



*HAPPY NEW YEAR fellow ringers! I hope that you've all enjoyed peaceful festive seasons and you're ready to face 2018 with renewed vigour.*

*Now, having had a less-than-auspicious start as editor, this edition of Clangour is a bumper one, comprising of all the articles submitted for the last two issues! We shall be back on track, with the spring issue, appearing in front of your eyeballs at the beginning of April. Any contributions to [thewizzylizzie@gmail.com](mailto:thewizzylizzie@gmail.com) by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March please.*

*I must apologise most sincerely to those who sent articles pertaining to upcoming events which have now passed. This includes details of the Berkeley bells being rehung (sorry Tim!) and details of the hanging and dedication of bells for St George's Memorial Church at Ypres, both of which occurred in the autumn of 2017. If anyone attended either of these, and would like to send articles or photographs for spring's Clangour, that would be very kind.*

*So without further ado, let's kick off with our catch-up of news from the branch from the last six months. Look to! We're off...*

***Lizzie Lindsell, Upper Cam***

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## **Dursley Tower News**

John Taylor is now home from the John Radcliffe hospital where he underwent surgery for a coronary bypass and replacement valve. He is now recuperating, with instructions to take life more leisurely until he gets fit enough to resume

his walking regime. Chris, his younger son, has been chief carer until Simon, the elder, takes over these duties and Chris returns to Balmoral where he works on the estate.

Holidays take their toll at this time of year particularly when more retired ringers take more and longer holidays. Anne and Philip have just finished walking the Pennine Way and now have plans for an extended trip to Australia later in the year. Ian is celebrating a significant birthday with the odd peal or two. So far two out of three have been successful, the sad loss being Stedman Cinques at Ripon Cathedral after nearly two hours' ringing.

The simulator practices continue. We have rung Doubles with just one human ringing either the Tenor or the Treble and the 'machine' ringing the other five bells. With no ropesight nor any other visual aid, we have to rely only on sound and rhythm to keep in place. It's great fun, easier than we might think and should be done more often. The only downside is that, with only one ringer taking part at a time, many more have to sit out each time and await their turn.

For those that remember him, Martin Kerslake-Griffiths is due to pay these shores a short visit when he visits from Spain at the beginning of August (2017 - Ed). As usual, it will be fleeting but unlikely to be uneventful even without any significant anniversaries - that we're aware of. He hopes to find time to join us on our tower outing, by coach, around Bromyard.

***Elizabeth Byrne, Dursley***

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

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in forty-six minutes

#### **1280 Spliced S Major (8)**

**(160 each of: London; Yorkshire; Rutland; Pudsey; Lincolnshire; Superlative; Cambridge and Bristol)**

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

*For Choral Evensong*

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in forty-five minutes

#### **1280 Bristol S Major**

- 1 Helen Binstead
- 2 Jane Bull
- 3 Jonathan Adkins
- 4 Ian Unsworth
- 5 Andrew Binstead
- 6 Matthew W. Thewsey
- 7 Philip Pope
- 8 Andrew Bull (C)

*First Quarter in the method: 6. Rung for Evensong, and in thanksgiving for the lives of Kathleen Miles and Eileen Byrne.*

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in forty-five minutes

#### **1280 Cambridge S Major**

- 1 Helen Binstead
- 2 Jane Bull
- 3 Matthew W. Thewsey
- 4 Elizabeth Byrne
- 5 Andrew Ward
- 6 Frank Byrne
- 7 Andrew Binstead (C)
- 8 Andrew Bull

*For Choral Evensong (Hot - needed three fans!)*

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017, in forty-seven minutes

#### **1296 Cambridge S Minor**

- 1 Anne Pope
- 2 Philip Pope
- 3 Jane Bull
- 4 Ian Unsworth
- 5 Matthew W. Thewsey
- 6 Andrew Bull (C)

*For Healing Service*

## **Dursley and Friends in Hampshire and the South Downs May 2017**

This was a weekend which tested navigational and reversing skills, through the narrow lanes of the South Downs around Alton. Now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, this annual Spring Bank Holiday weekend provides a splendid opportunity for old friends to get together from all parts of the country for some good ringing in interesting places, and a time to catch up with family news. There are now only four people who have been on all thirty-four outings, Mike Fairey having called it a day after last year's trip.

Storms and heavy rain overnight had cooled the air as we all met at Bishops Waltham (8, 11cwt), a well-hidden church with a squat tower. Inside is an Old Testament timeline from Adam and Eve (before 2500 BC) up to AD zero and Jesus. Outside the tower, some raucous noises coming from a nearby tree revealed themselves to be four Guinea fowl, alarmed by a dog!

We travelled next through the first of our narrow lanes to The Hampshire Bowman for lunch, somewhat reminiscent of The New Inn at Waterley Bottom - a pub you would not happen upon under normal circumstances.

First tower of the afternoon was Soberton (8, 13cwt) with some mediaeval wall paintings from around 1270. On then to Warnford (6, 12cwt) in Warnford Park, accessed through a coded gate which was supposed to have been put onto automatic ready for our arrival. Those arriving too early before the person letting us in, caused a slight traffic build-up on the main road before he arrived. Last tower of the day was Privett (8, 12cwt), a redundant church and our only upstairs ring of the day. These bells were quite a challenge and difficult to ring well, but the church itself has a lovely acoustic and is used for concerts.

Our base for the weekend was the Alton House Hotel, right by the Watercress Line heritage railway. We were allocated one of the function rooms where the twenty of us were seated round a huge conference table for dinner. >>

<< Sunday morning saw us ringing first at Holybourne (8, 7cwt), on the edge of Alton, the church next to the village duck pond with nesting ducks, geese and moorhens. This is a lovely little ring which we all enjoyed, before moving on to St. Lawrence Alton (8, 18cwt), claiming to be one of the best rings of eight in the country.

All Saints Alton ring at the same time, so those who were not ringing in the QP later at St. Lawrence grabbed that one. All three towers are manned by the same band – lucky to have enough ringers to do this. Inside St. Lawrence is a completely out-of-place kitchen and toilet complex in yellow plastic, depicting old maps of the area on the outside. Access to the ringing room in the central tower is up a steep staircase, along an open balcony, and then up an even steeper staircase into the room itself. Santa hangs from the rope spider! We noticed that all the local ringers who rang with us handled their bells beautifully and consequently struck well in whatever they rang.

The rest of Sunday was free, so attractions included Jane Austen's house at Chawton; a steam power museum; visiting relatives; and walks. Phil and Anne, Heather and Philip were spotted heading off very purposefully with walking boots and rucksacks, as if on a twenty-mile hike, but apparently were only walking to the next station along the Watercress line (three miles away) and catching the train back. A QP of Yorkshire was successfully rung later at St. Lawrence.

Having ordered our dinner the night before, it is always inevitable that someone will have forgotten what they had chosen, and so it was that Alex M was happily tucking into Ian's sausage and mash, when his own ordered salmon arrived. Fortunately there was spare sausage and mash in the kitchen for Ian. Unfortunately Sue P had had to take Zamba (retired guide dog) and Maurice (David's present guide dog) home to Coalpit Heath, as Zamba had become unwell, leaving David with just his long white stick and a lot of very willing helpers.

Monday's ringing started at Chawton (6, 6 cwt) in a tiny and very cosy ringing room, where Liz called Stedman Doubles from the bench (very difficult), as nobody wanted to hand over their rope. On then to Selbourne (8, 12 cwt), where a

large yew tree had fallen down in a storm in 1990, damaging the porch. A slice of the trunk was beautifully varnished and mounted in the porch with significant dates marked on the rings. There was nobody to meet us, but a quick phone call gave instruction on clock hammers, so that we were OK to ring (ground floor). In the church was an ongoing book sale, 50p paperbacks and £1 hardbacks. We wondered how their revenue from this differed from ours at Dursley, where we just ask for donations. The journey to Froxfield, High Cross (6, 5cwt) was tricky - narrow lanes with many alternatives - and those who followed their satnavs found themselves going along lanes with grass growing in the middle, whereas those following a real map had none and got there quicker. These bells were a real challenge and dropped when least expected. We were told to replace the corks after ringing ... to block the ventilation holes drilled through the thick walls as the window was not designed to open.

Lunch was at the Seven Stars, Stroud (no, not that one), where half of us at the long table sat looking at an old photograph of Petersfield Market and tried to guess when it was taken. Nobody at the pub knew, but later researches after we had arrived home pointed to around 1900. John and Sandra arrived late, blaming a satnav malfunction. After lunch we went on to East Meon (10, 18cwt) where a half course of Cambridge Royal was rung in style. In the church is a Tournai font from Flanders, dated 1150. Next was Cheriton (6, 6cwt), another church with a squat tower making it difficult to see from the road. Last tower of the tour was New Alresford (8, 16cwt) where we made a presentation of wine and chocolates to Janet for her excellent organisation of the weekend, and said goodbye to four people who were unable to stay for the last night. Ian got the start time wrong here, and had gone off for a cup of tea, arriving late.

There were only ten of us left for the last dinner in the hotel, but the food was as good as ever. At the AGM, Sandra offered to organise the 35<sup>th</sup> tour, possibly staying in the same hotel but visiting different towers, which those of us who were left were happy to agree to. Another very successful weekend.

*Elizabeth Byrne, Dursley*

## **Wickwar News**

Having bragged last time about the numbers of local ringers available for regular Sunday ringing, inevitably we have experienced a reduction in recent weeks - frequently reduced to a single bell to summon the faithful. However, we are hoping for the return to five or six bell ringing in the near future. Meanwhile, Tuesday evening attendances continue to be swelled by ringers from Stone and Horton and our joint ability to ring Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles is slowly improving. With often nine or more people in the tower, it is quite a challenge to make sure that everyone gets to ring something that challenges them but which they are capable of achieving.

We recently had the pleasure of being visited by the *Let's Ring!* group based at Stone. It was so good to see and hear six ringers whose combined age was probably fifty years less than our normal treble and second ringers alone! Three of these young people came again the following week, so we were delighted that they had clearly enjoyed themselves too.

The tower is all back together after the spring clean and redecoration earlier in the year and we now just await the purchase and fitting of some carpet tiles.

The Branch service, meeting and tea in May 2017 was a successful and enjoyable occasion and thanks are due to Canon David Russell for organising the service and to those ringers who provided, prepared and served the tea. There were plenty of ringers and it's always good to hear the bells rung by the more experienced and expert ringers that such an event attracts.

Four Quarter Peals have been rung at Wickwar since the beginning of May with Kevin Bateman taking part in two of these and the Tower Captain in one. The plan is now to coax Kevin off the tenor to do a QP from the treble and for Dee Bateman to do the same. Two weddings have been rung for and we are grateful to the Stone and Horton ringers who come along and fill in the gaps where necessary.

***Peter Juniper, Wickwar***

## **Another Fun and Fabulous week for Let's Ring!**



After the resounding success of our half-term holiday ringing course for beginners, our youngsters had been looking forward to getting together again to hone their developing ringing skills. The Easter school holidays presented the ideal opportunity for another week's course for our improvers and Jeremy Sargent and Catherine White-Horne were once again opening the tower of Stone Church to the life and laughter of our young ringers.

The course objectives: To further improve and polish our improvers' handling skills, and work on good listening and striking. Our target was for all our learners to acquire sufficient bell control in order to plain hunt. In addition, we planned to enable all our youngsters to raise a bell with confidence and control as well as to start work on lowering.

Many established ringers from across the region offered their time and expertise to provide our learners with a steady band for well-struck rounds and hunting practice. Homework was issued beforehand and the scene was set once again for *Let's Ring!*

The course took place over the six mornings following Easter Day, with the sessions extending by popular demand from one and a half to two hours as the week went on. With the skills they had acquired during the Beginners' Course in February, our students were able to ring together most of the time, meaning more rope time for everyone. They could also learn by observing each other's progress as they began to plain hunt with an established band. Our little ringing room was full to the brim with students and helpers every day, and the sessions acquired something of a party atmosphere as the week progressed.

Activities extended into the afternoon on a couple of the days with the *Let's Ring!* team getting together to create unique but matching tie-dye T-shirts, themed red, white and blue, just >>



<< like our sallies, and proclaiming to anyone behind us that "I learnt to ring at Stone!"



*Left to right: Ben White-Horne, Anna Scott, Zoe Bonnett, Madeleine Jefferis, Taya Green, Ed Miller, Catherine White-Horne, Alistair White-Horne and Jeremy Sargent, all resplendent in tie-dye!*

Our new ringers nearly all come from non-ringing families so we're particularly grateful for the support and commitment of the parents who reorganise calendars and ferry their offspring to practices. A special event was called for to celebrate our youngsters' achievements and to involve their parents in our venture. On the last day of the course we laid on a ringing concert so that our youngsters could show off all the new skills they have learned and their parents could share in the pride, enthusiasm and success of *Let's Ring!*

One family at a time were invited to climb the tower and welcomed to take a seat in our little ringing chamber. Their youngster chose what they wanted to ring and which skills to show off, such as to plain hunt or to demonstrate a dodge. The assembled ringers both new and established took hold and the performance began to the familiar cry of "Look to!" Our concert was greatly enjoyed by all; the ringers received regular applause and much appreciation from their families. Tea and biscuits were laid on in the church for our guests to enjoy as the families got to know each other.

In this way we showcased our new ringers, quite a contrast to the rather anonymous nature normally associated with ringing. We demonstrated to our new recruits how much their commitment is appreciated and - this is really important - it helped their parents to feel a part

of this new venture. Great progress was made by all our learners as the week went on. The rounds and called changes had improved markedly by the last session and all our youngsters could confidently plain hunt from the treble with minimal correction, demonstrating that they understood the method as well as have acquired the necessary bell control. One or two progressed on to hunting from an inside bell. All our learners were able to cover to plain hunt too, even when the method went a bit wobbly! Everyone was able to confidently raise a bell and progress was made on lowering. Fun times were had by all, teachers and helpers included.

Youngsters today have many competing demands on their time ranging from exam pressure and homework, to music commitments and social media. Ringing as a hobby needs to be fun and rewarding in order to attract and retain our young people. *Let's Ring!* provides the fun environment; a happy, relaxed and supportive tower borne from good leadership, where kids of similar age learn together. Progress must be swift and celebrated in order that the new hobby feels worthwhile in our youngsters' competitive world. The intensive course format provides fast results in an environment which appeals to our youngsters. Issues and difficulties encountered by every learner can be resolved quickly by giving extra time to that individual because coaching is focussed entirely on our beginners. This fosters confidence in our new recruits and prevents disillusionment.

With huge thanks once again to Jeremy Sargent and to all our ringing helpers: Ben and Alistair White-Horne, Ed Sargent, "Arch" Andrews, George Collett, Denise Farr and Rachel Parker. Also to the parents who chauffeured our students to and from Stone and to all our understanding neighbours for whom our ringing was their daily backing-track once more.

***Catherine White-Horne, Stone***

*Keep reading to see what Let's Ring! did next... - Ed*

## **Branch Outing to Devizes** **July 22nd 2017**

In the middle of my house-moving hell, appeared a little gem in the form of the Annual Branch Outing. Arranged by the Deputy Ringing Master Dave Clark, a jolly to Devizes promised to brighten up the end of a stressful July. Six towers, lunch at a pub, friends and ringing - what more could a girl want? Oh yes - Ian Unsworth as my chauffeur!

Those that saw me staggering out of the back of Ian's car at our first stop, swigging water and looking a little green about the gills, may have made rash judgements as to my previous night's activities. At the risk of disappointing everyone, it was sickness caused by the journey rather than Jack Daniels, but seemed to take just as long to wear off. Unfortunately, I'd forgotten my tendency to travel sickness when I'd accepted the lift. For the record, this was nothing to do with Ian's driving either.

### ***Chirton St John the Baptist (Six bells, 10cwt)***



Here the bells hadn't been rung for over a year and were required later that day for a wedding! Thus, we did a service for the service by both ringing and warming them up. It was quite a tricky job as the rope guides were placed in such a way that they kept snagging the sallies, slightly putting off some of the less-experienced of the group. Fresh flower arrangements adorned the church, beautiful in sight and scent, awaiting the upcoming ceremony.

### ***Marden All Saints (Six bells, 12 cwt)***



A second ground floor ring, with a beautiful stone-carved arch. Here it was time to crack out the chocolate bars I'd brought to share, while watching and listening, and learning - always learning.

### ***Devizes St John (Eight bells, 19 cwt)***



Having left All Saints early, we arrived in timely fashion at St John, where Ruth let us in and began ringing up. Here we were fascinated by the curtain - method after method had been painstakingly embroidered onto the cloth, providing both decoration and functionality. This was our only eight-bell tower of the day, so the most was made of it by those with most experience. The sound was incredible, and I revelled in it as I made my way down the narrow tower steps and out into the joys of Devizes on a Saturday. Already worrying about the journey home, I had bowed out in search of a pharmacy. Drugs seemed like the only way forward! >>







<< Lunch was provided by The Crown - a warm and inviting pub, situated near the heart of the town. It was the usual heady mix of remembering what one had ordered, photographing food and laughing at ridiculously inappropriate jokes about fried eggs.

The rain that had been threatening throughout the morning had arrived in bucketfuls - not something that the sandal-wearing members of the party enjoyed as we made our way to the first tower of the afternoon.



Heddington St Andrew (6, 8-0-19)

We rounded off the day at The Ivy Inn, Heddington, raising a glass to David Clark for arranging the outing,

It was very satisfying to be able to ring something other than rounds and calls this year, and to feel a lot more comfortable around my cohorts and a lot less scared of ringing strange bells with everyone watching. Captains at each location gave everyone a chance to ring something, so I knew I was going to be able to add six new towers to my records. I kept this in mind as I journeyed back to Cam, clinging horizontally to the back seat of Ian's car. So none of the tablets had worked? So what! Under the nausea was a warm glow of achievement, camaradary and happiness that was going to last me far, far longer. I'm already looking forward to the next trip, though for that I think I will be the one in the driving seat...

***Words: Lizzie Lindsell, Upper Cam  
Pictures: Andrew Ward, Wotton***

I wish I could tell you more about the ringing in these towers, but I didn't keep such a record as a faithful reporter might have done. All I know is that I had a wonderful time with lots of laughter, in great company - exactly what I needed.



Devizes St Mary (6, 17.5cwt)



Devizes St. James (6, 7-2-11)





## **Summer Tour: Let's Ring! Takes the Neighbourhood by Storm**



Having learnt through two week-long *Let's Ring!* courses and weekly evening practices, our four *Let's Ring!* youngsters can now raise and lower a bell, ring evenly in rounds, called changes and plain hunt. In short they have the skills and confidence for a successful visit to a new tower. They were ready for a new challenge and to spread their wings. After flurries of text messages and emails to get everything organised our youngsters piled into two cars armed with a bursting sweet jar and their tie-dye t-shirts, excited about their first outing. There was much chatter, music and high spirits; this was their first ring away from their home tower and had been greatly anticipated.

We chose a variety of venues, one each evening of the last week of the school summer term, and gained the consent of each tower captain for us to join their regular practice night. The towers were carefully selected to give the youngsters fun new experiences which were within their abilities.

Our aim was to foster confidence and curiosity in our learners and to enable and motivate them to broaden their horizons and to have the confidence to ring in new towers with different ringers in the future. As a vital part of this, we wanted to create another fun ringing-related activity to engage and encourage our new ringers.

### ***Holy Trinity, Wickwar (Six bells, 11.5cwt)***

Our bells at Stone are a light (5.5cwt) six. We chose Wickwar as the first tower for our outing because the bells are heavier than our home tower, but they go well and ring slowly, giving plenty of thinking time. Our main motivation, however, was social - the Wickwar ringers are an especially friendly bunch and they welcomed our youngsters with open arms. Ringing success

was rewarded with praise and applause (once the bells were stood!) and the regular passing round of the trusty sweet jar.



*No-one wanted to be left out of the picture! L-R: Peter Juniper, Delia Bateman, Anna Scott, Kevin Bateman, Taya Green, Ed Miller, Zoe Bonnett, Jeremy Sargent, Alistair White-Horne, Catherine White-Horne, Ben White-Horne, and Rex Isaac*

### ***St James, Mangotsfield (Eight bells, 7cwt)***

This was our youngsters' first taste of ringing on eight bells. We chose Mangotsfield because the bells are a similar weight to those at Stone so our beginners were able to tackle one new experience at a time. Alan Coombes made us very welcome and the learners were each able to plain hunt on seven with an established band. The conversation on the journey home included the topic of how methods work on numbers of bells larger than five; curiosity had been successfully kindled.



*Alan Coombes with the Let's Ring! crowd.*

### ***St Cyr, Stinchcombe (Six bells, 9cwt)***

This was chosen as it is a lovely, easy-going ring with a very competent regular band. Our youngsters had no difficulty handling these bells which reinforced their confidence and they could experience some well-struck rounds and methods.>>

**<<The Wilderness Ring, Bradford-on-Avon  
(Eight bells, just a few kilos!)**

The kids broke up for the summer holidays at lunch time and we all piled into our cars for an afternoon in David Godwin's garage. No ordinary garage, you understand: this is where David has installed a very special mini-ring of eight with as much tender loving care as you would expect from a true enthusiast. Everyone had a fun time getting the hang of something quite different, and we all vowed to come back for another go before too long.



*With David Godwin, in his rather special garage*

Our new ringers gave a good impression in all the towers we visited, drawing compliments from the resident ringers and invitations to return; indeed, many have already done so. They all have the confidence to ring heavier bells and to try something new in unfamiliar company. Their ringing journeys have truly begun!

***End-of-Tour Barbecue with Music,  
Stone, Gloucestershire***

Torrential rain poured down as we made our way back to Stone through floods and the odd abandoned vehicle, the car loaded with sausages, ketchup, baguettes and fizzy pop. At the church our friends and families were waiting, including many from the towers we had visited during the week. Once again we had made efforts to draw our youngsters' friends and families into the fun and enthusiasm of the *Let's Ring!* project - this is a vital part of the winning formula.

Not to be put off by a drop (or five) of rain, everyone huddled in good spirits under the

gazebo, with a mighty grill fuelled by top-quality local charcoal. Once everyone had had their delicious fill, a crowd gathered in our tiny ringing chamber for some celebratory ringing, culminating in a spot of Cambridge Minor for the keenies in the party.

But we weren't finished yet! Our ringers are a talented bunch and, after the bells were down, they unpacked their instruments and delighted the party with a wide repertoire including folk tunes, brass ensembles and some beautifully-sung modern classics. It was late by the time the fiddles were reluctantly packed away, the glasses cleared up and the heavy oak church doors locked, marking the end of a super week.

***"What I enjoyed most about the tour was....."***

*"Experiencing all the different bells and learning lots of different ways people ring the bells."*

*"Learning from all the new people in all the different towers and getting the opportunity to ring heavy and light bells."*

*"Best thing: being with friends in a new place exciting and fun!"*

*"...getting to try out lots of different bells as usually we only ring in one tower. I also really enjoyed having a go on the mini ring."*

Thanks once again to Jeremy Sargent, this time for piling out in all weathers with a car full of teenagers without a moment's hesitation. Thanks also to our local towers of ringers who so willingly welcomed and encouraged our young band during their practice nights.

***Catherine White-Horne  
(Stone)***

**If you would like *Let's Ring!* to bring their energy and enthusiasm to your tower, please get in touch with Catherine on 01454 416155.**





*On August 26<sup>th</sup>, Wotton Branch were joined by Bristol Rural for a ringing session at St Mary's. This was followed by a guided walk around the town, compiled by Ian Unsworth, and a tasty supper at The Star Inn. Many thanks to Ian for putting together such an interesting tour.*

## **Private Percy Charles Cuff**

Continuing the Branch series of memorial quarter peals, a band gathered after the morning service at Slimbridge on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to mark the anniversary of the death of Pte Percy C Cuff. We were met by Dennis Bannister of the Slimbridge Historical Society who showed us the display about Percy currently on show in the church. He also took a photograph of the band

before we rang, to go into their records. Following the successful quarter peal, Ian Unsworth (Branch Chairman) placed a memorial poppy cross on the village war memorial.

Percy was the youngest of three brothers born to William and Fanny Cuff of Slimbridge. Born in 1896, he lived with his family at Whitney Cottage, Cambridge, an old thatched cottage in Slimbridge Street, until enlisting. His father's occupation was listed as mason in the 1901 census and then as builder in the 1911 one. In 1911, at the age of fifteen, Percy joined his father as a builder's labourer. He was also a bell ringer at Slimbridge at this time.

Percy enlisted at Slimbridge in November/December 1915, probably under the Derby Scheme. He was originally allocated to 7th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment which was sent to Gallipoli and then on to Mesopotamia. During this period, Percy was injured and sent home to recover before being sent to the Western front in 1917 where he joined the 14th Battalion. >>





## ***St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge:***

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017,  
**1260 Doubles**  
**(660 Grandsire, 600 Plain Bob)**

- 1 Melanie Richings
- 2 Ian P Unsworth
- 3 Gill Carey
- 4 David J Clark
- 5 Frank Byrne (C)
- 6 Rachel M Parker



*L-R: Ian Unsworth, Frank Byrne, David Clark, Melanie Richings, Rachel Parker and Gill Carey.*

*Arranged and rung to remember Pte Percy C Cuff, 26302, 14th Btn. Gloucestershire Regiment.*

*Killed at Houlthurst Forest in the Second Battle of Passchendaele on 22nd October, 1917. Remembered with Honour on the Tyne Cot Memorial. Percy was a member of the local band and member of G&B D A.*

*Birthday compliments are also associated with this quarter: Gill Carey, 60; her mother, 89; and Tim Soanes' father, 90.*

4.30am *Rum ration issued*

5.35am *Barrage opened*

*When the barrage commenced, 10 Germans ran over and surrendered. No difficulty arose the first objective was reached.*

*By 6.20 the left Company had taken its first objective and was pushing on.*

*The centre Company had attained its first objective capturing 9 prisoners in shell holes and a further five in a pill-box ...*

*The right Company was unfortunate in losing its commander at the very beginning ... lost touch with centre Company ... pushed on ... met with no opposition and reached first objective without difficulty.*

*By about 7.45am our two right Companies had both reached their final objectives while the support Company and moppers up were hard at work consolidating the line.*

*Panama - Colorado One platoon, though much weakened by casualties (18 men being killed by one shell) did good work carrying on until ordered to reinforce the front line.*

It would appear that Percy was one of these casualties in this attack.

NB. Percy's older brother Hubert was also a bell ringer at Slimbridge. Later he became a member of the Dursley band and served as Tower Captain. The current ringing room at Dursley was erected in his memory.

***Ian Unsworth, Dursley***

<< The following notes are taken from the 14th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment diaries:

**1917    October                      Houlthulst Forest**  
**The Second Battle of Passchendaele**

**21st**

5.15am - 5.45am *Hostile aircraft very active, flying low and firing on parties with machine guns.*

5.00 pm *Shelling increased - intermittently heavy during the night.*

11.00pm *Assembly for attack complete.*

Night *All in position*  
*Raining intermittently.*

**22nd**



*The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing near Ypres, Belgium where Pte Cuff is remembered with Honour.*



## **Bernard Robert Hadow Carter**

*2nd Lt. 13587, 19 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.*

*Died 07.11.1917 at Llangefni, Anglesey*

Bernard was born in the fourth quarter of 1898 at Oxford, the third son of the Rev. James Octavius Holderness Carter and Beatrice Helen Carter. His father was rector of St Giles, Oxford at the time before moving to become Rector of St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge in 1902. Bernard was educated at Magdalen College School, where he was a chorister, and at St Edward's School, Oxford, where he was a Prefect, Captain of the Boats, and Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps (O.T.C.). He attested while still at school, and at the earliest opportunity entered the Inns of Court O.T.C. From this, he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.



*Lt Bernard Carter (L) and St John the Evangelist church, Slimbridge, where his father was Rector.*



Bernard graduated from Cadet to Flying Officer on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1917. After gaining his wings he was appointed to the role of instructor in his squadron. He was now 2nd Lt B R H Carter, 19 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.

On November 2nd he was in Slimbridge and assisted the Vicar of Coaley with a lantern lecture on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The next day, he was unexpectedly recalled to his squadron to participate in the deployment of six DH4 aircraft to Llangefni. Llangefni was a base for airships patrolling the Irish Sea, monitoring the movement of German ships and in particular, submarines. U-boat activity in the Irish Sea had recently increased significantly and was putting considerable pressure on all the anti-submarine forces. This pressure became so intense that a request was sent to the Admiralty for assistance. Their response was that six DH4 light bomber aircraft were to be sent to Llangefni to assist.

These six aircraft took off from their base on the morning of November 7th to fly to Llangefni. They encountered bad weather, strong winds, rain and low cloud in North Wales. Four planes gave up and landed at Shotwick airfield (later to become RAF Sealand) leaving the other two to continue their journey. As they approached Lavan Sands near Bangor, Carter's companion decided to attempt to a landing on the broad expanse of sand. This was successfully achieved. Carter and his observer, Cpl Harold Smith, pressed on to Llangeni, found the airship base and, despite the bad weather attempted an approach.

Contemporary reports state that the Royal Navy Air Station landing ground, while perfectly adequate for airships, was far below the standard required for the very different demands of aircraft operation. According to a qualified onlooker, when the DH4 was at a height of three hundred feet, it turned downwind on its final approach but did so rather sharply. (At the official enquiry the wind speed at the time was given as 40mph.) At the same time the aircraft's nose dropped and it entered a steep dive from which it failed to recover. The biplane plunged to earth, hit a tree and then crashed into a stone wall, killing Carter and seriously injuring Cpl Smith.>>

<< An inquest was held on November 9th at Llangefni and was attended by Bernard's father. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. Following the inquest the coroner and jury joined a procession accompanying the body from the courtroom to the nearby station. The train arrived at Coaley Junction Station on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, where it was met by a firing party from Rendcombe. The coffin was then taken, in procession, to the church at Slimbridge for the funeral service. Following the service Bernard's body was buried in a grave on the south side of the church. A memorial plaque was commissioned by his father and can be found to the right of the main entrance to the church, on the east facing wall. His father also commissioned a carved wooden calvary which is sited on the exterior south wall of the church, to the right of the main entrance.

Writing to his parents the Captain of his squadron says:



*The calvary and plaque at Slimbridge church, dedicated to the memory of Lt Bernard Carter*

*'He was engaged on special duty; having been selected as one of my best pilots to go on this special mission. It is of great grief to myself and to everyone in the squadron. Personally, I had a very high opinion of your son, so much so that I had asked him to be posted to my squadron as an assistant instructor, and he had just been posted in that capacity.'*

Bernard had recently celebrated his 19th birthday.

### ***St John the Evangelist, Slimbridge:***

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017,  
**1260 Plain Bob Doubles**

- 1 Rachel M Parker
- 2 Ian P Unsworth
- 3 Lizzie Lindsell
- 4 Keith Durrant
- 5 Terry Chivers (C)
- 6 Mark Wray

*Rung to remember 2nd Lt. Bernard R H Carter, 13587, 19 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who died on 7th November, 1917 at Llangefni, Anglesey.*

*Bernard was the son of the then Rector of Slimbridge, a member of G&B D A and a ringer at this tower.*

On November 7<sup>th</sup> 2017, a quarter peal was rung at Slimbridge by Branch members following a short act of Remembrance. After the ringing a poppy cross was placed on Bernard's memorial plaque.

***Ian Unsworth, Dursley***



*Zoe Bonnett (12) from Stone holds the Stinchcombe Cup, awarded to her team at the Branch striking competition. Grittleton, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017*



## **Home and Away, Harrow-style**

### **(November 2017 Council Reform Update – Executive Away-Day)**

It's now six months after the votes passed at the Central Council meeting last May, and I would like to take this opportunity to report once more on progress with reform and renewal of our central ringing organisation. In this way I hope to demonstrate our accountability to the exercise.

On October 27, the newly-formed Executive had a full day face-to-face meeting – our first opportunity to do so. OK, not strictly “away” for me, as Harrow is my current home, but it was definitely “away” for everybody else, particularly David Smith beaming in by Skype from down under! We didn't hug any trees, we didn't connect with our six-sigmas or magic quadrants, and we didn't lose ourselves in blue sky thinking. Instead, we stuck to a fairly strict agenda, with a focus on two main areas of reform activity – to consider strategic direction for the next five years, and to consider appointments for Workgroup Lead positions.

The CRAG report proposes the following mission statement for the central ringing organisation: To be the strategic leader and public voice of the ringing community, the arbiter of standards; and to promote an environment where ringing can flourish. Using the above mission statement as our starting point, the Executive undertook an exercise to identify specific strategies on which the new central ringing organisation will focus in the medium and long term. A strategic plan is now in draft, and will be the subject of a further update early in 2018. In brief, the Executive is very conscious of these three needs:

- 1) The need to recruit and develop new learners and new leaders.**
- 2) The need to engage maturely with church and community leaders.**
- 3) The need to raise positive public awareness of our art.**

A core element of the reform agenda proposes the formation of Workgroups, and another major task on the Executive Away-Day was to consider candidates for Workgroup lead positions, drawn from both “in” and “out” existing CC membership. I am now able to advise the appointment of the following Workgroup Leads:

#### **Volunteer & Leadership Development**

Leader: Tim Hine (Staffordshire)

Executive Sponsors:

David Smith and Alison Everett

#### **Technical & Taxonomy**

Leader: Graham John (Berkshire)

Executive Sponsor: Christopher O'Mahony

#### **Communications & Marketing**

Leader: Louise Nightingale (Kent)

Executive Sponsor: Caroline Stockmann

#### **Stewardship & Management**

Leader: Alison Hodge (Worcestershire)

Executive Sponsors:

David Kirkcaldy and Ernie de Legh-Runciman

#### **Historical & Archive**

Leader: Doug Hird (Buckinghamshire)

Executive Sponsor: Mary Bone



*The newly-formed CCCBR Executive. Back Row: Ernie de Legh-Runciman, Andy Smith, David Smith (via Skype), David Kirkcaldy, Phil Barnes. Front Row: Alison Everett, Mary Bone, Christopher O'Mahony, Caroline Stockmann, Carol Franklin.*

Meanwhile, work continues in a number of other areas articulated in the CRAG reform proposals:

- Direct Channel – CRAG proposes that we develop ways for individuals to directly engage with the central ringing organisation – direct communication and also direct representation.>>

<< This requires an enormous shift in our structures, but offering great potential for a more cohesive and representative body. Phillip Barnes takes the lead with developing the Direct Channel.

- Rules / Constitution – The work of structural reform requires a complete re-write of the CCCBR “Rules”. A writing group has been established, with Clyde Whittaker as coordinator. A scoping paper has already been published in The Ringing World and a first phase of consultation announced.

- Methods / Framework – One of the core CRAG proposals is to replace the methods “decisions” with a “descriptive permissive framework”. A group to do this has also been established, coordinated by Tim Barnes. We can expect an interim report by the end of 2017.

- CCCBR meeting 2018 – plans are well advanced for the annual meeting at Lancaster University in May 2018. This event, over the late May bank holiday, will include a variety of “open” sessions available to the entire ringing community. There will be further news of this meeting soon. In conclusion I trust this update demonstrates that there’s plenty going on, and that CCCBR’s leadership team is genuine and sincere in its efforts to engage positively with the change agenda.

Rest assured, this is not change for change’s sake, but a serious effort to create structures appropriate for the 21st century challenges and opportunities facing ringing. Over the next few months there will be further updates across all these various dimensions of activity. Pro perpetua tintinnabula!

**Christopher O’Mahony**  
**CCCBR President**

*(There now follows a shameless plug from the editor, for something else she does that isn’t ringing...)*

Need an activity to do with the kiddiwinks in half term? Or just fancy a giggle yourself? Then come and see *Dick Whittington* - the only panto where bells are part of the plot. (Oh yes it is!)

It’s taking place at the **Armstrong Hall in Thornbury** from **14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February**, including two matinee performances. Visit [www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk) for more information or to book tickets with no booking fee. As it’s our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we’re offering children’s tickets for £5 each. Seats are filling up fast, so turn again and book yours now. It’s lots of fun for all ages, highly entertaining, and featuring a certain Upper Cam ringer... Surely it’s worth a look, just for that?

**Lizzie Lindsell aka Dick**

THORNBURY MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS  
**14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**Armstrong Hall, Thornbury, BS35 2BJ**  
Evenings at 7.30 pm, matinees Friday and Saturday at 2.30 pm  
A Adults £12.50 A Senior Citizens £11.50 A Children £5.00 A  
(10% discount for groups of ten or more)

**Dick Whittington & his Cat**  
A pantomime by  
Chris Dengs and  
Chris Harris

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Offer:  
Children £5

Book online at  
[www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk)  
No booking fee!

TMTG box office  
mobile: 07516 270140

Box office: Lisa Costa  
Residential Sales & Lettings, 55 High St, Thornbury  
(Open from January 6th 2018, order and collect in person)

For more information visit [www.tmtg.org.uk](http://www.tmtg.org.uk)

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group Ltd. is a registered charity (1124233)



**G&B D A**  
**Wotton-under-Edge Branch**  
**Chairman's Report**  
**2016 - 2017**

I should thank my fellow officers for all their efforts during the last year and, especially Adrian and Terry who have indicated their wish to step down this time. Adrian's regular updates, reminders and ringing room posters have been key communication vehicles. Terry has worked hard to improve the management of ringing at Branch practices and to increase the level of involvement in ringing activities across the Branch, especially creating learning opportunities for the less-experienced. I would like to thank all those Branch members who have made a contribution to the organisation and management of ringing in the Branch, whether it be practice nights, quarter peals, outings, training sessions... Thanks to Barbara for continuing to produce Clangour and to Lizzie, who volunteered to pick up responsibility for its production when Barbara needed time and space to organise her house move.

One important success this year has been the further increase in activity outside/beyond the formal Branch practices - the outing to Wiltshire, the amazing number of quarter peals and the joint ringing and social event with the Bristol Rural Branch in the summer. Attendance at Branch practices has been improving and we have had 'sardine situations' on a couple of occasions. Managing the ringing on such occasions is a challenge but, the Ringing Master and his Deputy have responded positively.

You will notice in Terry's report the number of quarter peals rung this year shows a significant increase even on last year's excellent total and I anticipate the final total for 2017 to be in excess of 100! (*Read on - Ed*) The number of people involved and the number of personal milestones achieved continues to grow. Congratulations to all concerned. We need to continue to build on this and perhaps start to include peals in our future ambitions?

This year so far we have rung quarter peals to honour the memory of four Branch members killed in WW1 and there are another two more to come in December:

30th April: Pte William Gale, Thornbury  
5th Aug. Pte Robert Smith, Coaley  
22nd Oct. Pte Percy Cuff, Slimbridge  
7th Nov. 2nd Lt Bernard Carter, Slimbridge

As Terry has noted, the performance in the Penn Trophy 8-bell striking competition 2017 was an excellent second place. We are again indebted to Frank Byrne for arranging the team. Can we dream of winning in 2018? Developing a plan of attack for next year's competition is perhaps something the new officers will have to get to grips with ASAP.

The re-hanging of Berkeley bells has been a focus of attention over the summer and by the time you read this you might even have had a ring? Hopefully, the 'go' and 'sound' of the bells will be appreciated by us all. I'm sure I can offer thanks on behalf of the Berkeley Appeal Committee to everyone who has contributed to this venture.

The arrival of a some experienced ringers at towers in the south of the Branch has resulted in a noticeable and welcome increase in ringing activity in that area and, dare I say, quality of performance? Similarly, the training of young people at Stone has had a significant impact, on numbers of ringers and levels of activity - it is good to see the energy level rising!

Last year I ended my report by asking the question, 'Can we make 2017 a year to remember?' - I think the answer to that is, we did! The challenge now is to build on this platform. Hopefully, more of the older and more experienced ringers around the Branch will be enthused/encouraged by this growth and contribute to even greater progress in 2018.

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

## **Wotton Branch Quarter Peal Statistics 2017**

These are quarter peals where *at least half* of the band are Branch members. These total one hundred and thirty for the year of which:

- 🔔 Fifty-four were doubles
- 🔔 Twenty-four were minor
- 🔔 Sixteen were triples
- 🔔 Thirty-four were major
- 🔔 Two were caters.

Sixty-seven members and fifty-eight guests have taken part. Twenty-one conductors have been from the branch; thirteen have been guests.

### ***Firsts***

Five members took part in their first quarters, while three made their conducting debuts. For six members achieved their first quarter peals inside. (*Including me! - Ed*) There were also sixty-five other first performances - first on treble, first on method etc.

***Ian Unsworth, Dursley***

<b>Top Ringers</b>		
1	Rachel Parker	51
2	David Clark	47
3	James Joynson	46
4	Phil Joynson	45
=5	Paul Smith	36
=5	Ian Unsworth	36

<b>Top Towers</b>		
1	Dursley	18
2	Coaley	12
3	Stinchcombe	10
=4	Chipping Sodbury	9
=4	Wickwar	9
=4	Wotton	9

<b>Top Conductors</b>		
1	Paul Smith	18
=2	Frank Byrne	12
=2	Stinchcombe	12
4	Alistair White-Horne	11
=5	Wickwar	10
=5	Wotton	10

## **G&B DA Wotton-under-Edge Branch**

The following further events have been added to the Branch Programme:

**Sunday 15th April: Cheltenham Minster 2.30pm - 4pm**

**Sunday 20th May: Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm - 3pm**

**Saturday 20th October: Tewkesbury Abbey 3.45pm - 5pm**

The ringing in all three towers will be on twelve bells and the above sessions will only go ahead if there is sufficient support.

Please email [phil\\_joynson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:phil_joynson@hotmail.co.uk) ASAP

if you are prepared to support any or all of these events.

Thank you!



Phew. I told you it was going to be a bigg'un. And it didn't even mention the trip to Taylor's Foundry to see the Berkeley bells back in August. Or the skittles evening at the Salutation to celebrate the end of the Quarter Peal Festival, when Anita Matthews wiped the floor with the lot of us. What a busy branch we are!

Anyhow, I hope you have enjoyed reading this, which is my first effort as official *Clangour* editor. On behalf of the Branch, I'd like to thank my predecessor Barbara Metcalfe for all her hard work on the newsletter over the last few years.

I look forward to receiving your submissions for the next issue as soon as possible. In the meantime, maybe I'll catch you at any (or all) of these upcoming events:

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Ringing at Wotton-under-Edge  
4.00 - 6.00 pm

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
Bristol Rural Quiz Night  
7.15pm to late  
Iron Acton Village Hall  
*For more details,*  
*visit [www.bristolrural.co.uk](http://www.bristolrural.co.uk)*

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Ringing at Slimbridge  
4.00 - 6.00 pm

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**  
Association Spring Training Day  
Cirencester

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March (tbc)**  
Ringers' Spring Lunch  
Horton Village Hall

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April**  
Ringing at Yate  
4.00 - 6.00 pm

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April**  
12-bell ringing at Cheltenham Minster  
2.30 - 4.00 pm  
(See P.18)

I have noticed that some members require hard copies of *Clangour*. Also, some email addresses have been incorrect. So, if you have any problems with the way you receive the newsletter, please email me at [thewizzlylizzie@gmail.com](mailto:thewizzlylizzie@gmail.com) or call 07929 624976.

Don't forget our Facebook page (Wotton Branch of Bellringers) where you can post pictures, comments and events, and our website at [wottonbranch.weebly.com](http://wottonbranch.weebly.com), packed with information about ringing.

Keep warm and stay healthy. This is all.

*Lizzie Lindsell*

**Wotton Branch Officers**  
**Elected at the AGM on November 11<sup>th</sup> 2017**

<b>Chairman</b>	<i>Ian Unsworth</i>
<b>Ringing Master</b>	<i>Phil Joynson</i>
<b>Assistant Ringing Master</b>	<i>David Clark</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Anita Matthews</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Gill Carey</i>
<b>Clangour Editor</b>	<i>Lizzie Lindsell</i>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<i>Terry Chivers</i>
<b>Management Committee Rep</b>	<i>Rachel Parker</i>