



### Annual Report For 2021-22

Highlights for the last year include the migration of frame data to the new Dove Database, implementation of version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing that covers online ringing innovations, and the establishment of Ringing Forums to support better communication among ringers and provide private forums for groups with a specialist focus, such as safeguarding, young ringers and project teams. In addition, a new website has been created for the CCCBR Variations and Calls Library.

Work on a substantive review of Method Extension has just started, and the new project team working on ‘Securing the future of key services and data valued by ringers’ is recruiting new team members to make progress with this important objective.

After five years in the role, Graham John is standing down as workgroup leader at the 2022 AGM, when Tina Stoecklin will be taking over.

The services provided by the workgroup, and the status of current projects is shown in Figure 1.

	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			Ringing Forums
Projects	Framework Version 2	The Ultimate Collection	Frames Database	Ringing Forums
	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

The CCCBR Methods Library ([methods.cccbr.org.uk](http://methods.cccbr.org.uk)) continues to be updated weekly with new methods rung and named. At the beginning of January 2022, it contained 23,210 methods, an increase of 653 methods during 2021.

A review of the capitalisation, diacritics and punctuation used in method names has been undertaken, following which a number of method names have been updated to present them in a more consistent style in the library. In particular, there are a very large number of methods named after Scottish mountains, and these have been brought in line with the presentation used by the Walk Highlands website.

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.

A number of interesting articles about methods have appeared in the Ringing World over the past year along with David Smith's regular Education Column contributions.

## Framework for Method Ringing

Work on version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing was completed in April 2021. Details of the changes made were included in last year's AGM report, so are not repeated here. The changes are also described in Appendix G, Section D on the Framework website at [framework.cccbr.org.uk](http://framework.cccbr.org.uk).

A ringing community consultation on v2 ran from June 4 to July 16, 2021 and nine people provided comments. Our thanks go to these submitters for their valuable feedback, much of which was incorporated into the final draft approved by the Council Executive on January 26, 2022 with an effective date of May 1, 2022 (allowing for the 3-month notice period under CC rules).

## Further work

Three areas of work are now in progress relating to the Framework:

- A review of all the Framework's extension requirements and processes is in progress to see if there are opportunities to streamline, simplify and/or otherwise improve this complex area.
- Refine the recommended set of Unicode characters to be used in method names (see Appendix B) to ensure that names can be properly displayed in common fonts, and method names can be easily distinguished from one another.
- Rework the Framework website so that it is easier to maintain, and easier to use on small screen devices (i.e., smartphones).

## Team

The following team worked on developing version 2 over an 11-month period: Tim Barnes, Mark Davies, John Harrison, Graham John, Don Morrison and Philip Saddleton.

In addition, Adam Beer and Robin Woolley assisted with enquiries sent to the Methods team. Robin Woolley has now joined with the rest of the Framework team to work on the extension review.

## Compositions

With the resumption of tower bell ringing there has been renewed interest in the availability of compositions. Conductors are now well-supplied through Composition Library (Complib) and there have been no enquiries this year via the [compositions@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:compositions@cccbr.org.uk) address. Nevertheless, this route for submission of compositions for publication remains available and is still well-used by a small number of composers who are not yet ready to self-publish on Complib. A small number of queries relating to published compositions, and how to self-publish, have also been addressed through this channel.

Complib itself has grown by another 8,000 compositions over the last twelve months, now featuring over 53,000 compositions. Members of the workgroup have continued their focus to collate novel and historical compositions as these become available. 142 rung long length compositions have been added to the collection over the last twelve months as part of a joint effort with Martin Whiteley to ensure that as full as possible details are available for all known tower bell peals of over 10,000 changes. A new listing for such peals and their compositions is now available in Complib.

The group continues to reference compositions used when new methods are first rung, provided these details are available. The vast majority of performances now include such details and conductors are encouraged to continue to provide these. Andrew Johnson has continued collating historical compositions including Graham John's 'Cambridge Major Tenors Together - The Full Monty', a collection of long lengths published in old ringing books, and Tony Smith's collection of Grandsire Doubles touches.

Complib itself has seen a number of upgrades over the last twelve months that will provide composers and conductors with an increased toolset. An avenue to commission compositions through the platform has led to some interesting discussions, though little of these have resulted in performances. Presentation of course lengths has been enhanced, to the particular benefit of conductors of odd-bell methods. Since early May, a more sophisticated analysis of existing compositions to highlight identical, rotated or reversed callings is now performed when new compositions are entered, with the intention of further reducing reinvention.

In August, the Ringing World published a pair of articles on 240s of Plain Bob Doubles written by Richard Pullin on behalf of the group. The workgroup also contributed the 2022 Date Touch collection for this year's RW Diary.

## Doubles Variations and Calls

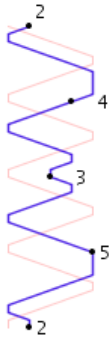
A new Variations website ([varlib.org](http://varlib.org)) was set up in the last quarter of 2021 to become the new home of the Central Council Library of Variations and Calls. Since then, 20 new variations have been added to the Library, and many other details of existing variations have been added or amended. The code and database behind the website have been further developed, particularly to improve presentation and search facilities. We are extremely grateful to Peter Hinton for creating this excellent new resource for us.

As at 1 June 2022 there were 5,665 named variations recorded. It also contains a list of issues on variation naming ([varlib.org/DebatedNames.htm](http://varlib.org/DebatedNames.htm)). Any further information or views on how best to resolve individual issues would be welcome.

Name: **Jubilee**

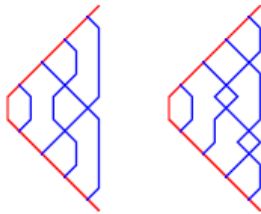
Code: 53je

Method: [Wainfleet Place](#)



Call:

*Plain*    [Old Hudibras Single](#)



Ringling World reference: 2012/783

Rung: [Amport](#), 4 Jun 2012

Figure 2 - The variation Jubilee Doubles from the CCCBR Variations and Calls Library website

## Stewards of the Dove Database

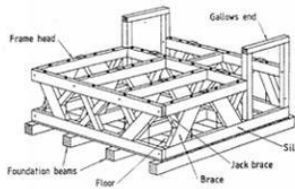
During the past year, the two major items to report on are the migration of data on frames from the old database to the new, and the expansion of the scope of Dove to include details on all bells in buildings under the jurisdiction of the Church of England.

### Key achievements



#### **Dove Scope extended to cover all CofE buildings**

Almost 10,000 new bell collections comprising 14,000 bells have been added to Dove, extending the scope to cover CofE jurisdiction towers. This has been done in partnership with the Church Buildings Council, and Dove now has the responsibility of maintaining this data, negating the need for the CBC to do this in parallel. With Dickon Love now being a member of the Bells Committee of the CBC, we hope Dove can be adapted to capture more information about the reasons for listing bells and frames for preservation in the future.



#### **Bellframes**

During the year we migrated the data previously held on the “old database” into a newly designed database. Now the data is there, work is taking place to adapt the data structures into a more sustainable way of describing bellframes. There is a backlog of a year’s amendments on frames to be entered into Dove as well as a programme of data cleansing of the data already there.



#### **Search facilities**






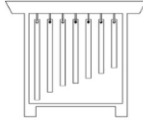




Improvements have been made on searches on bells by founder, date, and other attributes. Other searches have been introduced to identify rings by the same founder.



#### **Quality**

We continue to maximise the quality of the updates and data contained in Dove. The team works hard to scrutinise and verify submissions, as well as peer review each other’s inputs.

## A few coverage statistics (as at May 2022)

Bell Collections		Bells			
	Full circle rings (7,148 with at least 3 bells)	7,937		Standard	60,323
	Carillons	15		Hemispherical	245
	Chimes	7,030		Tubular	1,085
	Display bells	50		Fragments	17
	Ancillary bells	1,758			
	Other categories	28			

## Future work to begin in the next year

- Complete the **frames** design and quality work, entering the backlog of frames data built up over the year for full-circle rings and upload frames data from other chimes.
- Extend the scope to include **mini rings**.
- Develop a means for people to log in and **record tower grabs** and related data.
- Improve the way information on bells is **displayed** on the website.
- Make information available on **partial frequencies**, **literary references** and specific bell **tuning histories**.
- In due course, we'll also extend the scope to include **lost rings**, and bells in **Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**, as well as considering bells in **Roman Catholic** churches, **chimes** in secular buildings, and bells notable for their **size** or **age**.

## The Dove Team

The team continues to be led by **Dickon Love**, with **Tim Jackson** and **Tim Pett** as Dove Stewards and **Richard Smith** as the Lead Developer. They are assisted by Dove Clerks **Lewis Benfield** and **Neal Dodge** who joined the team in the past year. Richard is assisted by **David Giles** in web development and **Doug Davis** who maintains the *DoveTickets* software. **Chris Pickford** acts as a consultant on bellframes and **Scott Orr** (Secretary of the Carillon Society of UK and Ireland) on carillons.

We were very sorry to learn of the death of the Revd Dr John Baldwin in March 2022. John succeeded Ron Dove in taking on the collection and maintenance of information on rings of bells, and was the first to digitise it just after the 1982 edition was published. This led to the first website appearing in 1998 and the extension of the scope to include details on individual bells and frames. John continued to lead the team as Dove Master until his retirement in 2017, although he continued to take a valuable active role until the database was transferred to its present form in 2020.

## ICT

### Websites

The majority of the work since the last annual report has been the support and maintenance of the websites and Microsoft 365, led by Doug Davis. Mark Elvers and Ian Mozely have undertaken the day-to-day updates of the main website on behalf of the Executive and Workgroups. 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 has become slow under load on occasions, and has been allocated more memory to help it cope with increased demand, while keeping within the sponsorship budget.

In the last year we launched a new website for the Mobile Belfry project ([mobilebelfry.cccbr.org.uk](http://mobilebelfry.cccbr.org.uk)), provided website hosting and email services for the Young Change Ringers Association ([ycra.org.uk](http://ycra.org.uk)), and offered hosting for the National 12-bell Competition website.

Andrew Hall is currently working with Alan Regin on the next large batch of data to be imported into the Rolls of Honour database.

### Events

The 2021 AGM was again held via Zoom. Our thanks go to Colin Newman who was both technician and facilitator on the day for both the Council AGM and the Ringing World AGM.

### eBooks

A second eBook, Devon Call Changes by Simon Linford, has been hosted using the CCCBR GitHub account, which provides version control, archiving and web hosting in a single service. This mechanism is also used to deliver the eBook, Calling It Round by Bryn Reimer; the CCCBR Methods Library; and source control for CCCBR software, such as the Dove Database.

### Ringing Forums

Following selection of a suitable application, the Council launched Ringing Forums in October 2021 to provide a better means of focussed communication between ringers than email groups or Facebook groups. All the discussion categories are ringing related and there is no external advertising. It is free to sign up and post messages to the forums and users can elect to receive a weekly summary of contributions and email notifications for comments to topics they are following. Most of the forums are public, but private forums can be set up on request for special interest groups or project work where this is beneficial. Most of the categories are monitored by subject experts from the Council workgroups so it is the ideal place for anyone to ask any questions about ringing related matters, or search for previous answers.

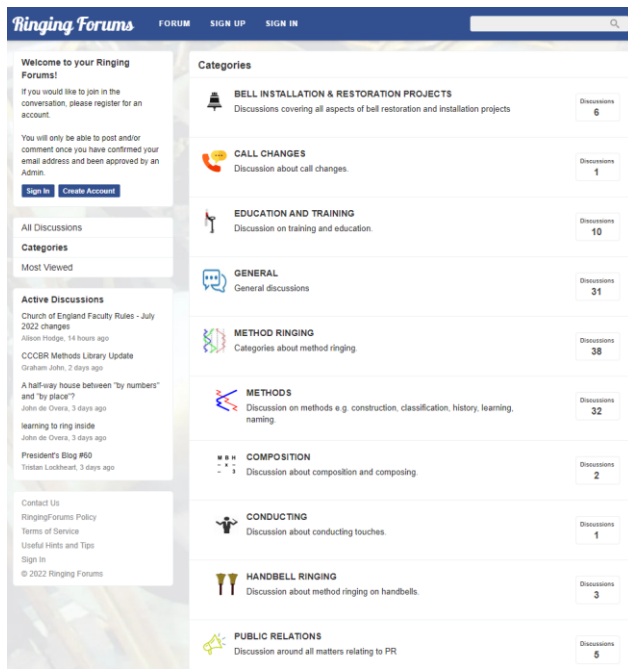


Figure 3 - Ringing Forums

## Securing the Future

A team was 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

While a start has been made on creating a Service Catalogue, additional volunteers are being sought to strengthen the team and start making some demonstrable progress. If you have any expertise to bring to this project and a little time to spare, please contact John Martin.



## Workgroup Members and Contributors

<b>Workgroup Leader</b> ttlead@cccbr.org.uk	Graham John (ODG)
<b>SERVICES</b>	
<b>Methods</b> methods@cccbr.org.uk	Tim Barnes - team leader; Adam Beer; Mark Davies (G&B), Graham John (ODG), Robin Woolley
<b>Compositions</b> compositions@cccbr.org.uk	Simon Bond - team leader; Kira Chase; Peter Hinton; Graham John (ODG); Andrew Johnson; Richard Pullin; David Thomas
<b>Dove</b> dove@cccbr.org.uk	Dickon Love - dove steward & team leader (KCA); Lewis Benfield - Dove Clerk; Doug Davis - dove tickets (KCA); Tim Jackson - dove steward; Scott Orr - carillon consultant; Tim Pett - dove steward (ODG); Chris Pickford – bellframe consultant; Richard Smith - tech lead (CUG); Michael Williams - mini-ring consultant
<b>ICT</b> ict@cccbr.org.uk	Doug Davis - team leader (KCA); Mark Elvers; Andrew Hall (DDA); Ian Mozely; Colin Newman (ASCY); Dave Richards (CUG); Leigh Simpson; Matt Thewsey
<b>PROJECTS</b>	
<b>Frames Database</b>	<b>Tech Lead:</b> Richard Smith <b>Software:</b> Doug Davis (KCA); David Giles <b>Dove Stewards:</b> Dickon Love; Tim Jackson; Tim Pett (ODG)
<b>Framework Version 2</b>	Tim Barnes - team leader; Mark Davies (G&B); John Harrison (ODG); Graham John (ODG); Don Morrison; Philip Saddleton
<b>Doubles Variations and Calls Library</b>	Peter Hinton
<b>Securing the Future</b>	John Martin – team leader; Roger Lawson; John Thurman

Figure 3 – Contributors to the Technical & Taxonomy Workgroups Activities in 2021/22