

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

## NEWSLETTER No 131 - JAN 2012

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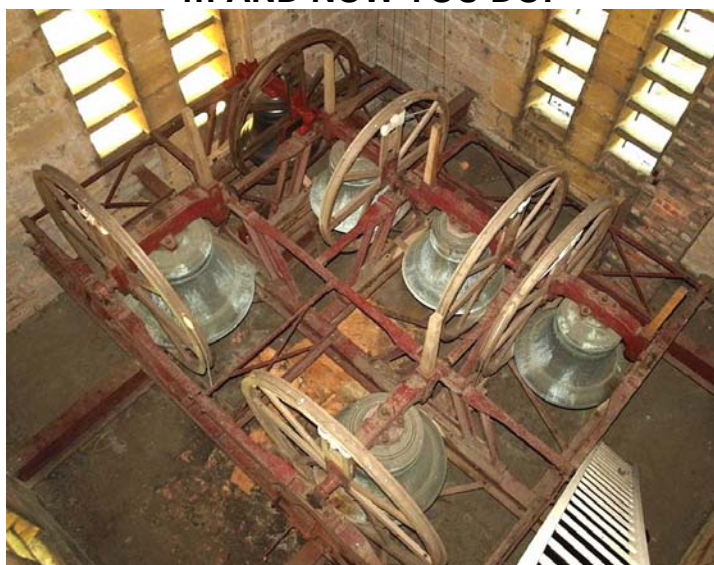


Founded 1909

### NOW YOU DON'T SEE IT....



### ... AND NOW YOU DO!



Temple Guiting's augmentation to 6 has happened! Arthur Berry, bellhanger from Malvern, with his assistant Roger Hunt from Fladbury, installed the new bell in its awaiting pit on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and then finished the fitting out the following Friday. A try-out of the bell with its older relatives occurred the next day. The installation is the end of a project that started in 1971, when Taylors of Loughborough rehung the 5 bells. There were fairly firm plans to augment to 6 at that time, as a new 6-bell frame was provided, and Taylors' drawings show the extra bell in broken lines. Unfortunately, the money then seems to have run out and the 5 were hung in the new frame with the spare pit just.... waiting. 40 years on, the project is complete. Read the full story on p.8.

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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## **PRESIDENT**

Mr John Nicholls

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## **VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Mrs Phyllis Brazier

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Chaplain**

The Rev Patrick Wooster

## **Accounts Examiners**

Mr Michael Fairfax  
Mr Trevor Hobday

## **GUILD OFFICERS**

### **Guild Master**

Mr Peter Quinn

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### **Hon Treasurer**

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Mrs Jackie Hands

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## **CCCBR Representatives**

Mr Chris Povey

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Mr Keith Murphy

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Mr Keith Murphy

Mr Stuart Cummings

### **Programme Secretary**

Mr Stuart Cummings

### **Membership Secretary**

Mr Peter Kenealy

### **Child Protection Officer**

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

### **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

Mr Chris Povey

Mr Michael Haynes

### **Mid-week Tours**

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### **Newsletter Editor**

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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 (April 2012) is March 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**

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!

**(Caretaker) Newsletter Editor: Chris Povey** Postal and email addresses above

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

It's been a busy quarter again and this is reflected in the size of this Newsletter: 18 sides. It's a bumper issue and I thank those who have contributed articles. In addition, there have been the AGM and Striking Competition, the Inter-Shires Competition, the Christmas Party – and of course the Mid-Week Tours. Oh, the events the FSG provides for your delectation and interest!

In addition there is a thought-provoking report by Keith Murphy on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' national seminar at Wellesbourne, which was advertised in the Notices section in the July Newsletter. This discussed the future of change-ringing. Keith's article is worth reading. One of the aspects discussed was the lack of an instantly-recognisable emblem for the CCCBR and how this lack of identity might be working against us in the public's eyes. The CCCBR does have a logo – apparently it isn't instantly-recognised by the majority of ringers let alone the public - so I've used it on this Newsletter's masthead to try to publicise it more.

The Striking Competitions and Guild AGM came and went. The Newing Shield competition was good - no 'issues' this time - and the AGM saw the retirement of Mike Rees as Hon Treasurer after lots of years (very many thanks, Mike, for all your loyalty and hard work in this capacity) and the election of Michael Dane to take over this essential post. Welcome Michael. The AGM was enlivened by the proposals to amend the Guild Rules and to raise the subscription. The proposal to amend the Rules caused little discussion, as most of the amendments were 'logical tidying' due to changes that have occurred since the last time the Rules were considered (1992). All the proposed amendments were accepted, along with additions to the existing rule governing election of members. The Rules will now be reprinted and issued to members.

Naturally, the **proposal regarding subscriptions** created some discussion: raise the sub by 66%! This was, of course, in the latter category of 'lies, damn lies and statistics'. As someone pointed out, 66% of little is very little, ie the proposed amount is very little more than little!! **The proposal was accepted eventually, so now the sub from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 is £5** – which is currently a lot less than a gallon of petrol. I can't remember when the sub rose to £3, but I'll bet it was only just less than a gallon of fuel then! OK, you might ask, what do you get for a £5 sub? (Just for interest – and comparison - you can't even buy a dozen 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps for a fiver these days. Not even 11.)

For a start, you get four issues of the Newsletter, which are a cracking good read Well, I would say that, wouldn't I? However, as there are currently zilch offers to oust me from the Editor's chair, I can only conclude most people are happy with what they're getting. I like to think that way anyway..... Even at 75p a throw (a bargain, a bargain: the Ringing World's cover price is £1.85), that's £3. OK, what else is there? The Speaker at the 2011 Annual Dinner told us we are the only ringing organisation that has weekly practices. So, you have a regular opportunity to attend these if you want to (and there's a regular and excellent 'après ring', too, I understand...). That opportunity must be worth at least 50p (all of 1p/week) surely? What about the Ringing Tour that's organised for your delight? It's a wonderfully good time: another 50p at the very least! What about the opportunity to enter one of the best 6-bell Striking Competitions – a proper one, with rising and falling? Must be at least another 50p-worth. So what does that leave? Christmas Party, Walking Tour, Minimus competition and of course the Annual Dinner. Wrapping all those up together must be ... a quid's-worth of opportunities? To conclude then, at rock-bottom values that's £5.50's worth, ie 10% on the right side. Does any of this sound like major financial stuff.....? But more than any of this, you get a Guild that has entirely local objects and entirely local management, the members of which you all know - and that must be worth a lot.

The augmentation at Temple Guiting is something in which Guild members can take much pride, as it was helped by a grant from the Guild's new Bell Restoration Fund. Go and ring on a 6 that was always meant to be a 6, even though it's taken 40 years to get there! I think you will enjoy them in their new form. Yes, they're still a bit loud, but... Read all about it on the front cover and p.8. As you will have noticed, TG has a big belfry: lots or spare room in there. Get a 12 on one level, surely... (but it took 40 years to get 1 treble!).

It is rare to report a Guild peal in the Newsletter, but two are reported this time (see p.17). This brings the total number of Guild peals this year to three. Congratulations to the bands who rang them. The peal at Offenham was particularly significant, as there were a large number of 'firsts' among the band. In addition it was the

first by a local band for 20 years. I know it's been something of a slog getting this peal, as there have been a few attempts, but happily it all came together on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The second peal, at Moreton-in-Marsh, contained four local ringers, and a first in method.

Continuing this theme, congratulations to Joanna Murphy of Moreton-in-Marsh, who has been awarded MA in Modern History from King's College, London: see the quarter peal at Mickleton, rung 19<sup>th</sup> Dec (p.17).

The Guild Dinner will be upon us once more. The notice on p.16 gives all the information about it. It's being held at the White Hart Royal Hotel in Moreton again. They did us well last year, so it's hoped the same conditions will apply once more. The Guild silverware is given out. Do come: it was most enjoyable last year.

As mentioned above nobody has come forward to take over as Editor of this august journal. I am in a dilemma. Having seen it rise to its present state (which people tell me they like: thank you), I am reluctant to see it fall from grace. On the other hand there are 'things' I want to do. Yes, the Newsletter does take time; and it might get in the way of what Helen and I want to do at various times in the future. I was rather 'bounced' into the job in 2009 after my predecessor's computer blew up and the Committee needed a Newsletter to advertise the Moreton Show stand. I volunteered to get something out, but was then left holding the baby when Steve announced his resignation during the compilation of that issue. I therefore offer to become a 'Caretaker' Editor. Continue sending the stuff to me and I will produce a Newsletter if I have sufficient time to do it. If not, that issue may have to be missed. Sorry, but this the only way I see to move forward. If this is thought to be unacceptable, please let me know.

Chris Povey

(The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Four Shires Guild or its Committee. The Guild endorses no products or manufacturers advertised within the Newsletter – but would not allow such advertisements where the goods or services are knowingly questionable. Newsletter proof-read by Richard Lewis-Skeath)

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES (100 YEARS AGO)

The Old FSG Minute Book records nothing for the period from October 1911 to April 2012, so nothing appears below. However, I did receive something concerning my question about where Walter Large went to

after he left the area in 1911 (as noted in the Minute for Oct 26th 1911). You may read about it on page 11.

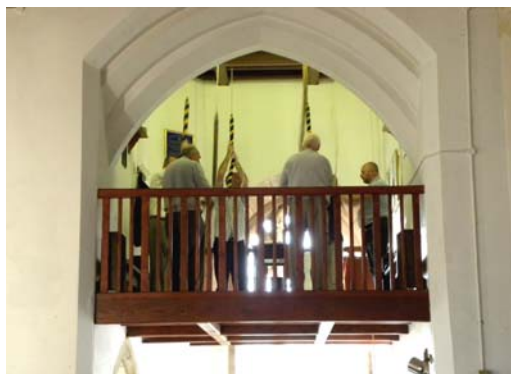
## THE 2011 AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITION

Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> was a sunny day, which is a good thing for a Guild AGM and Striking Competition. Barford's light 6 were well-suited to the competition, which preceded the meeting. As always, the tea tables heaved with food, such that nobody went home hungry. All good traditional stuff for this sort of event!



Barford Church basks in the evening sunshine (Photo: CMP)

Unfortunately, the judge chosen for the competition had had surgery a little before the event and had to cancel a short while before the start, so Mark Sayers stepped into the breach. He mentioned he was out gardening when the call came, and said he was returning there when he'd done!



The open gallery Ringing Room with one team giving its all.

The competing teams put up a good show. As appears to be the norm now, the scratch team wiped the board, but such teams are there for the fun of it and of course are ineligible for the silverware. Of the real teams this year, 'the old order changeth', with not one but two new teams taking the top two slots.



Mark Sayers giving the competition results  
(or was it 'A drink? Yeah, this is killing me: mine's a pint!')



The AGM 'top table': Andrew Gunn (Hon Sec), John Nicholls (President) and Peter Quinn (Guild Master)

The AGM itself was fairly staid and uneventful: no jumping about and/or throwing things. The Business to be transacted was largely straightforward, with only two proposals providing something to chew over: an increase to the annual subscription, and changes to the Guild Rules. Both these items were discussed positively and both proposals were agreed. It was a 'nice' meeting!

### Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held at St Peter's Church, Barford, Warks, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011 starting at 1724 hrs, with the President, John Nicholls, in the Chair. About 20 members attended. Prior to the Meeting, the Striking Competition for the Newing Shield and Spencer Jones Cup was held, with five teams entering.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Michael Haynes, John Kinchin, Chris Righton, David Clarke, David Adams, Freda Cleaver, Isobel Murphy, Bill Nash, John and Hilary Bolton, and Ben Lewis-Skeath.

The President welcomed everybody to the meeting and said a few words of thanks to the Committee for all their work.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: The Guild President asked whether the Minutes were a

true record. Nothing was raised and they were signed off.

3. Matters arising: Nothing was raised.

4. Guild Master's Report: The Guild Master, Peter Quinn, said his report appeared in the July issue of the Newsletter (no 129) and, as there was nothing to add, suggested it could be taken as read.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Mike Rees, wasn't present to answer questions. Chris Povey pointed out that the Newsletter copy contained a typographical error concerning expenditure in 2010 to Coventry Silvercraft of £56.83, and amended copies were handed out. A short discussion on the accounts followed. It was noted that the assets in year 2010 had risen slightly over 2009. It was pointed out that £300 was due to the Mid-week tours donations and that this amount and similar amounts from this source would in

future be accounted for separately as Bell Restoration Fund money. It was also reported that the Account Examiners had yet to see the books and had been trying to make contact with Mike Rees. Those present accepted the amended accounts, proposed by Michael Fairfax and seconded by Trevor Hobday. After many years in the post Mike is standing down as Treasurer at this meeting.

6. Election of the President: Peter Quinn took the Chair and said one formal nomination had been received: John Nicholls. Chris Povey reminded that the President and the Vice Presidents would serve a term of three years if the amended rules are approved: John accepted this. If this rule amendment were accepted, Andrew Gunn suggested that it linked with the CCCBR three yearly election; and, if accepted, this first period will be



shorter in view of the 2010 CCCBR election. This was supported. In view of the single nomination, John was returned unopposed. John mentioned that although the post of President is not formally part of the Committee and therefore of the management of the Guild, he does enjoy his participation in this aspect.

7. Election of Vice-Presidents: The two present Vice-Presidents (Rev Dr Peter Newing and Phyllis Brazier) were returned unopposed. The proposed Rule changes formalise more than one Vice-President, but more than two was thought unnecessary at this stage.
8. Election of Officers:  
Guild Master: one formal nomination received - Peter Quinn, proposed by Chris Povey and seconded by Stuart Cummings. Re-elected.  
Ringling Master: Sophia Lewis-Skeath was proposed by John Nicholls and seconded by Peter Quinn. Re-elected.  
Secretary: one nomination received - Andrew Gunn, proposed by Peter Quinn and seconded by Ted Copson. Re-elected.  
Treasurer: Michael Dane was proposed by John Nicholls and seconded by Ted Copson - Elected.
9. Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: Bill Nash did not wish to stand again. Michael Fairfax suggested Keith Murphy (as CC Rep he will be part of the Committee as of right if the amended rules are accepted, as is Chris Povey, so the nomination was deemed valid). The names of the current Committee members were read out and, with the exception of Bill Nash, were returned en bloc. The Committee members are therefore: Stuart Cummings, Michael Haynes, Jackie Hands, Peter Kenealy, Keith Murphy and Chris Povey. The Account Examiners (Trevor Hobday and Mike Fairfax) were both returned.
10. Confirmation of New Members: The membership of the following were confirmed:-  
 Andrew Roberts (Fairford)  
     proposed by Sophia Lewis-Skeath,  
     seconded by John Nicholls.  
 James Ingham (Leamington Spa)  
     proposed by John Nicholls, seconded by Peter Quinn.  
 Peter Bennett (Newport, Mon)  
     proposed by Chris Povey,  
     seconded by John Nicholls.  
 Clive Sparling (Moreton-in-Marsh)  
     proposed by Richard Lewis-Skeath,  
     seconded by John Nicholls.
11. Proposal to amend the Guild Rules: These were published in the July Newsletter. John Nicholls asked for comments. Andrew Gunn suggested that a member of the Committee should be able to second a new member, rather than just the Officers. A varied discussion on

this aspect followed. Mike Fairfax suggested any Member to second, but the general feeling was that some sort of 'filter' was required to prevent 'in the pub or similar' elections. Andrew Gunn's proposal - that any Ringling Member may propose a new member and that a Guild Officer or any member of the Guild Committee may second - eventually emerged as the most practical way forward and was confirmed in a vote. Robert Hall suggested an addition, that a non-member may be elected a Ringling Member before a Guild peal attempt by being proposed and seconded by two participating Ringling Members, and also the payment of the relevant subscription. Such elections are to be ratified at the next Committee Meeting and reported at the next AGM. A vote agreed this addition. With the inclusion of these two amendments, the meeting voted almost unanimously to accept the proposals.

12. Proposal to raise the annual subscription:  
 The formal notice of this proposal was published in the July Newsletter and was being made on behalf of the Committee by the (then) Guild Treasurer, Mike Rees. There was a discussion about why an increase was required. It was reported the Guild's expenses have increased and, as in the last two years at least, it is drawing on its reserves. Although the costs of producing the Newsletter have been held steady by printing in-house, there is now the insurance on the Guild's activities and the silverware. Mike Fairfax seconded the proposal. Robert Hall proposed a rise to £4 as an amendment; Richard Lewis-Skeath seconded. The vote on the amendment did not support it. A large majority voted for the proposal. The subscription rate for 2012 onwards will be £5 for members and £2 for Juniors. Peter Quinn said the Committee will continue to minimise costs. Sophia Lewis-Skeath said some towers may be getting too many Newsletter copies, so this needs looking at again. Peter Kenealy asked whether members joining from the beginning of this November to the end of the year would pay this year's rate for 14 months, or whether it will be the new rate. It was agreed as the increased rate (£5 and £2). The possibility of a pensioner's concessionary rate was asked about, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a positive answer.
13. Any other Business:  
 (i) Michael Fairfax mentioned last year's Striking Competition, in which the test piece of one of the teams produced some false changes that included rounds.

Although part of that team and initially somewhat indignant about the way in which the incident was discussed at the time (although that team was subsequently confirmed by the Committee as the winner), he supported the wording of the new rule as displayed in the July Newsletter as being entirely fair to all; and although the new rule is currently in force (it being a Committee decision), he was very pleased to propose its formal adoption for the Competition Rules. Ted Copson seconded.

- (ii) Robert Hall suggested a Guild summer afternoon river trip at Evesham. The boat, Handsam Too, owned by Guild member Tom Sandham, can take 55. The trip could be to the boatyard near Chadbury, at which there are barbecue and other eating and drinking facilities. There could be ringling at the Bell Tower beforehand. The likely cost of the 45min trip there, eats/tea/coffee and then return by boat would be about £12.50/person. If this is supported, he is willing to organise this with Sophia Lewis-Skeath, who expressed her willingness to assist. Considerable interest was expressed at his suggestion.
- (iii) Christmas ringling on December 17th has changed to Blockley, due to a function in Campden Church that night. The subsequent Christmas get-together will be in the Church Rooms, Chipping Campden, as originally advertised.
14. Results of the Striking Competition – Newing Shield: This was judged by Mr Mark Sayers.

1 <sup>st</sup> Moreton-in-Marsh.	<u>Total 25.</u>
(awarded the Newing Shield)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wellesbourne.	<u>Total 27.</u>
(awarded the Spencer Jones Cup)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mickleton.	<u>Total 45.</u>
4 <sup>th</sup> Long Compton.	<u>Total 109.</u>
Scratch team.	Total 17

The Brazier Competition: no entries this year.

Meeting closed at 1836 hrs. John Nicholls thanked everybody for their input.

Andrew Gunn,  
Hon. Secretary.

Please note these Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2012 AGM. Prepared November 2011.

## NEW GUILD RULES, AS AGREED AT THE 2011 AGM.

As outlined in the Minutes above, the following are the Guild Rules as agreed by the Meeting. They are applicable from the date of that meeting:-

**Name:** The Guild shall be called THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS.

**Objects:**

- (i) To encourage the regular ringing of Church Bells for Church Services and as otherwise directed, requested or approved of by the incumbent of the Parish;
- (ii) To concentrate the activities of the Guild within the boundaries of an area agreed from time to time by its Members\*;
- (iii) To encourage the training of ringers, instructors and conductors, and generally cultivate the art of change ringing;
- (iv) To promote fellowship amongst ringers.

**Membership:** Membership shall be divided into the following classes:-

- (i) **Ringling Members:** a Ringling Member shall be an active church bell ringer, shall normally reside and ring in the area covered by the Guild, and shall be elected on the proposition of a Ringling Member and seconded by an Officer or Committee Member of the Guild. A Ringling Member may also be proposed and seconded by two Ringling Members before a Guild peal attempt, and then pay the relevant subscription. Such elections shall be formally reported to the next Committee Meeting for ratification and then noted to the next Annual General of the Guild;
- (ii) **Honorary Life Members:** ringers who in the opinion of the Committee have rendered exceptional service to the Guild. Confirmation of this is by a recommendation to the membership at an Annual General Meeting, which must gain support from at least 75% of those present and able to vote. Honorary Life Members are granted membership without payment of subscription.

**Subscriptions:** shall be due and payable on the first day of January in each year. A new member joining in November or December shall be deemed to have paid for the following year also. Membership shall cease if subscription is more than one year in arrears, but may recommence upon payment of all arrears. The amount of the annual subscription shall be approved at an AGM.

**President & Vice-Presidents:** A President and a Vice-President, or Vice-Presidents, shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting. Such appointments shall stand for three years, after which these persons may be eligible for re-election if so desired. Any person appointed to these offices may resign the position within the period if they wish, at which point an election to appoint a successor will be for the outstanding term of office.

**Officers:** The Officers of the Guild shall be:

- (i) **a Guild Master** – whose duties shall be to control the activities of the Guild at meetings and other occasions as may be provided for in these Rules, or as directed by the Committee;
- (ii) **a Ringling Master** – whose duties shall be to co-ordinate ringling activities by members of the Guild at meetings and other occasions as may be provided for in the Rules, or as directed by the Committee. The Ringling Master may if so desired devolve to suitable Guild members the responsibilities of controlling ringling activities at meetings, without reference to the Committee;
- (iii) **an Honorary Secretary** – who shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Guild, maintain a complete register of all members, issue notices of all business and similar meetings, and carry out other such duties as may be required for the advancement of the Guild;
- (iv) **an Honorary Treasurer** – who shall receive all monies on behalf of the Guild, paying them into the Guild's banking account. He/she shall keep such accounts as the Guild desires, and pay all official expenses connected with the Guild's activities. He/she shall invest Guild funds on instructions from the Committee. At the AGM of the Committee he/she shall present an audited statement of accounts made up to the previous 31<sup>st</sup> December. All cheques shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary, or other such persons as shall be authorised by the Committee.

**Independent Examiners:** There shall be two Independent Examiners, elected annually at the AGM on the recommendation of the Committee. They shall examine all accounts of the Guild and report on the same to the Committee. They need not be members of the Guild.

**Committee:** The affairs of the Guild shall be managed by a Committee, which shall consist of the Officers of the Guild together with six other elected members. The Central Council representative(s) shall also be deemed members of the Committee. The Committee shall meet annually in advance of the AGM to consider reports submitted by the Officers, the Guild accounts and other relevant business. Committee meetings shall be called by the Honorary Secretary after consultation with the Guild Master and the Treasurer. The Chairman at such meetings shall be the Guild Master, or, if he/she shall not be present, the members attending shall elect a chairman for that meeting. There shall be at least two committee meetings in any calendar year.

**Central Council Representatives:** The Guild is, for the time being, able to send two representatives to attend the annual meeting of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Two such representatives are to be elected at the Guild AGM prior to the start of the CCCBR Triennium, the three-year period of each Council, their appointments being for that three-year term.

**Elections to posts:** where there are more nominations for a post than the number of people required to fill it, an election will be held. This will be by secret ballot. Each candidate and their proposer will be invited to give a short speech as to why the candidate is best fitted to the duties of the post. Where a candidate's proposer is not present, the Chairman will, with the candidate's approval, invite anyone else present to speak on the candidate's behalf.

**Co-option to posts:** where a holder of a post wishes to resign from that post mid-term, the Committee may fill the vacancy by co-option, such co-option remaining valid until the next AGM. The Committee may co-opt any Ringling Member to the committee on a temporary basis when there is a specific reason to do so.

**Annual General Meeting:** The AGM of the Guild shall be held in October each year. The business to be transacted at an AGM shall consist of the election of the President, Vice-President(s), Officers of the Guild, Independent Examiners, Committee members, CCCBR Representatives, Ringling, Associate and HL Members, and other such business appropriate to an AGM. All nominations for Officers, signed by the nominee and the proposer, shall be received by the Honorary Secretary in writing not later than two weeks before the date of the AGM. Only fully paid-up members shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Guild. The Chairman of the Annual or other General Meeting of the Guild shall be the President, or in his absence a Vice-President; or if there is no Vice-President who is prepared to take the Chair, the Guild Master. Should none of the foregoing be present then the members attending shall elect one of their number to act as Chairman for that meeting, providing those voting to elect are eligible to do so and the person elected is a fully paid-up member of the Guild.

**Alteration to the Rules:** No alteration, deletion or addition to the Rules shall be made except at an AGM or Special Meeting of the Guild, of which not less than four weeks' notice shall have been given.

\* Currently agreed as the area commonly known as the North Cotswolds and its immediate surrounding area, which encompasses parts of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This 'area of operation' is indicated by the tower map. (see p.10 for map).

## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

The newly-elected Committee met on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Stuart and Sophia were unable to attend. There was a fair amount of business to discuss.

Michael Dane was welcomed as the new Hon Treasurer. Keith Murphy is now a full member of the Committee on two counts: as CC rep following the Rules changes agreed at the AGM and as the Committee member replacing Bill Nash! There were no other changes.

1) The Minutes of the September meeting were agreed without amendment.

2) Matters arising were:-

Andrew reported that he had 'Smart-Watered' the Guild's silverware as agreed last time;

the position regarding the old Minute Book was reported;

Peter Q agreed to make further enquiries about the location of some missing post-'74 Minute books;

it was agreed that more Guild badges be ordered, but the supplier needs an early badge to get the right background colour.

3) Reports: the following are highlights:-

Guild Master: Peter Q gave details of the 2012 Guild Dinner;

Hon Sec: Andrew said the insurers (EIG) had automatically increased the valuation of the Guild's silverware to £4051 for the renewal due at the end of December and that the public liability

amount remained the same at £2M;

Treasurer: Michael D said he, and Andrew during his recent holiday, had spent time analysing the accounts as transferred to him, as they were not in the form he expected. Some supporting data appears to be unavailable at present. He will report back to the March Committee meeting with an assessment;

Ringling Master: Sophia has asked Stuart to take over as Fixture Sec. All in agreement. It was also mentioned that a set of 12 handbells was being offered to the Guild for the cost of their refurbishment. It was decided to enquire further about the details of this offer;

Membership Sec: Peter K gave his up-to-date assessment, but this varies from the financial figures. This appears due to the occasional liaison between him and the Treasurer in the past. It is very likely this will improve greatly with the recent changes to the financial side;

Newsletter Editor: January 2012 issue under way and likely to be 16 sides. Printing agreed as Tuesday 3/1/12. It is essential to ensure the correct number of copies are printed. An up-to-date membership list is essential;

Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours co-ordinator: tours have averaged 20 people over the last 3 months. Very good;

CCCBR reps: Keith reported on the Wellesbourne Conference (see report p.12);

Bell Restoration Fund: no more applications at this time. Chris updated on the Temple Guiting augmentation project, which is now complete and the grant paid (see report, p.8).

3) Items for discussion:-

Review of past events: there had been no major issues arising from any event, which is pleasing;

Future events 2012: dates or likely dates were agreed for these. Some locations were agreed or suggested. These details would appear in the Jan Newsletter's 'Tag-End';

Evesham area event: this was proposed by Robert Hall (see AGM Minutes) and is likely to occur on June 9<sup>th</sup>, for which a provisional booking has been made;

Publication of new Rules: it was agreed this should be in a booklet form as before, with other useful information instead of the list of members. A draft was approved.

4) Any Other Business:-

Chris reported a new member from ringing a peal (as allowed by the new Rules); John Kemble of Audlem, proposed Martin Penny, seconded Claire Penny. His 2011 subscription was paid.

Next Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Ilmington.  
*(NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.)*

## LONG COMPTON BELFRY LOUVRES GET A MAKEOVER

For a long time now Long Compton's belfry openings have looked decidedly gap-toothed – a bit like the tower captain's six year old granddaughter Lucy. Years of weather, especially on the south and west sides, and pigeons, have thinned some of the stone slats to cracking or breaking point. The problem came to a head when a large piece of a slat fell out of the south opening directly on to the path in front of the tower door. Ringers are too hard to come by to risk braining one. The Fabric Committee decided that something must be done.

Invitations to several builders to quote for replacing twelve missing or damaged stone louvres produced some worrying responses: either the job was too small to be worth attempting; or, they would only do it from the outside, on scaffolding. Now Long Compton tower is quite high, and to scaffold it would cost £10,000 minimum, before the builder even began work. The PCC just did not have this kind of money available. We asked the Diocesan bell advisor if he had any suggestions, but he was unable to help us either.

All sorts of ideas were kicked around. One stonemason said that he might do the work from inside the belfry, but only if we built a wooden frame all round the top of the tower to stop him from falling out. We even thought about using a steeplejack to abseil down from the top, but dismissed the idea as too wacky. This head-scratching went on for some months and we were almost ready to give up. But then someone gave us the name of Trevor Dean, a stonemason from Great Bourton, near Banbury, and he told us that he could do the job from inside the belfry. He said that he had worked on the louvres of Bloxham church, and when we went to look at them they were extremely well done.



The only difficulty Trevor encountered was getting the replacement slats, which are larger than the cut stone usually available. However, he was successful in the end, and fitted them without difficulty. The work cost the PCC about £3000, compared to an original quote of £20,000, so they are happy and the louvres are now smart and secure.

Trevor Hobday

## COMPLETION OF A 40-YEAR PROJECT: TEMPLE GUITING IS NOW 6!



St Mary's, Temple Guiting (6, 11-3-17 in F#) (Photo: CMP)

It all started in December 2004 with a request to me to inspect Temple Guiting's bells. The PCC wanted them rung for a special Service in late January, but were unsure about the condition of the bells. I looked over them with Peter Forshaw, one of the Churchwardens, who had learnt the rudiments of ringing when Pat Linsdell (past FSG Secretary) was ringing there. I was surprised to find the installation was a full-blown modern Taylor one, with all-metal frame and fittings, and astonished to find the bells hung in a bellframe for 6 bells. There was a spare pit, just waiting for a treble...

The bells weren't in the best of condition. The installation had been neglected, leaving a cracked stay, a loose clapper assembly and ropes in a pitiful and unusable condition. The Service at which the bells were to be rung was less than 3 weeks away, and getting a bellhanger to sort the problems in time was likely to be difficult, so I made a new stay and removed and refitted the clapper assembly. Some second-hand ropes were hastily cobbled into a usable stop-gap condition and I settled down to write my report (undertaken on behalf of the G&B). I mentioned the high quality installation the church possessed, the state of the bells arising from the lack of maintenance – and the fact that there was a spare pit, which clearly was to contain a new treble bell. I said 5-bell ringing was good, but 6-bell ringing was better. No bellframe work was necessary: just open up two trap doors to give an unobstructed lift and plonk a bell in the hole. Yeah, that simple!

It's fair to say nothing grew from that little seed, or that I knew of, but when I was asked to go back to undertake another report on the bells in June 2009 I mentioned the spare pit and a new bell to Avril Vincent this time, the other Churchwarden, who told she had wondered about providing one in memory of her son who had died in 2004, but was unable to bear the cost of doing so. I said a second-hand bell might be available to reduce the cost.

Shortly after this conversation with Avril I was scanning the Keltek Trust lists of redundant bells for re-use, just in case there was a suitable bell, and noticed a Taylor bell apparently the perfect size, weight and, very amazingly, just about the right note for Temple Guiting's new treble. The trebles of what are now the back 5 are fairly large for their note, so a new treble had to be similar. A Taylor bell of the same era (1870) may have been similar, but the bell I noticed was cast in 1967 and therefore of very high quality. So why was it unusually big and heavy?

Further enquiries revealed it had been in the ring of 10 at Prittlewell, Essex. Taylors had won the job to rehang that ring in 1967, but had to recast the 4<sup>th</sup> bell. The ring and therefore the bell were becoming redundant in mid 2010, when a new ring of bells was to be cast. The old bells were a grotty bunch, mostly cast by Mears in Victorian times. The 4<sup>th</sup> was the only jewel. I learnt, however, that the bell had already been 'bagged' by a Maltese man, who wanted to export it and some others to Malta for a bell project. Regardless of the Maltese offer to take the bell when it became available, I discussed its suitability for Temple Guiting with Andrew Higson, Taylors' bellmaster,

who replied it would be a perfect fit. Hmm, shame about the Maltese offer, but any chance of wresting it away was negated by the estimated overall cost of an augmentation with even a second-hand bell being still outside Avril's reach.

This remained the situation until May 2010, when, after the CCCBR meeting in Derby, a chance conversation with David Kelly of the Keltek Trust included him saying, just as I was departing, that 'Someone wants to give a bell to Temple Guiting'. What?! Please tell me more. Dave told me Peter Newing wished to give the same bell I had noticed. It seems he'd noticed it entirely independently. I told Dave I would contact Peter to find out what he was thinking.

I probably contacted Peter the next day. He told me he'd known of the vacant pit at Temple Guiting for some years and that he felt – in what must be famous words – 'it would be extremely negligent to leave it unfilled' (hah! clerics are such excellent wordsmiths....!). He was willing to purchase the bell, but first the Maltese offer had to be investigated. He asked whether I would act as the project manager if the augmentation went ahead. I was happy to agree.

In July I attended a meeting at Loughborough Bell Foundry. Afterwards I discussed Temple Guiting with some of the staff there, who were on hand to show us round the foundry and tell us how the new John Taylor & Co were to progress after taking over the debris of the old Taylor, Eayre & Smith Co. My discussions were very fruitful. Simon Adams was especially helpful, and Peter Hayward, the new MD, was happy to give me a copy of the original Taylor drawing of December 1970 for Temple Guiting. This drawing revealed a great deal. It showed a new treble was virtually part of the order to rehang the bells, as the new bell was shown in broken lines and its design diameter was 28ins. The treble of the 5 (now the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 6) is 31.5ins, so the Prittlewell bell, at 29ins, was even better suited. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We had to get it!

There were two aspects to investigate: firstly whether St Mary's Temple Guiting PCC were happy to accept the bell if it became available, with the money required to hang it being found locally or through grants; and secondly whether the Maltese bid could be overcome. The Keltek Trust offered other bells in case the Maltese bid couldn't be overcome, but I rejected them because they weren't Taylor bells. There didn't seem any sense at all in mixing foundries

The PCC were grateful, and were very happy to accept the bell, but the extra money required could not come out of their income as they have difficulty paying their quota. It was explained that a grant was expected to be available from the Glos & Bristol Diocesan Association and possibly from the FSG. These, together with donations available from within the parish (another family wished to contribute as a memorial to their son/grandson who had died aged only 4), made them more confident about raising the sum and they formally agreed to go ahead with installing the bell.

The Maltese situation was helped by it becoming known that the bell and two others from the Prittlewell ring were intended for a clock chime. What! A superb Taylor bell in a clock chime when it could be ringing full-circle in a 100% Taylor installation that cried out for it! I suggested to Dave Kelly, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that the old Prittlewell 3<sup>rd</sup> could be substituted, as, being only a semi-tone sharp of the 4<sup>th</sup>, it would happily tune down by that much to give the correct note. All the three bells in the chime would then be by the same founder. Dave put this possibility to Ken Cauchi, the Maltese person (who was acting for a Maltese Government initiative). By great fortune, Ken is a long-time lover of bells – Taylor bells in particular – and he knows all about English-style ringing. This experience allowed Ken to recognise the importance of the Taylor bell to the



Temple Guiting project and to his eternal credit he was prepared to cede the bell, but only if the cost of retuning the Prittlewell 3<sup>rd</sup> was paid for by us. Peter Newing agreed to this extra cost and the Taylor bell became ours.

The first job in the new project was to obtain quotations for the foundry work (fitting the bell to a new headstock, clapper work and inscription work) and the bellhanging work. The choice of foundry was already made: it had to be Taylors, because they had rehung the bells in 1971 and all 5 bells were cast by them. While Whitechapel would also have done a superb job, the bell with their fittings would have stuck out like a sore thumb. Luckily Taylors' price fitted the estimate. This was helped by no retuning costs, as Andrew Higson said, '...it would be an extravagance to re-tune this bell'.

There was a choice of bellhanger: the local firms are Arthur (Bill) Berry and Whites of Appleton. (Who needs to go for other than our local, ever-cheerful, warm-hearted bellhangers, who speak the same language and operate the same way as we do?). Both companies are capable of excellent workmanship, but in the end I chose Arthur to be the first to quote, only because he has worked very closely with Taylors over very many years. His price fitted the estimate, too, so we signed him up.

The next step was to obtain grants from the likely sources. An application to the G&B was hastily compiled and submitted, just in time for their September Management Committee meeting. The project was lucky; it was offered a very good grant. The Guild had plans to launch a Bell Restoration Fund, but this could not start until voted on at the 2010 AGM – and then the proposal might be voted out. I worked on the basis it would be voted in and therefore had an application ready and waiting for the time the vote gave the green light. It did, I submitted, and the December Committee meeting considered the application and offered the generous sum of £500.

The next stage was a petition for a diocesan faculty to undertake the work. This required inputs from the Diocesan Bells Advisor, Alan Strickland, and, in this case, English Heritage. Luckily the structure would be unaffected and EH gave it a 'no comment' nod. The faculty came through quickly, with only one rider: to obtain the DAC's approval for the inscription.

The cost of incising the inscription rose substantially due to increases by Taylors' subcontractor. A shorter inscription was eventually agreed and DAC approval followed. Both people remembered on the bell shared the name Charlie, so, in addition to their names, the inscription included the bell's name, too: 'Charlie'. By June sufficient finance was in place to allow the PCC to order the work from Berry & Co, with Taylors as the foundry work subcontractor. Another significant moment!

From then on it was largely waiting for things to happen. The Dedication Service was agreed to be part of the Parish Choral Evensong on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> – so everything had to be completed by then! The foundry work included fitting the bell to a new headstock with bearings, and providing a complete clapper assembly. After the new inscription was incised on, the bell returned to have its new wheel fitted and its swing and clapper times checked. Then it was graphite-blackened. Simon Adams took a photo of it on the famous ringing-up stand for me, and here it is. Smart, eh?



'Bill' Berry brought the bell to the Church on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. The

relevant people had been alerted, so there was a crowd to welcome it, including children from the Junior School. The two contributing families had their first view of the bell and its inscription and were delighted with what they saw. By the end of that day the bell had been hauled up to the belfry and was sitting in its pit with the wheel attached. It looked entirely happy to be sitting there, in full Taylor surroundings along with its much older siblings.



'Charlie' arrives at the Church, 7/11/11

Some parts had to be made-to-measure, so 'Bill' and Roger returned the following Friday to complete the work. It's surprising how long the fiddly-bits take to do, but 'Bill' and Roger did a superb job. The rope was attached and the bell rung up. It sounded good and it rang well; but what would it be like with the others? A try-out band was booked to come next morning. I hoped the somewhat ponderous nature of the 5 would be overcome by having the extra bell among them, as the 5 had been given swing times of the back 5 of the proposed 6. Would the theory work? Yes, it did! They had morphed into a 6 that felt like a proper 6. And what about sound? The new bell fits in outstandingly well. What an excellent result! Bill Nash inspected the work on behalf of the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund. It was acceptable and therefore the grant could be paid to the project.



The try-out band: Jeremy Meyrick (with the new bell), Bill Nash, Peter Newing, Richard L-S, Sophia L-S, John Nicholls. CMP taking photo.

The well-attended Dedication Service was a delightful 'village' event: warm, friendly, and a comfortable balance between the formal and the informal. The Guild and the G&B were represented, as were Taylors. Bellhangers 'Bill' Berry and Roger Hunt were there, too. The DAC Bells Advisor Alan Strickland and his wife attended. The Dedication itself was undertaken by both the Rev Veronica James, Rector of St Mary's, and the Rev Peter Newing, after which all 6 bells were rung by a band representing the Guild, the G&B, Taylors, Berry & Co, the local Benefice ringers and myself as project manager. Veronica took time during the Service to thank everyone

involved with the project, at which time the grant cheques from the G&B and the Guild were handed to the PCC. Alan Berry, for Taylors, handed over a copy of the 'works' drawing of the installation for the PCC's records.

Tea, coffee and cakes were available after the Service, at which time, too, there was open ringing on the bells. It was a big surprise to find David Sloman, Prittlewell's Ringing Master, and his wife were there, particularly as it was a long way to come on such a foggy day. David rang the bell and thought it sounded well among the others and that it was now very appropriately accommodated - far better than ever it was at Prittlewell!

The Dedication was a very happy end to a very successful project.

For those who like such things, here are the details of the bells:-

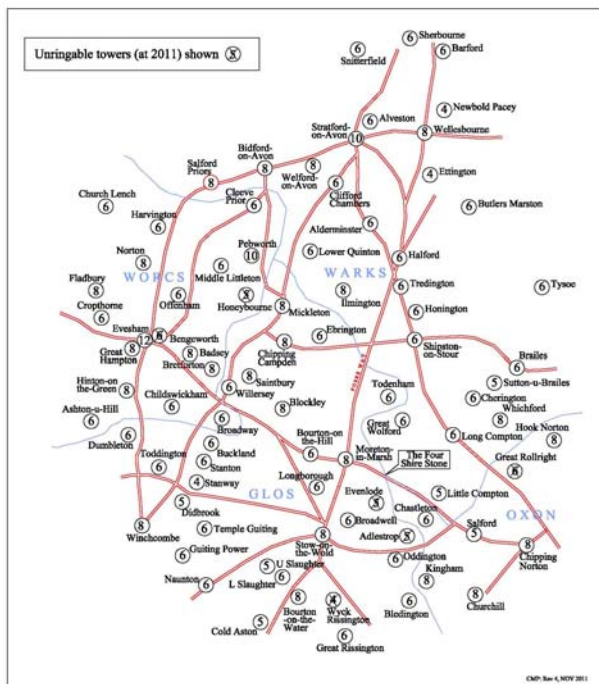
Bell	Weight	Note	Dia	Founder	Cast
Treble	5-2-7	D#	29"	J Taylor & Co	1967
2nd	5-2-11	C#	31.5"	J Taylor & Co	1871
3rd	5-3-17	C	32.5"	J Taylor & Co	1870
4th	6-3-27	A#	33.5"	J Taylor & Co	1905
5th	8-0-5	G#	36.75"	J Taylor & Co	1870
Tenor	11-3-17	F#	41.75"	J Taylor & Co	1870

Although the old inscription was taken off the treble, erasing its Prittlewell identity, I noticed as it was being hauled up that 'Prittlewell 4th 2'-5"' was chalked inside it. This was probably done when it was cast. It will be left on.

There is a chance to try out the 6 at the Guild practice on March 17th.  
Chris Povey

## NEW GUILD RULES – cont from P.6

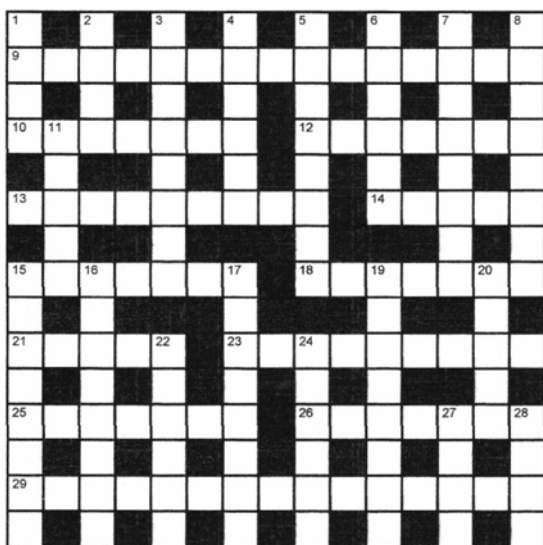
This is the map that is referred to in the Rules and which will accompany the Rules themselves when printed in the intended booklet.



## EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Presidente continues to excite the crossword aficionados – and this Editor is hugely grateful that he does so.

### Down



- 1 A Great Enduring Determination initiated the Old Folk (4)
- 2 Mate, ecstasy set in, hung around for 2 or 3 hours (4)
- 3 Borstal war tactics concealed a strong expression (8)
- 4 Usual factor to being caught out (6)
- 5 Selected side sang (anag) (8)
- 6 This is how we were all described to begin with (6)
- 7 An instrument for shaping the surface of a mould, eg a bell (8)
- 8 They pick up signals (8)
- 11 Modern messaging (1-4)
- 15 Wide road to this beautiful village? (8)
- 16 Position of insects regarding 8 down (8)
- 17 Fancy name for coils! (8)
- 19 Important codeword in WW2 (8)
- 20 Declare. California etc (5)
- 22 Old-fashioned hair-band (6)
- 24 The next stage after treble and tenor (6)
- 27 Take it before rising (4)
- 28 "Ding Dong \_\_\_\_" (4)

### Across

### Answer to crossword in the Oct 2011 Newsletter



- 9 Cotswold Church of St John the Baptist (5, 10)
- 10 Unfortunately Samson loved her! (7)
- 12 Fancy! (7)
- 13 Ringing is far from dormant at Nicholas (anag) (9)
- 14 A sign to Mr Wakefield? (5)
- 15 Often heard excusing a ringing error! (7)
- 18 See (7)
- 21 Norman is this compared with Gothic (5)
- 23 One style or another, ringing is worldwide (9)
- 25 Bad rule but lasting (anag) (7)
- 26 Bride and Groom roped together? (7)
- 29 Bredon Top looks down on the church of St Barbara (6,5,4)



## DEATH OF WALTER LARGE, 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 1946

I asked a question in the 'From the Archives' item last time about where Walter Large went after he left the area in 1911 (as noted in the Minute for Oct 26th 1911). I received an email from Brian Harris of Swindon (our ex-Pat from Breiforton) saying he couldn't answer that directly, but that Walter clearly returned to the area some time later, as he eventually died at his home in Stretton-on-Fosse on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1946. Brian very helpfully sent a copy of Walter's obituary that appeared in The Ringing World. As this year is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is worth reproducing the obituary here in full:-

### Mr WALTER LARGE

*The death occurred on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Stretton-on-Fosse, near Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos., of Walter Large, at the age of 88. He was a co-founder of the Four Shires Guild and also was a link with some of the early founders of the Oxford Guild with whom he rang peals, notably Joe Field, J. W. Washbrook, the Rev F. E. Robinson and F. E. Ward.*

*He was born and learnt to ring at Sherborne, Glos. (6 bells), moving to Burford, Oxon, about 1880, where soon he rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples, no mean achievement in those days. Becoming acquainted with John Monk, of Witney, he frequently walked the seven miles each way from Burford and Witney, and called several peals of Triples.*

*Later he was appointed instructor to the Oxford Guild, and taught bands at Leafield, and also at Shipton-under-Wychwood after the latter's bells had been augmented to eight. In spite of all the walking these activities entailed, he never complained, and his enthusiasm was infectious.*

*About 1902 he went to live at Todenham, and it was while here that Walter Large and the then Vicar of Todenham together formed the Four Shires Guild (Oxford, Gloucester, Worcester and Warwick) to cater for all the isolated towers. The Guild flourished considerably. Meetings were regularly held and certificates awarded for rising and falling, resulting in much improved striking. During this period at Todenham he was not only teaching and conducting there, but also at Moreton-in-Marsh, where there were eight bells but previously no ringers. He got together a band and afterwards called their first peal of Grandsire Triples. To Walter Large, also, the ringers at Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water owed the success of their first peal.*

*Settling finally at Stretton-on-Fosse, where there are no bells, he continued to take active interest in ringing and ringers in Cotswold towns and villages until age prevented him doing so. Since the outbreak of the recent war he had done little or no ringing, following the art he loved so much through the medium of 'The Ringing World'. This he could, to the last, read without the aid of glasses. It has not yet been ascertained how many peals he rang, but his invaluable work in the encouragement and training of raw recruits to the Exercise will long be remembered throughout the Cotswold country. To carry on the torch he taught his three sons Edward (Birmingham), George (Newport, Mon) and Arthur*

*(Stretton-on-Fosse), as well as C. Locke (Chipping Campden), his stepson. The third generation of this ringing family is represented by G. E. Large of Claines, Worcs., who is Walter Large's grandson. He also leaves a widow and four daughters, and by trade he was a master mason.*

It clearly didn't take Walter Large long to get into his stride, as a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung at Todenham in 1904 (two years after he settled there) conducted by him. The peal board records it was rung for the Oxford Guild. Another board records another for the Oxford Guild dated 1907, also conducted by Large. Both these peals pre-date the formation of the FSG in 1909.

Large was obviously a very capable and experienced ringer. He could happily have continued ringing peals for the Oxford Guild if he'd wished, but forming a local guild for the 'isolated towers' (to quote the Obituary above) of the North Cotswolds area had a great deal of sense. Perhaps, too, Large was attracted to running his own show in his own area, rather than be remote from the ODG and either having to travel to ODG events or ODG members having to travel to him. Whatever the reason, the North Cotswolds area benefited hugely from this decision. There is no doubt Large had the drive to pursue this aim, which he did with 'infectious enthusiasm' (to quote the Obituary again).

It is interesting to consider the ringing scene in this area at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ringing associations were then mostly still in their infancy, so promoting the formation of the FSG was nothing unusual. The county or diocesan associations were generally in place, but smaller, local or church-based organisations had or were being formed.

The situation with the Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire associations was very varied. The 'hubs' of these associations were adequately covered, but this is unsurprising, given that more ringers existed in these parts and transport to and from the outlying areas was restrictive.

The Gloucester & Bristol Association had for some years experienced large organisational difficulties following an ecclesiastical decision to separate the Gloucester and Bristol Dioceses into two independently managed units (one Bishop had previously overseen both). That Association's solution to its crisis, to follow the Oxford Guild's example and form branches, did not occur until 1909. However, no branches covering the North Cotswolds occurred until 1912, when the Stow Branch was formed, and then 1919, when the Cheltenham Branch (which included

the Campden Deanery) was formed. (The Stow Branch and the Campden Deanery area became the North Cotswold Branch in 1969.)

The Worcestershire & Districts Association, although formed in 1882, had none of its present Branches until 1911. The Warwickshire Guild of Change Ringers (later the Coventry Diocesan Guild) was still very much a fledgling organisation, having been formed late in 1907; and their focus was very much towards Birmingham, which at that time was in Warwickshire.

As intimated above, it was only the Oxford Diocesan Guild that seems then to have had some semblance of order, stability and management, particularly with covering its outlying areas. This is borne out by the fact that Large rang in a number of peals for the ODG when he was at Burford.

The county/diocesan associations were therefore in place, 'just' in some cases, but their effectiveness in the North Cotswolds – in what might be described as the 'scrag-ends' of their areas – was minimal at best and zero the more likely. On that basis Large found an area that was united because of the lack of 'county' division, ie nothing effective was in place.

It is therefore unsurprising that a member of the ODG took ringing in the North Cotswolds in hand. It may not be unreasonable to say that only someone of his ilk, born and bred on the periphery of the North Cotswolds and therefore speaking 'the language' of the area to inspire and lead local ringers, together with much local ringing experience, could have undertaken this task as successfully as he did. Without him the FSG is unlikely ever to have been formed. We owe much to Walter Large.

FSG officers rang a superbly-struck quarter peal of a method Walter Large called so often, to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death (see photo of the band on p.17):

CMP

**Todenham, Glos, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2011, 1260 Grandsire Doubles:**

1. Mike Fairfax (Accounts Examiner)
2. Michael Haynes (Committee Member)
3. Keith Murphy (Committee & CC Rep)
4. John Nicholls (President)
5. Chris Povey (C) (Committee & CC Rep)
6. Stuart Cummings (Committee Member)

*(It was rather eerie, but something of a privilege, to be ringing the same bell Walter Large rang and from which he conducted many times, as indicated by the peal boards hanging in the tower. CP)*

## THE WELLESBOURNE RINGING CONFERENCE

It's rare that there is a National Bellingring Conference that's not the Central Council AGM. We are after all, usually far too busy spending our leisure time ringing. It's even rarer to find that the conference is only a few miles from home.

The Wellesbourne Conference "Change Ringing for the Future" was held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and given the location, given the subject and given that it was taking place on a Saturday, it was a given that I was going to attend and I was very pleased that I did.

Thankfully I was not alone. A conference of one is not much of a foundation on which to build any platform for progress. Just over 100 ringers with an eye to the future made Wellesbourne their home for the day and participated in a number of seminar sessions and presentations on the issues related to building Bellingring for the future.

It's unreasonable to expect one conference to come up with one lasting solution. The format of the day was great: maximising the input that each attendee was able to make and continual input on these matters is where the solution to our growth difficulty lies. Four seminars were scheduled for each delegate and I participated in:

- How does local leadership make a positive difference?
- How can we organise ourselves for a sustainable future?
- Who do we want to attract to ringing and how can we do that?
- What can we learn from the Church and other youth-focused organisations?

What did I learn? Well, if I'm going to select my top three conference chatter points they'd be:

- Don't be surprised if you put off your younger recruits by mentioning that when he or she gets good enough, they can join

the band on Sunday morning! Some will be OK, but most struggle with this.

- Don't be afraid to give your younger ringers some sort of responsibility e.g. running the practice, tower captaincy, correspondent, steeple-keeping, social events... in fact anything to cement their attachment to the art. Young people do need to put this sort of stuff on their CVs after all.
- Work out what sort of individuals are likely to be attracted to bellringing. Work out what sort of other activities that they are likely to be participating in. Then try and get your recruiting message into existing suitable channels where you can reach your potential recruits. Does this sound like an extract from a marketing handbook...? I suppose it does really!

I'd just like to finish with a few ideas that were explored at the conference and a few that have occurred to me since.

"Strictly Come Bellingring" is not an immediate thought for a hit TV series but might be worth considering in one way, shape or form. TV exposure, preferably with well-known celebrities, could do for bellringing what "Strictly" has done for ballroom dancing. I can't help feeling the ballroom world would have had some concerns over the ageing of its participants before the arrival of "strictly" some years ago. A number of celebrities do ring so could we get some assistance here?

It wasn't quite celebrity endorsement, but the TV programme on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December "Come Bellingring with Charles Hazelwood" gave us some tremendous coverage. (I'm sure I remember a TV programme of yesteryear called "Come Dancing"). Charles' enthusiasm, akin to Gareth Malone and his community choirs, is infectious and will encourage people to see the benefits of taking up an interest and not being put off by the nay-sayers. Was the key element here the fact that Charles

Hazelwood knew absolutely nothing about church bell ringing and was therefore not afraid to suggest and try something new? Think what happens when you press on despite observing: "We've never done it like that before".

The conference message on branding and logos was pretty clear. We need a National Logo that is universally recognised. How that will impinge on the numerous guild and association logos is an interesting thought. Looks like we might need to prepare ourselves for a national logo competition?

Subsequent to the conference, I heard a very sad tale of a highly competent young ringer leaving university and attempting to engage with a local (highly competent) band. This has proved a significant challenge trying to break into an established band set in their practice routines. Our newly emerged, potential ringing leader of the future is now feeling pretty frustrated with being blocked from participation at the higher level in the tower. This failure to absorb "new people" is quite disturbing given that I believe, perhaps naively, that most tower captains attempt to accommodate all their ringers' needs during the course of the practice.

I expect we've all got our little pet schemes and ideas on how we can secure the future. As we are not operating in a centrally-controlled, hierarchical, disciplined and highly co-ordinated structure (at least I think we're not), we would appear to have some freedom to try out some ideas for ourselves.

PS – If it works, pass it on.....

Keith Murphy –  
FSG CCCBR Rep

## ON ANOTHER NATIONAL INITIATIVE NOTE.....

You may have heard the Olympic Games are being held in London later this year. They start, amid fanfare, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July. What has this to do with bell ringing? It seems artist Martin Creed, the person masterminding the London 2012 Festival, a UK-wide 12-week event of cultural events that includes various iconic heritage sites being transformed by art installations, wants mass bell ringing at 8.00am on that day for 3 minutes. Kate Flavell, the President of the Central Council, says Mr Creed may not realise the impracticality of doing this, as it's far too short a time with rising bells that aren't already up – and then ringing them down afterwards. Also, many ringers will possibly find the time clashes with going to work and the like on a week-day morning. The Council is suggesting some alterations to Mr Creed to try to make the idea more practical.

Kate may be right; Mr Creed may know nothing about English bell ringing

and therefore may be completely unaware of what it takes to get bells rung. I've said publicly (on television as it happens!) that English bell ringing is as old as cricket and more 'English' than cricket, but the average English person hasn't a clue about English bell ringing. Anybody who's been involved with explaining our Art to non-ringing visitors will know this is the case. It's sad, but it's true...! We (ringers and ringing) probably ought to be involved in some way with this initiative, as it's a good PR exercise (Creed said a nationwide peal would be "a massive signal that something is happening"), but a more practical arrangement needs to be agreed. This subject will probably run and run up to the day before! Updates will no doubt be given, probably at the Central Council meeting at the beginning of June, and will be reported here.

Chris Povey (the other CC Rep!)



## THE 2011 INTER-SHIRES STRIKING COMPETITION

The Guild's Inter-Shires Striking Competition took place at Cherington on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Peter Kenealy ensured that the Church and the Village Hall were opened up in good time before going to ring for a wedding at Whichford.

The competition was run on the traditional Four Shires rules, ie the rise, method and fall were all judged.



Jackie providing some of the domestic support

The five judges, Alan Hartley for Worcestershire, David Leafe for Warwickshire, Ian Unsworth Gloucestershire, Ken Davenport for Oxfordshire and Bill Nash for the Guild, tried out the bells and then took their seats in the Vestry.

The draw took place and Warwick (for Warks) went first. They set a high standard and were followed by some good ringing from Eckington (for Worcs). Dursley (for Glos) were looking good until the treble ringer experienced rope trouble,

which put them out of contention. Finally it was the turn of Drayton St Leonard (for Oxon) and they rang very well.



The teams taking tea



The five wise men: L-R, Ken Davenport, Alan Hartley, Bill Nash, David Leafe, Ian Unsworth

The judges placed Oxfordshire first and Warwickshire second. No third or fourth places were given following the Guild's normal custom in this event.

The President presented the trophy to Hilarie Rogers, captain of the winning band.



The winners, Drayton St Leonard, with the FSG Inter-Shires Trophy:  
L-R, Robert Newton, John White, Hilarie Rogers (C), Christopher Rogers, Charlotte Rogers, Amy Herlihy

All present expressed their opinion that it was worthwhile starting the competition again after a break of some years.

Many thanks are due to members who came to help, in particular Jackie Hands who brought food and poured the tea; likewise Stuart and Michael Cummings, Andrew Gunn, Peter Kenealy, Allen Turner and Peter Quinn.

John Nicholls and Andrew Gunn

## THE 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY

After ringing on December 17<sup>th</sup>, which had to take place at Blockley instead of Chipping Campden due to a concert in the church there, the ringers all assembled at Little Glebe House in Chipping Campden for the annual Christmas Party. We were soon tucking in to an excellent buffet, thanks to the efforts of David and Maureen Adams, Sophia Lewis-Skeath and Andrew Gunn, and thanks to all members who contributed food.

There then followed a Quiz on a Christmas theme, the Question Master being Peter Kenealy. This proved quite difficult for some, although everybody seemed to know the answer to the question "Christmas Crackers is Cockney rhyming slang for what?!" Joint winners were Andrew Roberts and Keith Murphy with 21 out of 35 points, John Nicholls being a close runner up with 20 points.

Carol singing followed, with Benjamin Lewis-Skeath providing first-class accompaniment on his saxophone.

The party finished at 10-30, with everyone having had a good time. Thanks to Richard Lewis-Skeath for running the Blockley practice, and to John Nicholls for arranging the venue.

Peter Kenealy



Benjamin Lewis-Skeath 'providing first-class accompaniment on his saxophone'.



## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY TOURS REPORT

The October outing organised by Isobel Murphy took us around Cheltenham, the first tower being St Bartholomew's, Churchdown, (6, 11cwt) near the top of Churchdown Hill. The tenor here was thought to weigh 10-2-0 until last year, when Gillett & Johnston's records showed it to be 11-2-0. G&J rehung the bells in 1933. From there we descended to St Christopher's Church in Warden Hill. Its ring of 6 bells is the lightest in a church in the world, with a tenor of 0-2-7 (63lbs)! The lightness of these bells was a challenge to us all, but most of us stood up to it! It made good fun. It is a lovely church for a modern one. The stained glass windows are worth seeing. After St Christopher's we went for a good pub lunch.

The afternoon saw us first at St Peter's, Leckhampton, on the eight (9cwt), and then on to St Lawrence's, Swindon Village, to ring on the 6 (8cwt). Thank you, Isobel, for a good day out.

Sandra Parker organised the November outing, which took us into South Worcestershire. The first tower was Croome D'Abitot, next to Croome Court. The wheels of these bells have just been repaired through the help of the Worcestershire & Districts Change Ringing Association, to allow the bells to be rung again. The next tower was Holy Trinity, Eckington, to ring on the 8 (14cwt), after which we went over the road to have lunch at The Bell Inn.

The afternoon's ringing started at St Michael's, Great Comberton, where some of the 6 bells (9cwt) were cast by Matthew Bagley at his bell foundry in Evesham. We finished at St Mary's, Elmley Castle, on the 6 (17cwt), where there are some plans to replace the treble with one correctly tuned, and possibly to augment. Thank you, Sandra, for a lovely day out in the Worcestershire countryside.

Jill Roberts organised the December outing, which took us into Oxfordshire. The first tower was St Mary's at Freeland (6, 4cwt). This ring was remodelled into a lighter ring last year by using the 5<sup>th</sup> as the tenor. The Bell at Hanborough was our lunch stop.

The afternoon ringing started at St Martin's, Bladon (6, 6cwt), which is famous as the burial place of Sir Winston Churchill. To those of us who served in the War, he was someone very special. We ended our day at St Mary's, Woodstock (8, 13cwt), which is next to Sir Winston's birthplace, Blenheim Palace. Thank you for the day, Jill.

We all separated wishing each other a Merry Christmas.

Frank Spiers

### A POEM

Dear Chris, I thought you might be interested in the enclosed 'poem' for the FSG Newsletter. It was sent to us by some American visitors, who joined us in the tower one Thursday night practice. I am told it might not be complete! Best wishes, Ann Bourne, Blockley.

#### WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR 1066 by Hugh Chesterman

William the First was the first of kings,  
Not counting Ethelreds, Egberts & things.  
He had himself crowned, anointed & blessed,  
In 1066 - I needn't tell you the rest.  
But being a Norman, King William the First,  
By the Saxons he conquered was hated and cursed.  
They planned and they plotted far into the night,  
Which William could tell, by their candles alight.  
So William decided these rebels to quell  
By ringing a curfew a sort of a bell.  
And if any man was found out of bed,  
At eight o' clock sharp, it was off with his head!

At Bong number one they were off at a run, like a warren  
of rabbits upset by a gun.

At Bong number two they were all in a stew, flinging cap  
after tunic and hose after shoe.

At Bong number three they were bare to the knee, undoing  
the doings as fast as could be.

At Bong number four they were stripped to the core,  
putting on nightshirts the wrong side before.

At Bong number five they were looking alive, bizzing and  
buzzing like bees in a hive.

At Bong number six they all gave themselves kicks,  
tripping over rushes to put out the wicks.

At Bong number seven from Durham to Devon, they slipped  
a quick prayer for revenge up to Heaven.

At Bong number eight it was fatal to wait: in the deuce of  
a state I regret to relate, they jumped Bong into bed like  
a bull at a gate!!

### A USEFUL TOUCH OF BOB MINOR

Plain Bob Minor is rung fairly regularly. A quarter peal requires at least 540 changes to be added to the 720 changes of the extent. There is the 'normal' 540, which goes like this:-

540 Plain Bob Minor		
23456	W	H
45236	—	—
32456	—	S
34256	—	S

Repeat twice (3-part)  
(W= 5-6 up; H= 5-6 down;  
'—' = bob; 'S' = single)

There are a few other options for the extra length, just to spice things up a bit if the normal one gets boring. Here is one I arranged to give an overall length of 1296 (the extra bit is 576 changes), when there was a push to ring quarters of 1296 changes on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1996 (uh, gettit?).

That initiative won't return for a long time. It would be a shame if such 'specialist' touches were to sink into oblivion, when, for the sake of a few extra changes, a more interesting Quarter might derive. Here is 'my' 576:-

576 Plain Bob Minor				
23456	W	4ths	B	In
35426	—	—	—	H
25346	—	—	—	2
45236	—	—	—	2
32456	—	—	—	S

Repeated (2 part)  
(W= 5-6 up; B= run out; H= 5-6 down;  
'—' = one bob; '2' = 2 bobs (in twice); 'S' = single)

'Hmmm,' somebody with a long memory might say, 'I've seen that before somewhere'. Indeed you have. It was in the FSG January 1996 Newsletter; and it was in a letter from me to the Ringing World at about that time.

Go on - give it an airing. And yes, it is true (computer proved).

Chris Povey



## ST THOMAS'S DAY RINGING AT EBRINGTON

On the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> December, St Thomas's Day, seven ringers rang the bells of St Eadburgha's Church, Ebrington, from 5.45am-7.00am as a continuation of a tradition of a signal that it was alms-giving day.

From Ebrington we could also hear the bells of St James' Church, Chipping Campden, ringing out for the same reason.

A few years ago I can remember my mother-in-law receiving a loaf of bread on St Thomas's Day.

In a myths and legends book I have there is a reference that if an unmarried lady wanted to see an apparition of her future husband, she would peel a large onion at bedtime and stick nine pins in it on St Thomas's Eve. She would then chant "Good St Thomas do me right, send me my true love this night".



L-R: Pauline Banton, Michael Cummings, Godfrey Farmer, Rev Fred Rothery, Peter Banton, Stuart Cummings.

After ringing we were again treated to a full English breakfast given by Mrs Stanley.



L-R: Godfrey Farmer, Pauline Banton, Stuart Cummings, Fred Rothery, Allen Turner, Michael Cummings.

A book in my possession gives information about St Thomas. It reads:-

### THOMAS

*Thomas, one of the Twelve Apostles. Nothing is recorded about him in the New Testament, except by St John. When the disciples were trying to deter Jesus from taking the risk of going to Bethany where Lazarus lay dead, Thomas burst out, "Let us also go, that we may die with him";<sup>1</sup> and he is mentioned as putting a question to Jesus at the Last Supper<sup>2</sup>. But*

*he is also remembered chiefly for his refusal to credit the other disciples with having seen the Risen Lord that led to the reappearance of Jesus in order to persuade him to be 'not faithless but believing'.<sup>3</sup> The Acts of Thomas, composed in the third century, record that the Apostle was taken to India to act as a carpenter for King 'Gundaphorus'. He preferred, however, to spend his time in mission preaching, alms-giving, and curing disease, and the fame of his miraculous achievements caused such a disturbance that he was arrested and run through with spears. St Thomas therefore bears a spear as his emblem.*

<sup>1</sup> St John xi, 16.

<sup>2</sup> xiv, 4.

<sup>3</sup> xx, 24-9

Because of his spiritual blindness, he became the Patron Saint of those with poor eyesight.

Allen Turner

*(Ringing early on St Thomas's Day was a fairly widely recognised tradition in the North Cotswolds. The last time I rang for it, I overslept and arrived late amid various ribald remarks....*

*Very sadly, December 21<sup>st</sup> is no longer St Thomas's Day, as a few years ago 'The Church', in its wisdom, decided to move his day to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The following piece taken from 'Wikipedia' on the internet describes the current position and what happened:-*

*'When the feast of Saint Thomas was inserted in the Roman calendar in the 9th century, it was assigned to 21 December, although the Martyrology of St Jerome had a mention of the Apostle on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the date to which the Roman celebration was transferred in 1969, so that it would no longer interfere with the major ferial days of Advent. 3<sup>rd</sup> July was the day on which his relics were translated from Mylapore, a place along the coast of the Marina Beach, Chennai in India to the city of Edessa in Mesopotamia. Roman Catholics who follow a pre-1970 calendar and many Anglicans (including members of the Episcopal Church as well as members of the Church of England who worship according to the 1662 edition of the Book of Common Prayer) still celebrate his feast day on 21<sup>st</sup> December'.*

*An internet trawl for a listing of Saints' days shows St Thomas no longer appears on December 21<sup>st</sup>, but on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. It is true he heads the list of other Saints on that day, so his seniority appears intact.*

*Perhaps it's more accurate to refer to ringing on St Thomas's Day as 'Old St Thomas's Day' – unless of course we do as Wikipedia suggests, ie, we can celebrate St Thomas's Day on December 21<sup>st</sup> if we 'worship according to the 1662 edition of the Book of Common prayer', which may be quite truthful for some.*

*Let's hope the tradition of ringing on December 21<sup>st</sup> continues. It wouldn't be quite the same ringing at 6.00am on July 3<sup>rd</sup> – even though the getting up would be massively easier!!*

*Perhaps the Guild's Chaplain, Rev Patrick Wooster, can add something to this?*

*Ed.*

*PS: good to see you're keeping well, Fred, and still able to do the bizz on a bell. It is now 38 years since you officiated at a certain wedding at Campden..... !! Chris)*

**GUILD ANNUAL DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

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

**MENU**

Tomato and basil soup served with crusty bread

or

Chicken liver parfait served with toasted brioche and red onion marmalade

\*\*\*\*\*

Roast beef served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal  
vegetables and gravy

or

Roasted hake served on lemon and thyme risotto and a white wine and cream sauce

or

Mediterranean vegetable Gnocchi topped with goat's cheese and cherry tomatoes

\*\*\*\*\*

Sticky toffee pudding served with sticky toffee sauce and vanilla ice cream

or

Passion fruit crème brûlée served with home-made short bread biscuits

\*\*\*\*\*

Cost of Dinner £21.00

Please let either John Nicholls on 01386 841084 (email [john.nicholls18b@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:john.nicholls18b@tiscali.co.uk)), or Peter Quinn on  
01789 840827 (email [peterquinn22@gmail.com](mailto:peterquinn22@gmail.com)) know your choice of menu  
by Saturday 22nd January 2012

There will be a guest speaker

The striking competition trophies will also be presented.

**FOR SALE – BELL ROPES**

Full rope: red/white/blue sally; 10'-6" tail; 42ft flax top rope and includes leather garter hole tube. Suit top of sally to garter up to 25ft. Good condition, some pulley wear on top rope. For bells 6-10cwt. £45

Top rope (flax): 41ft long; gauge suitable bells 10-20cwt. Superb cond. £25

Top rope (flax): 48ft long; gauge suitable bells 3-10cwt. V. good cond and has been treated with Ellis's 'Rope-Treat'. £25

Untreated flax top ropes can be treated with 'Rope-Treat' for £5 extra per rope.

CHRIS POVEY: 01386-584388 or email me

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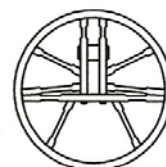
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## AROUND THE TOWERS

### QUARTER PEALS – AND TWO PEALS:-

Hearty congratulations to the bands that rang the following peals, as there were some 'firsts' in each:-

#### FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

OFFENHAM, Worcestershire  
Church of St Mary & St Milburgh

Sunday 30 October 2011 in 2hours 39mins (tenor: 10-3-2 in F#)

##### 5040 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Timothy E Pinner
- 2 Claire Penny
- 3 Tom Sandham
- 4 Matthew Kemble
- 5 Martin B Penny (C)
- 6 John Kemble

Rung to mark the 150th anniversary of the re-consecration of the church after the rebuild by Frederick Preedy.

Also for All Souls, particularly remembering Harry Moseley who died earlier this month aged 11

First Peal - 1,3,6 First inside - 4

First by a local band for 20 years

The following five quarters were rung in memory of Tony Adams, who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. He was a former lay reader at Whitnash, former curate of Wellesbourne, the vicar of Ettington & Halford, and brother of David:-

**Salford Priors, Warks**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Chris Mew (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Janet Parham 3, John Gwynne 4, Michael Gray 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, John Nicholls 7, Peter Quinn 8. 1<sup>st</sup> Gr'sire Triples: 3.

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Robert Reeves 1, Mark Sayers 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Diana Reeves 4, Karen French 5, John Nicholls 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath 7, Peter Quinn (C) 8.

**Halford, Warks**, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1309 Grandsire Doubles: David Adams 1, Ted Copson 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 3, John Nicholls 4, Michael Cummings 5, Peter Kenealy 6.

**Whitnash, Warks**, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: David Adams 1, Chris Cook 2, Chris Mew 3, Karen French 4, Sue Bacon 5, Peter Quinn 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 7, Stuart Cummings 8.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1260 Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles: David Adams 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Rob Stansbury 4, Peter Kenealy 5, John Nicholls 6.

#### FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

MORETON-IN-MARSH, Gloucestershire  
Church of St David

Thursday 29th December 2011 in 2hours 50mins (tenor: 10-0-14)

##### 5024 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Susan E Marshall
- 2 Isobel M Murphy
- 3 Keith R Murphy
- 4 Patricia A M Halls
- 5 Nicholas K Allsopp
- 6 John W G Gwynne
- 7 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 8 Christopher F Mew (C)

(Composed by C W Woolley)

Wedding day compliment to Rachel Franklin and Rob Merritt.

Birthday compliments to Lucy Gwynne (27th) and Benjamin Lewis-Skeath (29th)

1st Major - 2

**Mickleton, Glos**, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 1260 Stedman Triples: Chris Mew 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Peter Quinn 3, John Nicholls 4, Mark Sayers 5, Jackie Hands 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 7, John Kinchin 8. 75<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to John Kinchin. 1<sup>st</sup> Stedman Triples as conductor.



The band that rang the Q at Todenham on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov: see p.11 for details.

**Salford Priors, Warks**, 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1312 Rutland D Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Peter Quinn 2, Robert Reeves 3, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 4, John Gwynne 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. 65<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Anne Skeath, mother of 6.

**Mickleton, Glos**, 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Chris Mew 1, John Gwynne 2, Isobel Murphy 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, John Kinchin 5, Jackie Hands 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Mike Fairfax 8. To congratulate Joanna Murphy on being awarded MA in Modern History from King's College, London.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 1296 Grandsire Caters: Freda Cleaver 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, Katy Lane 3, Michael Haynes 4, Andrew Baker 5, Martin Penny (C) 6, Sarah Chadburn 7, John Nicholls 8, Chris Povey 9, Mike Fairfax 10. Rung prior to the wedding of Sonia Brown, Sandy's daughter and Andrew's step-daughter.

I noted in the last Newsletter that a lot of quarters had been rung. There was one more, but its non-publication was, I'm sorry to say, due to me overlooking it. My apologies to Hilary and the band for missing it. The details are below:-

**Badsey, Worcs**, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 (on the back 'Maiden' six), 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: John Bolton 1, Claire Penny 2, Martin Kemp 3, Clint Evans 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Gordon Hill 6. Organised by Hilary Bolton and rung while 'The Badsey Historical Society' members were walking the village. Starting at 'The Fountain', commissioned and placed 100 years ago in the High Street to 'Celebrate' the Coronation of King George V.

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EVESHAM</b> , Worcs	12, 35-2-20 in C#; 10, 14-2-26 in F#
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHIPPING NORTON</b> , Oxon	8, 14-1-4 in F#
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>SNITTERFIELD</b> , Warks	6, 16-1-13 in F
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WINCHCOMBE</b> , Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>NO PRACTICE: ANNUAL DINNER AT THE WHITE HART, MORETON – see Notice p. 16</u></b>	
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OFFENHAM</b> , Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) – <b><u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u></b>
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BIDFORD-ON-AVON</b> , Warks	8, 14-0-24 in F (GF)
Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GREAT WOLFORD</b> , Warks	6, 11-3-7 in F# - <b><u>NOTE: 7.30-8.30pm</u></b>
Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>MICKLETON</b> , Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E (GF) - <b><u>NOTE: 7.30-8.45pm</u></b>
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MORETON-IN-MARSH</b> , Glos	8, 10-0-14 in G
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TEMPLE GUITING</b> , Glos	6, 11-3-17 in F#
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BADSEY</b> , Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F – <b><u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u></b>
Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>GUITING POWER</b> , Glos	6, 6-2-25 in Bb (GF)
Apr 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHERINGTON</b> , Warks (Easter Saturday)	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF)
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WELFORD-ON-AVON</b> , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>WHICHFORD</b> , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
Apr 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SHERBOURNE</b> , Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F#

For any alterations to this programme, check the 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.

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:**

## **SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**PLEASE NOTE:** the proposal to raise the subscription to £5 per annum (Juniors £2 per annum) was accepted by the members at the 2011 AGM at Barford on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Please read the Editorial on p.3 and then pay the new-rate subs with a smile!

For all-round ease, please use the attached renewal slip or obtain it from the web-site.

Events for **2012** are:-

**Guild Annual Dinner**  
**Summer BBQ & river trip**  
**Guild Ringing Tour**

**Mini-Mouse Striking comp**  
**Guild Walking Tour**  
**Guild AGM**

**Inter-Shires Competition**

**Sat Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh (see details p.16)**  
**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June, Evesham. Full details in April Newsletter. Book the date!**  
**either: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July if a one-day event as before.**  
**or: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July if a weekend (see mention of this possibility in October Newsletter.**

**Locations & other details tba: book the date(s)!**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Possibly at Salford, Oxon. Details tba.**  
**September/October: a firm date is tba (2011's walk was a delight!)**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Possibly at Chastleton, but details tba. Book the date!**

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> November. Details tba**