

THE GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS: WOTTON BRANCH CLANGOUR NEWSLETTER: JULY 2022

*Deadline for articles for the next edition of Clangour (November 2022)
23rd October 2022 to mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com*

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 2nd July – Branch Practice, Wickwar 4pm-6pm

Saturday 6th August – Branch Practice, TBC 4pm-6pm

Saturday 3rd September – Branch striking competition, Tytherington 3pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chris K Cooper

I understand that most, if not all, towers in the branch have returned to relatively normal ringing after all of the difficulties imposed by Covid restrictions. Peals and quarter peals are being scored and branch ringing meetings and practices have resumed. Let's hope that Covid restrictions on ringing don't return this winter and normal ringing can continue unhindered.

Although sadly a few towers have suffered the loss of ringers, I am delighted to report that the new band at Hawkesbury is progressing well with members now starting to ring call changes. If anyone is available on Wednesdays between 6.30 and 8.00pm when they practise, the band would welcome their support, provided that this is to help them to progress and not to use it as an opportunity just to ring more advanced ringing on the excellent ring of 8 bells. If you wish to do the latter, you should contact Colin Dixon, the Tower Captain, who will be pleased to arrange for your own band to visit on another day.

I am also pleased to report that Slimbridge bells have been made considerably easier to ring by James Joynson, our Branch Ringing Master. Even better news is that a number of new ringers have been recruited by Huvin Thompson and James is now teaching them on Friday evenings between 7.30 and 9.00. Again, James would welcome help from those able to join him. Some of the new members were able to ring several years ago and need others to ring with them.

The branch committee was heavily involved with arranging the G & B AGM on Saturday 2nd April. Dave Clark and the band at Chipping Sodbury are thanked for hosting the Penn Trophy and Sue Wray, Peggy Collett and the band at Cromhall for hosting the Croome Trophy. The bands at Tytherington, Dursley, North Nibley, Hawkesbury and Horton are also thanked for opening their towers for general ringing. The bells at Hawkesbury were apparently kept very busy throughout two open sessions both before and after the meeting. The Horton band is also

thanked for organising the church service, providing an excellent tea and then hosting the meeting at its village hall. The latter was unique since it was the first hybrid association AGM, with some attending remotely by Zoom. I must apologise for not being present since I was recovering from Covid, but I'm told that the advance planning by the committee worked well and everything ran smoothly on the day.

On Sunday 12th June, the band at Horton held one of their famous Lunches and are thanked for all the hard work it put into this, especially Tina Hildick-Smith, the caterer, for providing the delicious food, which I am sure was enjoyed by all. If you missed this event, I can thoroughly recommend that you come along next year if Horton decide to hold it again. The branch committee held a raffle which raised £174.00 for branch funds and I thank all those donating prizes for their generosity.

Finally, I thank my fellow committee members, Sarah Lorkin, Gill Carey, James Joynson and Terry Chivers for their hard work over the past few months and of course all branch members for their support of branch activities.

NEWS FROM...

COALEY

Sarah Lorkin

Sunday, 3 April 2022 in 48m

**1260 Doubles (5m/v)
Bob Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, April Day,
Reverse St Barthlomews, All Saints,
conducted with 50 calls.**

- 1 Carole O'Donnell
- 2 Alex Reeves
- 3 Pam May
- 4 Matthew Lorkin
- 5 Terry Chivers (C)
- 6 Robin Screen

Rung half-muffled to celebrate the life of Bryan James Chivers (youngest son of the conductor) who died one year ago on the 3rd April 2021 aged 50. At that time Covid restrictions prevented such ringing. Conducted with 50 calls, one for each year of his life and with five methods and variations, one for each decade of his life. This performance is also dedicated to Brian John Roylance, who was Godfather to Bryan and who also died on the 3rd April 2021

Monday, 2 May 2022 in 45m

**1260 Doubles (2m)
780 Bob Doubles 480 Grandsire Doubles**

- 1 Carole O'Donnell
- 2 Robin Screen
- 3 Pam May
- 4 Matthew Lorkin (C)
- 5 David Rayner
- 6 Terry Chivers

Dedicated to the birth of Natalie Lorkin, born 5th April, daughter to Matt & Sarah who are both local ringers



DURSLEY

Frank Byrne

Holiday time is here and with it comes an absence of ringers who are taking advantage of the opportunity to visit pastures new. On Occasion we have been 8 of our regular attendees short.

Our returning learner, Ashley, is making good progress and new members John and Simon have fitted in very well. John has rung 2 quarter peals, Cambridge S Major and Grandsire Triples.

Being a loyal and active member of any organisation that requires discipline and commitment for 88 years is an unusual and commendable achievement. On Sunday 8th May 2022 people were invited to the church for afternoon tea to celebrate Lionel Jones' retirement from the St James' choir after 88 years of unbroken service. Prior to the tea the choir sang some of Lionel's favourite pieces and the ringers rang a quarter peal.

A very short touch of 70 changes was rung during ringing for a wedding to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

On Sunday, 8 May 2022, In 51 minutes

1288 Grandsire Triples

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

Rung prior to the church celebration of Lionel Jones' 88 years of devoted service to St James' choir

Saturday 4 June 2022

70 Changes of Doubles (20 Grandsire, 50 Plain Bob)

- 1 Hilarie Bateman
- 2 Elizabeth Byrne
- 3 John Taylor
- 4 Andrew Ward
- 5 Frank Byrne (C)
- 6 Mike Bateman

HAWKESBURY

Colin Dixon

The training of our band is progressing well and we are now ringing regularly for morning services on alternate Sundays. We have also rung for three weddings with a little help from neighbouring Towers. We received a lot of compliments on our ringing so obviously no bellringers in the audience.

We now have three youngsters in training and they are showing we oldies their heels – young Sam (11) can already put up the tenor and ring call changes with panache. His younger brother, Tom, is close on his heels.

We are enthusiastic if nothing else. Thanks to James Joynson, Gill Carey and Chris K Cooper (and Edna) and the other visiting bell ringers for all their help – it must be trying at times.

My attention was drawn to a policy on diversity the other day and it made me realise that the majority of the Hawkesbury ringers are ladies. With our regular visitors – Gill and Edna men are very much in the minority and long may it continue. I wonder if other Towers have a similar gender split.

We are getting a number of requests to ring the bells and so far, we have managed to accommodate them. Having said that I have just turned someone away because of a wedding at the same time.

Like everyone else I am finding it difficult to get a full band to ring for weddings – people will have their weddings during the week when many bell ringers are at work.

We are having an open Tower event on 23rd and 24th July when people can climb the Tower to see the bells in place and have a go at ringing. There will be lots going on in the Church with guided tours and tea and cakes. Weather permitting there will be tables and chairs in the Churchyard for tea in a beautiful setting.

On the Sunday there will be picnics on the lawn of Church Farm House – opposite the Church – and live music and drinks. There will also be croquet on the Lawn and boules on the gravel piste. This will be followed by evensong at 6.00pm in the Church. All are welcome

We have a new camera in the belfry, so people who cannot get up to the top of the Tower can view the bells in action from down in the Nave. This will be its first real test as James Joynson only fitted it on 23rd June – many thanks to James.

Do come along we will be pleased to see you – It is free but there will be collection plates out for donations.

UPPER CAM
Alex Reeves

Friday, 3 June 2022

Jubilee Open Ringing Inc Call Changes

- 1 Ash Pearson/ Lizzie Lindsell
- 2 Lucy Mather/ Sara Mather
- 3 Isobel Gamman/ Simon Carter
- 4 Mark Blackledge/ David Rayner
- 5 Hilarie Bateman/ Mike Bateman
- 6 Katherine Reeves/ Alex Reeves

Open ringing before HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee service. First called changes (including Queens) for Mark Blackledge. Successful extent of Platinum Differential Doubles



YATE

Barry Fletcher

Ringings at St Mary's Yate can only be rung on five bells at present, mind you it is only one at present as I am the only one left out of the team. We need to get the No 4 attended to as it is moving from side to side even with the nuts bolted tight. The church cannot afford to have it done at this moment as there are to be changes done to the inside layout of the church and what has been suggested this should make it better in the long run for the services that are held and make the congregation feel more included and we pray attract more to attend the services.

Wotton surprise

Frank Byrne

The late Jennifer Rogers had the idea of producing a book detailing the first 100 years of the Wotton-under-Edge Branch. This she titled, 'Wotton Surprise'. The meeting whereby the Wotton-under-Edge Branch was formed was held on 19th February 1910 in the Castle Temperance Hotel, Thornbury.

Greatly assisting with the historical records were all the minutes of meetings, from the first to the last, over this 100-year period. All, that is, except for the years from 1951 to 1956, these minutes seemed to have been lost. This loss was a very unfortunate omission and particularly sad for the Branch Secretary for that period, Miss Mary Drew, who was approached to see if she had them.

Roll on time by 12 years and an envelope was left, anonymously, in St James' church, Dursley with a note, 'Enclosed Journal – Bell Ringers found in my mum's attic. Is it of any interest to anyone? If not please dispose of'.

This was the journal or minute book of the missing 1951 – 1956 minutes. In who's attic had they been kept and who had delivered them to St James'?

The information they contained allows the missing records in Wotton Surprise to be completed. If you have a copy and wish to update the records, below is the missing information:

Page 35

Women Ringers in the Wotton-under-Edge Baranch

North Nibley	Miss E Banyard, Miss S Banyard, Miss S Goater	North Nibley 5 Sept 1953
Tortworth	Mrs E Pratt	1951 information not available at this time
Upper Cam	Miss E E May	Dursley 8 Dec 1952

Page 87,

AGM Venue and Date

W-u-E	29 Dec 1951
Dursley	13 Dec 1952
W-u-E	5 Dec 1953
W-u-E	18 Dec 1954
W-u-E	3 Dec 1955
Cam	6 Dec 1956

Copies of Wotton Surprise are still available, please contact Sarah Lorkin or Terry Chivers to obtain a copy.

Clangours of the past

Sarah Lorkin

I was contacted by Mary Ward (a ringer at Powick, near Worcester), who's late father, the Reverend W. F. Burlton, was rector of Cromhall and later Tortworth. He was a ringer himself and at one point editor of Clangour. Mary found some old editions of Clangour among his papers and kindly offered them to me, the oldest is dated 1977. On receipt, I enjoyed reading these and learning of some of the ringing outing shenanigans and seeing familiar names mentioned in tower news articles. If anyone would like to read these past editions, please do get in touch with me and I can share them with you, they will then be stored in the archives.

There was room at the Inn

A Nony Covid Free Mouse

It was a long trek that those ringers did take, and not a Donkey to help. It must have been at least 150 miles, sorry, that should be metres. And on that first day did the seven descend on the inn. And there was room at the inn. And they saw that it was good. And they drank the local ale (well, one drank lager) and bought another round, and ---. And so the 'last orders' call did come to pass. And the seven did wend their way home along the winding road. And on the third day came the call of a lonely ringer, "I have Covid." And the alarm was sounded to one and all. And on the fourth day another did fall foul of the insidious pestilence creeping across the land. And on the fifth day a third did fall under that evil spell. And the sixth and seventh days did come and in turn go and it all looked good across the ground. But on the eighth day the fourth did fall foul of the dreaded lurgy and a great lethargy descended all around him. The throat did sore (but not in the air), the nose did run a marathon (without moving), the lungs did strain disproportionally to stress and the energy did dissipate with none seeing where it went. T'was day 15 when negativity returned but not the energy which lay somewhere else in an unknown domain. He sought it here, he sought it there, he sought that elusive energy everywhere. And has yet to find it. But day 16 was declared a day of rest. And so it did come to pass that the not-magnificent seven did once more congregate together and with others to ring some changes.

Mobile belfry funding

The Council has launched a Crowdfunding campaign to enable individual ringers to be part of the Mobile Belfry 2.0 project and contribute to it. Full details of the project, including an introductory video, can be found at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/mobile-belfry>

Funding for this project is coming from a number of sources, most notably the donation of the bells themselves by the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust, funds from the Central Council, and donations pledged from Guilds and Associations. The Funding from individual ringers and other interested parties will complete the project, with plans for its first appearance at the Council's Roadshow in Nottingham in September.

Annual reports

Everyone who requested a copy of the annual report should now have received it, we do have some spares so please do get in touch with Sarah if you would like one.

G and B striking competition

Wotton branch came 5th in the Croome Trophy Competition which was won by Cheltenham, St Mark (Cheltenham Branch). Wotton came joint 7th in the Penn Trophy Competition behind winners the Bristol Branch. Thanks for all those who represented us.

WOTTON BRANCH OFFICERS

Chairman	Chris Cooper
Ringling Master	James Joynson
Assistant Ringling Master	Vacant
Secretary	Sarah Lorkin
Treasurer	Gill Carey
Clangour Editor	Sarah Lorkin
Publicity Officer	Terry Chivers
Management Committee Rep	Chris Cooper

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
Hawkesbury	18:30-20:00	Colin Dixon

Thursday

Dursley	19:30-21:00	Elizabeth Byrne
Tortworth	20:00-21:00	Fen Marshall
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

BRANCH PRACTICES

Surprise Minor	2 nd Thursdays 14:00-15:30	Peggy Collett
Cromhall		

8 Bell Practice	3 rd Fridays 19:30-21:00	James Joynson
Chipping Sodbury		