

Archivist's Report – 2017 to 2018

The addition of new material to the digital archive has been the main activity during 2017. Content from the Fenny Stratford local newspaper has provided new insight into the formation and development of the Bletchley band during the late 1800's as well as the earliest history of the branch. Another interesting addition is the minutes of tower meetings from Newport. If any other bands have similar records they would like to have preserved then let me know. The earliest editions of In-touch have previously only been shown as images, so they were not a searchable resource. These are now being copied into the database and can now be seen next to the image on the web site. Once the cross referencing to ringers' names and towers has been done, these will then become a searchable resource.

More work on cross-referencing the various sources with names of relevant ringers is needed but this is making good progress and, while sounding like a bit of a technicality, provides a valuable way of understanding the activities of past ringers.

In the wider world, I have been asked to head the new Central Council History & Archive Workgroup. The example of our archive, along with some new suggestions, has persuaded the executive that there is a future in modernising History. That means I get to influence the direction of the Central Council Library, the Biographies work and also the Carter Ringing Machine Collection. Overlaps with the other workgroups are also likely, such as the history of methods and compositions. The North Bucks Archive Project is going to be useful in all this as it already contains much of this but is limited to a manageable geographical area. So I can very quickly demonstrate new ideas to other workgroup members. This will not be limited to Central Council Reps only. All ringers are going to be encouraged to join in. So, if you have any ideas, let me know. The workgroup will need to be formally endorsed by the Central Council in May so look out for progress on this in The Ringing World.

Doug Hird