



Taxonomy and Technology

August 2024

The technology and taxonomy working group has been operating to keep existing projects and collections updated with incremental improvements. Focus on Ringing 2030 and a lack of a workgroup lead to take over from Tina Stoecklin have prevented work on any new strategic projects.

The workgroup reorganisation has left his workgroup largely intact, except for moving the ICT team to report direct to the Executive as a support service. This means that the remaining teams – Methods, Compositions, and Dove's database create a sharper focus on the maintenance of digital reference collections that offer essential services to ringers.

ICT team

The major task of the ICT team was the migration to a new server host A1, which was accomplished successfully in October 2023. This includes hosting for the main Central Council website, the publications online shop, the new history website, the Felsted database and other smaller websites. The migration was caused by our previous host, Microsoft Azure, severely cutting its allowance for charitable hosting, effectively ending the nearly free hosting we had enjoyed.

Otherwise, the team have assisted operations from several workgroups, and continued with maintenance operations on the Microsoft365 estate. This includes setting up new email, teams and distribution lists for new workgroups and volunteers, as well as the provision of microsites for specific events, and the updating of news items and other pages in the main council website.

Compositions

It's business as usual for the Compositions team recently; largely due to the well run Composition Library, which is now in excess of 67,400 compositions. Run by Graham John, he continues to develop and deploy upgrades and user interface improvements, including the Request for Compositions functionality, which you may have seen on the home page. Peter Hinton also continues to support varlib.org, the Central Council's Library for Variations and Calls, which has grown to over 5,800 Doubles Variations. The Compositions email compositions@cccbr.org.uk has not seen any

requests this year, but is always available so please do reach out with any enquiries or advice as needed!

Methods

Methods Library

At the end of 2023, there were 23,933 methods recorded in the CCCBR Methods Library, an increase of 365 from the previous year. Additionally, there are four Dynamic methods defined descriptively (no change). Twelve new methods rung in 2023 did not qualify for inclusion in the CCCBR Methods Library: Two were not rung to aa qualifying length (Framework 5.E.1.a); one was not rung to a true touch (5.E.1.d); and nine methods were not rung by an all-human band (5.E.1.g). Bands are requested to take particular care regarding truth when ringing new methods and to include the composition with the performance report so this can be verified.

The team has responded to a number of queries raised about methods through social media and by email.

Method Extension Review

A draft report of Accepted Method Extensions is now available at

<https://complib.org/report?name=extensionreport>.

This shows all the extension paths that have been established to date, the methods that have been named in each path, and the extension constructions for the paths.

As part of the Method Extension Review that is currently in progress by the Methods team, a new extension process, EP4, is in development that we hope will provide a more generic and flexible way of extending methods. The draft report above also shows the equivalent EP4 extension constructions where applicable.

This report also shows historic anomalies where methods having the same name at different stages are not related by any of the existing extension processes (i.e. EP1, EP2 and EP3) in the Framework for Method Ringing. We expect that EP4, with its more generic approach to extension, will resolve a



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number of these anomalies. Graham John has led the development of EP4 to date, including building software tools to test and visualize its operation. In the second half of 2024 we plan to draft the language that would define EP4 in the Framework for Method Ringing, and have the wider Methods Team review, test and refine it, ahead of an expected broader consultation on EP4 with the ringing community in 2025.

Other Initiatives

Various other work is pending for the Methods Team. One item is to participate in a review of Record Length procedures with The Ringing World and the Central Council's Ringing Records team, with the goal of assessing whether procedures are working efficiently, and determining if there are any opportunities for improvements and/or streamlining.

Methods Team Members

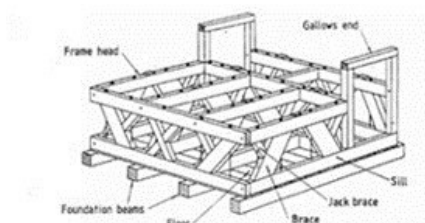
Team lead: Tim Barnes

Graham John runs the process to extract newly rung methods from BellBoard, validate them, and then add them to the Methods Library. The other Methods Team members are: Adam Beer, Mark Davies, John Harrison, Don Morrison, Philip Saddleton, Natasha Williams and Robin Woolley.

Stewards of the Dove Database

The past year has been one of further consolidation in the quality of data in the database as well as an increase in the number of places and bells captured within the existing scope. There was also a modest expansion in that scope. We have continued to drive quality using development to minimise inconsistencies and running projects to pick out inaccuracies. The team has expanded to include new and younger members as we encourage best practice and passion about getting our dataset right.

Key achievements



Bellframes We finished entering the backlog of frames data that arose from submissions received while the new

development took place in 2022. We are pleased that the new structure we designed is coping with all the examples directed at it. There is still more to be done in this area, both in terms of the quality of the data already present and with gaps in coverage. The highest quality submissions are those following physical inspections, rather than viewing photographs and videos, so we remain cautious with updates we accept.

Mapping functionality



Dove now has improved mapping functionality, allowing tenor weights and BellBoard performance totals to be presented on maps using colour.

Great Bells of the British Isles



The scope of Dove has been extended to include the Great Bells of the British Isles (replicating the lists featured in the appendix of the paper book detailing all such bells over 40 cwt). We also, for the first time, detail other bells in the same tower to give a sense of context.

A few coverage statistics (as at June 2024)

	Bell Collections	(last year)	(latest)
	Full circle rings (at least 3 bells)	7,946 (7,153)	7,942 (7,144)
	Carillons	15	21
	Chimes	7,083	7,336
	Display sets	63	56
	Ancillary sets	1,700	1,722
	Bell Frames		
	Frames	8,775	9,354



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	Bells	(last year)	(latest)
	Standard	60,569	61,516
	Hemispherical	248	249
	Tubular	1,118	1,118
	Fragments	26	48
	There were 12,896 separate updates to Dove between Jun 2022 and Jun 2023 (with bulk updates counting as 1 update)		

view to agreeing a new framework in the course of the next 12 months.

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: Neal Dodge and new joiner in the year, Kye Leaver. Doug Davis maintains the DoveTickets software that organises the practicalities of passing updates to the team. Chris Pickford acts as a consultant on bellframes and many items historical, and Scott Orr (Secretary of the Carillon Society of Great Britain and Ireland) leads on carillons. With sadness we note the passing of The Rev'd David Cawley in February 2024. Over the years he helped with the compilation of many of the lists in the printed editions and wrote a number of the articles. He has been a key source of guidance to those in the current and wider Dove Teams.

Future work to begin in the next year

- Continue our focus on the quality and input of data on bellframes.
- Extend the scope of Dove to include lightweight rings and portable rings due for release summer 2024.
- Develop the means to record **events** against individual bell collections and bells themselves, i.e. when a ring turned into a chime, when a bell was tuned or had its canons removed, when and where a ring was transferred from one place to another.
- A project on **dates**, how we store and display them and note uncertainties and attributions.
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Plus target work carried over from last year:

- Prepare for users to log in, register preferences and ultimately record tower grabs and related data.
- Improve the way information on bells is displayed on the website (some work has already been released on tubular bell lengths, and the way bells are hung).
- Lost rings

Finally, Dickon Love has been using his position on the Bells Committee of the Church Buildings Council to initiate a complete review of bells listed for preservation, methodology and governance, with a