

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 127 - JAN 2011

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.9	Old Guild members identified
P.3	Editorial; From the Archives (100 yrs ago)	P.10	Original goes Fourth!
P.4	FSG Committee meeting report	P.11	Guild library books list; Towers news
P.5	2010 AGM & Striking Competition	P.12	Notices & adverts
P.6	'RW's 100 yrs' celebrations; Mid-week tours	P.13	Tower of the Quarter: Brailes
P.7	El Presidente's crossword; Buoy bells	P.13	Around the Towers – quarters, etc
P.8	Something different, 1 st for all; A rare bell	P.14	Diary of Saturday meetings; Tag End



Founded 1909

THE CENTENARY STRIKING COMPETITION

First competition: 26th Oct 1910 at Moreton-in-Marsh
100th anniversary: 16th Oct 2010 at Moreton-in-Marsh



(Photo: Sophia Lewis-Skeath)

The very first Four Shires Guild Striking Competition was arranged for Thursday 28th April 1910 at Blockley. Of this meeting the Minute Book records: "Owing to the very inclement weather the attendance was small, and as several of the towers were not fully represented, competitions had to be abandoned." It goes on to record: "The Rev Spencer Jones kindly invited the Guild to hold its Autumn Meeting at Moreton, and it was decided to do so."

The Autumn Meeting at Moreton, on Wednesday 26th October, clearly included enough members, as the Minute of the Meeting states: "For the first time competitions were held, and Five Towers (*sic*) entered namely:- Campden, Shipston, Blockley, Todenham and Longborough." The judge is not recorded, although it may have been 'Mr Barlow of Chipping Norton', as he was the Committee's first choice ('Mr Brinkworth of Oddington' was the second choice). The marks for the three categories in the Competition are recorded: rising & sinking; rounds; call changes. Although no overall winner is given, it was probably the team with the highest total score (Todenham). The marking then was positive, ie marks gained, rather than as now, with faults being counted and the lowest score being the winner.

None of the towers competing in 1910 were represented at the 2010 competition, although our President, John Nicholls from Campden, could be said to uphold that tower's centennial honour. The choice of Moreton for the 2010 location is entirely one of circumstances. Broadwell Church, chosen well before the Old Minute Book was discovered, still had scaffolding around it arising from a delay in the work there, so another location was desperately sought. Moreton seemed like the right place.....! Not the same bells there now, of course (much better than those in 1910!). Read the 2010 Striking Competition report on page 5.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

01386-841084
john.nicholls18b@tiscali.co.uk

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Phyllis Brazier

01386-830589

Rev Dr Peter Newing

01531-635040

Chaplain

Rev Patrick Wooster
01386-45907

Accounts Examiners

Mr Michael Fairfax
Mr Trevor Hobday

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

Mr Peter Quinn

01789-840827
peterquinn22@googlemail.com

Ringling Master

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

01608-652789
sophia.dady@btinternet.com

General Secretary

Mr Andrew Gunn

07711-188239 (voice mail
after 30 secs)
awgrf@hotmail.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Mike Rees

01608-661223
michael.rees83@virgin.net

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Peter Kenealy

01608-685051
peterkenealy@btinternet.com

Mr Bill Nash

01608-682029

Mr Chris Povey

Mrs Jackie Hands

01789-720802

Mr Stuart Cummings

01608-685576

Mr Michael Haynes

CCCBR Representatives

To 1st May 2011:- Mr Andrew Gunn

From 1st May 2011:-
Mr Chris Povey Mr Keith Murphy

Programme Secretary
Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

Child Protection Officer
Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

**Mid-week Tours
General Contact**
Mrs Isobel Murphy

Membership Secretary
Mr Peter Kenealy

Health & Safety Officer
Mr Chris Povey

Newsletter Editor
Mr Chris Povey

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com cmpovey@btinternet.com

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

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (April 2011) is March 13th 2011

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 address 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. It can normally be translated. Just send it in!

Newsletter Editor: Chris Povey Postal and email addresses above ([please note my new email address](#))

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. (I have the facility to scan photo prints if you haven't.) Please let me 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

Happy New Year! 2011 looms before us. What joys, thrills and pleasures will it bring? Much of these and none of the opposites, one hopes.

The snow came and, eventually, went. It must have disrupted some ringing. The Guild practice at Stow had to be cancelled.

The AGM came and went, too. It included the centenary Striking Competition (see front page and p.5). There were some changes to the Committee, plus the addition of two Central Council representatives. A departure was Steve Bowley, who had indicated previously this would occur, his studies – rightly, of course - having to take precedence. Thank you for your time in office, Steve; it was greatly appreciated. Sophia Lewis-Skeath has stepped into the role of Ringing Master (should this now be Ringing Mistress, or Madam Ringing Master?). New faces are Bill Nash as Committee member, and Keith Murphy as one of the new CC reps. Full details of the changes can be found on the updated and revised page 2.

One person who stayed in position is me, as Newsletter Editor. I had warned this issue would be my last and that a new editor would be required from 1st January 2011. However, I was asked if I would reconsider (no, it did not include a rise in salary, nor did it involve my arm up my back) and I've agreed to stay as Editor for one more year. But this agreement includes the proviso that my stay in office will be for that period only, and that a new editor really, really, will be required from 1st January 2012. I shall be putting little reminders about this in the Newsletter throughout the year, working up to a grand crescendo in the October issue, and my farewell in the January 2012 issue. I am neither maestro wordsmith, nor amazing

computer operator, so there must be a number of people out there who can at least equal these abilities and is therefore able to do the job equally well. (On-the-job training can be arranged....)

The major proposal at the AGM was to set up a FSG Bell Restoration Fund. It was voted for almost unanimously, with none against. It is a major political (with a small 'p') step forward for the Guild, as we are now able to show clearly to all that we contribute to the upkeep of the expensive equipment we are allowed to use. We have contributed before, but through the county associations' bell funds. Consequently, the Guild received no formal credit for the grants given to bell projects in this way. That can now change. You will see an application to the Fund was made for a grant towards augmenting Temple Guiting to 6, and that one was given by the Committee at its meeting on January 6th: see Committee Meeting, p.4.

The recent Committee meeting (see overview p.4) saw agreement to the Committee's programme of work for 2011. In addition to organising the now-normal events, there will be a revision of the Guild Rules and a concerted effort to find and record details of all the historical paraphernalia relating to the Guild. This will mainly concentrate on the 'old' Guild items, but may be extended forward as thought appropriate. A revision of the Guild Rules is overdue (last done in 2002), as some clauses need updating and some now seem inappropriate. In addition, the rules of the Striking Competition are to be overhauled and made clearer.

The Guild Annual Dinner will soon be upon us. It is to be held this year in what is now known to be the Guild's spiritual home, Moreton-in-Marsh. The Old Minute Book has shown us the Guild started off in Moreton and that many meetings and committee meetings were held in the town. There was, too, a large amount of support for the Guild throughout the latter part of the incumbency of Moreton's Rector, the Rev Spencer Jones. It is almost by design that Moreton is in roughly the centre of the Guild's area of operation, so distances to travel to the Annual Dinner will be as equitable as possible for most members. The notice showing details of the Dinner is on p.12. Please come!

The 2011 subscriptions became due on 1st January. It's still at the bargain price of £3 (unchanged by the rise in VAT). As last year, please use the renewal slip attached to this Newsletter. It's more convenient for the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer in keeping track of who's paid and who hasn't, and hopefully it's more convenient for you. There was a good response last year. Let's respond at least equally well this year.

Finally, my thanks to those that have contributed to this issue: please continue to do so! It makes my job so much easier.

Chris Povey

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

"Life is like a game of Snakes & Ladders; we all go up some ladders and down some snakes.
We're all looking for the long ladder; and we're all trying to avoid the long snake."

FROM THE ARCHIVES (100 YEARS AGO)

The Old FSG Minute Book records the following for the period 1st January to 31st March 1911:-

1911, 6th March:

A Committee Meeting was held at the Rectory, Moreton-in-Marsh on Monday March 6th 1911 to consider the order of proceedings for the Spring Meeting of the Guild on Thursday Apr 27th 1911. There were present representatives from Moreton, Todenham, Blockley, Shipston, Campden and Longborough. The Rev F W Drewe took the chair in the unavoidable absence of the Rector of Moreton. The following arrangements were passed unanimously:-

2.pm Rising Sinking and Round R^d Competitions
3.30 Call Change & Method R^d Competitions
4.30 Service - Preacher - Canon Houghton
5.30 Meat Tea (9^d to Members) & Business
6.30 Ringing

It was also agreed that as the Todenham team were not to compete, Messrs Large & Case be the Judges in the Competitions. It was further proposed and carried that the Hon Members' Subscriptions be 10/6** per annum and that the Guild Fund be responsible for part payment of the teas.*

A Vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev Drewe for presiding.

* it had been agreed at the previous meeting (26th October 1910) that in future the home team of the tower at which the competitions were being held would be excluded from competing. The April 2011 meeting was to be held at Todenham.

** inflation since 1911 amounts to about 77 times, so the equivalent of this sum is about £40 - and per annum, too!

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 6th JANUARY

The December Committee Meeting had to be postponed, due to the commitments of some members, but this was fortuitous, as the weather at that time was very unfavourable. The meeting was held at Ilmington on Thursday January 6th. The Chairman, Peter Quinn, welcomed new Committee member Bill Nash to the meeting. Mike Rees sent his apologies.

The Minutes of the last meeting, 2/9/10, were agreed as a true record. Matters Arising from the Minutes were: Ringing Master deputies to assist with the Saturday practices in the absence of the Ringing Master (agreed, with Sophia to organise as required); whether to run another Intershires Striking Competition this year (agreed, with competition in early November; President to co-ordinate); post 1974 Minute Books (some are missing and the last-known holder has been uncontactable re their return; Guild Master and Guild Sec to greatly increase efforts to make contact and obtain the books' return).

Reports from each of the Guild Officers and other committee members with specific responsibilities followed. Items of note were: the Secretary (Andrew Gunn) reported the cheque to cover the Guild insurances had been sent and a search for a suitable emergency light for Guild practices was proving difficult; the Treasurer (Mike Rees) had forwarded a brief note of the bank balances; the Membership Sec (Peter K) said 9 subs had been received so far (12 more were given at the meeting) and that the subs slip attached to the January Newsletter will help enormously, as last year; the Fixture Sec (Sophia L-S) said fixtures are running smoothly and the 2011 AGM and Striking Comps had been fixed for October 15th at Barford, Warks; the Child Protection Officer (Sophia L-S) said new legislation was due out in February and that she will view this when it appears; the H&S Officer (Chris Povey) said there had been no reports of any incidents; the Newsletter Editor (Chris Povey) said publication of the January Newsletter had been postponed until soon after this meeting, so that the usual overview of it could appear on this page; no report regarding the web-site, although it is believed

everything is working well; and similarly the Mid-Week Tours, the General Contact for which (Isobel Murphy) reported via the Secretary that the tours continue to be well-supported and that £100 deriving from the tours has recently been paid into the Guild's bank account. Tour details are now shown on the Guild's web-site.

There was one extra item this time, which was the new Guild Bell Restoration Fund, agreement to which had been given at the AGM. An application for a grant had been submitted for the augmentation of Temple Guiting to 6. The Committee considered the application and agreed a grant of £500, the sum to be paid on satisfactory completion.

Following the question at the Striking Competition concerning the validity of a false touch being rung (p.5), Peter Q reported that in this instance the Committee had agreed that the results as given at the time should stand. However, it was evident that the Striking Competition rules needed to be examined to include provision for this and other instances that had collectively come to light in recent years. Bill Nash was tasked with looking at ways in which these rules should be revised and to report back with recommendations for the next meeting.

An organiser for the Ringing Tour on July 2nd was sought. Sophia said Richard L-S would be happy to do this again if required. Agreed enthusiastically by all!

The security of the 1909 Minute Book was discussed. Some progress with depositing in Gloucester County Archives has been made, but full details of any agreement needs to be studied in detail. This subject led on to recording the Guild items that are displayed in various towers in the area, particularly items of the pre-War Guild. It was suggested that a list of individual towers in the area should be

compiled and then particular members would take on a specific number of these towers to inspect and record any information. The results can be held on a computer database.

The purchase of what type of printer to purchase (for Newsletter production) after the existing Canon ink-jet printer expires was discussed. There was some favour for a laser type, which would be more expensive initially, but longer-lasting with cheaper copies. However, little is known about these and more data is required. Hopefully the ink-jet printer will allow some time to consider the next move.

New Newsletter Editor: Chris Povey had said he would cease being Editor after the January 2011 issue. No-one had come forward to take over. Peter Q asked Chris if he would reconsider continuing, to which Chris agreed, but that this would be for one year only, ie that someone else will definitely be required after the January 2012 Newsletter.

It was agreed the current Guild Rules need revising. These were last revised in 2002. Some of the rules are now seen as inappropriate and some aspects need inclusion (eg, CCCBR reps). It is hoped a revised version will be available for consideration of the membership at the 2011 AGM.

Next Meeting: 10th March, Ilmington.

(Please note: this report is an overview of the meeting and does not in any way supplant the formal Minutes that subsequently derive. These Minutes will become available to members on request after the committee has agreed them a true record and then been formally signed-off by the Guild Master.)

RECENT THEFTS OF BELLS

There have been a number of cases nationally in the last two or three months of bells being stolen. These bells have been those easily taken; for instance, those lying around in churches on show, those in open bellcotes in secluded and sometimes not-so-secluded locations, and in one instance an 8cwt bell lying around in someone's garden under a tarpaulin. There was even a theft of 9 bells from the apparently-secure premises of a bellhanger recently. With the price of copper now reaching records levels and tin up by over 50%, it makes bells very attractive to criminals. Very sadly, the criminals don't distinguish between ancient, rare bells and the 'more normally-found' ones – and some ancient, rare bells have been lost. Scrap bellmetal was £300/cwt about 4 months ago, so it may be £350 now, which makes a 3cwt bell worth about £1000. Pretty good pickings if you can enter a deserted church and remove an old bell kicking around in the corner. Might as well put £1000 in a box and mark it 'Money, please do not take'.

If your church, or a church you know of, has some 'easily-takeable' bells, please tell the PCC of these thefts and recommend they remove it/them from sight straightaway. I can think of one church not a million miles from me, where there is a nice 9cwt bell on display – just a mere £3000-worth. Hmm: action required there, I think. Remember, too: locks (and chains) are only to keep honest people out.... And if you think 'It won't happen here', that was probably the thought of those whose bells were taken.

THE 2010 AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITION

The 2010 Guild Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday October 16th at Broadwell Village Hall. It was originally planned to have both the Striking Competition and the AGM at Broadwell, but ongoing building work at the Church prevented holding the Striking Competition there. That was moved to Moreton-in-Marsh (see front page). The church building works also prevented the AGM itself being held in the Church, as originally intended, so a last-minute shuffle of locations and times resulted in the AGM being held at an earlier time in the Village Hall, which had originally been booked for teas and other facilities while the Striking Competition was happening. Ah, the best laid plans, etc! We believe all who intended coming to the AGM had the information regarding the changes in time. We do not believe anyone turned-up at the originally-advertised time. If you did and therefore missed the event, the Committee apologises unreservedly.



Guild President John Nicholls, Bill Nash and Andrew Gunn (Gen. Sec) enjoy the tea.

As usual, an excellent tea was available. Thanks to all who contributed the food, and particular thanks to Stuart and Michael Cummings, who managed the domestics superbly. Move over Nigella, the Domestic Gods are here!

There were nominations and elections for the various posts. The 2010/2011 line-up of Guild Officers, Committee and other positions can be seen on page 2. One new face is Bill Nash (Ilmington) as Committee member. Another is Keith Murphy (Moreton), who becomes one of the Guild's CCCBR representatives from 1st May. Chris Povey is the other elected rep.

A major item of business was the proposal to set up a Guild Bell Fund, as advertised in the last two Newsletters. This was agreed unanimously. The Guild is now 'in business' to give grants to bell projects in the Guild's area



The Domestic Gods, Stuart and Michael Cummings, with David Adams

of operation. Contact the Gen Secretary, Andrew Gunn, for an application form.

We were pleased to have Rev Dr Peter Newing with us. Peter is one of our Vice-Presidents and a long-standing friend of the Guild, having been a Guild member since its refounding in 1974 and who, of course, donated the Newing Shield to the Guild. Peter knows the FSG area well, as he was the Curate at Blockley in the mid/late 1960s.

The Minutes of this AGM are not available for this Newsletter, but will be published in the April issue.

Some photos of members at the AGM (courtesy of Sophia L-S):-



V-President Peter Newing and Chris Povey reminisce about something amusing.

2010 Striking Competition Results:

As last year, there were no entries for the Brazier Trophy this year, which was again disappointing, but the Newing Shield had four towers slugging it out: Mickleton, Ilmington, Wellesbourne and Moreton-in-Marsh, plus a scratch band. The judge was Chris Povey. The results of the contest were:-

Team 1 (Wellesbourne). Rang Plain Bob Minor
Rise: 4 faults; Method: 18½ faults; Fall: 16 faults.
Total 38½ faults.

Comments: very good rise; method didn't fully settle, with different speeds and clipping evident; the fall was rushed, with some clipping and gaps between the front and back bells.

Team 2 (Mickleton). Rang April Day Doubles
Rise: 3½ faults; Method: 8 faults; Fall: 3 faults.
Total 14½ faults

Comments: lovely rise in good time; method nicely rung at a lovely speed, but there was some major crunching at one point – and did it come round at one point soon after? Lovely fall, with only very minor clips.

Team 3 (Moreton). Rang Grandsire Doubles
Rise: 14½ faults; Method: 5½ faults; Fall: 5 faults. Total 25 faults.

Comments: rise had a problem in the middle; method a little shaky at start, but improved and settled better in the middle; fall generally very good, but some gaps gave faults.

Team 4 (Scratch band) Rang Plain Bob Minor
Rise: 7 faults; Method: 4 faults; Fall: 9½ faults. Total 20½ faults.

Comments: rise started well, but had some gaps and clips in the middle; method was a treat to listen to; fall in nice time, but some clips and gaps.

Team 5 (Ilmington) Rang Grandsire Doubles
Rise: 13½ faults; Method: 5½ faults; Fall: 3½ faults. Total 22½ faults.

Comments: nice time for rise, but clips and gaps in it; method quite nice, but rather quick initially, which may have caused a few gaps; very nice fall in a nice time.

Based on the above, the winning order was:-

- 1 Mickleton (awarded the Newing Shield)
- 2 Ilmington (awarded Spencer Jones Cup)
- 3 Moreton
- 4 Wellesbourne

Chris was asked whether a team ringing a false touch could win the contest. He replied the Rules state the judge's marking of the striking is final. False touches were not mentioned in the Rules, although they state that 'all other matters' shall be decided by the Committee. There was no confirmation from team 2 on whether the bells had come round during the method, although others listening had heard it. The team's conductor was asked whether this had occurred, but declined to say, despite three requests. Chris therefore referred this question to the Committee to consider and formulate a response. (*See Committee Meeting report, p.4, para 5, for that response. Ed*)

THE RINGING WORLD'S 100th ANNIVERSARY (with a little bit of 'Asum', too)

'The Ringing World', the ringers' newspaper, will be 100 years old on 24th March 2011. 'The Comic', as it is affectionately known, has battled through thick and thin, including two World Wars, at least one printers' strike, the 1947 and 1963 winters, an extreme shortage of newsprint paper requiring fortnightly publication and now the advance of internet communication, to continue giving us – well, some of us – our weekly 'fix'. To mark the occasion, there will be some impressive celebrations in London on Saturday March 26th 2011.

The celebrations cover the full day. Some of the events require tickets, which can be obtained from the RW office or from its web-site (www.ringingworld.co.uk/centenary). Some towers will be open for ringing, some mini rings will be available, there is to be a carillon recital (on a real carillon) on the Bond Street instrument, plus various other activities. However, the highlight will be a Celebratory Evensong in Westminster Abbey in the late afternoon and a Grand Ringers Gathering in Central Hall, Westminster, afterwards. The full programme and details can be found on RW's web-site (see above).

In addition to the day itself will be an exhibition of ringing, entitled 'Inspired by Bells'. This

exhibition will run from Monday March 21st to Saturday March 26th, and has been 'specially curated for the Ringing World's Centenary. (It) will show bellringing from a contemporary artist's perspective and artworks include drawing, painting, cartoons, sculpture and film.' The exhibition is being held in the Royal Opera Arcade Gallery, Pall Mall. I am able to tell you a little bit of Evesham is to grace this exhibition, as the organisers have requested the 'Evesham painting' for inclusion.

The 'Evesham painting' (as it has come to be called) was painted by Philip Shepherd RWS in about 2001. Many of you will have seen it at the FSG practices held at the Tower. We normally keep it covered up, because, being a watercolour, the colours can fade in sunlight.



When Philip presented it to the Tower, I wrote an article for the Ringing World, and a photograph of it appeared on the front page. Its image was used soon after to produce some high-quality wooden jig-saw puzzles to raise money for the CCCBR bell restoration fund.

In case you're wondering what 'RWS' (after Philip's name) denotes, it means Member of the Royal Watercolour Society. The patron of the Society is HM The Queen and I understand full membership is limited to 80. Each member is given a large and impressive membership certificate (I have seen Philip's), which contains the Queen's signature. There is reason to believe these certificates are signed personally, ie not just a stamp.

As you may imagine, the Bell Tower band feel very fortunate to be the guardians of such an impressive painting by such an impressive artist. We are rather proud that it will form part of RW's celebrations. If you're going to the celebrations, pop into the ROA Gallery to take a look.

Chris Povey

A LOOK BACK ON RECENT FSG MID-WEEK TOURS.

The Four Shires Guild's Mid-Week Outings continue to be very successful. Thursday 19th August was 20 years since the late Tony Brazier phoned me to ask if I was interested in a day's Ringing Outing. I had just retired. Fifteen of us set out. Our first tower was Belbroughton and three other towers in the Kidderminster area. We were ringers from villages in the Evesham and Pershore area.

Thursday 19th August 2010 was the 250th outing, organised by Margaret Pratt. The first tower was the 8 (15cwt) at Mickleton, then on to the 6 (12cwt) at Willersey. After lunch we rang on the 8 (11cwt) at Saintbury. Not only was it a good ring, but the view over the Vale of Evesham and beyond on that lovely clear day was worth seeing. We ended the day on the 8 (22cwt) in the lovely Cotswold town of Chipping Campden, where our ladies supplied us with tea and cakes.

We have had some very enjoyable outings taking us to all the different Counties in the Midlands. Every one has its beauty.

The April Outing, organised by Pat Halls, took us into South Derbyshire. The first tower was the 8 (11cwt) at Netherseal, and then on to the 6 (13cwt) at Lullington. We then had lunch at Acresford and in the afternoon rang on the 10 (9cwt) at Ticknall. We ended a lovely day on the 12 bells (15cwt) at Melbourne.

The May Outing, organised by Colin Lord,, took us to North Buckinghamshire. The first tower was the 8 (15cwt) at Wicken, and then on to the 6 (10cwt) at Maids Moreton, where we had lunch. Afterwards we rang on the 6 (16cwt) at Great Horwood, and ended the day on the 8 (17cwt) at Winslow.

The June Outing, organised by Alan Marks, took us to Northamptonshire,

where the first tower visited was the 6 (12cwt) at Yelvertoft. The next tower was the 6 (8cwt) at Guilsborough, where lunch was taken. In the afternoon we rang on the 8 (12cwt) at Welford and ended another lovely day's ringing at Castle Ashby (6, 6cwt).

The July Outing, organised by Sandra Parker, returned to South Warwickshire, where the first tower visited was the 6 (13cwt) at Honington. From there we rang on the 6 (14cwt) at Butlers Marston. Lunch was taken at the Castle Inn, Edge Hill, which overlooks the valley where the Battle of Edge Hill was fought centuries ago; and what a beautiful view it is! After lunch we rang on the 6 (9cwt) at Shotteswell, and ended the day on the 8 (10cwt) at Kineton.

The September Outing was organised by Geoff Pratt and took us to the Rugby area of Warwickshire. The first tower was Rugby Parish Church's West tower (5, 9cwt) and then its North-east tower to ring on the 8 (25cwt). The Barley Mow at Newbold-on-Avon provided lunch, after which we rang on the 10 (12cwt) at the church there. The day ended by ringing on the 6 (7cwt) at Church Lawford.

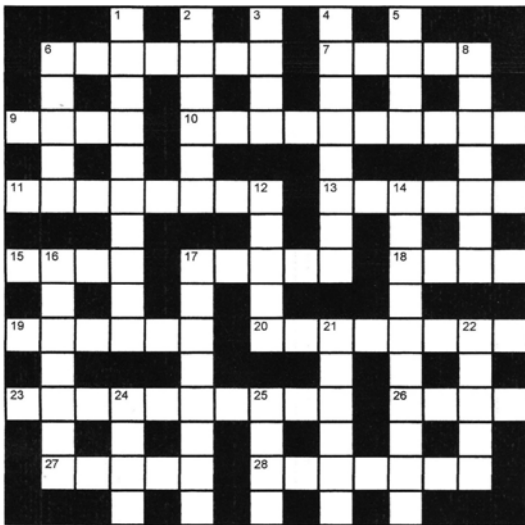
It is not only the ringing we enjoy. There is the comradeship and friendship we get from ringers over eight different Midlands counties. There is the beauty of different towns and villages, the different coloured stone and scenery - and the different brews as we travel about.

Frank Spiers

Thank you for your report of the Mid-Week tours, Frank. Please provide some more in future. Ed

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Presidente's consistency in providing crosswords for FSG members continues to astound. What a first-rate chap he is in helping the Editor fill the Newsletter! This crossword has a different matrix and, judging by the clues, a slightly different 'flavour' (indeed, many flavours.....).



ANSWER TO THE CROSSWORD IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER (126)

Down

- 1 Fraud tails the sweet (anag) (5,5)
- 2 The French think this sweet is doubly good (6)
- 3 The last Stewart monarch (4)
- 4 Piece containing a rib (8)
- 5 Part of a cock game-bird not eaten (4)
- 6 Root vegetable. From Scandinavia? (5)
- 8 Needing more mastication! (7)
- 12 Slow the music down (5)
- 14 Stimulating bakery? (6,4)
- 16 Put R in a peal to get a nutty sweet (anag) (7)
- 17 Speed of cricket or too high an opinion? (8)
- 21 Pastry filled with cream (6)
- 22 An organic poison (5)
- 24 Sport or food? (4)
- 25 Killer whale (4)

Across

- 6 A good quality cut of beef (7)
- 7 A savoury jelly made with meat (5)
- 9 Half a clue! (4)
- 10 Grubber fee. In a bap? (anag) (10)
- 11 Score plan. For oneself? (anag) (8)
- 13 Where offal ends up in Scotland (6)
- 15 German car (4)
- 17 Admit to error (3,2)
- 18 A person who is obsessively interested (4)
- 19 A joint of meat or a col or a seat (6)
- 20 Let me toe the egg dish (anag) (8)
- 23 Grill ref on a subject of bread (anag) (6,4)
- 26 Steersman's apple? (4)
- 27 Ant, wandering around the South-West (5)
- 28 Cowardly bird? (7)

BUOY BELLS.

Some years ago, in the issue of 24th October 2003, The Ringing World ran a most interesting article by David Kelly of the Keltek Trust about Trinity House bells commissioned from the bellfounders. These bells were fitted to buoys and were required to warn of hazards and mark navigable channels for shipping around our shores, being particularly valuable in mist or fog. It seems they had a special flanged top and four hammers to allow for the varied directional sea swell. Over the years as they were worn or damaged they were recast, but as many became redundant the Trust was able to relocate some to Church use.

More recently my wife and I enjoyed a conducted tour of Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. The principal object was a trip around the Home Fleet Anchorage and an underwater robotic view of some of the remaining German fleet that had been scuttled after the 1918 Armistice. It was a fascinating visit to a variety of sites occupied during both World Wars: the Royal Oak War Grave, the Kitchener Memorial, old aerodromes,

the Italian POW Chapel, Kirkwall Cathedral, the prehistoric village and henge, etc.

To whet the appetite, here is a photo of one of the many buoys that were in Scapa Flow. It is outside the Royal Naval Museum there.



(Cast by Taylors in 1960 for Trinity House)

As a holiday it was a memorable experience, liberally laced with 'Scapa', their own distillation of Scotch – and the beer was enjoyable, too.

I suppose we shall never know the extent to which these buoy bells contributed to maritime safety, but it must have been immense; and still this continues despite modern technology.

Kipling was inspired to compose a poem in tribute to them.

Peter Richardson

(Thank you for this interesting article, Peter. I was unaware of Kipling's poem about buoy bells and looked it up on the internet. It may be accessed at:- www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-bell-buoy/)

SOMETHING DIFFERENT – A ‘FIRST’ FOR ALL

Within the FSG we have at least two ringers who have moved into the area and are used to ringing the ‘Devon Peal’, and method ringing is totally alien to them. With this in mind I had a closer look at ‘60 on 3rds’ (outlined in Pam Copson’s blue Follow-on book) and pondered as to whether I could call the changes.

The ringing practice at Whichford on Tuesday 30th November was not going too well; there were just six of us and the striking was rather poor.

I asked if I could try to call the Devon 60 on 3rds Peal and without much ado I did just that (no crib sheet or revision in the tower). It was a first time for all of us and made us concentrate perhaps more than normal. We closed the bells up, and without the open handstrokes the bells soon

speeded along. A few minutes later it was successfully completed

So now perhaps there will be further opportunities to include our Devon Peal ringers. The ringers taking part in this performance were:-

Treble: Allen Turner (c)
2: Trevor Hobday
3: Peter Kenealy
4: Michael Cummings
5: Stuart Cummings
Tenor: Edwin Rose

I know this is of less note than a quarter peal, but I thought it was worth a mention.

Allen Turner

(I never underestimate the call-change ringing found in Devon and Cornwall. The standard of striking is supremely high, and the changes themselves are called very quickly. No method ringer should enter a Devon or Cornish tower with the idea they can show the locals a thing or two about ringing. I’ve rung with local bands down in those parts on a couple of occasions and been very much on my mettle to keep up with the quality of their striking. If you managed to meet the Devon/Cornish standards of striking, Allen, then your performance was well on a par with a quarter!

Details of the ‘60 on 3rds’ peal is now in the Ringing World Diary. Ed)

A RARE BELL (RE)DISCOVERED AND A MYSTERY SOLVED

I became involved recently with the discovery of a rare bell. This came about by reading some historical notes a fellow villager had compiled about Wormington Church. This church has a small, enclosed bellcote with a short spire constructed on top of the west end of the nave roof. It contains one bell of about 3½cwt by William Bagley 1700 (hung for ringing; but it would be horribly foolish to do so). It has been said the church had a tower at one time, which contained three bells, but there are no signs on the stonework of such a structure being there, so it was thought to have been a mistake or a proposal that was never built.

To compound the mystery, the Rev H T Ellacombe, the Victorian bell historian and author of ‘Church Bells of Gloucestershire’ published in 1881, recorded that Wormington had three bells, but he gave the church’s dedication as Holy Trinity (it’s St Catherine), so he was thought to have mixed Wormington up with somewhere else, particularly as his records do have errors.

A sketch of the church in 1843 recently came to light. It shows the church with a tower. It was easy to see why there were no signs in the stonework, because the tower, of wood, was situated where the bellcote currently sits; that is, on top of the roof. Apparently the tower needed major repairs, so in 1885 it was removed and the bellcote was put in its place. It was obviously there when Ellacombe published his book.

The question of the apparently-incorrect dedication was solved when reading a book about Wormington published in 1917, in which the author stated that the dedication was Holy Trinity, or St Catherine. So Ellacombe was correct on that. This also provided further confirmation that at one time Wormington Church did, indeed, have a tower containing three bells.

This was very intriguing, particularly as Ellacombe recorded that one of the bells was cast by John Clarke, but that it was cracked. John Clarke is now known to have cast bells at Evesham’s bellfoundry, although it appears he cast only in 1711. He may well have been a relative (a son?) of William Clarke, who, with Michael Bushell, cast bells there between 1703 and 1707. John may have restarted the foundry in 1711, but unfortunately for him the land upon which the foundry and the adjoining Abbey Gatehouse stood was sold in 1711, so his bellfounding was very short-lived. He is therefore the last of five bellfounders to have cast bells in Evesham. There is one bell by him, the 2nd of the ring of 3 at Whatcote, Warks, and a record of one likely to have been cast by him, a small bell at Combrook, Warks, known to have been cast in Evesham in 1711. Unfortunately, this bell was recast by Mears & Stainbank in 1867, as one of the three small bells there now by them.

Another historical note by my fellow-villager caught my eye. It said that, on removal of the tower, one of the bells was sold for scrap, because it was cracked, and another was sold to a Churchwarden in Ashton Gate, Bristol. Ellacombe noted the John Clarke bell was cracked, so that was the one that was scrapped: shame. Hmm, I wondered; is the bell sold to Ashton Gate still in existence? Would be rather nice to know if it is. A trawl through Bristol Diocese’s bell records revealed that St Francis, Ashton Gate still has one bell, dated 1711 and founder ‘Abraham Rudhall’. Oh my gosh, that date, 1711, plus uncertainty about the founder! Surely a Rudhall bell would be easily identifiable? Is it too much, I wondered, to hope that Ellacombe made one of his errors about the cracked bell, and that – possibly – the bell at Ashton Gate

is in fact the John Clarke bell?

I knew the person who had supplied the data for the bell record and was able to contact him with a plea for help. There was a reply next morning, saying he’d turned up details from his own records that confirmed the Ashton Gate bell is indeed by John Clarke. Hurray!!!

The supporting data he gave me showed the bell had had a very exciting existence since being at Ashton Gate. The original church had been bombed twice during the Bristol blitz, the second time leaving the church unusable. The bell had been in an open bellcote on the roof, so was lucky to escape damage. It was again lucky to be saved when the church was demolished, the bombing having rendered the building uneconomic to rebuild. When a new church was built 1951-53, the architect wrote to Albert Hughes of Mears & Stainbank (now Whitechapel Bell Foundry) for advice on hanging it ‘dead’, for which the foundry provided a new canon-pad, bronze canon-hooks and the new clapper, all for £16-3s-0d. The architect mentioned ‘the bell is inscribed ‘John Clarke 1711’. Mr Hughes replied, “...I cannot find anything about John Clarke. Not one of my reference books mentions him.”!

So, a rare bell has come to light – yet again, apparently, but this time more permanently and also is recognised as such. Rather sadly it isn’t now ‘just round the corner’ from where I live, nor is it now local to where it was cast. But very happily and by a large slice of luck, it still exists.

Chris Povey

SOME OLD GUILD MEMBERS IDENTIFIED

When the photo taken of the Guild in April 1930 appeared in last April's Newsletter, I asked whether it might be possible to identify any of the members on it. Our President, John Nicholls, has managed quite a number, having rung with some of them in the past. Here are the results of John's labours. Can anyone else add more names?



* I THINK THIS IS JESSE PYE BUT NOT SURE.

If you think you can identify more old members, take a copy of this page, mark whichever old member you can identify in the same way as above and send the sheet to me. Post it, or, if you have a scanner, scan the information and email it to me. Eventually, we can build up a single sheet with all the names on.

There are some old photos around which have the names of members on. These can provide valuable information, as proved by the photo in Great Wolford tower showing six ringers with the Old Shield in 1932. This photo provided four names for the above.

Chris Povey

ORIGINAL GOES FOURTH!

This is an article about Original Triples, and is the fourth in my series about Original. The first three articles were about Original Minor, taking you from basic ringing and calling steps up to calling quarter peals. If you would like to read them, you can find them in the last three issues of the FSG Newsletter (*and on the FSG website in the past Newsletters section, Ed*). However, they are not necessary pre-reading for *this* article, and you can continue to read on now in blissful ignorance of what has gone before, and you should be none the worse for the experience.

Any band that can ring Grandsire and/or Oxford Bob Triples should be able to cope well with Original Triples. Original Triples is plain hunting on seven. Just add bobs and singles and you are there.

Bobs

As in Original Minor, Original Triples is a principle, so all bells do the same work (*ie* plain hunt) - and all bells can be affected by the bobs and singles.

Bobs and singles in Original Triples are made in 5th, 6th and 7th places. To illustrate the calls, here are the first six changes of the plain course (*ie* without any bobs or singles):

```

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 1 4 3 6 5 7 *
2 4 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 6 1 7 3 5
4 6 2 7 1 5 3

```

Bobs and singles are called at handstroke (rather than at backstroke, as in Original Minor), and they take effect immediately at the next backstroke and handstroke. So, if a bob is called at row * above, the following happens:

```

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 1 4 3 6 5 7 CALL BOB
2 4 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 6 1 3 5 7
4 6 2 3 1 7 5

```

So, if at the handstroke at which the bob is called you are in 4th's place going up, then at the next backstroke and handstroke you make two blows in 5th's and hunt in. This is shown above by the path of the 3rd.

If you are in 6th's place going up when the bob is called (*ie* having just arrived at the back), then you dodge once in 6-7 up. This is shown above by the path of the 5th.

If you are in 7th's place going down when the bob is called (*ie* having just rung your two blows at the back), then you dodge once in 6-7 down. This is shown above by the path of the 7th.

As in Minor, calls can be made in succession. So, suppose we called another bob at the next handstroke immediately following the previous call, the following would happen:

```

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 1 4 3 6 5 7 CALL BOB
2 4 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 6 1 3 5 7 CALL ANOTHER BOB
4 6 2 3 1 7 5
6 4 3 2 1 5 7
6 3 4 1 2 7 5

```

The result is that the two bells at the back dodge again (in the same places), while a second bell (the treble in this case) makes 5th's. There can be up to 4 bobs in succession without the changes running false.

We identify where the bob comes in the touch by the place of the bell you are calling from when the bob is called. So, if you were calling the above touch from the seventh, we would say that 2 bobs in 7th's have been made.

Singles

If a single is called at * in the plain course sample (see left), the following changes happen:

```

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 1 4 3 6 5 7 CALL SINGLE
2 4 1 6 3 7 5
4 2 6 1 3 7 5
4 6 2 3 1 5 7

```

So, if you are in 4th's place going up when the single is called, you lie two blows in 5th's place and hunt in again (the same as at a bob), as shown by the path of the 3rd.

If you are in 7th's place going down when the single is called, you make two blows in 6th's and go back into 7th's place (ready to lie again unless another call is made).

Note that if you are in 6th's place when the single is called, you just lie behind (*ie* your path is unaffected by the call). However, it will feel different to ring, as you will do your two blows over the same bell, rather than over two different bells as you would have done if no call were made.

Touches

As you might have come to expect by now, you can compose some really pretty touches of Original Triples. The first two below are examples of "proper" Original, in which all bells are affected by calls (including the treble). The music is densely packed and the calling is simple (relative to what it can be!). My humble but immodest opinion is that these are some of the most musical touches of Triples known to man.

Touch 1: 144 changes of Original Triples

Call 7:	<u>7 5 3 1 2 4 6</u>	Course end
	3 - - -	4 3 5 1 6 2 7
	- - - - -	<u>3 1 2 4 5 6 7</u>
	Repeat twice	

Touch 2: 144 changes of Original Triples

Call 7:	<u>6 7 3 1 2 4 6</u>	Course end
	- - - - 3	3 1 4 2 6 5 7
	- - - -	<u>3 1 2 4 5 6 7</u>
	Repeat twice	

Note that Touch 2 starts with a bob at 6, which means the conductor will have to commence the touch with the dramatic command of "Bob! - Go Original!" The bob is then made in the very first change (the 5th makes a place in 5th's and hunts in while, Grandsire-like, the 6 and 7 do half a dodge at the back before leaving).

These two touches are similar in the changes they contain, but Touch 1 has all the 5-7s and 4-6s at handstroke, while in Touch 2 they are all at backstroke. You can therefore choose whichever aesthetics please you the most, but my money goes on Touch 2.

Both touches include handstroke and backstroke roll-ups, 7654s at the back, and nice tittum effects. Lovely!

For me, any other touches are in some way all inferior to these, though modesty prevents me from going on about this too much. However, for those who find security in a hunting treble (or indeed if you have 6 'Original' ringers** (!) plus one who can hunt a treble) then Touch 3 below is about the best we can do.

Touch 3: 168 changes of Original Triples

Call 7:	<u>7 5 3 1 2 4 6</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	- - - - -	
	- - - - -	
	- - - - -	2 6 3 4 1 5 7
	2 - - - -	3 4 2 6 5 1 7
	- - - - -	4 1 5 2 6 3 7
	- - - - -	
	- - - - -	2 3 4 1 6 5 7
	- - - - 4	3 6 2 4 1 5 7
	- - - - -	
	- - - - -	3 1 2 4 5 6 7
	- - - - -	<u>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</u>

Advertisement feature

If you've enjoyed ringing these touches, then why not go for a peal? I've got two different compositions for you to try, each including hundreds of bobs and singles. Special offer while stock lasts – choose one and get the other absolutely free! (Actually they're both free, just get in touch with me and you can have them.) And, yes, neither has ever been rung – you could be the first!

Due to a popular request, there will be a final article next time, in which I will summarise what happens with Original on 8 bells and upwards, along with a few touches to whet your appetite. Thank you for reading, and happy ringing!

** I think there are plenty of us in the FSG who would count ourselves pretty much as "original" ringers! (*Ah, you be right, my bwoy. Thur's thee and me, and 'im and 'im over thur, plus 'er... ah, an' I furgot 'im....an' I sin plenny more, an'all. Ed.*)

Robert Chadburn

THE GUILD'S LIBRARY

Did you know the Guild has a library, from which books may be borrowed? It has had this for many years and a list of books, either for borrowing or for sale, used to appear in the Newsletter. Peter Kenealy is the 'keeper of the books'. The list of library books is as follows:-

A Schedule of Regular Maintenance.	Central Council.	Stedman Doubles & Triples.	Oxford D Guild
Collection of Doubles Methods	Central Council	Grandsire Doubles.	Oxford D Guild
Collection of Plain Minor Methods	Central Council	Bob Calling for Beginners.	Oxford D Guild
Conducting for Beginners.	Central Council	Learning Change-ringing on Handbells.	Oxford D Guild
Doubles & Minor for Beginners.	Central Council	Eight Doubles Methods.	Oxford D Guild
Elementary Method Construction.	Central Council	Surprise Minor – Part 1	Oxford D Guild
Guidelines for a do-it-yourself Project.	Central Council	Surprise Minor – Part 2 & 3	Oxford D Guild
Judging Striking Competitions.	Central Council	Conducting Stedman.	David E. Parsons
Maintenance Handbook.	Central Council	Grandsire.	J. Armiger Trollope
Minor Methods.	Central Council	Raising & Lowering in Peal.	John Harrison
Place Notation.	Central Council	Standard 70.	John Longridge
The Council's Decisions, May 26 th 1992.	Central Council	Conducting & Coursing Order.	John Longridge
Towards Better Striking.	Central Council	Treble Bob Major Variations.	John Longridge
Tower Captains Handbook	Central Council	Conducting Grandsire Triples.	Norman Chaddock
Triples & Major for Beginners.	Central Council	The Follow-on Book for Bellringers.	Pam Copson
Rope Splicing.	Oxford D Guild	The "Standard 8" Surprise Major Methods.	Peter T. Hurcombe
Bibliography.	Oxford D Guild	Will You Call a Touch Please, Bob.	Peter T. Hurcombe
Plain Hunting & Plain Bob Doubles.	Oxford D Guild	The Method Ringer's Companion.	Steve Coleman
Belfry Care & Maintenance.	Oxford D Guild	Ropesight.	William Snowden
Arranging one day ringing & maintenance courses.	Oxford D Guild		
Sound Control.	Oxford D Guild		

Peter is the man to see if you would like to borrow a book. Please see him, too, if you think a book ought to be included in the library. My own suggestion is Steve Coleman's other books in his series, because, apart from being an excellent read by an excellent writer (nobody writes quite like him!), they offer exceptionally good advice on many aspects of ringing. Ed

AROUND THE TOWERS TOWER NEWS:-

Temple Guiting: the generous grant from the Guild (see p.4) puts this augmentation project very much further forward to completion. Gloucester DAC have agreed to the proposals, so when the last few hundred pounds required are obtained, the project is expected to proceed. This will probably be in April/May. Installation time is no longer than two days. The new treble will make a very nice, well-balanced ring of 6 – something the village intended to happen in 1970. And the Guild will have helped!

Lower Slaughter: there is some concern over the tenor here, as it's

become rather 'clanky'. A visiting band of experienced ringers suggested it could be cracked, although an initial visual survey failed to find one. Taylors' bell master, Andrew Higson, has agreed to investigate the bell when he is in the area on February 12th, after which more definite information will be known.

Adlestrop: the PCC has asked for an inspection of the bell installation by English Heritage, to determine their position on removing the bellframe and disposing of the tenor.

GUILD ANNUAL DINNER
SATURDAY, 5th FEBRUARY 2011

The Annual Dinner will be held at The Royal White Hart Hotel, Moreton in Marsh, Glos
7.00 for 7.30pm.

MENU

Winter vegetable broth served with crusty bread

or

Ham hock terrine with apple chutney

Roast pork served with fondant potatoes, sage and onion stuffing, seasonal

Vegetables and gravy

or

Poached salmon with crushed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables and finished with a herb cream sauce

or

Ribbons of pasta with oven dried tomatoes and goats cheese

Vanilla crème Brulee served with shortbread

or

Apple crumble served with custard

Cost of Dinner £20.00

Please let either John Nicholls on 01386 841084 or Peter Quinn on 01789 840827 know your
choice of menu by Saturday 22nd January 2011

There will be a guest speaker

The striking competition cups and trophies will also be presented

The oldest Bellhanging Company in the UK
combining Modern Technology with Traditional
Craftsmanship

WHITES OF APPLETON LTD



Church Bellhangers

(Established 1824)

Appleton, Abingdon, Oxon. OX13 5JJ

Tel: 01865-862549 Fax: 01865-864969

E-mail: bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk

Web site: <http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk>

Free inspections on the UK mainland
No deposit required with order



**BACK ISSUES OF THE FSG
NEWSLETTER WANTED BY THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Jill Roberts has kindly donated many Newsletters for the above cause – thank you, Jill. Most of the issues from nr 20 to nr 125 are now to hand, so the CCCBR librarian will be very pleased. However, issue nr 25 is missing from this collection and from the Guild's own collection. Does issue 25 actually exist, or was there a mistake in the numbering?

Does anyone have the very early issues to donate, from nr 1 to issue nr 20? And equally importantly, does anyone have the apparently-fabled issue 25?

CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS?

TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ST GEORGE’S, BRAILES



(Photo: Stuart Cummings)

St George's Church, Brailes: ah! many ringers up and down the land have heard of it, and have probably rung there, too, just to say they have. When the new tenor at St Buryan in Cornwall was cast overweight in 1994 to oust Queen Camel (Somerset) from the 'heaviest 6' slot, Brailes was relegated to the 3rd heaviest ring of 6. Brailes bells are well-known to be 'something of a handful' (ever wondered why Stuart Cummins is such a big chap...), and this is due to movement of the tower. It's now known the bells swing at much the same time as one of the resonant frequencies of the tower. The tenor, dated 1877, is the largest bell cast by William Blews & Son of

Birmingham, and weighs 29-0-19. The 2nd is a very ancient bell, cast about 1440 by William Chamberlain. Taylors rehung the bells in a new metal frame lower in the tower in 1957. The previous rehang had been by Frederick White of Appleton in 1894, who, when questioned about the improved but still-adverse go afterwards, is reputed to have replied, "Tis that poplar tree as they be hung in", referring to the tall and somewhat slender tower. Enough of the bells, though; those who haven't rung at Brailes can sample them on March 5th at the Guild Saturday Practice.

The Church is large and imposing, its lofty tower adding a pleasing and balanced proportion to the main body. There has been a church on the site since the early 11thC, although only very small traces of this have been identified. The present building dates generally from the mid-14thC, but there have been many alterations and additions since then. The nave extended originally to roughly the line between the north door and south porch, but was extended westwards in the 15thC. The nave has a line of carved corbels, 12 either side, supporting the roof trusses, the carvings being of faces and people, animals and mythical figures. They are thought to date from the mid 14thC, except for one, a vicar in full-bottomed wig and bands, which is presumed to date from the repairs of 1649.

The octagonal font dates from the 14thC, but the base is later. The ornate cover was provided in 1879

The chancel has a high-pitched roof, but the original roof is said to be preserved above the current ceiling lining. The east window dates from 14thC, although the stained glass is Victorian. On the south wall are three sedilia on three levels that date from the Middle Ages. The finely-carved stone reredos and altar were provided in 1879.

The tower was added in the 15thC and rises to 120ft (equivalent to Campden's). One can hardly believe it moves – but it does (as does Campden's, of course)!

When viewing the outside of the church, don't miss the delightful open bellcote above the chancel arch. This was erected in the 19thC and contains the sanctus, a small bell of about 1700.

Lastly, if you want to see a bird's eye view of the Church, there is no need to hire a helicopter. Just walk over to the North Aisle to view the magnificent model of the Church. It was constructed by Mr Fred Hall of Shipston, who used some 250,000 matchsticks over the 7-year period it took to complete the model. It encourages donations for the upkeep of St George's. Please donate!

AROUND THE TOWERS QUARTER-PEALS:-

Stratford-on-Avon, Warks, 30th Sept, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Andrew Gunn 1, Robert Chadburn 2, Chris Righton 3, Michael Grey 4, Charles Wilson 5, John Nicholls 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Mike Fairfax 8. Compliment to the National Farmers Union Insurance Co Ltd for the Centenary today of the formation of the Company.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 11th Oct, 1282 Lincolnshire S Major: Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 1, Ruth Border 2, Chris Mew 3, Alan Hartley 4, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 5, Karen French 6, John Nicholls 7, John Gwynne 8.

Chipping Campden, Glos, 31st Oct, 1264 Plain B Major: Freda Cleaver 1, Jane Gilbert 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Michael Haynes 4, George Osborn 5, Charles Wilson 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, James Trewin 8. Rung for All Saints day for 1st Nov 2010. 1st in tower for bell 2.

Great Wolford, Warks, 11th Oct, 1320 Doubles (4m): Graham Allman 1, Michael Haynes 2, Rosemary Hemmings 3, Colin Meakes 4, Michael Dane (C) 5, Stuart Cummings 6

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 1st Nov, 1280 Glyncorwg D Major: Diana Reeves 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Chris Mew (C) 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Peter Quinn 5, Alan Hartley 6, Mark Sayers 7, Robert Reeves 8.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 8th Nov, 1280 Oxford TB Major: Michael Gray 1, Alan Hartley 2, John Gwynne 3, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Nicholls 7, Peter Quinn 8. Rung in memory of Percy Stone who died on 3rd November.

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 21st Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Jane Gilbert 3, Nick Allsopp 4, Keith Murphy 5, Rob Stansbury 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, David Adams 8. For the engagement of HRH Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton and for Nick's brief return from Saudi Arabia.

Swerford, Warks, 29th Nov, 1260 Plain B Doubles: Stuart Cummings 1, Michael Gray 2, Richard Hartwell 3, Rosemary Hemmings (C) 4, Michael Haynes 5.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 6th Dec, 1312 Yorkshire S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, James Ingham 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, John Nicholls 5, John Gwynne 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath 7, Peter Quinn 8. Wedding compliment to Andrew Quinn & Jenni Squire, married at Bolton Abbey 3/12/2010.

Mickleton, Glos, 13th Dec, 1280 Uganda S Major: Sophia Lewis-Skeath 1, Diana Reeves 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Robert Reeves 4, Peter Quinn 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 3rd Jan 2011, 1280 Ash D Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Peter Quinn 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Diana Reeves 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. To celebrate England retaining The Ashes. Also in memory of Pete Postlethwaite and a get well compliment to Kate Mier. Cirled the tower - 4.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Jan 1 st	NO PRACTICE (you may still be recovering from the night before.....)	
Jan 8 th	LOWER QUINTON , Warks	6, 13-0-27 in F# (GF)
Jan 15 th	NORTON , Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
Jan 22 nd	CHIPPING NORTON , Oxon	8, 14-1-4 in F#
Jan 29 th	SNITTERFIELD , Warks	6, 16-1-13 in F
Feb 5 th	NO PRACTICE: GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, MORETON-IN-MARSH (see p. 12)	
Feb 12 th	WELLESBOURNE , Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
Feb 19 th	CHURCHILL , Oxon	8, 10-3-9 in G
Feb 26 th	EVESHAM , Worcs	12, 35-2-20 in C#
Mar 5 th	BRAILES , Warks	6, 29-0-19 in C (the 3 rd heaviest ring of 6 in the world)
Mar 12 th	OFFENHAM , Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF)
Mar 19 th	MICKLETON , Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E (GF)
Mar 26 th	GREAT WOLFORD , Warks	6, 11-3-7 in F#
Apr 2 nd	STRATFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	10, 19-0-2 in E (care with those tricky tower steps!)
Apr 9 th	BIDFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 14-0-24 in F (GF)
Apr 16 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL , Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F
Apr 23 rd	SALFORD PRIORS , Warks	8, 15-0-14 in F# (GF)
Apr 30 th	MORETON-IN-MARSH , Glos	8, 10-0-14 in G

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 now appear on the FSG web-site, so their contents are available to all, whether members or non-members.)

TAG-END:

January 1st is upon us, so subscriptions are now due. Still £3, of course (a bargain, a bargain....). There was an excellent response to renewal last year. Let's do it again (and with a smile!).

Make it easy for yourself (and the Treasurer and Membership Secretary) - use the renewal slip attached to this Newsletter.

Get well wishes to: Sandra Parker of Bidford-on-Avon, who had the misfortune to slip in the snow and break her wrist; and to Robert Hall of Evesham, who underwent an operation immediately before Christmas and who is now convalescing after what is hoped was a successful event.

NOTE: dates set for events in 2011 are:-

Guild Annual Dinner:	Saturday 5th February. Moreton-in-Marsh (see details, p.12)
Guild Ringing Tour	Saturday 2nd July. Location & details tba: book the date!
Mini-Mouse Striking competition	Saturday 10th September. Location & details tba: book the date!
Guild Walking Tour	Possibly Saturday 24th September, but a firm date is tba
Guild AGM & Striking Comps	Saturday 15th October at Barford, Warks. Full details tba!
Intershires Striking Competition	Possible event: early November. Details later