

# THE GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS: WOTTON BRANCH CLANGOUR NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2020

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*Deadline for articles for the next edition of Clangour (January 2021): 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 2020 to [mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com](mailto:mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com)*

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Ringin is currently restricted due to Covid-19.

## NEWS FROM...

### DURSLEY

Frank Byrne

What have we been up to ringin-wise during lockdown? The answer is, not much like most of us.

We have ventured into the Zoom world with meetings on Thursday evenings to replace our normal practice. Some technical problems have disrupted these at times.

We have engaged technology further with a Monday afternoon RinginRoom session which has been great fun. Some of us have found this more challenging than others due to the different technique needed, the high level of concentration required and all starting from zero experience.

Zoom has been used to allow communication. These sessions have been suspended over August.

Our first open ringin on real bells since 15 March took place for the first Sunday Service, since that date, on 26th July, Patronal Festival of St James. Safe

distancing rules were followed plus other recommendations made by PHE and the CCCBR. We also wore masks. This limited us to 15 minutes ringin including getting the bells up and down. Bells 1 – 4 – 6 – 8 were rung by 2xPopes and 2xByrnes ringin Stedman Singles, the first for all. For the next Sunday service the same ringers on the same bells, added to their repertoire by including Reverse Plain Hunt on 3. The availability of 3 couples allowed 120s of Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor for Service ringin on bells 1-2; 4-5, 7-8 on 16 August, the ringers being 2x Binsteads; 2xPopes and 2xByrnes.

The 15 minute time limit is very restrictive and might be thought too short to be worthwhile but it is a start. Hopefully, this can be increased soon but it seems that anything like normal ringin is still a long way off.

Followers of the England Test Cricket Team will have heard of their Captain, Joe Root's recent addition to his family with the arrival of Isabella Florence, a sister for Alfie. Isabella is also the second grandchild for

one of our ringers, Judith, whose daughter Carrie gave birth on 2 July.

## HAWKESBURY

Colin Dixon

Thanks to the good offices of Matthew Higby and Co. the Hawkesbury Bell Ringers have a Dumb Bell to practice upon. It has the feel of a small treble bell and is very easy to master.

We have had it for a month now and we have settled into our own practice day on a Tuesday. We chose Tuesday because Horton meets on a Wednesday and Wickwar on a Thursday.



We have quite a few complete beginners and the Dumb Bell is perfect for teaching technique. It gets a bit boring for old hands but it keeps us in practice. The Dumb Bell is in my barn on Inglestone Common at the moment but will be moved to the Church at

the end of the year when our bells are commissioned. If anyone wants a go please give me a ring 01454 299236.

The work on our own bells at St. Mary's, Hawkesbury has begun with the

formers complete along with the

inscriptions and we expect the casting will have taken place by the time you read this. They may even have been taken out of their moulds.

The pads for the steel frame have been constructed and we expect the frame to go in around mid-September. We are hoping to have the bells in place before Christmas but it may not be until early in the new year. The Bishop of Gloucester has agreed to preside at the commissioning service.

Meanwhile the Dumb Bell is keeping us fettled.

## YATE

Barrie D. Fletcher

It looks as if my ringing at St Mary's Yate has been put on hold for a short or maybe a long time which is most annoying even though I only pace the tenor at the back most of the time unless its call changing. Now I do enjoy ringing even though I just cannot grasp the methods. I have a cracked bone in my right arm and have pulled some tendons and that is uncomfortable, I did try for a short time just ringing the treble for short periods doing most of the controlling with my left hand but it has slowly made my right wrist more painful so I have had to pack it in until my wrist is back to 100% again. I am the only Yate ringer left now but thanks to help from Pucklechurch we can get a small team to ring mostly every other Sunday morning but no practice until the virus is clear.

Bell Ringing is not so well carried out in a lot of churches these days I have found because in this modern time there is a lot more going on and there no is no interest in Bell Ringing or even going to church, is it just the modern way of living with no thought of God .

# MYSTERY SOLVED

Jennifer Rogers

When I researched the history of Stinchcombe bells for Wotton Surprise (a book written to celebrate the centenary of the Wotton Branch) I learnt that the five new bells were given in 1882 'in memory of a loving mother'. Who was this loving mother and what connection did she have with Stinchcombe? She must have been remarkable because the cost of five new bells was substantial. I knew that Canon Robert Jermyn Cooper, who gave the bells, had been a vicar in Fylingdales in Yorkshire until his death in 1916. In his obituary it said that his father, the Rev. Robert Jermyn Cooper, had Piers Court, Stinchcombe as a holiday home. Perhaps RJC senior had been vicar of Stinchcombe for a time and the family became devoted to the village. Then after he became Rector of West Chiltington in Sussex the people of Stinchcombe let him use Piers Court, a substantial mansion, as a holiday home. Not very plausible and no Cooper had been vicar of Stinchcombe in that period.

I made a few feeble and unsuccessful attempts to find out something about Mrs. Cooper senior. Then in February this year I went to a meeting of the U3A Family History Group on tombstones. It was given by two ladies from Stinchcombe. Inevitably I asked them if they knew anything about Mrs Cooper. Kath Hudson took up the challenge. There had been a revered Miss Cooper in the village, but why she was highly thought of she didn't know. She would investigate.

This is what she discovered. In the early nineteenth century John Wallington owned and lived in Piers Court, Stinchcombe but left in about 1825. In 1817 Arabella Harriet Wallington married Robert Jermyn Cooper, senior. Kath thinks Arabella was a granddaughter of John, so probably she grew up in Stinchcombe, but did not necessarily live in Piers Court. In the Stinchcombe Parish Magazine of May 1873 when recalling the death of the Rev. R.J.Cooper he is described as the owner of Peer's Court (as it was known at that time). His wife Arabella died in 1881 and her son Canon Robert Jermyn Cooper was glad to give five new bells to Stinchcombe in her memory. In Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire 1897, the Rev Robert Jermyn Cooper is described as one of the principal landowners in Stinchcombe.

So it was highly appropriate that at their meeting at Stinchcombe on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1916 the Wotton Branch rang half muffled in memory of Canon Robert Jermyn Cooper. The ringing was also linked with the memory of Private Percy Woodward, a Stinchcombe ringer who had died for 'King and Country'.

## A DETECTIVE STORY CONCERNING RINGING RECORDS

Robin Shipp

This is not a local story: the action, such as it is, refers to Norfolk. I hope that is not too remote for my good friends in Gloucestershire! But it does involve digging through ringing records, which might be interesting to some.

Some background first. I learned to ring in 1956 at the age of 10. This was at Gaywood - a six bell tower on the outskirts of King's Lynn. My father was tower captain and the ringers included my two great-uncles Walter and Creake Shipp. Yes, I know that "Creake" is an unusual name. I never got to the bottom of it but it might be related to the two villages of North and South Creake in North Norfolk.

Moving to the present, I had an email recently from Colin Taylor. I don't know him well but I do know that he is a very prolific peal ringer. He must be getting bored in the current situation because, to fill in time, he is helping to tidy up the records in PealBase ([www.pealbase.co.uk](http://www.pealbase.co.uk)). He had come across names of both "Creake" and "Creek" Shipp and was wondering if I could help. I replied that he was my great-uncle and that I was fairly sure the name was "Creake". I sent him a picture of the Gaywood ringers in the 1930s which included my father and the two great-uncles, although that didn't help very much as the name in the caption was spelt "Creak".

According to Colin, Creak had rung two peals, both at Gaywood. I understand that PealBase will now record "Creak" as the main name and give the other two spellings as variants. I had mentioned that I rang my first peal at Gaywood in 1960 and Colin confirmed that was in PealBase and added that PealBase shows that I have rung 138 peals. Now that was odd: my personal records only show 137.

I am registered with PealBase although I don't make much use of it. You can readily get a list of peals rung by you in each year and a check showed three peals in 1962, whereas my records showed only two. You can get further details from PealBase but it doesn't appear to be straightforward. However, the Central Council library does have copies of The Ringing World available for download as PDFs (<https://archive.cccbr.org.uk/services/library/online-publications/#rw>). The beauty of these is that they are searchable. I downloaded the 1962 volume and searched for 'Shipp'. Perhaps that wasn't the best choice - it found 37 entries, mostly the word 'worshippers'. But it did find my three peals, plus a quarter peal I had completely forgotten about (I have never kept records of quarter peals).

The missing peal was an interesting one. It was at Holkham Park. The church is dedicated to the East Anglian Saint St Withburga and it is a 19cwt six. It's not in Holkham village - it is in the woods on the Holkham Hall estate in North Norfolk, not far from Holkham Beach, which is named regularly as one of the best beaches in the country. According to the Felstead database (<http://cccbr.org.uk/felstead/index.php>) only 31 peals have been rung there. I am glad that I can add it to my 'peals rung there' list.

I don't know why I missed it in my records - I was (and still am) quite a nerd about recording things. It appears in my record of towers visited and I now recollect going for a peal there - perhaps my record got mislaid? (As an aside, this is an interesting example of how our memory works. I can remember things from 1962 but I sometimes now get to the top of the stairs and can't remember what I came up for.)

Congratulations if you have got this far in a rather rambling account. The message I would draw is that there is a lot of information available online - so why would people want to keep paper copies of The Ringing World? In fact, why would anyone want a paper copy - I have an online subscription. Stay safe, everyone.

## FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS

Ian Bucknell

GLoucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. - Stroud and District Branch.

On Saturday, July 3rd 1915, a quarterly meeting of the Stroud and District Branch of the above Association was held at Stroud Parish Church, when the record number of 41 ringers attended from the various towers in the Stroud and kindred branches. The Master (Mr. F. K. Howell) and the Rev. C. D. P. Davies were among those present. The bells were raised in peal at 3.30 and various touches in the Grandsire and Stedman methods were rung till 5 p.m. when all attended Divine Service. The Rev. C. D. P. Davies took the first portion of the service. The special ringers' prayers and hymns were used. Canon Proctor gave an earnest address. By the kind invitation of Canon Proctor the members were entertained to tea at the Church Rooms, and a pleasant time was spent. A business meeting followed. Canon Proctor presiding. Two new members were elected and Horsley was selected as the place for the next quarterly meeting, and Bisley and Haresfield for the monthly meetings. The Master proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Canon Proctor for his kindness to the Association at all times, and for allowing the members the use of the church bells, and also for his excellent and practical address. Canon Proctor said he was pleased to welcome such an excellent and zealous body of church workers. The Vicarage gardens were thrown open to the ringers, and all appreciated the pleasant walks round them listening to the musical touches in the standard methods on eight and ten bells. Amongst the visitors were two lady ringers from Dursley, who rang on both eight and ten bells during the afternoon and evening. Both had excellent command of the bell and rang a good course of Grandsire Triples. The Master made an earnest appeal to ladies to come forward and assist to ring church bells now that so many of the ringers have enlisted in His Majesty's Forces. He said he was sure they would be heartily welcomed at the different towers and would find ringing highly instructive and interesting.

# THE JOYNSON RING

James Joynton

Two years ago, I purchased off a friend a peal of 6 bells, cast by Matthew Higby in 2018, with a Tenor weighing 11lbs 3oz, in E.

This year, I decided to have them hung as a mobile mini-ring so they can be taken to places, as well as being used in the garage. I got the steel frame, headstocks, clappers and wheels made up by O'Shea Engineering Bell Hangers (<https://osheaeng.co.uk/>). And the ropes supplied by Philip Pratt of Avon Ropes.



They are the first ever ring also to have 3D printed pulley wheels!

If you would like them for a show etc, just let me know on by email and I'll let you know if they're available.

The Joynton Ring					
Bell	Weight (cwt-qrt-lbs-oz)	Diameter	Note	Date	Founder
1	0-0-6-6	153mm	C#	2018	Matthew Higby & Co
2	0-0-7-11	164mm	B	2018	Matthew Higby & Co
3	0-0-7-9	167mm	A	2018	Matthew Higby & Co
4	0-0-8-3	175mm	G#	2018	Matthew Higby & Co
5	0-0-9-8	190mm	F#	2018	Matthew Higby & Co
6	0-0-11-3	193mm	E	2018	Matthew Higby & Co

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnnSVAMYMrc>

## WOTTON BRANCH OFFICERS

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

## REGULAR PRACTICES (DURING NON-COVID TIMES!)

### 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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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

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