

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

*Deadline for articles for the next edition of Clangour (December 2021)
22nd November 2021 to mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com*

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 11th September 4:00-6:00pm
Branch practice at North Nibley

RINGING MASTER'S REPORT

James Joynson

I hope you have all been staying positive and testing negative throughout this pandemic. I'm so glad to see so many of you have returned to ringing at your home towers and are also attending others to help out.

It's also been good to hear so many of you have been using Ringing Room along with Wheatley to keep those methods fresh in your mind, and to keep ringing with a number of ringers not just from our branch, but from all over the world.

Our first branch meeting will be on Saturday 11th September at North Nibley, from 16:00 – 18:00. This will be seen as a trial to see how things go, with certain measurements in place as well, to ensure a safe and an enjoyable ringing session. I do hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Thank you everyone for all their support throughout this pandemic, and hopefully we are on our road back to normality.

NEWS FROM...

BERKELEY

Tim Soanes

The Ellacombe chimes were rung for the service on Easter Sunday and for Sunday services in April and May. The front six were rung for a wedding on the 22nd May and several other weddings thereafter. For the wedding on 14th August all ten bells were rung for the first time since February 2020. Practices on the front six with an invited band started at the end of May and have been held every Wednesday since then, with the ringing mainly consisting of call changes, plain hunt on 5 or 6, plain bob doubles and occasionally plain bob minor. We have rung for several Sunday services since the end of May.

On Saturday 21st August a full peal was rung to mark the hundredth anniversary of the first peal attempt on the ten bells at Berkeley, which took place shortly after their augmentation from eight to ten in 1921. The treble and second are a memorial to those ringers in the Gloucester and Bristol Dioceses who lost their lives fighting

in the First World War. At the time it was rung, the performance was thought to be a true peal of Grandsire Caters and there is a peal board recording the performance in the ringing room. However, a computerised check of the composition in around 1980 found that there were 18 repeated changes, so it is no longer counted as a peal. Notwithstanding this, it was considered to be appropriate to mark this historic event.

The full details of the peal are as follows:-

Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association

Berkeley, Gloucestershire

St Mary the Virgin

Saturday, 21 August 2021 in 3h 18 (21-1-3 in Eb)

5021 Grandsire Caters

Composed by George F Williams

Arranged by A Colin Banton

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hilda C Ridley | 6. Simon W Edwards (C) |
| 2. Peter G Holden | 7. Philip F Pope |
| 3. Ian D Bucknell | 8. Russell N Scudamore |
| 4. Sarah B Ewbank | 9. Mark Edwards |
| 5. Andrew A Ward | 10. Simon J Ridley |

Arranged and rung to mark the centenary of the peal attempt rung by Members of the Association who had served overseas during World War I. This was the first on the newly-augmented ten bells, the trebles being given by subscription by Members of the G&B in memoriam to those members who lost their lives during the Great War. Whilst the attempt was successful, the peal was later found to be false and thus discounted.

Dedicated also to the memory of John R Ridley, who was to have rung in this peal.

100th together- 6 and 9

The first peal rung for the Association since 14th March 2020.

DURSLEY

Frank Byrne

Our last open ringing on all 8 bells prior to the first lockdown due to Covid was on Sunday 15 March 2020 for the 10:00 am Service. We now wish we had kept a record of what was rung and, possibly, who the bands were but nobody predicted the extent of the restrictions at that time.

Partial lifting of the first lockdown enabled the bells to be rung on 26 July for Sunday Morning Service when bells 1, 4, 6, 8 were rung by 2 x Byrnes and 2 x Popes. The CCBR restrictions required social distancing, wearing of masks and 15 minutes ringing duration. These also limited us to ring on 6 bells (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8) if at least 2 couples were ringing (social distancing not applicable), otherwise, we were restricted to 4. Under these restrictions we were able to ring on 14 occasions; 4 on 4 bells, 9 on 6 and 1 on 5 when an unscheduled ringer turned up.

An additional, non-service, ringing occasion was a 240 of Bob Minor in memory of Jennifer Rogers on the day of her funeral (Monday, 2 November). Several people listened to the service outside Uley church due to restricted numbers allowed inside

The second lockdown began on 5 November and revised CCCBR restrictions from 2 December limited ringing to one household which ruled out most bands from doing anything. However, on Christmas Day, 'a couple' attempted to chime rounds on the front 4 but quickly abandoned the idea of call changes or anything grander.

The requirement to wear masks during ringing was unpleasant and resulted in some ringers not taking part during these times.

In addition to Sunday ringing, a single bell was tolled for the following occasions: (1) 100 times on 27 February 2021 in tribute to the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore (bell 6)

(2) on 23 March Tolloed after 1 minute silence at noon to mark the Day of Reflection for those affected by Coronavirus (bell 6)

(3) 10 April 99 times to mark the death of, and celebrate the life of, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (tenor) and

(4) 17 April on the day of the funeral of H.R.H the Duke of Edinburgh (tenor).

On 17th June the CCCBR Summary of Ringing Guidance, Version 1.03 (England), relaxed some of the restrictions, the most helpful being in allowing ringing of up to 45 minutes. This enabled us to ring an 1/8 for Sunday Service, the first for all and jointly conducted by all inside ringers.

On Monday 19 July 2021 lockdown ended and we had our first practice for 16 months on 22 July when all 8 bells were rung for the first time for all that period. Practices and Sunday Service ringing is now by invitation only, and only includes ringers who have been double jabbed. Some of us still wear masks although this is optional and some are still quite apprehensive about mixing. The extended layoff has caused some rustiness which, hopefully, will soon wear off.

On Saturday 28 August 2021 we rang the first quarter peal on the bells since 26 February 2020 although it was to mark a very sad occasion:

1274 Plain Bob Triples in 45 minutes

1 John Taylor

2 Jane Bull

3 Anne Pope

4 Andrew Bull

5 Philip Pope

6 Jonathan Adkins

7 Frank Byrne (C)

8 Andrew Ward

In celebration of the life of John R Ridley by friends who have all rung peals with him, collective total 913.

HAWKESBURY

James Joynson

I'm so glad to say that the new bells in Hawkesbury, are now successfully completed, and were test rung on Tuesday 6th July.

The bells were blessed on Saturday 22nd May, and was streamed live on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljxQwKbiv2Y>

The next service for dedicating the bells, is being done by the Bishop, will be on Friday 10th September.

The bells are absolutely terrific. They sound absolutely beautiful and go perfectly! The Tenor is 11-3-23 and are in the key of G <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-2UKZqGxuM> The tower also has a training bell installed in the intermediate chamber.

The new learners at Hawkesbury are progressing very well and are all now at the stage of controlling their bells in rounds and call changes. The learners include three who are all under the age of 15.





John Appleby (aged 91) was the major donor to this project and if it wasn't for him, we would still be raising money for this project.

John has always told me he would not have a go at ringing, but on that Tuesday of the test ring, he came up and with the help of Matthew Higby, we managed to get him to do a few pulls of the backstroke.



STINCHCOMBE

James Joynson

At Stinchcombe, we have been ringing every Sunday since it was legally allowed to do so, with four bells being able to be rung socially distanced.

I have been using some of the Thursday night practices, for teaching of some of the new learners from Hawkesbury.

At present, we haven't been ringing due to the clappers being removed for refurbishment, by O'Shea Engineering, but will be re-installed soon so ringing can recommence, and I will be looking to setup a quarter peal as this year's the bell's 50th anniversary since they were restored and rehung.

TORTWORTH

Fen Marshall

It was great to have Tortworth bells ringing again on 23rd August. We rang at the memorial service for Michael Goom who had been a stalwart Tortworth ringer for many years. Very sadly he died some months ago but, as with so many things recently, we couldn't have a proper farewell until now. Our grateful thanks to Tim, Liz and Jonathan for helping us out that day in the tower.

As with so many things, Covid has perhaps just speeded up the inevitable. After many years of ringing it looks like Tortworth will no longer be ringing on a regular basis. We have introduced many people to the art of ringing over the years but age has finally caught up with us. There are only 3 of us who might sometimes be available on a Sunday, 4 if you include our regular Peter, and 4 at practice nights. Tortworth bells are not the easiest so, although we had 3 learners prior to the pandemic, unless we can encourage them to learn elsewhere and

then come back to us, we draw 44 years of regular Tortworth ringing to a close. As a tower we were closely involved with the Wotton Branch in many ways but I guess there is a natural cycle to these things. Maybe one day it will rise, phoenix like, and

flourish again. I will try to maintain the bells in a good condition so they will be available for the occasional visitor but Thursday nights in Tortworth will be much quieter in the foreseeable future.

Can you help?



Now that Covid restrictions are gradually being lifted, we have seen a surge of interest in hiring the Charmborough Ring over the autumn period. Sometimes more than one group wishes to hire the ring on the same date, but we have a shortage of operators who can help us take the ring out and about.

The ring is currently based at New Alresford in Hampshire, and we have one other local operator Andy Mead based at Douling Beacon in Somerset. Ian Kerwin from Essex recently retired from the Trust as his circumstances have changed. We are very grateful for the support he provided in the period up to Covid.

Between us, in 2019 we took the ring to 19 different events, and we would like to make even greater use of the ring in the future. Therefore, we would like at least two more local operators to come on board in order to share the workload. The ring is predominantly used at weekends during the summer months, although we are keen to take the ring into schools and shopping centres throughout the year to help with promoting ringing post pandemic.

Ideally volunteers will live in Southern England or South Wales, preferably somewhere near the M4 corridor, the M25, or the A34. The ring and its trailer weighs 2.1 tonnes, so volunteers should have a vehicle capable of legally towing that weight (Beware that different models/years of the same car often have different towing capacities). If you do not have a towbar, we may be able to help you purchase one, depending on how often you are willing to take the ring out. We also pay travelling expenses, currently 50p/mile when you tow the ring. If you passed your car driving test on or after 1 January 1997 you will also need to have passed the [car and trailer driving test](#).

We usually transport the ring from area to area during the week, between events, so you will need somewhere reasonably secure to park the trailer when not in use, either in the open air, or inside. It measures 4.53 m long x 2.08m wide and is 2.20m high

We will provide training on how to erect and dismantle the ring. It is currently booked for events in Devises on 4th September, Abbots Langley on 18th September, Roehampton on 19th September and New Alresford on 2nd October, so these might be good opportunities. We also have other enquiries which we are trying to fit in.

If you would like to help with taking the ring to events, please contact Roger Booth roger@charmborough.org or 07411 181583 for further information.



*Warwick University Freshers Fair, Milton Keynes Shopping Centre and Cheltenham Music Festival
– just some of the 167 events that the Charmborough Ring has been taken to since 2007*

The Joynson Ring

Due to some unfortunate circumstances, The Joynson Ring will not be a mobile ring, and will be used permanently in my garage.

All 6 were rung for the first time on Sunday 15th August. We did a quarter peal attempt, but was unfortunately unsuccessful, but we did a 120 Plain Bob Doubles, in memory of John Ridley, who passed away on Monday 9th August.

L-R: Harry, Alison, James, Ivan (Gill was taking the photo)

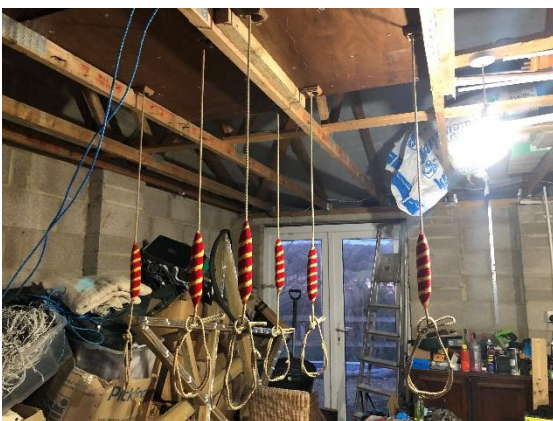
On Sunday, 15 August 2021
Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire
The Joynson Ring
Tenor: 11lb 3oz in E
120 Plain Bob Doubles
1 Alison M Holliday
2 Gill Carey
3 James M Joynson (C)
4 James M Joynson (C)
5 Ivan S Barritt
6 Harry M Joynson (11)

Rung to commemorate the life of John R Ridley
First ever method rung on the bells



I will be looking into doing many more quarters or general ringing on them in the future. If you would like to come and have a go or have a look, just drop me an email James-Joynson@hotmail.co.uk

Video of them being rung: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcUrbpARvis>



WOTTON BRANCH OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman | Chris Cooper |
| Ringling Master | James Joynson |
| Assistant Ringling Master | Vacant |
| Secretary | Barbara Metcalfe |
| 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 |

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 |

SPECIAL PRACTICES

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|---|-------------|------------------|------------|
| 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 |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------|