep in their belfries 50 years ago. The motto seems to be, 'as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be'. Age is too often used as an explanation when in fact it is an excuse for apathy and the inability to realise deficiencies and inadequacies.

It must, however, be emphasised that this attitude is not only prevalent amongst the older ringers. This criticism is meant in the metaphorical sense. Certainly there are many older ringers who do not fall into this category, and I feel sure that Norman Martin will forgive me if I single him out as an example of a progressive ringer. Norman has been a member of this Branch for many years, and until recently hadn't the opportunity to learn the more advanced major methods. With the advent of new ringers at Dursley, Norman has met the challenge with vigorous enthusiasm. Many would have sat back in resentful silence. He is certainly an example to numerous ringers in the diocese, many of whom are half his age.

What of our own Branch? We are fortunate in possessing a very great potential, which if organised and properly directed could assist in revitalising the entire Association. We have in the Branch a number of enthusiastic ringers and the support of most of the Parish Priests. If only we can raise ourselves from the depths of apathy into which we have fallen. The attendance and participation at the A.G.M. was dismal. Several towers in the Branch remain silent. Before all else, we must establish our priorities. Regular service ringing in every tower in the Branch must be our first commitment. The most badly struck rounds rung Sunday by Sunday (providing that this is the best that the band is capable of) is of far more consequence than numerous peals of complicated methods rung by a select band of ringers for their own gratification. However we must beware of falling into the trap of self-satisfaction and the lack of desire to progress further. Therefore, this priority must go 'hand in glove' with that of raising the whole standard of ringing in the Branch.

What of A.G.M.'s in individual towers? Little seems to be happening in this direction. In order to maintain enthusiasm and democracy, this is essential. Ultimately, the appointment of the Tower Captain lies with the local Parish Priest. Surely though, it is more satisfactory that a Captain is elected by the band and his name then submitted to the Parish Priest. There is also the election of other officers in the local tower. An A.G.M. can generate a great deal of interest. It is only on this occasion that ringers are able to voice constructive criticisms and suggestions. It also establishes a definite link with the Parish Church authorities, providing that the Parish Priest and Churchwardens are invited to attend.

We, as ringers, really must look at ourselves within the much wider context of our entire Christian commitment. We should after all, be Christian first and bellringers second. Otherwise the whole exercise becomes vain and selfish.

At a recent service in Wotton which preceded the A.G.M. I was struck with the rather ludicrous thought that should Queen Victoria walk into the church, she would have found it impossible to disapprove of anything in our worship. Need I say more . . . Within the whole spectrum of liturgical reform in which the Anglican Communion has been involved for several years, a very definite movement has emerged. This is that all worship should be Eucharistically based. Surely therefore, we as an Association within the church, should be worshiping together at our monthly meetings at the Lord's own service, the Eucharist. People of God gathered around the Altar of God - The Food of God for the People of God.

I have endeavored in the preceding paragraphs to present a few of the issues which I believe must concern us. We should certainly welcome your correspondence on these and other matters. A healthy society never ceases to question the status quo. Controversial issues must inevitably result.

M. J. K-G.

Some other topics from the first edition:

Diddy Dave's Christmas Thing - arranging bands to ring at otherwise silent towers on Christmas morning. Quarter peals or general ringing. (Subsequently reported that all towers within the Branch, except Horton, had been rung on Christmas Day)

1975 AGM at Wotton-under-Edge. Attended by approximately 43 ringers

Officers for 1976:

Chairman: Bob Grover

Vice Chairman: Rev. W. E. Minors

Ringing Master: Roger Booth

Deputy Ringing Master: David Turner

Management Committee Rep: Allan Pidgeon
Secretary/Treasurer: Teresa Shearman
Press Correspondent: Elizabeth Byrne
Social Committee: Janice Rayner; Elizabeth Minors; David Turner; Roger Booth
Editor of News Sheet: Martin J. Kerslake-Griffiths

FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS

Ian Bucknell

This was published in The Bell News on Saturday December 19th, 1908

STONE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. The work of re-hanging in an iron frame the five old bells of Stone church and adding a treble, which has been in progress for some time, was completed last week, and on Saturday last the new bell was dedicated, together with the new organ, by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester.

The church was quite filled at 3 p.m., and chairs and forms had to be employed to provide sitting accommodation. Among the clergy present was the Rev. C. D. P. Davies (Rector of Fretherne). The service consisted of evensong. The processional hymn (No. 179 A. and M.) was sung to the accompaniment of the harmonium. The Bishop then dedicated the organ, using the form authorised for the Diocese, and the instrument was first used to lead the congregation in singing the Doxology. At the end of evensong, the choir, preceding the Vicar, the Bishop, and Canon Bartleet, proceeded to the tower, where the new bell was dedicated. Then came a short touch on the bells as the procession returned. The Bishop afterwards delivered a forcible address, based upon Heb. X. 25, upon the obligation and profit of common worship.

During the evening a party of change-ringers (under the leadership of Mr. F. K. Howell, of Thornbury) rang the bells, thus amply testing the workmanship of the new bell fittings, which elicited general approval and satisfaction. The new bell was pronounced a perfect "splice" with its older companions; and the parish was congratulated upon the possession of a singularly tuneful peal of bells.

Mr. Wm. Taylor kindly entertained the ringers who came to open the bells, and many of those who have been ringers in the past or are aspiring to become so, and Col. and Mrs. Monckton invited the clergy and other visitors to meet the Bishop at Stone Court after the service.

The only thing which threw a shadow over an otherwise joyous and notable day in the history of this village was the fact that the parish churchwarden, Mr. John Tayler Lea, of Middle Mill Farm, died on the previous Tuesday. He had initiated the movement for re-hanging the bells and had taken the most lively interest in its progress and success, and everyone felt the sadness of his not having been permitted to hear the bells ring. The "Dead March" in Saul was played by the organist, Miss Stinchcombe, on the new organ on Sunday morning as a token of respect. The work of re-hanging the bells, and casting of the new treble, was effectively carried out by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of the Old Foundry, Whitechapel, and has given the greatest satisfaction to the ringers and all concerned.

ANOTHER FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS

Ian Bucknell

A Letter from the Great War, 1916.

MET IN GREECE. HOW THE RINGING WORLD MADE FRIENDS.

The spirit of Freemasonry which exists between ringers throughout the world, is always strong enough to bring strangers together as friends, but the difficulty often is to obtain the knowledge that the community of interest exists.

How "The Ringing World" brought two ringers together near the Bulgarian frontier is told by Private R. Webb, of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire, who is now with the Army Service Corps in the Salonica Force. He writes under date July 23rd:

"I thought I would like to let you know how I came across a ringer out here. I was a good way up the country, near the Bulgarian frontier, and was not feeling very fit, so I went to see a doctor at a field ambulance close by, and he kept me there for a few days. One morning (June 27th) I was having another look through my 'Ringing World' when one of the staff brought my milk. He soon saw the paper I was looking at. 'What!' said he, 'Are you a ringer?' 'I used to ring in England, I said. 'You are the first one I have seen since I left home' he added, 'and I have been out here ten months.'

He sat down with me, and we had a long chat about the ringing we had done and the ringers we had met. This copy of 'The Ringing World' which I had then got contained a view of Painswick Church, and it turned out that my new friend, F. Oakhill, of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, had rung there several times. He came to my tent every day for a chat, but I only stayed there five days, and then I was sent down to the base for a rest, where I still am. He came to see me off, and took my kit to the motor for me, and I promised to send on my 'Ringing World' to him each week, which I have, done.

I have had a look inside a Greek Church in a village out here. It was a grand interior, with a lot of oil-paintings, and candles of all colours, some of them burning. The priest chanted something out of a Bible to me and gave me a bunch of flowers from off the altar and seemed pleased when I gave him a small reward. I hope the war will soon be over. I should like to be in England before the winter and have a good pull on the dear old bells on Christmas morning. I hope you are in the best of health, as I am glad to say I now am."

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
Cromhall	19:30-21:00	Sue Wray
Stone	19:30-21:00	Jeremy Sargent
Yate (1 st and 3 rd only)	19:30-21:00	Barrie Fletcher

Tuesday

Wotton-under-Edge	19:30-21:00	Adrian Davis
Upper Cam	19:30-21:00	Alex Reeves

Wednesday

Berkeley	19:30-21:00	Tim Soanes
Coaley	19:30-21:00	Terry Chivers
Horton	19:30-21:00	Rex Isaac

Thursday

Dursley	19:30-21:00	Elizabeth Byrne
Tortworth	20:00-21:00	Michael Goom
Stinchcombe	19:30-21:00	James Joynson
Wickwar	19:15-21:00	Peter Juniper

Friday

North Nibley	19:30-21:00	Wynne Holcombe
Slimbridge	By arrangement	Huvin Thompson

SPECIAL PRACTICES

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