



### Annual Report For 2020-21

Significant progress has been made in the last year on the Dove Database, Composition collections, implementation of Microsoft 365, and drafting of version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing, while the pandemic necessitated some adjustments to priorities such as delaying the start of the extension process review so that individuals could focus on innovations in online ringing.

The workgroup has been expanded with the addition of a new project team in April 2021 to work on the objective of ‘Securing the future of key services and data valued by ringers’.

	Methods	Compositions	Dove	ICT
Services	Methods Library	Composition Collections	Dove Website	Council Website
	Articles & Publications	Articles & Publications	Dove’s Guide	Council IT Infrastructure
	Help & Advice	Help & Advice		Event Support
	Framework for Method Ringing			
Projects	Framework Version 2	The Ultimate Collection	New Dove Database	Office 365 Migration
	Review of Extension Processes	Doubles Variations and Calls Library	Website Enhancements	Secure the Future
			Mobile Phone App	
				not started
			active	
			complete	

Figure 1 – Technical and Taxonomy Workgroup Services and Current Projects

### Methods

There continues to be a considerable appetite to ring and name new methods even with severe restrictions to tower bell ringing in particular. 683 methods were added to the CCCBR Methods Library (methods.cccb.org.uk) in weekly updates, bringing the total number of named methods to 22,557 at the end of 2020.

Following agreement on an expanded place notation syntax for jump changes, 13 rung jump methods have been added to the Methods Library, although these have not been included in the ‘all methods’ XML collection yet to give time for software authors to update their systems.

Two new Dynamic methods (rule-based like Dixon’s Bob Minor) have been rung in the early part of 2021, Reverse Dixon’s Bob Minor and Oxford Badger Bob Minor. We are considering how to record these on an interim basis, as a standard notation for recording such methods has not yet been developed.

The workgroup's methods panel has answered various method-related questions received via email at [methods@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:methods@cccbr.org.uk) and also discussed and agreed any actions when issues have arisen in the naming of new methods. Its members have also responded directly to questions posed on ringing email lists, social media and the Ringing World.

## Framework for Method Ringing

Work on version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing began in April 2020 and continued throughout the year. The draft was completed in April 2021 and, as of the time of writing (May 2021), we are about to start the ringing community consultation.

Once the consultation has been completed, feedback will be incorporated into v2 as appropriate. The CC Executive will then perform a final review, and once happy, they will implement it with a 3-month notice period, in accordance with CC rules.

The main areas of change proposed are as follows. These are all subject to change depending on the results of the consultation:

- The 'Adelaide Amendment': Added a norm that 'The Performance was not part of a failed longer attempt' (section 6.C.2 n). In the further explanation for 6.C.2 we've noted that this does not apply to false starts, or attempts such as long lengths that are called round early.
- Added defined terms and performance reporting requirements that cover the new forms of ringing that emerged during the pandemic (Ringing Room and similar). The goal of the Framework in this area is not to rule in, rule out, or otherwise pass judgement on different types of method ringing, but to ensure that readers of performance reports are clear about what was rung, and how, so they may form their own opinions. We are coordinating with The Ringing World to ensure these performance attributes can be entered into BellBoard in a user-friendly manner (many already can be).
- Method naming: We've proposed that the length requirement for naming a new method should be standardized as a quarter peal or longer. Previously, new methods on fewer than 7 bells were also able to be named by ringing just one extent. With the increase in 3 and 4 bell ringing where an extent represents very few changes, a quarter seems more commensurate with the privilege of naming a new method. Most bands already adopt this approach.
- Also on method naming, we are proposing that methods are only named and added to the CC Methods Library when rung in a performance by an all-human band.
- Appendix A has been expanded to include the proposed notation for jump changes; Appendix C to include the '+/-' leadhead code system (e.g. Cambridge is +2, London is -1, etc); and Appendix J contains a table of false course heads.

We will, of course, be guided by feedback from the consultation on any of these proposals.

In addition to the above, there are other smaller changes that are mainly in the category of wordsmithing and seeking to improve clarity. A full table of changes, together with a 'redline' comparison of v1 and v2 can be found at <https://framework.cccbr.org.uk>.

We have three areas of work planned for a subsequent version of the Framework, though no timeline for this has yet been set:

- A review of the Framework's extension processes, starting by documenting existing extension anomalies in the Methods Library; identifying shortcomings in processes and documentation; proposing improvements; and developing tools that could bring a better appreciation and practical application of method extension to a wider audience.

- Refine the recommended set of Unicode characters used in method names to ensure that names can be properly displayed in common fonts.
- Improve the Framework website so that it is easier to use on small screen devices (i.e., smartphones).

## Compositions

2020 saw much reduced demand for compositions in line with severely limited opportunities for performance. The group continues to be available for enquiries via the [compositions@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:compositions@cccbr.org.uk) email address. Over the past twelve months, there has been little call for compositions to be provided, but a small number of composers continue to submit compositions for publication via this route. These are all published on Composition Library. As in previous years, the group provided contributed a selection of date touches for inclusion in the Ringing World Diary. The principal focus of the group remains the collation of compositions onto Composition Library. The collection has risen by a further 8,000 entries and now contains in excess of 45,000 compositions. Significant collections that have been completed in the library this year include the CC Collection of 12+ Bell Compositions, the CC Collection of Grandsire Compositions, and a number of historic collections including Rope-sight, The Ringers' Handbook, and Change Ringing (Wilson). Other collections, including CC Collection of Principles, and CC Collection of Double Norwich Compositions, are ongoing. The group continues to link compositions used when methods are first rung provided these details are available. Conductors of such performances are encouraged to publish compositions used.

A major upgrade to Composition Library in February 2021 added support for mixed-stage and variable cover compositions and support for jump methods and compositions was added in May 2021. Some back-filling of collections has taken place since then, with the number of mixed stage compositions (259) continuing to rise. Variable cover and jump compositions are less popular (39 and 5 respectively). Of particular note is the collection of Triples and Major compositions collated by Mark Eccleston that accompany his series of Ringing World articles on the subject. The upgrade also saw changes to the way some compositions of Stedman and Erin were handled, with the team helping with some manual fixes to published compositions required in a few hundred cases.

Richard Pullin has led the group's outreach work. His Ringing World puzzles, "Permugrams" and "Groovy Groups", both aim to introduce concepts useful in composition. Richard has also contributed other articles to the Ringing World, presented a St Martin's Guild Zoom talk on Birmingham composers of the 19th Century, and is working on a series of YouTube tutorials for budding composers.

Kira Chase recently joined the group. Kira is also a member of the Women in Ringing Workgroup. With the latter's analysis of the relative lack of female conductors and composers, we look forward to a package of work which bridges these two workgroups.

Peter Hinton continues to provide the team with expertise and the exercise with his comprehensive website on Doubles Variations. While this has not yet been formalised into a definitive CC Library of Doubles Variations and Calls, it does represent the work in progress.

## Stewards of the Dove Database

Considerable progress was made during 2020 to create the new database to house and process Dove data, to transition the data from the old system to the new, and to create new process structures for maintaining data going forward. In May 2020, the Executive appointed Dickon Love to be Dove Steward with overall responsibility for leading the Dove Programme and he put in the structures to manage activities going forward. The year has seen reliance on the old database come to an end, a host of new features introduced through the new database and website, an increase in the scope of the towers and bells to be included in the Dove Bell Register, a new ticketing

system to manage the distribution of processes of updating and quality assurance, and new members of the wider Dove Team to bring in valued expertise.

## Moving to the new database

Development reached the point in August when tower level information was transferred from the old to new systems. There then followed a period where bell, frame and project information was maintained in the old system while tower information was maintained in the new. In December, progress in development allowed the bell level information to be transferred and maintained in the new system. With the decision to suspend updates to frames and the introduction of a manual system to maintain information on projects, this marked the end of the reliance on the old system for live updates. The maintenance of projects information was incorporated into the new system in March 2021, while at the time writing (June), the development regarding frames is still in progress.

## Dove Tickets

A piece of software called “OS Tickets” (known in the team as Dove Tickets) was implemented. Dove Tickets allows more than one Dove Clerk to update the new system with additions and amendments, storing all the correspondence from contributors, and acting as a simple workflow management tool for quality control purposes.

## Additional features

As the programme evolved, new features were introduced, either as quick pieces of interesting information, or as part of the development of best database practice. These include:

- A structured **audit trail** of changes, which can be supplemented by comments (either visible or “behind the scenes”).
- Different **collections of bells** within a tower are now identified separately, be they a ring, a chime, a carillon, a set of tubular bells, a clock chime, *etc.* An important level of organisation.
- Structured organisation of the **Additional information** (flags) section against these collections.
- It is possible to search on a **church’s status** such as abbey, cathedral, priory church, *etc.*
- Standardised the recording of **practice nights** to cover unusual arrangements.
- More than one **url** can be shown.
- **Names** of individual bell collections and individual bells are given.
- The **hanging style** of a bell is recorded (full-circle, swinging, dead, unhung).
- The **shape of a bell** is recorded (*e.g.* standard, tubular, hemispherical).
- Separate searches can be made on **towers, bells or founders**.
- The result of searches can be presented on a **map**, or in a **download**, or in the abbreviated “**county list**” form. The map icons have been revised.
- The **website design** has been modernised and now works better on a wider range of devices such as tables and phones. This is particularly useful now that the iOS Dove app is no longer available or supported.
- **Projects** are associated with “events” in the lifetime of a ring, be it an overhaul, transfer of bells, change of ringing style or even destruction.
- **Data exchange with Felstead** inserts the number of peals into a particular tower’s page.

## Expanding the scope of Dove

Traditionally Dove has covered just towers with rings of 3 or more bells. This was extended to UK carillons (June 2021) and is being expanded to include 1 and 2 bells hung for full-circle ringing. In February an agreement was reached with the Church Buildings Council (CBC) of the Church of England concerning the future collection and maintenance of data on bells and bellframes in their jurisdiction. To support their interest and advice regarding church fixtures, they established their own database, part of which involved the recording of details of bells and frames. Since ringers have also been collecting information on other bells in the UK through George Dawson’s

work, rather than have these two groups building and maintaining separate registers with the same information, the CBC has agreed to use Dove as its primary source of data and has provided data to assist in its enrichment. Therefore bells in over 7,000 further places are primed for publication in Dove. There are plans to extend the scope of Dove further to lost rings, mini rings and possibly Veronese bells.

## Future development

This is planned in the following areas:

- Completion of the new designs to capture **frame** information;
- **Literary references** (building on those already collected by John Baldwin);
- Extension of information on **founders**.

## Popularising the data

As well as the plans to engage ringers by allowing them to record their tower visit activities, a group of students from **University College London** are using the data to support their data science projects. The Dove **Facebook** page has been resurrected and a **Twitter** account has been set up.

## The Dove Team

The team has expanded considerably. As well as Dove lead, **Dickon Love**, the other Dove Stewards are **Tim Jackson** and **Tim Pett**. **Colin Turner** is a Dove Clerk. **Scott Orr** (Secretary of the British Carillon Society) is the consultant and Dove Clerk for carillons. The development team is led by **Richard Smith**, assisted by **David Giles** and **Gareth Lawson**. **Doug Davis** stood down as a Dove Steward but continues with the technical support of Dove Tickets. John Baldwin maintained and updated the old Dove database throughout 2020 until we were able to move away from this in December.

## ICT

### Microsoft 365

The migration to Microsoft 365 was completed in December 2020. This provides the Executive and Workgroup members with collaborative tools, shared work areas, and the ability to send and receive email using cccbr.org.uk mailing addresses, shared mailboxes and distribution lists.

### Website

Mark Elvers looks after the day-to-day running of the main website and has made numerous improvements and changes on behalf of the Executive and Workgroups. Dorothy Hall carried out a review of the website and provided a number of recommendations that are being implemented. The hosting of the website, regular backups and our DNS services are provided using Azure with the majority of the cost funded from Microsoft's sponsorship scheme for non-profit organisations. The website saw a 12-fold increase in traffic following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, and its capacity was increased for a number of days to cope with the additional demand.

### Event Support

The 2020 AGM was held via Zoom. Our thanks go to Colin Newman who was both technician and facilitator on the day for both the CC AGM and the Ringing World AGM.

### Special Interest Group Forums

We are evaluating some Forum software with a view to providing a platform for special interest groups to ask questions and discuss matters of mutual interest. For example, forums could be established for the officers of affiliated societies to share best practice, such as treasurers, webmasters, ringing masters, report secretaries, training or safeguarding officers. Other examples include forums for steeplekeepers and tower captains.

## Technology Innovation

2020 saw a number of significant technical innovations during lockdown that helped many ringers keep in touch, practice, and even expand some of their ringing skills. Examples include Ringing Room, Muster, Ding, Wheatley, Handbell Stadium and eBells. Many of these will be extremely valuable in supporting training and development after a return to normal ringing.

The Central Council and ART have been active in endorsing and supporting the introduction of these innovations, and some members of the T&T workgroup have been involved in their development, necessitating the rescheduling of some workgroup activities that had been intended to commence in 2020/21.

## eBell Sponsorship

eBells are realistic electronic handbells that can ring with Abel, BelTower, Handbell Stadium, Ringing Room, Muster or Ding. Over 700 eBells have been sold since their launch in October 2020.

ART and the CCCBR launched an initiative to subsidise the purchase of eBells for ringers under the age of 25 (bringing the price including P&P down from £97 a pair to £25 a pair). Generous donations funding the scheme were received from The Whiting Society, the eBells partnership and a number of individual donors. 37 younger ringers have benefitted at the time of writing.



*Figure 2 – A pair of eBells sponsored by The Whiting Society*

A number of affiliated societies have also initiated their own eBell loan or subsidised purchase schemes for their members who would like to learn or improve their handbell ringing.

The Cast of 1000 initiative was expanded to ensure that our young ringers with eBells have opportunities to ring them with more experienced handbell bands.

## Securing the Future

A new project team has been established in April 2021, led by John Martin, to start work on one of the objectives that the workgroup set itself on its inception, but did not have the resources until now to start work, namely to:

Secure the future of key services and data valued by ringers, by

- identifying what existing services, whether provided directly by the Council or not, are important to ringers
- taking steps to provide assurance that appropriate measures are in place to protect data and software, ensure continuity of service, and provide succession for the future
- offering hosting for independent developer's web sites, source code and data archives
- offering to act as provider of last resort in the event that a developer is unable to continue providing a key service

The new team is currently planning a programme of work. Once the approach has been established, more information on this topic will be disseminated through the Ringing World and other channels.

## Workgroup Members and Contributors

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Graham John (ODG)

### SERVICES

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### PROJECTS

**New Dove Database**

**Tech Lead:** Richard Smith  
**Software:** David Giles; Peter Harrison (ANZ); Gareth Lawson; Leigh Simpson;  
**Dove Stewards:** Dickon Love; Doug Davis (KCA); Tim Jackson; Tim Pett (ODG)

**Framework Version 2**

Tim Barnes - team leader; Mark Davies (G&B); John Harrison (ODG); Graham John (ODG); Don Morrison; Philip Saddleton

**Office 365 Migration**

Doug Davis (KCA); Allen Nunley

**Securing the Future**

John Martin – team leader; Owen Battye; Roger Lawson; John Thurman

*Figure 3 – Contributors to the Technical & Taxonomy Workgroups Activities in 2020/21*