

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

## NEWSLETTER No 124 - April 2010



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(Photo: Chris Povey)

### ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' CHURCH, GREAT WOLFORD, WARKS

This church is very special to the Guild, as the first FSG peal was rung here on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1910, the details of which are:-

Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1910; in 2 hours 50 minutes  
A Peal of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 changes.  
C Randall    treble    E Randall    4<sup>th</sup>  
C Bird       2<sup>nd</sup>            W Large (cond) 5<sup>th</sup>  
F Bird       3<sup>rd</sup>            G Hiatt       tenor

A peal to celebrate the centenary of this event wasn't possible, but instead a quarter was rung here by members of the FSG committee:-

Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010; in 43 mins  
GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 1260 changes  
Andrew Gunn    treble    Peter Kenealy    4<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Quinn     2<sup>nd</sup>        Chris Povey (cond) 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jackie Hands    3<sup>rd</sup>        John Nicholls    tenor  
Remembering that pioneering band of 100 years ago.

The bells here are a mixture: treble, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> by Richard Keene, 1689/90, 3<sup>rd</sup> by John Rudhall, 1792, 5<sup>th</sup> by Matthew Bagley III, 1752, and tenor (11-3-7, F#) by George Mears, 1864. The oak bellframe, by Whites of Appleton, dates from 1864. The bells were rehung by Whites in 1991 in the existing frame. They were retuned by Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The first peal in the tower was the FSG peal above; and the 1<sup>st</sup> peal after the rehang (9m/v Doubles), also rung for the FSG, was on 16/10/1993. Seven peals have been rung here in all.

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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**President**

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**Vice Presidents**

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Rev Dr Peter Newing

**Chaplain**

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Mr Michael Haynes

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Chris Povey

**Child Protection Officer**

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

**Health & Safety Officer**

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THE FSG WEB-SITE IS: <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

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**The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (July 2010) is JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> 2010**

This Newsletter survives only because of the contributions you make to it. Without them it will fail. Articles can be submitted to the undersigned via email or to the postal addresses shown above, or to any committee member.

Please contribute something, however small (or large). You would be surprised the things people enjoy reading about. A few suggestions: an historical item; a funny story; a quarter peal report; poems; puzzles; tales, events past and to come; a ringing tour, even! Send them in. They will all be welcome – and photos, too, you'll notice.

.... and don't worry if you think your handwriting is unintelligible. We can normally translate! Just get it to us.

The Newsletter Team: Chris Povey & Sophia Lewis-Skeath

If sending articles by email, please use MS Word (not the dreaded Works\*) format for written articles, JPG format for photos, and scanned items in PDF or JPG formats. (We have the facility to scan photo prints if you haven't.) Please let us know ownership of photos for acknowledgement where relevant. If you have a long article, you might consider breaking it into parts. (\* If you've only got Microsoft Works, then 'Save As' your article into Rich Text Format – ie, suffix .rtf – and send in this form.)

## EDITORIAL



It may be unusual to start an Editorial with a photograph – but what a photograph! It has appeared previously, in the January 2001 Newsletter, but it was rather fuzzy, and I am indebted to a local historian for providing a high quality scan of another copy. By the time you read this Newsletter, it will be just about 80 years to the day since it was taken. Many will have seen this photo in Moreton-in-Marsh's Ringing Room. The photo is important for a number of reasons: it records the Guild members attending that meeting (there are 36 excluding the clergymen), which I presume is the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Striking Competition; it shows the 'old' Shield and the Spencer Jones Cup (see the article on p 5); and lastly the style of dress at the time (very smart!). Oh, and no ladies! I can positively identify two of the members, Harry (Chinny) Baker (with whom I rang when I learnt to ring) and his son from Ebrington. Perhaps the older present-day members could identify others, just so that names aren't lost forever. From the photo in the article, Spencer Jones is the clergyman sitting behind the Shield. Walter Large must surely have been there. An old photo of him in the Oct 2000 Newsletter, probably taken when in his 40's, shows he had a large moustache. He would have been almost 70 when the photo above was taken (born 8/6/1860). He may be second-to-left of the person standing immediately behind Spencer Jones.

An overview of the committee meetings that have taken place since the last Newsletter is included here, to update members on the management of the Guild and the various initiatives underway. As briefly reported in the last issue, the FSG Committee agreed at the interim meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January to apply for affiliation to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (the CC). The President, John Nicholls, makes a statement in this issue about the application to affiliate. See page 4 for the report and the President's statement.

The President makes it clear the committee was 'overwhelmingly in favour' of CC affiliation and in believing its remit from the members and from within the Guild's Rules is to manage the Guild and to take the relevant decisions. The Guild operates on CC guidelines and affiliation is seen as a natural progression arising from the way the Guild has operated, operates and will continue to operate. We should become paid-up members of the team to which we purport to belong, otherwise it is like the person who regularly joins his friends in the pub for a good time and accepts their offers of drinks, but who never buys his round. In my experience, too, the Guild is looked down upon by some of the CC-affiliated societies, because it's not an 'officially-recognised' group, ie just a little club trying to act like a 'grown-up' one. The Guild has more than

enough experience, qualifications, members, history and something to contribute to be a grown-up one, and it's high time we took our place at the 'ringers' forum' on an equal footing with the others.

A report of the Guild Annual Dinner is on page 4, together with photos. It was enjoyable and, as always, Steve Coleman was an amusing and informative Speaker.

Saintbury Church became redundant in September 2008, but what's its future? The Guild has an interest in the bells (as does, of course, the G&BDA). See article on page 12.

What do you know about Original, the simple principle for any number of bells? I know Original as something that gives outstanding music, but which needs loads of concentration to ring it really well. Robert Chadburn, a long-time enthusiast, introduces us to it on p.9.

This issue is the product of 12 different members, which is at least as it should be. Thanks to all of you. Keep sending in the contributions.

Chris Povey

(The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Four Shires Guild or its Committee)

A Vicar decided he should visit an elderly and rather 'rural' lady parishioner, to discuss the Hereafter in case the ultimate struck earlier than expected. He arrived at her door and was shown inside, whereupon, after the pleasantries and over the traditional cup of tea, he thought it time to introduce the intended subject to the conversation:-

Vicar: "Well Mrs Smith, the years continue to fly past for all of us." (pause) "I wonder.... do you know anything of The ...er ... Hereafter?"

Mrs Smith; cheerfully, but just a little embarrassed: "Ooh yes, Vicar. Quite right I do! I knows just what you means. Many times I guzz'out in our kitchen and I stops 'n' I thinks to meself, 'What the devil be I here after..!'

(Another little gem from John Middleton... Keep them coming, John)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past three months your committee has been busy debating the issues concerning an application to become affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Whether we realise it or not, our ringing is influenced by the decisions of the Council. The Council has just over 200 representatives of ringing societies, and a few Life and Honorary members. The recommendations to the Council are made by 16 committees, which investigate, discuss and report on all aspects of ringing bells. It has long been the opinion of some members of the Four Shires Guild that we should play our part in the deliberations of the Council. In view of the fact that the meeting of the Council's Administrative Committee was imminent, there was a decision taken by our committee to go ahead rather than waiting for a general meeting of the Guild. This decision was overwhelmingly in favour. The application was drawn up by the Guild Master, Peter Quinn, in a proficient manner that listed our history, membership numbers, the Guild aims and rules, and a promise to abide by the Rules and Decisions of the Council. Further documents and other information that could help our application were included. I hope that all of us will play our part in supporting this venture. John.

## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH

The Committee met at Ilmington on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Minutes of the December meeting and the two intermediate meetings dealing specifically with the CCCBR application were confirmed without amendment. Matters Arising included the application to the Central Council, which was due to be discussed by the CC's Admin Committee on March 20<sup>th</sup> (see 'Stop Press' on back page). If we pass this 'first stage', then we shall have to consider how we present our case at the full Council meeting at the end of May in Derby. The President's Statement (see above) was presented. Subscription rates and the number of subscriptions paid to date were discussed. It is clear the rate will have to rise, and a recommendation will be made to the membership at the AGM for this to occur. The Treasurer will prepare a case for this based on income and expenditure now and in the future. Less than 50% of subs have been paid so far, which is disappointing and it certainly doesn't help the finances.

The next item was future events. The Ringing Tour on 3<sup>rd</sup> July has now been organised (see notice on p.11); the Guild Walk is in the process of being finalised, but the date has had to be changed to September 25<sup>th</sup> (see notice on p.11); and the AGM

and Striking Comp will be at Broadwell. The setting-up of the proposed FSG Bell Fund was deferred to the next meeting.

Reports of Officers followed. The Ringing Master suggested having some deputies to join a rota to look after the Saturday practices, as every week for one person is a large commitment. This was agreed in principle: Ringing Master to investigate feasibility. A discussion centred around membership numbers and Newsletter production numbers, and some guidelines for this were discussed. An updated correlation was necessary quickly; and this should take into account those members not requiring a hardcopy (obtaining from website). It was agreed to print 200 copies again in April. The Newsletter Editor emphasised the need to consider the future deadline dates, to ensure proper advance notice to members. It was noted that the webmaster is away from mid-April to mid-June.

Items for discussion included the proposed

Minimus (Minimouse) Striking Competition. It was decided to run it, probably in August, but the location, date and format would be agreed at the next meeting, and a notice would appear in the July Newsletter. AGM items will be considered at the next meeting, so that a notice giving the date, 2009 accounts, full agenda and any relevant motions can be published in the July Newsletter. Whether to have a Christmas Party in December was discussed in the light of the low attendance last year and in previous years. If we do, should we change the format? (Perhaps members reading this might like to pass on any suggestions to a committee member.) Proposed deadlines for the Newsletter were given: June 13<sup>th</sup> for July issue, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> for Oct issue and Dec 13<sup>th</sup> for the Jan 2011 issue.

The next meeting will be on 27<sup>th</sup> May at Ilmington, 6.30pm start

## GUILD ANNUAL DINNER 2010, STRATFORD-ON-AVON (see photos on p.5)

About 40 members and guests attended the Guild's Annual Dinner at The Falcon Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Not quite as many as last year, but nonetheless a goodly number. Our room was smaller than last year, but it was much cosier and with more character. At one end was an alcove with fireplace, on the mantelpiece of which the Guild's trophies were displayed prominently.

The proceedings opened with grace said by Charles Wilson. The meal was good – some thought better than last year.

Over coffee, our President, John Nicholls, introduced this year's Speaker, Steve Coleman, who was accompanied to the Dinner by his wife, Sue. Both Steve and Sue are well known in ringing circles nationally through their 'Companion' ringing books (and an outstandingly good read these are, too, being written in Steve's inimitable style and giving excellent down-to-earth advice), and of course locally via the considerable assistance they have provided

in recent years in the G&B's North Cotswolds Branch.

Steve is an extremely good speaker and is well known for it. He has an amazing knack of speaking in such a way that people cannot help but listen. His easy, informal manner is accompanied by a clear, up-beat delivery. He said the Guild had great strengths, in particular its weekly meetings, which give general practice to members. Of practices in general, Steve advised those who are shy of making mistakes to view them in a more positive light as 'developmental opportunities'! He mentioned our recent Centenary and noted that the Guild's formation and early activities didn't appear in 'Bell News' at the time, although the 'Evesham Journal' carried a number of reports. He'd heard the Guild was applying to become affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and suggested this was

long overdue. It was encouraging to hear him say the G&B heartily welcomes this application, particularly as the G&B has the biggest 'interest' in the area in which the Guild operates. He mentioned our Newsletter, which was a cue to quote from some of the funny literary gems that he has encountered in association magazines over the years - although happily none from ours. It was an effective warning to newsletter editors to be more careful in their writings!

After this, the President presented the Striking Competition trophies to the relevant towers. The winning tower was Mickleton and John Kinchin accepted the Newing Shield on its behalf. The Spencer Jones Cup is presented to the tower coming second, which this year was Ilmington. Jackie Hands accepted this on Ilmington's behalf.

## 2010 GUILD DINNER, THE PHOTOS



Bill Nash, Tony Mann, Vivienne Pitts, Sylvia Carroll, Jo Langford, John Carroll and Michael Haynes



John Kinchin, Linda Beach, Veronica & Peter Quinn, Sue & Steve Coleman, Ann & Chris Mew, and John & Pat Nicholls



Robin Walker, Sophia Lewis-Skeath, Mark Wilson, Keith & Isobel Murphy, Maureen Adams



Ann & Charles Wilson, Ted Copson and Freda Cleaver.



Andrew Gunn, Michael Dane, and Nicola Amphlett.



Jackie Hands and Chris Righton



Helen Povey, Stuart Cummings and Michael Cummings



Steve giving us the full benefit



John K receives the Newing Shield for Mickleton



and Jackie receives the S J Cup for Ilmington

## THE REVEREND SPENCER JOHN JONES AND HIS CUP

A hundred years ago the Reverend Spencer Jones\* was the Rector of Batsford with Moreton-in-Marsh. He became Rector in 1887\*\* and remained Rector for over 40 years\*\*\*. In his later years he was assisted by the Revd. Edward Spencer Jones (whom I believe was his son\*\*\*\*), who was curate from 1925. Members of the Four Shires Guild remember Spencer Jones because he presented the Guild with a cup (The Spencer Jones Cup), to be given to the winning team at a striking competition.

Spencer Jones was an Anglo-Catholic and was frequently referred to as Father Jones. He was the author of three books, "The clergy and the Catechism" (1895), "England and the Holy See" (1904) and "Our Lord and his lessons" (1907). He was prominent in putting forward the view that there should be unity between the various churches and he felt that there should be union between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. He is credited with starting the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity along with the Revd Lewis T Wattson, Rector of St John's Episcopal Church in Kingston, New York, USA.

Father Jones preached a sermon in favour of Anglican union with the Roman Catholic Church at St Matthew's Church, Westminster in 1900. His address was published and printed by Longmans (1000 copies). In 1907 he addressed a meeting of the Roman Catholic Guild of Our Lady of Ransom at the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Responding to a critic he declared, "The real scandal is that we are divided, not that we try to meet".



Rev Spencer Jones (R), clearly in his later years, with Rev Lewis Wattson

By 1908 there was inaugurated a Church Unity week. This has become known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Each year between 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January we pray and work for Church unity. From a small beginning the movement for Church unity has grown and is kept 'worldwide'.

Revd Dr Peter Newing (Vice-President).

*\* An internet entry records his middle name as John; and the 1891 census record (see below) supports this by giving his middle initial as 'J'.*

*\*\* In 1887 Moreton was removed from Bourton-on-the-Hill parish and annexed to Batsford. Spencer Jones was therefore the first Rector of the newly-formed ecclesiastical area.*

*\*\*\* Until 1932. I have been unable to discover whether he retired from his incumbency then, or whether it ended on his death.*

*\*\*\*\* Spencer Jones did have a son called Edward, as the 1891 census entry shows:-*

*JONES Spencer J 34 Clerk in Holy Orders Rector of Moreton Surrey Croydon  
Elizabeth B 41 Eling Hants  
Edward S 4 Surrey Balham  
Marjorie S 7 months Moreton in Marsh  
HANDS Alfred W Visitor 43 Clerk in Holy Orders London  
CORWELL Caroline Sister in Law 57 Hants Eling  
GARRETT Elizabeth 17 Nurse Bourton on the Hill  
HOARE Mary A 15 House Maid Leamington*

*This record tells us a great deal. Firstly, it tells us Spencer Jones was 34 in 1891, so he was born in*

*1856 or 1857, and therefore was 75 when his incumbency of Moreton ended. He was born in Croydon, Surrey. His wife was 7 years older (41) and she came from Eling, Hants (as did her elder sister, Caroline, who was there at census time: was she living with them?). His son, Edward S (S for Spencer: see later), was 4 at the time and was born at Balham, Surrey, so Spencer Jones' previous incumbency may have been there. His daughter was only 7 months old and was born at Moreton. Alfred Hands, another clergyman, seems to have been visiting at the time. The Jones appear to have employed a nurse, aged 17, and a housemaid, aged 15, and presumably they lived in.*

*The census record does appear to confirm that his curate at Moreton was his son, Edward, although there is a brief mention on the internet that Spencer Jones claimed he 'gave a nephew to the Church' (1908). If Edward was the curate, he would have been 38 in 1925. Ed*

#### THE SPENCER JONES CUP

As with many items of property belonging to societies that cease to exist, the 'old' Guild's property dissipated, ending up in nooks, crannies and wherever. Some items have never been found (hopefully they will be one day), the most significant of which, of course, is the original Shield. But some items have appeared, and one of these is the Spencer Jones Cup.



This Cup is the only trophy that survives from the pre-WW2 Guild. It is arguably our greatest treasure. It was made in 1929 by the Guild of Handicrafts in Chipping Campden, very likely by George Hart, but certainly to George's design (so David Hart tells me). It is truly a beautiful and elegant thing.

Although I have been a member of the FSG since its reformation, I had never handled it or seen it close to until I took the photos for this article. Its link with the past makes it very special indeed, and it seems to exude an aura. It has seen and taken part in Guild events that none of us now have experienced, as witnessed by the winners band on the base. Only the pre-war winners are recorded, which somehow adds to that aura. They are:-

Campden 1929; Ebrington 1930; Wolford 1931; Mickleton 1932; Wolford 1933; Mickleton 1934; Wolford 1935; Campden 1936; Mickleton 1937; Wolford 1938.

However, the Cup carries a mistake. Around the stem is engraved 'THE SPENCER-JONES CUP', the hyphen implying the Revd Jones' surname was double-barrelled, ie Spencer-Jones!

The Guild history tells us the Cup was discovered at Wolford, as they were the last winners. I assumed it was found by Tony Brazier, although Phyllis thinks not. I've tried to unearth the details of its discovery, but have failed. If anyone knows these details, perhaps they could let me know. It would be nice to record what happened and by whom.

Mention of the lost pre-WW2 Shield prompts a reminder to members that Peter Newing provided the Guild with a replacement shield, the Newing Shield, in 1979, for which we shall be forever grateful.

*Some of you may never have seen the Cup close up, let alone have held it. It stands 11¾ inches (325mm) high on its base, 9ins (228mm) high without base and the cup itself is 4½ins (115mm) in diameter. I am grateful to Peter for writing the article about, and providing the photo of, Spencer Jones, as it genuinely puts 'flesh on the bones' of the Cup's donor. Moreton-in-Marsh clearly had a very go-ahead Rector at one time. I have a personal reason for wanting to know more about Spencer Jones, as there is a very slight family connection. My parents were married by Revd Spencer Jones, or more accurately by his son, Revd E Spencer Jones (who signed himself as such on their marriage certificate). In 1932, at the end of his father's incumbency of Moreton, Edward Spencer Jones moved to Great Hampton as Vicar, and in 1940 he moved to be Rector of Richard's Castle in Shropshire (although, unusually, part is in Herefordshire!). My mother was born and grew up in that village. It was there, in March 1947, my parents were married. I am pleased to record that, at the time of writing, they are still going strong and have therefore notched up 63 years together. Ed*



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This close-up of the Editorial photo shows more clearly Revd Spencer Jones, the 'old' Shield (a magnificent thing) and the Spencer Jones Cup. Is the young clergyman holding the Cup his son, Edward Spencer Jones? Do they have similar facial features?

Harry Baker, from Ebrington, is the short chap in the top RH corner. His son is sitting in the front row on the left. As recorded above, Ebrington were the winners of the Spencer Jones Cup in 1930, so six months later Harry would have been part of the team that won it.

The person I believe to be Walter Large (top LH corner) shows up well in this extract. Standing next to him in the dark suit is, I believe, George Hiatt, who also rang in the first peal at Wolford (and many other FSG peals).

Did they all come smartly dressed because a photo was to be taken? Probably; but how nice. Would we do that today? Probably not.

## TOWER OF THE QUARTER - ST LAWRENCE, BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL



Photo: Chris Povey

replaced at the rehang, so the arrangement is still 3, 4, 5 & tenor in the lower tier, and treble & 2 above. The lower tier was supposedly constructed in 1699! The bells were probably retuned at the rehang and lost their canons then, too. The bells are as follows: treble and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Rudhall 1792, 3<sup>rd</sup> by Mears & Stainbank 1873, and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and tenor (11-1-27 in F) by Henry Bagley 1677.

The entrance to the tower is via a side passage off the tower entrance to the church. This arrangement, like many, firmly encourages ringers never to look inside the church itself. However, it is well worth doing so. It was the 'mother' church of Moreton until 1887 (see p.6)

As with all clerestoried naves, the interior is light. The church dates from 1157, although the columns with decorated capitals on the S side are the only parts remaining from that date. They are similar to those in Broadway Old Church and Mickleton. The 15<sup>th</sup>.C stone screen at the E end of the S aisle is a recent addition and was salvaged from a builder's yard in Moreton! Its installation in 1927 was supervised by Charles Bateman, a prominent 'Arts & Crafts' architect who lived and worked in Bourton 1922-47. He also designed the altar posts, altar rails and reredos. Bateman lived next door; his preserved studio is adjacent to the churchyard in the SW corner. Another A&C architect, Guy Dawber, was responsible for the pulpit in 1893. The top of the tower affords outstanding views, as the lucky few saw after the FSG Striking Competition there in 2004!

The 1904 clock, by Smiths of Derby, has a north-facing dial and 'ding dong' quarters, but with just the hour strike on the hour: unusual.

The Guild has a practice here on April 17<sup>th</sup> (see Diary, back page)

St Lawrence's bells go and sound well. However, this is a fairly recent innovation, as they used to be one of the terrors of the area until their rehang in 1974 by Whites of Appleton.

What made them dreadful? Firstly, they were anti-clockwise; secondly, the tenor rope came down very nearly behind the treble's (yes, really); and thirdly, they went like 'the side of a house'. They were fully ripe for a rehang. It was very difficult to turn the tenor into even the 12 changes of Plain Minor. The upper tier of the bellframe carrying the two trebles was

### THE FSG CENTENARY PEAL – a follow-up

Chris Mew kindly heeded my plea to him in the last Newsletter for some quarter peal compositions of Four Shires Guild Delight Major by providing not just one, but three, which are given below. Thank you Chris. They all look very musical. Let's give them a go! Ed

<u>1280</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>H</u>
-	3	35264	
-	-	42563	
-	-	26435	
-	-	63254	
-	-	23456	

Contains 31 CRU and Tittums

<u>1280</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>H</u>
-	2	34256	
-	-	53246	
-	-	34562	
-	-	34625	
-	-	23645	
-	-	23456	

Contains 31 CRU & 'near-miss' 13245678

<u>1280</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>H</u>
-	3	35264	
-	-	63254	
-	-	35642	
-	-	35426	
-	-	23456	

Contains 31 CRU and Tittums

A board recording the peal has been made and has been hung at Moreton-in-Marsh. (There was a mistake with the place notation of Four Shires Guild Delight Major on the front page of the last Newsletter (although the method line and notation in the report inside the issue was correct). The correct notation with the correction shown emboldened is: **x38x14x12x18x14x18.56.12x78 lh 12 b**)

## NEWS FROM WELFORD-ON-AVON IN 2009

### Fund Raising Garden Party and BBQ at 'Greenways', Welford-on-Avon 20th June 2009

Ringers visiting St.Peter's in Welford-on-Avon during recent years will have noticed the rather ugly green netting installed below the nave ceiling. It was put up to protect the congregation and visitors from bits of plaster falling from the panels between the rafters.

An affordable permanent protection from the loose plaster was hard to devise but eventually the PCC decided to line the ceiling panels in a way that would keep their original appearance but also keep church users safe. The cost was estimated at £35,000 and an appeal was launched to raise the required funds during 2009. As well as a general approach to the village community, each of the church groups planned to hold at least one fund-raising event, spread so that there would be one event each month throughout the year.

The bellringers got off to an early start with a Shrove Tuesday soup and pancake lunch and then bagged the June slot for an event that would be both more ambitious and more profitable. With the FSG Centenary Party and pig-roast being planned for July at Todenham, we felt there was no need for us to offer the FSG ringers a summer BBQ in Welford after a Saturday practice, as we had done in recent years. This led to the idea that instead we could hold a fund-raising BBQ and Garden Party at 'Greenways' for our church and village people.

The eight ringers in our band, together with friends and families, helped to provide and serve the food and some were kept hot and busy BBQ'ing the special local burgers and sausages etc. We were fortunate to find a source of the most delicious strawberries from a farm in Snitterfield - the freshest and best we had ever tasted.

Games for the young - and not so young - were organised in the garden, including a portable bowling-alley, hired for the day, and skittles, garden bowls, putting and many others. We also ran a book stall, which proved very popular. The event turned out to be far larger - and more exhausting - than the BBQ's we had previously held for our bellringing friends but we were delighted and amazed that at the end of the day we were able to hand over a substantial contribution to the Church Ceiling Repair Fund.

Overall, the fund raising was a success and the work was put in hand towards the end of 2009. As we write this, in February 2010 a service of thanksgiving for its satisfactory completion has just been held. We are very grateful to bellringing friends who rang the following quarter peal at the start of the Garden Party. We were able to hear some of the ringing from the garden.

Freda Cleaver & Ewart Harper

*This method of fund raising, with each associated church group holding an event, is novel - and clearly effective, too. Ed*

### Cambridge University 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We had learned that the year 2009 was the 800th anniversary of the founding of Cambridge University. We could see on Campanophile that many touches of 800 changes of Cambridge Surprise Major had been rung at various towers in Cambridge and around the country. We wanted to join in the celebrations but felt we were not quite up to arranging and ringing 800 changes of Major so we devised a touch of 800 changes of Minor.

We met up short on one occasion when Freda was all geared up to call the touch herself but when we eventually met on 25th October 2009 Nick kindly agreed to call it, as it would be our last chance to ring for the Anniversary in 2009 before Nick went off to work in New Zealand and we knew we'd have a much better chance of success with Nick as conductor, as was proved to be the case.

Many thanks to the friends who joined us for this touch.

Freda Cleaver & Edward Timmins

(Details of the Quarter and 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary touch are in Around the Towers, p.13)

## AUDI VIDE TACE

I received two letters on this; one from Roland Merrick, and one from Peter Richardson. Roland correctly identified the latin translation as 'listen, watch and be silent', but it was his suggestion that it was a variation on the 'Three Wise Monkeys' theme that caught my eye. I'd never thought of that parallel.

Peter Richardson's letter wasn't actually a letter. He just enclosed a copy of the front sheet of the July 1997 Newsletter. It showed I had provided a short article on the meaning of AUDI VIDE TACE and its likely origin. Hmmm; yes, one can forget things... and thank you, Peter, for the kindly way you chose to remind me. My excuse is that I had to fill a small space on the night before printing. What to do? Ah, what about asking a question to generate a letter or two, and possibly an article....? What about AUDI VIDE TACE...?

My 1997 article suggested AUDI VIDE TACE came from Charles Troyte's book 'Change Ringing', originally published in 1869, in which the preface to the first edition ends with those words as advice. His free translation was 'Keep your eyes and ears about you and hold your tongue'. That book ran to at least four editions and certainly penetrated the

North Cotswolds area, as my own copy used to belong to Harry Baker of Ebrington (the same Harry Baker in my Editorial and in the Spencer Jones Cup article). However, Roland's suggestion about the Three Monkeys theme might point to those words being much more ancient, and that Troyte copied them from elsewhere.

The 1997 article was a follow-up to an editorial question to the membership about commissioning a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary badge based on the original pre-WW2 Guild badge, which is quite different to the present metal badge. A sketch of the original badge appeared in that Newsletter. A recent conversation with a FSG member revealed that Tony Brazier had one of these very rare badges. That set me thinking: contact Phyllis to ask whether she still has it and, if so, whether it could be photographed so that it can be seen for real by the membership. As you can see, this is what happened.

In a later Newsletter I asked who was responsible for the FSG badge we have

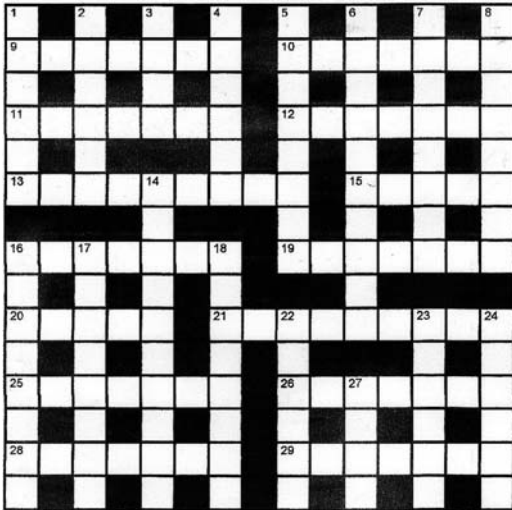
now, but no-one seemed to know. I cannot believe its origins are in the 'old' Guild, and think someone designed it for the refounded Guild 'within living memory'. Tony Brazier may have done, but Phyllis didn't think so (unfortunately Tony was no longer with us when the question was asked). I shall ask the question again: who was responsible for the design of the present FSG badge? CMP





# THE PRESIDENT'S CROSSWORD

Despite having only one of the intended two cataract ops completed, El Presidente has composed another crossword for your delectation. John has been given a date for the second op, so we all wish him well with that.



- 9 Changes on five bells (7)
- 11 Tug mane about to build up the number of bells (7)
- 13 Bandages? (9)
- 16 Changes on four bells (7)
- 20 Changes on ten bells (5)
- 25 An example of modern publishing (7)
- 28 Successful conclusion to a discussion (2.5)



Answers by post to El Presidente at the address on page 2 by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Mark envelope 'FSG crossword'. Answers in the next Newsletter. The first correct answer opened after this date wins the first prize of a night out with John at the pub. There is a second prize this time: two nights (but must be consecutive).

### <<< ANSWER TO THE CROSSWORD IN THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER (123)

A posted answer was received by John, who writes: 'Well done to Isobel Murphy, who almost got the last crossword correct!' Apparently Isobel had everything correct except two words. You will have to negotiate with Il Presidente about the prize, Isobel! Did anyone else get as far? Did anyone get it completely right?

## AN ORIGINAL IDEA (Part 1)

Can you ring Plain Bob Minor? Would you like to ring something just a little bit different but without you (and others) having to learn some fiendishly difficult blue line in order to do so? Do you know at least 5 other people who would also answer "yes" to those questions? If so, then this could be for you. It's called "plain-hunt-with-bobs-in". The posh name for it is "Original". So, on six, we're talking about Original Minor.

Original is a principle, because every bell follows the same path: a plain course of Original Minor is what we all know and love as "plain hunt on six". So, now, if anyone calls for a plain course of Original, you should be able to get up there and ring it with the best of them. And here it is:

- 1 2 3 4 5 6
- 2 1 4 3 6 5
- 2 4 1 6 3 5
- 4 2 6 1 5 3
- 4 6 2 5 1 3
- 6 4 5 2 3 1
- 6 5 4 3 2 1
- 5 6 3 4 1 2
- 5 3 6 1 4 2
- 3 5 1 6 2 4
- 3 1 5 2 6 4
- 1 3 2 5 4 6
- 1 2 3 4 5 6

Of course, it's all over pretty damn quick. So, to make it all last longer, we put bobs in. The thing with Original is that you can put a bob in almost anywhere – every two blows, to be precise.

A bob in Original Minor looks the same as a Plain Bob bob, but with one seemingly innocuous, yet major, difference: the treble may not be leading at the time! Early on in your experience of Original this can be very off-putting, as we've all got rather used to the treble leading when a bob is made. But in Original it could be the 5<sup>th</sup>, the tenor (or the 11<sup>th</sup> if we're ringing Original Maximus, say). This is because it's a principle, in which all bells are equal. The treble is no longer special (or inferior, as some ill-advised folk consider it); in Original it's just a regular guy, an equal player.

So what *do* you do at a bob? It is rather easy to dismiss the niceties of Original bobs with a wave of the hand and a "just-do-a-plain-bob-bob" type of mentality. Those who perpetrate such myths ought to know better. In most normal methods, a conductor can call a bob whenever he or she feels the treble is vaguely approaching the lead, and the ringers will know what to do and when, taking their cues from the treble and a general awareness of the blue line. In Original there are no such guidelines. In Original, timing is everything. Touches of Original are won and lost according to the timing of the conductor's bob calling.

### Down

- 1 Name of eight Kings of England (6)
- 2 A small Australian parrakeet (6)
- 3 Between green and indigo in the spectrum (4)
- 4 Under Bredon Hill (6)
- 5 Period of history when the large reptiles were dominant (8)
- 6 Paying for the bells could be the first of his expenses (10)
- 7 Female acquaintances of most ringers (8)
- 8 Deadly poisons (8)
- 14 Artificial ringing machines (10)
- 16 Result of poor ringing in the opinion of the competition judge (8)
- 17 Describing someone who declines to follow accepted opinion (2.3-3)
- 18 A tenor-ringer's helper (8)
- 22 There are a hundred and fifty of them in the Old Testament (6)
- 23 A martial-art (6)
- 24 Describes most continental ringing changes (6)
- 27 "And Cain ----- Abel" (4)

### Across

- 10 Unflattering name for King Ethelred (7)
- 12 Break up a mob den into the bread-basket (7)
- 15 An association (5)
- 19 Christian symbols (7)
- 21 eg Peter Minchin and others (9)
- 26 Did not come in the first three (4-3)
- 29 Said to be the master of his activity (7)

Provided you are not the conductor, your job is to be alert and to be ready with a quick response, bob-wise. You will be happily ringing away, when suddenly a bob will be called. How you react to this will depend on your personality. There are generally two types of people in this regard:

**Type 1 – the passive responder, or “panicker”**

Most of us fall into this category. Because bobs can occur anywhere, any time, a passive responder tends to blank out the possibility entirely, so that when a bob *is* called it usually comes as a complete shock, despite being an expected one. The normal response is one of panic, of the “what do I do/where am I?” variety.

**Type 2 – the active anticipator, or “stresser”**

These are the people who, in normal methods, build themselves up prior to each lead end anticipating exactly what they *would* do *should* a bob then be called. In normal methods, therefore, such people show heightened levels of stress and anxiety as the treble nears the lead, culminating in a frenzy of highly-focused concentration so as to negotiate a bob that is actually called; or alternatively display considerable relief, accompanied by a noticeable relaxation of facial expression, should a bob not be called.

Needless to say it is very difficult for type 2 individuals to ring Original, as in theory they will be in rapid oscillation between states of stress and relief, as bob-making opportunities come and go every two changes. The only viable strategy for such people is to remain in a state of constant stress and agitation. However, this is very tiring and probably impractical. Extreme cases are best advised to give up trying and go home and have a lie down instead.

The solution, for Original, is to know *exactly where you are at all times*. While, for some of us, knowing the name of the town or village we are ringing in or even the country in which we are domiciled would be considered a satisfactory achievement, in Original we need to know the exact place we are currently occupying in the *change*, and whether we are hunting *up* the change (so our place number is increasing by one each time), or *down* the change (decreasing by one).

Any conductor of Original on even numbers worth his or her salt will call a bob at backstroke. Any conductor of Original on even numbers who calls a bob at handstroke isn't worth anything and should be discarded as soon as diplomatically possible. (Of course, for Original on odd numbers the opposite will be the case, so don't get rid of such aberrant misfits on a non-recoverable basis.)

So, it is Minor and at a backstroke, and a bob has been called. What do you do? The action all takes place over the *next two blows*. The first blow (which is the handstroke *immediately following* the bobbed backstroke) is what those-in-the-know refer to as the *preparatory* stroke. The next blow – the next backstroke – is the *action* stroke. Let us look in detail at the various possibilities. Remember, you are counting your place continuously so you will know what place you are in at every successive backstroke. Let's start as if we are ringing the treble in rounds, and “Go Original” is called.

*Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called:* 1<sup>st</sup>'s place  
*Hunting up or down* up  
*Change in plain course when bob is called* 1 2 3 4 5 6  
*Action over next two changes*

**Unaffected position, so continue hunting up to 2nd and 3rd place, arriving at the 3-up position at the next backstroke.**

*Resulting changes*  
1 2 3 4 5 6  
 2 1 4 3 6 5  
2 4 1 3 5 6

*Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called:* 3<sup>rd</sup>'s place  
*Hunting up or down* up  
*Change in plain course when bob is called* 2 4 1 6 3 5  
*Action over next two changes*

**Make the bob, so lie two blows in 4th place, arriving at the 4-down position at the next backstroke.** You are now hunting down to lead. You are also entering a zone of unaffected positions, so you can relax for a bit until the next time you are in the 3-up position at backstroke.

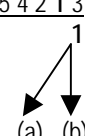
*Resulting changes*  
2 4 1 6 3 5  
 4 2 6 1 5 3  
4 6 2 1 3 5

*Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called:* 5<sup>th</sup>'s place  
*Hunting up or down* up  
*Change in plain course when bob is called* 4 6 2 5 1 3  
*Action over next two changes*

**Dodge 5-6 up, so go to 6th place then dodge immediately back to 5th place.** You are now back where you started two blows ago – *ie* in the 5-up position, so be ready for either:  
 (a) another bob, or  
 (b) no bob.

If (a) another bob is called, then just repeat the process (*ie* do another 5-6 up dodge). If (b) no bob, you just go back to hunting (so your next move is to lie twice in 6th place, so ending up in the 6-down position at the next backstroke). These options are indicated by the arrows below:

*Resulting changes*  
4 6 2 5 1 3  
 6 4 5 2 3 1  
6 5 4 2 1 3



*Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called:* 6<sup>th</sup>'s place  
*Hunting up or down* down  
*Change in plain course when bob is called* 6 5 4 3 2 1  
*Action over next two changes*

**Dodge 5-6 down, so go to 5th place then dodge immediately back to 6th place.** You are now back where you started two blows ago – *ie* in the 6-down position, so be ready for either:  
 (a) another bob, or  
 (b) no bob.

If (a) another bob is called, then just repeat the process (*ie* do another 5-6 down dodge). If (b) no bob, you just go back to hunting (so your next move is to hunt down through 5th and 4th place, so ending up at the 4-down position at the next backstroke). These options are indicated by the arrows below:

*Resulting changes*  
6 5 4 3 2 1  
 5 6 3 4 1 2  
5 3 6 4 2 1



(end of Part 1)

This is the end of my space in this issue, so it's a good time to allow you to digest what's above before we continue to the next part in the July Newsletter.  
 Robert Chadburn

## NOTICES & ADVERTS

### GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2010

The Annual Ringing Tour this year will take place in Rutland, which is not far time-wise from here. Richard Lewis-Skeath has organised five towers, and has ensured the last tower is conveniently situated near the Leicester Northern Ring Road for a quick run home. OS map references are included to aid navigation.

The (provisional) itinerary will be:-

10.15 - 11.00am	UPPINGHAM, St Peter & St Paul (8, 14-2-2 in E)	(SP 867996)
11.15 - 12.00pm	EDITH WESTON, St Mary (6, 7-0-13 in A)	(SK 927054)
12.30 - 2.00pm	Lunch (The Wheatsheaf, Northgate Street, Oakham LE15 6QS is the suggested location)	
2.15 - 3.00pm	OAKHAM, All Saints (8, 24-2-9 in Eb)	(SK 861089)
3.00 - 4.15pm	BELTON-in-RUTLAND, St Peter (6, 10-0-24 in G)	(SK 816014)
4.30 - 5.15pm	THURNBY, St Luke (8, 12-3-12 in E)	(SK 647039)

There will be a charge of £5 per ringer for the day, for tower donations.

Changes to the above may be unavoidable due to a variety of circumstances, so final arrangements will be shown on the FSG web-site in the fortnight before the tour. Check there, or with the Organiser (see below) before departing!

Organiser is Richard Lewis-Skeath (mob: 07747-802555), to whom all thanks.

### GUILD WALKING TOUR – change of date!!

Please Note: it has been necessary to alter the date of this event.

The new date will be **Saturday September 25th** 2010.

Full details will appear in the July Newsletter. The Walk will be in the Kingham/Bledington/Oddington area.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Chris,  
Greetings Chris, in Newsletter 123 you ask: "Does anyone know the origin of our highly-academic motto AUDI VIDE TACE, and its meaning?" I do not know the origin of the motto and my Latin was never great, but the meaning would be something along the lines of "listen, watch and be silent". It appears to be a variation on the Three Wise Monkeys without the specific prohibition of evil. Regards, Roland Merrick, Harvington

*See article on p.8. Ed*

Dear Chris,  
Your Four Shire Stone article certainly sparked some interesting correspondence! Re website

and subscriptions – I am a member of a club that has a website with 'open' and 'members only' pages, the latter protected by an annually charging password revealed on payment of your sub. 'Tower of the Quarter' - some years ago I suggested it would be nice to include a Tower Profile, but before the visit was announced in the Saturday evening Diary, to stimulate interest and encourage visits, particularly for new members who might not have been before. This could emphasise key features, access, etc; ours appeared in Newsletter 115. Yours, Peter Richardson, Halford.

*The suggestion for 'Tower of the Quarter' to appear prior to the Guild's visit is most sensible and will be changed with this issue! The practicality of an annually-charged password may*

*well be discussed by the Committee at some time, with advice from the webmaster. Ed*

Mention in the last Newsletter of the Guild metal badge having two shades of green reminded Allen Turner of the reason for this little feature of our history:

Dear Chris,  
When I was on the committee (Treasurer) in the early 80s, the Guild was running low on badges (dark green), so I approached the Birmingham Badge Co about producing some more. They refused to produce the small batch we required, so I collected the Guild's tooling

and persuaded the Coventry Silvercraft Co to produce the quantity needed. However, they could only offer me the lighter green that we have now. I hope this explains the colour difference. I hope they are still trading if more badges are required, as it is some years since I last used them. Sincerely, Allen Turner, Shipston-on-Stour.

*Another mystery cleared up! Thank you for the useful information, Allen, as we may well need some more badges – and now we know where to obtain them. It appears Coventry Silverware is still operating by the looks of their website: [www.coventry-silvercraft.com](http://www.coventry-silvercraft.com); - and presumably they still have 'our' tooling. Ed*

Dear Chris,  
How many bell ringers know much about their church finances, have a voice on the PCC and the Chairman's ear? As the PCC is ultimately responsible for the repair and maintenance of its church bells, it pays to be involved: do you run a stall at the Church Fête, set aside your wedding fees in a kitty for rope replacement and broken stays, and contribute to church activities, without which there would be no ringing? Most parishes struggle to raise enough for their needs, inevitably with conflicting priorities, but God loves a cheerful giver and a

relatively easy and enjoyable fundraiser is the sponsored walk or ride. Shipston Rotary Club organise their Cotswold Walk on a May Bank Holiday Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> May) over a 7 mile circular hillcrest route near Ilmington & Hidcote with route maps, marshals, first-aid cover, refreshments and toilet facilities for a £5 contribution to their charitable causes, and the rest walkers can donate to their own charity of choice. More details on [www.cotswoldwalk.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldwalk.org.uk). What better way to help keep your bells in good order than some pleasant exercise with family, friends and dogs in delightful Cotswold countryside? Yours, Peter Richardson, Halford.

*Thank you for this, Peter. PCCs are having a tough time, and unfortunately bells have to be low on the priority list. They don't keep out the rain, they don't light or heat the church, and they don't accompany the singing in the Service. It's little wonder they get pushed to the back. A bell fund is a good idea, as it provides some cash for the bells. But it also signifies an interest in them from the ringers, ie the users of the kit. My own tower has had a bell fund for many years. There is a big satisfaction in knowing that the ringers pay their way – and the PCC appreciates it! Ed*

Dear Editors,  
Congratulations on a superb Newsletter, quite

one of the best produced (Sorry Pam!). Our Centenary year has passed and there were many notable events that took a great deal of organising. The peal of FSG Delight Major was a landmark in the history of the Guild, but no lady ringers? I am of the opinion that an opportunity was missed in not organising an Official Centenary Peal. I believe that a peal on Evesham's wonderful 12 would have been a really momentous event. Not only would 4 more ringers been able to take part, it would have, I think, been a first on 12 for the Guild. Perhaps it will be achieved during the next 100 years. I last rang a peal of Grandsire Cinques at Evesham in 1988, sadly not for the FSG. Regards, Robert Hall, Evesham

*Thank you for your kind words re the Newsletter, Robert, particularly so in the light of Pam's truly inspiring work in the past. She led the way; we are just trying to follow in her footsteps. Regarding a FSG 12-bell peal, we think Evesham's Ringing Master is likely to be amenable to the Guild attempting such a peal there in the future. There has been at least one FSG 10-bell peal in the past.*

*The Newsletter team*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SAINTBURY?

Saintbury Church sits half-way up the scarp slope of the Cotswolds, overlooking the Vale of Evesham. It is a prominent landmark, its spire marking it out very clearly. It is an ancient building with an amazing 'peace'; an atmosphere found only rarely. It is very reminiscent of the statement somebody made about Broadway Old Church: 'If God's anywhere, He's surely here.'

Gloucester Diocese rendered Saintbury Church redundant in 2008. The last Service there was held on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 and the bells were rung. The Church has an excellent ring of 8 bells, the recent history of which is a good story in itself. Nothing seems to have happened since the last Service. The Churches Conservation Trust (the charity that exists to maintain redundant churches as churches) was rumoured to be taking over the building, but that hasn't happened yet. Robert Chadburn asked the Vicar about the current position and this is what Robert reports:-

*'I've been in touch with the Vicar, who says there has been no change of ownership as at the present time. There are apparently some "big meetings" taking place this year, which should decide its fate. While the hope and*

*expectation is that it will be taken over by the Churches Conservation Trust there may be some requirements for some "local funding" in order for this to happen (I'm not sure what "local funding" means). All being well, the change-over should occur during 2010.*

*Meanwhile the bells are ringable, visiting bands do ring there from time to time, though nothing has been done by a local band since the end of 2008. It may be high time to organise something, say a quarter or even a peal, so that the bells' presence remains felt.'*

Robert Hall provided photos of the ringers at the last Service. They were: Robert, Sarah and Jenny Chadburn, David and Jane Hammond, Doug Bott, Phyllis Brazier, George Osborn, Peter McFadzeen, Mark Newbury, Mike Fairfax and Robert Hall.

We must hope the intended transfer to the CCT is concluded successfully, as this will give the church long-term security; and of course the bells, too. Perhaps the bells should be rung more often, just to tell everyone they are still there and fully ringable. (Saintbury is on the Saturday night practice list: 19<sup>th</sup> June.) Ed



## AROUND THE TOWERS

### QUARTER-PEALS:-

**Welford-on-Avon, Warks**, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Ted Copson 1, Nick Allsopp 2, Jane Gilbert 3, Jo Langford 4, Charles Wilson 5, Steve Bowley 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, George Harisson 8 Rung on the day of the Welford-on-Avon ringers' Garden Party (see article on p. 8)

**Welford-on-Avon, Warks**, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009. 800 Cambridge S Minor: Jo Langford 1, Jane Gilbert 2, Edward Timmins 3, Freda Cleaver 4, Ted Copson 5, Nick Allsopp (C) 6 Rung to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cambridge University (see article on p.8)

**Great Wolford, Warks**, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2009, 1266 Doubles (Grandsire, Plain, Stedman): Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Keith Murphy 3, Trevor Hobday 4, Peter Kenealy 5, David Adams 6. In memory of Angela Phillips, major benefactor of this tower. Most methods 2, 3 & 5.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Diana Reeves 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Peter Quinn 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. In memory of Stephen Ivin. 1<sup>st</sup> of Yorkshire: 2.

**Salford Priors, Warks**, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1312 Rutland Surprise Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Diana Reeves 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, Alan Hartley 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Nicholls 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath 8. Rung in memory of Elizabeth Dorothy Dady (mother of Sophia), born this day 1944. 1<sup>st</sup> of Rutland: 3 & 4.

**Evesham, Worcs**, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1282 Cambridge Surprise Royal: Chris Povey 1, Annie Hall 2, Alan Hartley 3, Diana Reeves 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, John Nicholls 6, Robert Reeves 7, Peter Quinn 8, Mark Sayers 9, Chris Mew (C) 10.

**Mickleton, Glos** 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1280 Spliced S Major (4 methods; 320 each C, Y, L, S, 36 com): Chris Mew (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Alan Hartley 6, John Nicholls 7, Chris Povey 8. 1<sup>st</sup> Spliced: 2

**Chipping Campden, Glos**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 1296 Spliced Major (3 methods; St Clement's, Little Bob, Plain Bob, 72 com): John Kinchin 1, Peter Quinn 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, John Nicholls 5, Mark Sayers 6, Chris Mew (C) 7, Jackie Hands 8. Birthday compliment to Jackie.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: John Bolton 1, Robert Hall 2, Claire Penny 3, Tom Sandham 4, Chris Povey 5, Martin Penny (C) 6. Rung for the Feast of St Milburgh, to whom (with St Mary) the church is dedicated. 1<sup>st</sup> PB Minor: 4.

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1298 St Clement's College Bob Major: Jo Langford 1, Charles Wilson 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 4, John Caroll 5, Jackie Hands 6, Michael Dane 7, Peter Quinn (C) 8.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 8<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1344 Pudsey S Major: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Diana Reeves 3, Robert Reeves 4, Peter Quinn (C) 5, Chris Mew 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. 1<sup>st</sup> of Pudsey: 2.



The committee members who rang the quarter of Grandsire Doubles at Great Wolford (*see front page*) to mark the centenary of the first peal rung for the Four Shires Guild. L-R: Chris Povey, Andrew Gunn, Peter Quinn, Jackie Hands, John Nicholls, Peter Kenealy.

Hearty congratulations to two ladies this time. Sophia Lewis-Skeath successfully rang 4-Spliced S Major at the first attempt, and Jackie Hands turned Campden's tenor in to 3-Spliced P&L Major for her birthday quarter. Jackie also competently turned Evesham's 36cwt tenor in to Bob Major for a couple of courses, too. A quarter on it sometime, Jackie? Beware the female of the species...

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### TOWER NEWS:

**Stanway:** there are rumours of plans to rehang this 4 and add a treble (the bellframe is currently for 5 bells), although these plans may be long term. The bells are currently listed as 'very limited ringing', which is about right: ringable, but only by the finest of margins. These bells were used for the FSG Minimus Striking competition in 1995 and were extremely hard to ring then.

**Wyck Rissington** bells (4, 7cwt) have become unringable (as reported on 'Dove on-line' recently).

**Mickleton** have some problems with the lower tier of the bellframe there. It moves! Well, just a little bit; but enough to cause some concern and to investigate how to stop it. The movement was discovered when the now-defunct Taylor, Eayre & Smith & Co came to look at the reason for a

reported problem with the 6<sup>th</sup> bell. The initial estimate to sort the frame and an independent rope problem was £32,000, but a cheaper solution has been devised. The lack of shooting boards on some badly-drawn ropes in the intermediate clock room causes 'bellying' of these ropes when pulled from backstroke (witnessed by slap marks on the clock case). A small 'kick' at the sally is felt as the rope straightens. The TESCO rep expressed surprise that no shooting boards had been provided at the 1954 rehang. Peals at Mickleton are unlikely until the frame has been anchored. More money to be spent on keeping bells ringing!

Unfortunately, the tenor clapper at **Norton** couldn't be installed in time for the FSG

practice on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It arrived back on the 19<sup>th</sup> and installation was organised for the following morning, but it was misaligned and had to be returned for corrective work. The practice on the 20<sup>th</sup> was therefore diverted to Salford Priors. Hopefully the notice on the door at Norton regarding the new venue was sufficient to prevent anyone having a wasted journey. **The meeting scheduled for Salford Priors on April 24<sup>th</sup> will now take place at Norton (see Diary overleaf).**

A committee to rehang **Adlestrop** bells is being formed. More on this project will be reported in the next Newsletter.

*Please let me have any information about what's happening in towers in the area. Ed*

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>BRAILES</b> , Warks	6, 29-0-19 in C (the 3 <sup>rd</sup> heaviest ring of 6 in the world!)
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BIDFORD-ON-AVON</b> , Warks	8, 14-0-24 in F (GF)
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL</b> , Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NORTON</b> , Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF) <b>!!NOTE CHANGE TO SCHEDULE!!</b>
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>EBRINGTON</b> , Glos (Take a little care on the tower steps, as some are quite worn)	6, 12-2-12 in F#
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PEBWORTH</b> , Worcs	10, 11-3-9 in F#
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BRETFORTON</b> , Worcs	8, 8-3-11 in F# (GF) (a unique back 6 by J & N Westcott)
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>WELFORD-ON-AVON</b> , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ODDINGTON</b> , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) <b>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</b>
June 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER</b> , Glos	8, 12-1-22 in F#
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BROADWAY</b> , Worcs	6, 18-1-16 in E (GF)
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SAINTBURY</b> , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>DIDBROOK</b> , Glos	5, 6-0-21 in B (GF) (and anticlockwise!)
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>RINGING TOUR TO RUTLAND</b> (see Notice p. 11) - <b><u>NO EVENING PRACTICE</u></b>	
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WHICHFORD</b> , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HALFORD</b> , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STRATFORD-UPON-AVON</b> , Warks (Beware of the narrow spiral staircase and the three close-together steps half-way up!)	10, 19-0-2 in E
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>ALDERMINSTER</b> , Warks	6, 12-0-26 in F

For any alterations to this programme, check the new FSG web-site (<http://www.fourshires.org.uk>), or Campanophile's diary (<http://www.campanophile.co.uk>). The Calendar part of the FSG web-site gives further information about each Saturday night tower (just single-click the tower name), including a location map.

**Meetings are from 7.30pm until 9.00pm unless otherwise stated.** All are welcome. You do not have to be a FSG member and we are especially pleased if members of the local band wish to come along and ring.

A wide range of ringing is undertaken at these practices, so something will appeal to your ability – or your desire to try something a bit more difficult. Practices have been well-attended recently, so this indicates a marked success in getting the right balance.

The Guild carries Public Liability insurance through the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for all its activities. Non-members attending these activities are also covered by this insurance, providing they abide fully by the Guild's Health & Safety and Child Protection policies. (Both policies are due to appear on the FSG web-site very soon, so their contents will be available to all, whether members or non-members.)

**TAG-END:**

**STOP PRESS!!** Our application to affiliate to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers was 'warmly received' by the Admin Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Stage 1 successful! The application now goes for full-Council approval at the end of May. Hopefully this, the final stage, will be successful, too.

**Subscriptions, subscriptions..... Have you paid yours yet? Less than 50% have been paid as at the middle of March. Late-payers, do you think you might..... just.....pay now?**

**The advertising power of the Newsletter was shown by the offer within a fortnight of all-but-one of the missing Newsletters listed in the last issue. Thank you to the donor. Issue no 25 is still required.**

**Dates set for events in 2010 are:-**

<b>Guild Ringing Tour:</b>	<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>
<b>'Mini Mouse' Striking Comp:</b>	<b>'Sometime in August': date to be announced</b>
<b>Autumn Walk:</b>	<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>
<b>Guild AGM &amp; Striking Comps:</b>	<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>

**If they're not in your diary, please enter them now!!**