

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 136 - APRIL 2013



Ruby Anniversary
1973-2013

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.10	Obituaries: Arthur Berry and Juliet Reynolds
P.3	Editorial. It's a small world!	P.11	Mid-weeks outings reports
P.4	Guild accounts to 31 st Dec 2012	P.12	From the Archives: 100 yrs and 40 yrs ago
P.5	Committee Meeting. Mickleton ringing 2013.	P.13	El Pres's X-word. 'Can I rope you in?'
P.6	2013 Annual Dinner report	P.14	Around the tower: places; Notices and adverts
P.7	The Challenge Shield, Part 1: What was it?	P.15	Around the towers: quarters, peals, etc
P.8	The Longborough ringers in the early 1900s	P.16	Diary of Saturday towers, etc; Tag end.

FORTY YEARS ON..... 30TH MARCH 1973 – 30TH MARCH 2013



Some of the Guild's members gathered to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the refounding of the Guild on the same date and in the same building as the original meeting: March 30th in the Church Rooms, Chipping Campden. Three of the six surviving members from 1973 were able to be there, (centre three, L-R) Chris Povey, Mike Fairfax and John Nicholls. Of the other three, Clint Evans had a chest infection (Sheila, his wife, said he hadn't walked his dogs and therefore had to be ill for that not to happen) so couldn't attend, Malcolm Stewart was coming with Clint, and the Rev Fred Rothery had a very long distance to come. It seems colds, coughs and whatever else were rampant at the time, as Freda Cleaver sent her apologies for not attending due to being struck by 'the bug'. Others possibly, too.

Some sparkling and still wine was distributed, and nibbly food was brought and consumed. John Nicholls gave a brief history on how the refounding came about and Chris Povey read out the Minutes of that occasion. The Minute Book from 1973 to 1999 and the Treasurer's Accounts Book from 1973 were available to peruse, and the Brazier Trophy cup and the treasured Spencer Jones Cup were on display.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

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

peterquinn22@gmail.com

Ringling Master

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

sophia.dady@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary

Mr Andrew Gunn

awgrf@hotmail.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Michael Dane

landm.dane@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Peter Kenealy

peterkenealy@btinternet.com

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Keith Murphy

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Chris Povey

Mr Michael Haynes

CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

cmpovey@btinternet.com

Mr Keith Murphy

keith.murphy@btinternet.com

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

parker@bidford948.fsnet.co.uk

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Membership Secretary

Mr Peter Kenealy

Child Protection Officer

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

Health & Safety Officer

Mr Chris Povey

Mid-week Tours

General Contact

Mrs Isobel Murphy

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com

Newsletter Editor

Mr Chris Povey

cmpovey@btinternet.com

The FSG website is: <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (July 2013) is June 13th 2013

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 don't worry if you think your handwriting is unintelligible. It can normally be translated. Just send the stuff 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.)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2013 SUBSCRIPTIONS?

IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID BY THE END OF JUNE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE JULY NEWSLETTER, NOR FOLLOWING ISSUES, UNTIL YOU DO SO.

(Can you afford to lose your favourite publication? If not, please pay. Subscription rates above; and see back page.)

EDITORIAL

By this time, with the shortest day, Christmas and the New Year festivities well behind us, and even with the Spring equinox now a week or two away, I was expecting to feel warm sunshine and see blue sky. Little did I think my heating system would still be going some 5 months after being switched on. Apparently Easter was the coldest on record; and March was the coldest since 1962. It is becoming increasingly unusual to see blue sky, fluffy white clouds and a big ball of fire that actually warms....

Obituaries: one obituary was one too many in the last Newsletter, so reports of three deaths now is extremely sad. Obituaries for Arthur Berry, and Juliet Reynolds appear on p.10. An obituary for Jane Hammond will appear in the July Newsletter. Our sincere condolences go to their families.

Peal Secretary: you will see from the Committee Meeting notes (p.5) that Sandra Parker of Bidford has offered to do this job. We are delighted to have you on board, Sandra!

Newsletter costs: the appearance of the Guild accounts (see p.4) caused me to undertake some calculations to identify production costs for the Newsletter. A rough estimate of 'about 9p per double-sided sheet' was given in my article in the July 2012 about how the Newsletter is produced. Although the printing of the new Guild Rules Handbook occurred in 2012, there was a reduction in the number of Newsletters printed for the April, July and December issues. The total double-sided sheets therefore remained much the same as 2011. In both years (2011 and 2012) the cost per double-sided sheet was just under 7p. The Newsletter is the largest single expenditure for the Guild. I am pleased it is being held steady at a very reasonable level. If anyone knows of a place that will print/copy double-sided in colour for less than 7p per sheet, please let the printing team know. They will happily hand over the job!

Newsletter articles: although issues seem to fill up without too much difficulty, I would be delighted if there were more contributors. I write much of each issue and I suspect many members must be

fed up with seeing my name so often at the end of an article. Because of this I am grateful to have contributions to this issue from John Kinchin, Frank Spiers, John Nicholls, Michael Dane, Richard Lewis-Skeath, Michael Haynes and lastly (but far from being the least) Stella Southam. Stella's article on the Longborough ringers of a century ago (p.8) is superb; well researched, well-written and very interesting indeed. An absolute delight! Can we have some more like that, please? Stella has done her bit (but if you have some more in that vein, Stella, please don't be shy in sending them in!). Others must have similarly interesting articles to compile. Grateful as I am to these contributors, and to others who have contributed in the past, I think the Newsletter needs more contributors and therefore a wider spread of styles and subjects to make it more interesting. I know many members will say, "I can't write", but most people can. It may not rival Charles Dickens, but it will be sufficient to get the message over. I am used to 'cleaning up' written English of various styles and sources, so don't worry about it not 'being right'. I can sort that problem. Neither does it need to be fancily printed; it can come handwritten on a scrappy bit of paper. I would rather clean up submitted articles than write the articles from scratch! A year or two back there were many letters on various subjects and this made interesting reading. Write a letter on any aspect of the Guild, whether complimentary, critical or just good-natured. I will publish all.

All power to John Kinchin for organising an event to raise money to purchase new ropes for Mickleton (p.13). In my humble view, too many towers plonk the cost of new ropes onto their PCCs. These bodies are very clearly having a tough time financially at the moment, with many PCCs finding themselves unable to pay their quota. One new rope will be at least £120. PCCs may not find such items far up the priority list now. We ringers

therefore have an increasing need either to look after/repair our ropes to lengthen their lives, or fund or find independent funding ourselves. As someone who looks after a number of ropes at his own and at two other towers, and has recently been repairing ropes in towers elsewhere, I find myself casting an inspecting eye over ropes in towers I visit without thinking. Some towers look after ropes quite well, whereas some seem not to care about them at all. I guess if somebody else pays, you don't worry. Beware: this might not continue. We ringers must continue to look after, or in some cases start looking after, 'our' bell installations through funds of our own or funds collected as at Mickleton, otherwise we may find that the owners, the PCCs, will restrict payments or stop them altogether.

Thefts from Churches: such acts have been prevalent for some time – nothing is genuinely sacred any more, it seems – but, as far as ringers and bells are concerned, recent events have raised the bar. Along with similar incidents at St Nicholas, Warwick, and St Sampson's, Cricklade, the tower door at Moreton-in-Marsh was forced and 'a person unknown' gained entry to the Ringing Chamber. The only loss was money from the collecting box, but an idiot in such a place in such circumstances could wreak much havoc. While he, she, or they may not get into the belfry, much damage could have been done to ropes, with attendant inconvenience and large cost. Please ensure everything is well-secured.

Chris Povey, (Caretaker) Editor

(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.)

IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

Some forty years ago my phone rang one evening and the voice on the other end said, "My name is John Kinchin". I immediately thought this a leg-pull, but the 'other' John had seen my name in 'The Ringing World'. He, too, was a bellringer, regularly ringing with his wife and children in towers around Leicester.

We struck up an acquaintance and we regularly keep in touch – the last being our family reunion in 2012 (even though there is no direct family connection).

Now, an amazing coincidence occurred in mid-January. Gareth Bond, the Mickleton postmaster, received a phone call from Tom Edgar of Lutterworth Coaches in Leicestershire. This gentleman regularly brings tourist coaches through Mickleton during the summer months, and along the entire route he likes to point out items of interest to his passengers. In Mickleton he always refers to the original village water supply structure. It

seems some passengers asked for more details about this structure. Tom said he didn't have any more information, so asked Gareth. Being a relative newcomer Gareth said, 'No, but I know somebody who can.' Guess who that was....

I phoned Tom Edgar the next day. The receptionist immediately put me through to his extension. 'Good morning', I said. 'This is John Kinchin of Mickleton. You phoned our postmaster yesterday.' There occurred a stifled silence. Then followed, 'My daughter worked with a John Kinchin in Leicester prior to his retirement.' Yes, it was, of course, the 'other' John Kinchin!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD!!

John Kinchin

(This article originally appeared in the *St Lawrence, Mickleton, Church magazine* and was submitted by John for this Newsletter.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2012

<u>2011</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	General Fund				General Fund		
£925.93	Opening Balance	£527.10	1				
£531.50	Subscriptions	£945.00	2	£711.13	Newsletters	£411.47	3
£0.79	Interest			£364.47	Insurance	£272.24	
£25.00	Advertising Sales			£32.08	Expenses		
£335.00	Garments	£20.50		£302.97	Garments		
£800.00	Annual Dinner	£0.00		£870.00	Annual Dinner	£21.00	
23.50	G&B Donation	£30.00		£40.00	CCCBR	£50.00	
£34.40	Inter-Shires striking comp tea						
£71.63	Miscellaneous						
£100.00	Donations						
	Badges Donation	£22.50			Badges & Shields	£306.00	
	BBQ	£210.00			BBQ	£210.00	
	Bell Fund Donations	£540.75			Transferred to Bell Fund	£540.75	
	Tour (donation to Tower)	£15.00			Donation (Summer outing)	£15.00	
£1,921.82	Total receipts	£1,783.75		£2,320.65	Total expenditure	£1,826.46	
				£527.10	Closing balance	£484.39	
<hr/>							
	Restricted Funds – Bell Fund		4				
£1,725.25	Opening balance	£1,395.25	1				
£100.00	Mid Week Tours	£200.00		£500.00	Temple Guiting		
£7.00	Donations	£12.00			St Laurence Wyck Rissington	£350.00	
	Dinner raffle	£63.00			Welford	£200.00	
	Interest	£1.10					
	Newsletter Advertising	£105.00					
	HSBC Complaint	£50.00					
£63.00	Other (Raffles, outing, teas etc)	£173.75					
£170.00	Total receipts	£541.85		£500.00	Total expenditure	£550.00	
				£1,395.25	Closing balance	£1,387.10	
<hr/>							
Creditors at year end				Debtors at year end			
	Garments	£20.50			None		
<hr/>							
Assets							
	Badges & Shields	£306.00					
	Ink & Paper	£208.65					

Other assets of the Guild include: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer Jones Cup, Minimus Striking Competition trophy, RM's Merit Award, Inter-Shire Championship trophy, peal books and documents. The Shield, Cup, Trophy and President's Chain have been valued professionally and are currently insured by the Guild for £4,153.

Notes:

- 1 Opening balances:
The Guild operates 2 bank accounts, one for the General Fund and the other (which incurs interest) for the Bell Fund;
of £91.25. The true printing cost of the FSG printing is £381.
- 2 Subscriptions:
The total membership for 2012 was 192. This includes 4 Life members (ratified at the 2012 AGM), 2 who paid in 2011 and 8 who have paid for 2013 as well
- 3 Newsletters:
Covers cost of printing Newsletters and Guild Rules. £116.53 was carried into 2012 & £208.65 is carried into 2013 for unused inks and paper. The 2 printers purchased by the Guild will be written off in 2013 at a cost
- 4 Bell Fund:
The Committee decided that all the profit from Teas, Raffles etc and Newsletter advertising income would go into the Bell Fund, together with any interest generated by the account.

Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer

REPORT BY THE ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS:

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our notice to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed) Michael Fairfax, Trevor Hobday

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 5TH MARCH.

The Committee met on Tuesday 5th March at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Sophia Lewis-Skeath and Keith Murphy presented their apologies.

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

2) **Matters arising** were:-

Feedback from the Annual Dinner: all agreed that the Dinner at the White Hart Royal Hotel was excellent this year. Food and service were much better than previously and it was agreed that we should book the venue for the 2014 Dinner;

Certificates for teams taking part in the Newing Shield comp: Peter Q has devised a format for these and will progress. Unfortunately, not all of the names in the winning team can be determined, and thus there is a delay in finalising;

Membership list for Newsletter distribution: Peter K agrees with Michael D's figures. Michael D will prepare a list of those members who have a hardcopy Newsletter, to minimise surplus printing;

Guild lapel badge: now available at £4 each;

40th Anniversary Celebrations, March 30th: to be at the Church Rooms, Chipping Campden after the Saturday practice. Need not be formal; just a get-together to mark the occasion. John said he will provide a bottle of wine; Chris said he will, too. Nibbly food to be brought.

3) **Reports**: the following are highlights:-

Hon Secretary: Andrew said he has the stock of lapel badges. Hasn't heard from Tower Trophies re the ordered type with ordinary pin attachment, but will pursue when possible;

Treasurer: Michael D presented his as-yet unaudited accounts for 2012. All agreed the balance sheet has been prepared swiftly and with great clarity and accuracy;

Fixture Sec: Stuart is compiling the list for the next Newsletter. He said some towers in Oxfordshire are charging teams to ring at them. Guild policy precludes this (although the Guild will give grants to deserving cases instead), so we are unlikely to ring at these places in future unless policies

change. He said, too, that he's having some difficulty in getting dates for towers confirmed, but will get the situation clarified in time for the next Newsletter;

Newsletter Editor: Chris said the April issue is behind schedule at present and, due to Easter being at the end of March, he would like to print a week later than normal. Tuesday 9th April agreed for this. He thinks the issue will be 16 sides, as a lot of copy is in or has been promised. Peter K reported that Richard Lewis-Skeath has largely completed the organisation of a week-end Guild Ringing Tour, 5th-7th July, which is to be around Ludlow. This needs to be advertised in the April Newsletter, as the July issue will be too late. Chris to obtain the data from Richard;

Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours co-ordinator: it was reported that Isobel Murphy is carrying a float of £103.25 for this event;

CCCBR reps: two CCCBR events were staged at Wellesbourne recently, Education Committee and PR Committee;

Bell Restoration Fund: Andrew reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Wyck Rissington. Also, Chris said he had been up in Hinton-on-the-Green's belfry recently and had seen that the bird netting was still intact and doing the job. He had also found out that the material used for this was UV proof. He suggested that as half the grant money offered to Hinton was for clearing the belfry of nasty debris (ie £50), it would be reasonable to pay this amount, due to this being achieved successfully. As the netting was doing the job and it did seem as though it would be sufficiently resistant to rot and UV light, might it be reasonable to pay the other £50? Peter Q felt it was and asked for a vote on it. A majority agreement was indicated. Andrew to arrange payment to Hinton PCC.

4) **Items for discussion**:-

Peal Secretary: Sandra Parker has volunteered for this. The Committee snapped up her offer!

Guild artefacts and database: Andrew has done considerable work on this and displayed his results so far. All agreed that it provided an excellent foundation. It needs volunteers to check out towers, to check for any FSG items, young or old. Some volunteered to do this. Andrew to compile a list of towers at which volunteers agreed to check;

Gloucester Archives for the Old Minute Book: Andrew reported he hadn't done this yet, but would do so as soon as he is able;

EIG insurance: the situation with the Guild's Public Liability insurance to be reported to the CC (in particular Kate Flavell). Andrew to action;

Guild Walk: info needed for April Newsletter. Michael H promised to provide.

AGM & Striking Comp location and Minimus Competition location: Chris said the cycle of past event locations suggested somewhere in Worcestershire this year. He suggested Offenham; the local RM is happy re this. All agreed that Offenham be the location for the 2013 event on Sat 12th October. Chris said he'd arranged a tower for the Minimus Comp on Sat September 14th: Wyck Rissington! Inter-Shires Competition: John said he would head the organisation of this if wished. We wished..! Tower to be chosen.

5) **Any Other Business**:-

None

Next Meeting: 4th June 2013, Ilmington.

(NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.)

MICKLETON RINGING RECORDS FOR 2012.

Despite the fact that we have only three resident ringers, we again excelled with our ringing (compared to most local towers in the area, and indeed countryside possibly) inasmuch that the bells of St Lawrence Church rang out on 59 occasions during the year.

I keep detailed records of when ringing occurs and for what purpose, and the breakdown is as below:-

Sunday morning Services	21
Tower practices	13
Weddings	4
Quarter peals	6
Patronal Festival	1
G&B North Cotswolds Branch practices	4
Four Shires Guild practices	1
Jubilee celebrations	2
Kinchin family reunion	1

Visiting ringers tours	4
Full Peal	1
Outdoor Carol Service	<u>1</u>
Total	59

As can be seen, the highest proportion of ringing was for calling worshippers to church on Sunday mornings – and rightly so!

Previous yearly totals are: 2011, 50 occasions; 2010, 41 ditto; 2009, 54; 2008, 55; 2007, 52; 2006, 53; 2005, 56.

Our thanks must be given to ringers from Ebrington, Quinton, Ilmington and more recently Stratford-on-Avon, who regularly help us out.

John Kinchin

THE 2013 GUILD DINNER, SATURDAY 2ND FEB

The 2013 Guild Annual Dinner was once again held at the White Hart Royal Hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh. It is a very central location. The hotel was very good to us last year in dealing with last-minute cancellations due to the snow, and this year they were equally good in terms of quality of the food and in the service offered. Over 40 members and guests attended this very convivial event. At the beginning the President, John Nicholls, reported the deaths of Arthur Berry and, earlier that day, of Juliet Reynolds. He asked for a minute's silence in their memories.

The Dinner is, of course, the occasion when the awards gained in the activities of the previous 12 months are distributed. The full range of Guild trophies were on display beforehand.

Our Speaker this year, Peter Bennett from Newport, has been a member for only two years, but his association with the Guild stretches back some 60 years, as he told us. Although originally from Birmingham, his family moved to Wootton Wawen when he was young. Peter learnt to ring there, amid the old Guild certificates hanging on the walls at the time, and the Four Shires Guild was truly his first contact with a ringing organisation. He told us of his fascination with the certificates, but, although there were a few FSG members from that era still around then to tell him anything, only a glimpse of the Guild was possible. He therefore finds the present-era Guild brings those early memories to life. He told us about one or two of the old-Guild ringers he met. His second peal (Grandsire Triples) was at Mickleton with Fred Kinchin in it. Another story concerned Fred Lyne from Stratford, who took part in some peals in and around Warwickshire. Fred agreed to ring in an attempt at Honiley. He went back home and told his wife he was ringing in the evening on whichever day it was. Come the appointed day the peal band met one short: no Fred. Luckily the person who let them in agreed to ring a quarter, but because he felt OK near the end of the quarter he allowed it to run on to complete a peal. Fred was asked later why he didn't turn up. He said, "I got myself ready to come and then went outside to go, but came back inside again. My wife said, 'I thought you were going out to ring'. I said, 'I was, but I be damned if I can remember where it's going to be'. And that's why I wasn't there!"

The award-giving followed the Speaker. The President, John Nicholls, handed out all-but-one of these, the exception being the Ringing Master's Merit Award, which was given by Guild Ringing Master, Sophia Lewis-Skeath. The list of awards and their recipients were:-

- The Newing Shield Striking competition:-
 The Newing Shield Moreton-in-Marsh
 The Spencer Jones Cup Wellesbourne
 The Ringing Master's Merit Award Long Compton

- The Minimus Striking Competition:-
 The 'Minnie Mouse' trophy 'The Committee' team

In addition, the purchase of a new batch of winner's shields for the Newing Shield competition allowed past winners to be awarded these permanent tower momentos.

The Brazier Trophy Striking Competition for inexperienced bands did not run this year.

So ended another Guild Dinner. Although we have had (and at the time of writing, are still having) a long, cold winter, we did not have snow to contend with this year and thus had a greater attendance. It was a very enjoyable and successful occasion.



The assembled company



The awards awaiting distribution



Our Speaker, Peter Bennett



Richard L-S receiving the Newing Shield on behalf of Moreton-in-Marsh



Peter Quinn receiving the Spencer Jones Cup on behalf of Wellesbourne



Peter Kenealy receiving the Ringing Master's Merit Award for Long Compton



Michael Haynes receiving the 'Minnie Mouse' Trophy on behalf of 'The Committee' team



Bill Nash receiving two past winner's shields for Mickleton

THE 'CHALLENGE SHIELD', PART 1: WHAT WAS IT?

I listened with great interest to Peter Bennett's account of him learning to ring at Wootton Wawen surrounded by certificates of the old Guild hanging on the walls (see Report of the Annual Dinner), as I, too, learnt to ring in a similar environment. There were four such certificates hanging on the wall at Ebrington then (there is only one now), and therefore, in the same way as Peter, my first contact with a ringing association was the Four Shires Guild. At that time Harry 'Chinny' Baker was still ringing there. He was an old-Guild member dating back to the early 1920s. Occasionally he might mention the Four Shires Guild (I probably asked about it) and very occasionally he might give it more than a mention, but little more. I did, however, hear just a mention of 'The Shield', but that it had disappeared. The next time something about this almost mythical shield popped up was when I rang at Moreton for the first time. Harry Baker was pointed out to me on the old photo of the Guild hanging in the Ringing Room. On it was The Shield (the photo of it here is an extract from that photo. This is the limit of enlargement before detail quality is affected).

The refounding of the Guild in 1973 brought the possessions of the old Guild into greater focus. Very happily the Spencer Jones Cup was discovered early on. Since then we have had the Old Minute book returned. What priceless treasures these two items are! The Challenge Shield (to use its full title) was the award given to the winners of the striking competition. The Old Minute Book provides sufficient material to allow its early history to be discovered. Sadly, the Shield remains lost. This is a great shame, as the Old Minute Book gives sufficient information to confirm the rumours that it was additionally a Memorial to Guild members killed in the Great War (WW1).

Extracts from the Old Minute Book:

29th April 1920 – 'The Sec raised the question of a new type of trophy to be competed for, and the



'The FSG Challenge Shield'

Meeting resolved to refer the matter to the Committee for their consideration.'

24th September 1920 – 'On the matter of a Trophy, the feeling of the meeting seemed to favour a Shield (sic), and the Vicar of Campden kindly undertook to make enquiries as to the cost &c from the Guild of Art in Campden.'

27th October 1920 – 'The Rev G E Hitchcock produced the design of a Shield (sic: again) which a previous committee meeting had requested him to obtain, with a view to adopting a Trophy of this pattern to be duly competed for at future meetings. It was on the proposition of Mr H Pitcher, seconded by the Secretary, resolved, that the design be adopted, it being left in the hands of the Chairman to arrange for the purchase thereof. It was decided to include the names of the fallen Ringers belonging to the Ilmington belfry on the Trophy.'

30th March 1921 – 'Pro by Mr Pardon sec by Mr Bird that the Trophy be held by the

Winning Tower at Blockley for the first 6 months, then the tower who won the highest number of points at the Spring & Autumn meetings combined, be allowed to hold the Challenge Shield (sic: yet again) for the next 12 months. This was also agreed to, and the secretary was instructed to show the Trophy to the President and afterwards to have same on show in some prominent shop window in available Parishes prior to the Blockley meeting.'

30th April 1921 – 'In accordance with the resolution passed by the Committee, the new Trophy which had been on exhibition at Moreton, Shipston, Campden & Blockley and had been much admired by the general public, was therefore presented to Shipston as being successful in obtaining the highest number of points on the days competition, to which Mr Bird duly responded. It was pro

by Mr Bird, sec by Mr E Harris that the Trophy be insured. Carried unanimously.'

26th October 1921 – 'Shipston being the highest was the presented with the Shield, to be held for the next 12 months.'

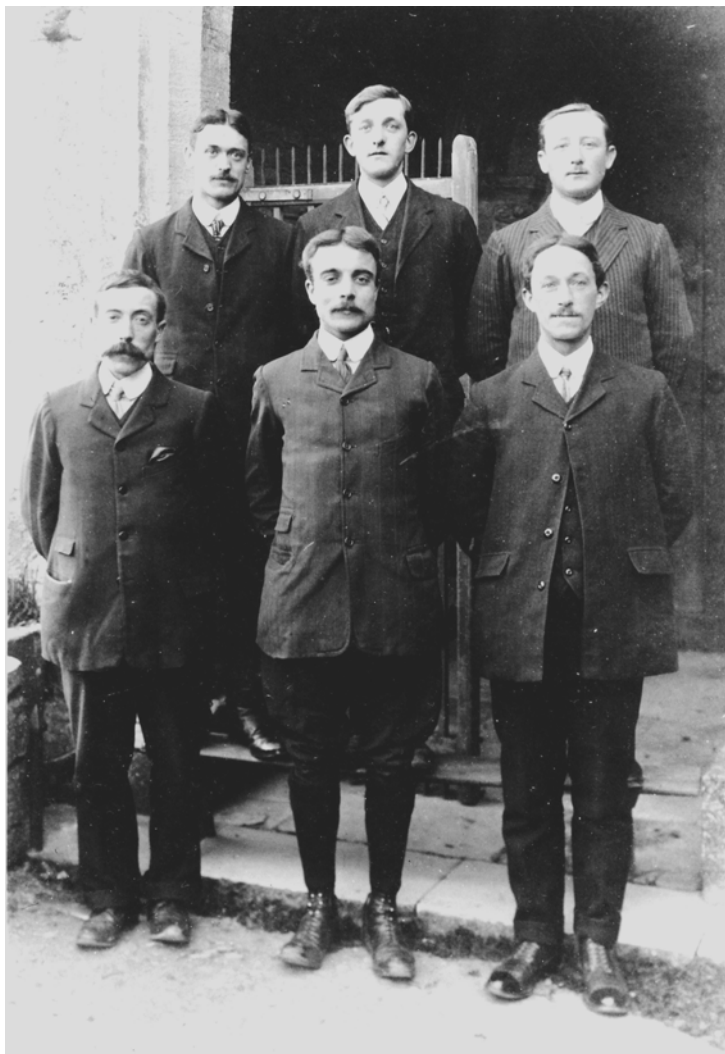
1st April 1922 – 'The Secretary read correspondence regarding the insurance of the Trophy...'

2nd April 1922 – 'The question of insuring the Trophy was held over until the next meeting.'

25th October 1922 – 'By request Mrs Rodwick presented the Trophy to the winning Team in a few congratulatory remarks, which was on their behalf briefly acknowledged by Mr A White, who said they were proud to have won it and would prize and revere it as long as they were enabled to hold it, and indeed would continue to do so even when forced to part with same.'

To be continued in the July Newsletter.
CMP

THE RINGERS OF LONGBOROUGH IN THE EARLY 1900's



The Longborough ringers as identified by Stella:-
Back row : T.Pethrick, A.Williams, S.Green,
Front row: A.Spragg, T.Williams, A.Partington.

Many years ago, I came across the photo above of six Longborough bellringers, taken in the early 1900's. I recognised two of them, (I had lived in Longborough when young, and learnt to ring there), but was curious about the other four. Later in 1997, I happened to see a framed FSG certificate, awarded to Arthur Williams on October 26th 1910, hanging in the sitting room of Cecil Williams, Arthur's son. I began to wonder if the two were related. Perhaps with some research, there might be material for an article for the FSG newsletter. However, the idea was then put on the back burner, but rekindled when I read in the RW (No. 5298, Nov. 9. 2012) about the Church Bell Ringers' Memorial Book, 1914-1918. This book records the names of ringers who died in WW1. Did any of the Longborough ringers die during WW1? And if so, were their names recorded in that book? And what was the occasion of the photograph of the Longborough ringers?

I have been able to establish the following about the 6 ringers.

Arthur John Williams

b. 20th January 1889, one of 14 children, d. 28th June 1977, aged 88; served in WW1 in 25th Reserve Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, was an instructor in India 1917-1919.

William Thomas Williams

b. 8th September 1887, older brother of Arthur, d. March 1971, aged 83. William, known as Thomas, and Arthur worked in the Longborough-based builders' firm, Thomas Williams, started by their father in 1886.

Sidney John Green

b. 1891, d. 1963, aged 71; he became the carpenter of the Sezincote estate, and the village undertaker.

Alfred John Partington

b. about 1886, a stone mason, according to the 1911 census; m. Constance Anne Taylor, 1913, had a daughter, Emily in 1914, and a son, Arnold in 1916; d. 16th August 1917, in Flanders. His wife, Constance, died in 1967, aged 80. His brother, Fred Partington, b. about 1887, also died in Flanders, 29th January 1918.

The photo names one ringer (front, left) as A.Spragg. This could have been either Albert Spragg or Alfred Spragg; both were living in Longborough at that time.

Albert Spragg

b. 1881, m. 1908, and had 2 daughters by 1911; enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment, 11th September 1915, d. 1967, aged 85.

Alfred Spragg

b. about 1891, younger brother of Albert, d. 12th October, 1916, in Salonika, serving in the Worcestershire Regiment.

Therefore, the A.Spragg in the photo must have been either 21 or 31, when, I believe, the photo was taken. The ringer in the photo looks more like someone aged 31 than 21, and is therefore more likely to be Albert Spragg, who survived the war.

Tom Pethrick

I can find no information about Tom Pethrick. A family of Pethricks lived at Banks Fee, Longborough, the father being a gardener at Banks Fee House. One son, Philip Algernon, b. about 1891, died in Flanders, in 1918, 3 weeks before the Armistice.

Why was this photograph taken? It must have been a special occasion. The ringers appear to be in their best clothes, outside the porch of St. James' Church, Longborough, their own church; and the back three are standing on a form so that they are clearly visible. So what was this occasion? A study of the recently discovered minute book of the FSG of Bell Ringers, could perhaps give the answer. On pages 6 and 7, there are details of the results of very first competition of the FSG, which took place on 26th October, 1910, at Moreton-in-Marsh. The Longborough band won the Call Changes section, which is confirmed by Arthur Williams' certificate. (photo. 2) Could the special photograph have been taken because of this first success? Perhaps, but there is a more likely possibility. For on April 25th, 1912, the half-yearly competition took place in Campden, and was now in four sections: Rising and Sinking, Round Ringing, Call Changes and Method Ringing. The results are given on page 17 of the minute book; the Longborough ringers won all four sections! Photo. 3 shows Sidney Green's certificate awarded after the competition (though for some reason Call Changes has been omitted from the certificate; perhaps someone else rang in this section, or the scribe accidentally missed it out). Surely this was the reason for the photograph, taken a few days later at their home tower, placing on record a magnificent achievement!

The photos are produced by kind permission of the following:

This page: Elizabeth Woodward, grand-daughter of Arthur Williams.

Photo 2. Nick Williams, grandson of Arthur Williams.

Photo 3. Nigel Green, grandson of Sidney Green.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has further information about the Spraggs or Tom Pethrick, or about any other matter connected with this article.

Stella Southam (southams@btinternet.com)



Photo 2: the Striking Competition Certificate awarded to Mr Arthur Williams in October 1910.
 (This certificate is hugely historic, as it was awarded at the very first Striking Competition the FSG ever held. Ed.)



Photo 3: the Striking Competition Certificate awarded Mr Sidney Green, a member of the Longborough band, which came first in all the four ringing categories at the April 1912 Competition at Chipping Campden.

OBITUARIES

I am saddened to publish these two obituaries this time. Jane Hammond's obituary will be published in the July issue. Our sincere condolences to their families

ARTHUR 'BILL' BERRY

(30/2/1947 – 30/1/2013)



Arthur unpacking Temple Guiting's new treble, with children from the local school looking on.

Arthur was never a member of the Guild, but there are few Guild members who had not come across him. He was one of our local bellhangers and had undertaken work of some sort in many towers in the area. He had a most disarming smile and a wonderfully easy attitude to people and to life.

He lived in Malvern. His workshop was next door to his house. Although originally born in Malvern his parents moved to Pershore when Arthur was small. When older he learnt to ring at Pershore Abbey and St Andrew's Church opposite, when the latter tower still contained 6 bells. He progressed well at ringing and soon became a competent ringer and conductor. His working life started as an apprentice with Pettifers, a local joinery business, at which he learnt the woodworking skills for which he was soon to become well-known.

The rehunging of St Andrew's bells in 1972 gave Arthur a chance to experience at first hand his eventual occupation by helping Taylors' bellhanger. He found the work much to his liking and, when work at Pettifers looked unsure, he branched out on his own as a woodworker and bellhanger. He found the woodwork associated with bells easy to accomplish.

After his marriage he moved to 419 Pickersleigh Road, Malvern, and set up his business there, but regularly returned to Pershore and surrounding area.

Over the years he rehung many rings, from sixes to twelves, and even managed to rehang an anti-clockwise one (Stanton). Other bellhanging work included augmentations and work in 1 and 2-bell towers or spirelets. He had a long-standing business relationship with John Taylor & Co, and occasionally

they would ask him to undertake work on their behalf.

Arthur was also well-known as an outstanding ringer, too. He was supremely steady and utterly reliable. He conducted many peals, again steadily and reliably. He also had a wonderful sense of fun. A few years ago Arthur asked me if he could have the little 10 at the Bell Tower for a peal of Grandsire Caters. He said he wanted to ring the extra treble, so he could 'circle the tower'. He also said he wanted to include Roger Savory in it. Arthur said Roger had composed a peal of Grandsire Caters many years previously and sent him a copy. He wanted to call the peal and then, when Roger asked who it was by, he wanted to say, 'It's yours! Didn't you recognise it?' Quite independently, Roger contacted me soon afterwards, also asking for a peal on the little 10, as he, too, wanted to complete the circle. A peal date was arranged and Roger and Arthur came to an agreement that Roger would ring the extra treble. On completion of the peal (it was an ASCY peal, rung in proper ASCY fashion) Roger looked up at Arthur and said the magic words, 'Hey Arthur, who was that one by, then?' I knew what was coming. Arthur said nothing, but, with a grin on his face, ambled over to his coat and took out an old and scruffy envelope, from which he extracted an almost-equally scruffy piece of paper. Still with a grin he ambled back to Roger and, offering him the piece of paper, said, 'It's yours! Didn't you know?' Hoots of laughter all round. Classic; and classically Arthur!

It may have been noticed that Arthur attended the Guild refounding meeting on March 30th 1973 (see copy of the Minutes of that meeting in the January Newsletter). As mentioned earlier, he never joined the Guild. When I found out he was there I asked why he'd come along, as he lived outside the area. He told me, with a twinkle in his eye, that he'd been a spy in the camp! Apparently the General Secretary of the Worcs & Dist's CRA (Mr Martin D Fellows, lovingly referred to as The Furerher), had asked him to attend and report back on what went on!

It is very difficult to understand how the mechanism for calling time on people works. Many lovely people seem to be taken away from us early and some of the 'less-lovely' seem to keep going on and on. Arthur was certainly in the former category, and his early death at two days off 67 deprived us of much he was still able to give this world. It was truly a pleasure to know him.

A number of peals and quarter peals were rung in memory of Arthur.

Chris Povey

JULIET ELIZABETH REYNOLDS

(4/7/1964 - 2/2/2013)



Juliet was born on 4th July 1964 at the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston on Stour. She was one of three sisters born to Barry and Venetia Sutton. Along with her sisters, Juliet was brought up in Brailles and attended the local school there. Later she attended Shipston on Stour High School. After leaving school Juliet went to work at the N.F.U. in Stratford-on-Avon for a number of years. Juliet left there after her son Simon was born and after a break returned to work for an insurance company at Chipping Norton.

Juliet and her sister Angela first learnt to ring at Sutton under Brailles when the late Pam Copson and her husband Ted were teaching a new band of ringers. Juliet was on the fund raising committee of the Church at the time money was being raised for re-hanging the bells.

Later on Juliet, husband Chris and son Simon moved to live in Wellesbourne, where she took an active part in the church and rang the bells. Juliet was a member of various groups based around St Peter's church. Chris and Simon were also involved and gave help with various jobs that came along.

Juliet then went to work for Warwickshire County Council as a student social worker, and then went to Coventry University and studied for a B.A. (Hons) in social work. In 2009 sadly Juliet was diagnosed with cancer and was unable to complete her studies at the University for her B.A. (Hons), as her health and the treatment took its toll. I feel sure if life had allowed Juliet would have passed her degree with flying colours.

Since the day Juliet was told of her cancer

she always made the best of every day, looking forward and planning ahead. I was to arrange a ringing tour on her 50th birthday and husband Chris was to learn to ring for it and drive the mini bus. Sadly Juliet did not make it and was only 48 years old when she passed away, but I will still arrange a tour on her birthday. If she is not with us in person, she will be looking down on us from above. We will have to watch our striking that day, Juliet - and get Chris ringing by then!

Over the past 12 months or so as the cancer progressed it was her wish to move back to her childhood village of Brailes to be near her family, and Chris and Juliet bought the house next to her dad. Her sister lives just round the corner. Juliet rang several times early on last year at Brailes, and was well enough to go on a two-day trip to Norfolk to see a Christmas Show, with Christmas Dinner and an overnight stay at Norwich.

The ringers at Brailes were pleased Juliet was well enough to join us with husband Chris for our Ringers' Dinner and a sing-along. We will always remember Juliet and her battle against cancer over the past months and years, giving thanks for her courage, the support she received from her close family and friends, and the treatment she was given by the various hospitals and treatment centres.

Juliet passed away on Saturday 2nd February 2013, aged 48 years. A prayer was said for Juliet before the Four Shires Annual Dinner and a minute's silence observed. Various quarter peals have been rung in her memory, and also a peal was rung on the John Taylor Bell Foundry Works ring of bells at Loughborough.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Juliet Elizabeth Reynolds was held at St, George's Church, Brailes, on Wednesday 13th February 2013 at 2-00pm. The bells were rung before the Service and after the committal. It was good that all her ringing friends came along, with 25 ringing before the service and

14 after, and others in the 300-plus church congregation. I think we did her proud and Juliet would have approved of the ringing. We all gave Juliet a great send off. Our thoughts are with all of Juliet's family at this sad time and for the months ahead.

God bless you Juliet; we will never forget you. Rest in peace.

Donations in memory of Juliet were divided equally between the Shakespeare Hospice and the Oncology Department at Birmingham City Hospital Treatment Centre. Chris and family reported that £900 was given to each of these bodies and thanked all for their generosity in making this possible.

Stuart Cummings.
(Tower Captain St, George's, Brailes)

Jane Hammond of Willersey also died on 2nd February. An Obituary will appear in the July Newsletter

**RINGING IN MEMORY OF
JULIET ELIZABETH REYNOLDS**

Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire
Sunday 3 February 2013

1260 Plain Bob Minor

- 1 David Adams
- 2 Jane Gilbert
- 3 Clive Sparling
- 4 Rob Stansbury
- 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 6 Nick Allsopp (C)

Rung in fond memory of Juliet Reynolds who will be sadly missed by all her friends in the Four Shires Guild

(Coventry D Guild)
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
(Bellfoundry Campanile)
Saturday 9 February, 2013
5056 Plain Bob Major

1. Simon E Adams
2. Robert Robinson
3. Richard J Taulbut
4. Michael A Haynes
5. Peter J F Quinn
6. Robert Tregillus
7. Alan K Barsby
8. Michael Chester (cond)

Rung in memory of Juliet Reynolds and Arthur Berry

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire
Sunday 10 February, 2013

1260 Plain Bob Major

1. Michael Fairfax
2. William Jones
3. Susan Bacon
4. Michael Haynes
5. Alan Griffin
6. Nicholas Allsopp
7. Charles Wilson
8. John Nicholls (cond)

Rung in memory of Juliet Reynolds

Ilmington, Warwickshire
Sunday 24 February, 2013

1288 Grandsire Triples

1. Andrew Gunn
2. Susan Bacon
3. Jonathan Tallis
4. John Nicholls
5. John Kinchin
6. Michael Dane
7. Bill Nash (cond)
8. Michael Fairfax

In thanksgiving for the life of Juliet Reynolds from Brailes, a ringer at this tower

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

Jill Roberts organised the January Tour, which saw the tour in West Oxfordshire. Unfortunately, due to the icy conditions, Sandra and I didn't attend. The first tower was to be All Saints at Middleton Stoney with its 6 bells (9½cwt), the three middle bells of which are by Henry Bagley III, as a reminder that this church is local to where the Bagley dynasty operated. The next tower Jill arranged, the 8,16½cwt, at St Mary the V, Kirtlington, similarly includes bells by Henry Bagley III, along with those by Rudhall, Mears and John Taylor. I heard later there was some problem with lunch booked at Sturdy's Castle Inn, so this had to be taken elsewhere. The first tower of the afternoon was arranged to be St Nicholas, Tackley, where the bells, 6, 14cwt, have recently been given some restoration work. Again there is a reminder of local bellfounders, as given by the three bells cast by Richard Keene of Woodstock. Our last tower was St Giles, Bletchington. The bells, 6, 8cwt, include two by local

founders: Matthew Bagley III and Edward Hemins of Bicester. Thank you, Jill. I'm sorry we couldn't be with you on this occasion.

The February Outing, in North Oxfordshire this time, was organised by Michael Haynes and required our muscle immediately, as our first tower was Our Lady of Bloxham, with its 8 bells, 27cwt. This was a different approach to starting with a light ring! The bells here are quite majestic. The ring includes an ancient and rare bell by Buckingham founder John Appowell, dated about 1570. The tenor is a local bell, too, being cast by James Keene of Woodstock; and it may be his largest. The 8 bells at our next tower, St Mary, Adderbury, were lighter, but only slightly, 24cwt, and were originally a complete ring by John Briant of Hertford, but the 3rd and the 6th have since been recast. Lunch followed, allowing us to

ease our muscles in The Joiner's Arms at Bloxham! The first tower of the afternoon, SS Peter & Paul, Deddington, continued the reduction-in-weight theme: 8,16cwt. These bells were an interesting contrast to the local founders, being pure London: back 6 by Thomas Mears and the trebles by Mears & Stainbank. A further reduction in weight occurred at the next tower, SS Peter & Paul, Swalcliffe, where the bells, 6, are a mere 13cwt! These were originally a complete ring by Matthew I & Henry Bagley II, when they operated from Chacombe. Sadly, the 3rd needed recasting a few years later. Perhaps it was a good idea to have the heavy towers first and gradually reduce! Thank you Michael.

March's tour, organised by Geoff Pratt, kept us very local: between Evesham and

Stratford-on-Avon. SS Mary & Milburgh, Offenham, 6, 10½cwt, was our first tower on this still-wintery day, but the small Ringing Room and heater warmed us. A locally-cast bell hangs here, being one of the earliest by Evesham founder William Clarke. After this it was a short trip to St Nicholas, Middle Littleton, where we put the 6, 13cwt, to good use. These were originally a complete ring of 5 arising from a unique collaboration between Matthew Bagley I, William

Bagley & Henry Bagley II, when all were operating at Chacombe. Lunch followed at the Broom Hall Inn, from where we went to St Lawrence, Bidford-on-Avon, with its 8, 14cwt. The last tower of the day was St Peter, Welford-on-Avon, with its pretty, all-Taylor 8, 9cwt, providing a very tuneful end to another pleasant day's ringing. Thank you for this tour, Geoff, from which I could return quickly to my

fireside to beat the unseasonably cold weather!

The number of beautiful churches, towns, villages and counties we have visited! The first tower was Belbroughton nearly 24 years ago, and since then we have rung in 15 different counties.

Frank Spiers

FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

The Old Minute Book records the following for the quarter 1st April to 31st June 1913:-

April 24th 1913:

The Spring meeting of the Guild for the year 1913 took place at Blockley on April 24th, and it affords much pleasure to again record another happy and successful gathering. There was (sic) the usual Competitions in which 5 towers took part, viz Shipston, Campden, Moreton, Longborough & Willersey. After a spirited effort on the part of all the Competitors, in which some thorough (sic) good ringing was heard, the Judge (Mr W Brinkworth) finally gave his award to Willersey as victors in the whole of the events. At 4-30 the members attended divine service when an eloquent sermon was preached by The Rev Adams of Chipping Norton. At 5-30 the members repaired to 'The Bell Hotel' for Tea, where a capital spread was provided and to which between 40 & 50 members and friends sat down. Tea over, the Chairman (The Rev Canon Houghton) opened the business meeting. The Sec read the minutes which was (sic) passed unanimously. Letters of apology expressing regret at inability to be present coupled with their best wishes for a successful meeting was (sic) read from The Rev Spencer Jones (who wrote from Taunton) and The Rector of Mickleton. The

President handed Certificates to members of the Campden & Shipston towers being the successful Competitors at the previous (Autumn) meeting at Longborough. The Sec next read the Balance Sheet for the past year which was cordially received, showing a Balance in hand of £5-7-4½.

In giving the Half-yearly Report the Sec announced that one more Tower (Willersey) had joined the Guild, which brought the strength of the Guild up to date as follows, Towers 7., Hon^y Mems 8. Ordinary Mems 45. Total 53. He also suggested with regard to the Monthly meetings of the different Towers that those outside the Guild should also be visited provided the consent of the Incumbent of the Parish can be obtained, as he considered by that means our membership would be increased. Mr A. White & Mr H. Jarrett were re-elected Hon Sec & Treasurer respectively. The President brought forward the question of Preliminary meetings, which proposed to hold all Committee meetings prior to the Half-yearly gatherings, at the Parish where the Competitions are to take place. After some discussion it was Proposed & Seconded that the Foreman of each Tower be asked to decide the question. On a vote being taken 2 were in favour of the proposition and 3 against, the Rule thus remains

unaltered. This being Moreton's turn for the Autumn Meeting the Sec suggested that his Tower should stand aside in favour of Willersey, the other members from Moreton agreed, and it was carried unanimously.

This concluded the Business and in Proposing a Vote of thanks to the Chairman the Sec referred to the great interest he took in the welfare of the Guild, and his generosity in receiving the services that day of an independent Judge. The vote was duly Sec(onded) and carried with acclamation. The Rev Canon Houghton suitably responded, and the meeting closed.

The Competitions resulted as follows,

<u>Rising & Sinking</u>	<u>Method</u>
Willersey 98 per cent	Willersey 99 per cent
Shipston 97 " "	Shipston 98 " "
Campden 87 " "	Longborough 98 " "
Moreton 86 " "	Moreton 94 " "
Longborough 76 " "	Campden Nil

(Probably by oversight, Minutes not signed)

FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

The embryo reformed Guild moved forward by holding its first Committee meeting. The date was a bit scary if anyone was superstitious – Friday 13th – but we know the long-term outcome was successful!

Committee Meeting held on Friday 13th April 1973 at The Maines, Evenlode.

Present: H.O.Hart (Chairman), A.J.Brazier, C.E.Evans, G.R.Harper and S.C.Holden.

Apologies: Apologies were received from M.F.Fairfax and Revd R.F.Rothery

Rules: A draft set of rules submitted by the Secretary was considered. After discussion at length, a final draft was agreed for presentation to the Annual General Meeting:

Legal: The legal position concerning the Guild, in view of the lapse of time since previous activities and the existence of the shield and silver cup used in ringing competitions, was discussed, and it was agreed to leave the matter with the Secretary to take any necessary action and report to the next Committee meeting.

Saturday practices: It was agreed to continue the existing arrangements, with one Saturday in each month at an eight-bell tower, and the remaining Saturday at five- or six-bell towers.

Annual General Meeting: It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting on 27th October 1973, Secretary to make the necessary arrangements.

Next Meeting: The next meeting to be arranged by the Secretary to take place two or three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

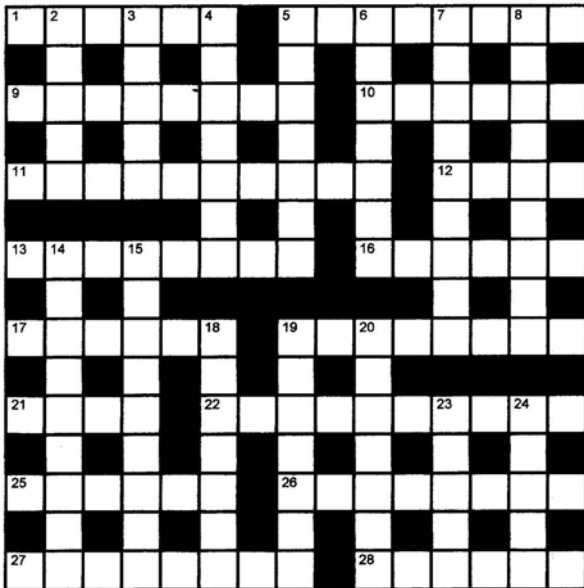
(Signed) H.O.Hart, 16th October 1973

'The Maines' was the home of Geoff Harper. Geoff had been heavily involved with installing the new Taylor ring of 8 bells in St David's Church, Moreton-in-Marsh, in 1958. He had a fruit, vegetable and high-class cheeses shop in Moreton High Street, on the western side just up from The Bell public house, and lived there until he retired to Evenlode.

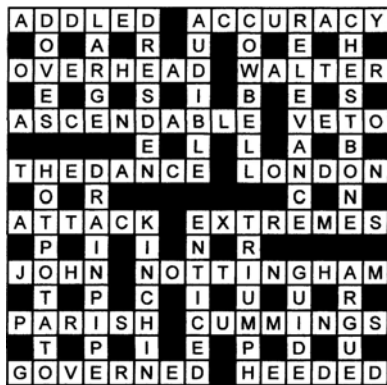
CMP

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

I believe this to be El Presidente's 13th consecutive crossword in the current run of such. Whether this will be unlucky – or lucky - for some I cannot say. I have no problem with completing them correctly – but only because he provides me with the answers!



Answer to the crossword in the January 2013 Newsletter



Across

- 1 Compound turning litmus blue. (6)
- 5 Produced a clear image. (8)
- 9 A big person helping to ring the Liverpool tenor? (8)
- 10 No planned method – like a lot of continental ringing! (6)
- 11 The Norman tower par excellence! (10)
- 12 Without ecclesiastic status. (4)
- 13 For ringers a real plum of a cage. (8)
- 16 See 23 dn. (6)
- 17 Spend time socially with important people. (6)
- 19 Representing numbers. (8)
- 21 Sloppy statement of agreement. (4)
- 22 Eg, Racing Post and Le Figaro. (10)
- 25 Woodrow, Harold or Charles. (6)
- 26 Pathetic gin to tim – leaving it out. (8)
- 27 They used to be conspicuous signs of a sunny Summer. (8)
- 28 Nepalese soldier. (6)

Down

- 2 Slim and supple. (5)
- 3 A footballer taken by surprise? (5)
- 4 Laying the paint on thickly. (7)
- 5 Providence. (7)
- 6 Continue. To amuse on film? (5,2)
- 7 It obviously grows under the Eye of Heaven (9)
- 8 It modern terms tear-jerking. (9)
- 14 Cease riot reform arcane secrets. (9)
- 15 This amalgam sounds like a paper on misdeeds. (9)
- 18 Sudden windfall. (9)
- 19 Where would you find Trinity Parish Church, Wall Street? (3,4)
- 20 Producing an accurate guide. (7)
- 23 & 16 ac..Vice-President who gave the Shield. (5)
- 23 Livestock station. (5)

THE SOLUTION TO EL PRES'S MIND-BENDER AS PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Readers will recall I made a significant omission in publishing this mind-bender originally, for which I apologised in the January Newsletter. I did promise the solution, and here it is, as given by the Mathematical Maestro himself:-

Let x be the man's final age:

$$\text{Then } x = \frac{x}{6} + \frac{x}{12} + \frac{x}{7} + 5 + \frac{x}{2} + 4 \quad \gg \gg \quad x = \frac{14x}{84} + \frac{7x}{84} + \frac{12x}{84} + 5 + \frac{42x}{84} + 4 \quad \gg \gg \quad 84x = 75x + 420 + 336$$

$$84x = 75x + 756 \quad \gg \gg \quad 9x = 756 \quad \gg \gg \quad x \text{ (man's final age)} = 84 \quad \text{(Simples!!)}$$

'CAN I ROPE YOU IN?'

In my regular monthly editorial contributions to the St Lawrence, Mickleton, church magazine, I always endeavour to create articles that can be of general interest and which are easily 'digested' by a wide cross-section of readers. Surprisingly, news items never seem difficult to originate, and reader response is always positive. However, last December I struggled to find suitable material and in almost desperation I included a request of financial support towards our bell rope fund. Not a good month for such an appeal, I thought!

Surprise, surprise! Within a week I had promises totalling £675 – and these promises have been fulfilled (the ropes have now been ordered).

To show appreciation to these kind subscribers, I invited each (plus their

partners) to visit the belfry on Saturday 16th March, to join the ringers in a glass of wine. We preceded the event with a quarter peal attempt of Grandsire Triples, but sadly this came to grief about two-thirds through. Nonetheless, we invited the visitors through to the Ringing Chamber and gave them a chance to see what goes on in there and to 'have a go'. The ringers in the Q attempt were Mike Fairfax, Bill Sabin, Jackie Hands, George Osborn, Chris Povey, Andrew Gunn, Michael Dane and myself.

It proved a wonderful PR exercise and I thought it might provide ideas for readers of the FSG Newsletter.

John Kinchin

(See comment in Editorial, p.3. Ed)

AROUND THE TOWERS

PEOPLE AND PLACES:-

Dumbleton: have just had all six pear-top clappers rebushed and refurbished by Taylors, plus two of the pulley assemblies converted to ball bearings. New double-pulley assemblies are to be provided by Taylors, to draw four of the ropes under the wheels, thereby bringing the rope drops further away from the walls. Taylors rehung these bells in a new frame with all new fittings in 1892 and everything is still in good condition despite virtually no major work in that time. The above work is probably the most this installation has ever seen. The bellframe here is very historic, being the first of the cast-iron low-side frames the firm ever provided – and many hundreds of this type have been provided since.

Crothorne: have had polyester tops hand-spliced on to all ropes, as the old tops were badly worn. One of the double-pulley assemblies is to be refurbished soon.

Pebworth: does anybody know if the tenor there is back in operation yet? I have been unable to ascertain anything on this.

Evesham and Hinton-on-the-Green: are trying samples of the new low-cost, non-stretch top-end rope that was advertised in The Ringing World recently. First impressions are very good. Speak to Chris Povey for more information.

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR FRIDAY 5th JULY - SUNDAY 7th JULY 2013

The Annual Ringing Tour this year is the same format as last year: a weekend event. Richard Lewis-Skeath has wrought his magic once again. This year's tour will be centred on Ludlow. As last year, this is far enough away to enjoy an overnight stop, but close enough to allow easy travel for those who wish to come just for the Saturday towers. (*South Shropshire is a delightful spot - the land that time forgot; and very quiet!* Ed*)

The provisional itinerary and other details are as follows. Most towers are confirmed at the time of writing.

PROVISIONAL** ITINERARY

Friday 5th July 2013

Stanton Lacy	8 (12-0-12 in G)	7.30-8.30pm
--------------	------------------	-------------

Saturday 6th July

Wistanstow	8 (9-2-18 in G)	probably 0930 start
Stokesay	6 (9cwt in Ab)	
Clungunford*	8 (7½cwt in A#)	

Lunch

Leintwardine	8 (13½cwt in F#)
Bromfield	6 (8-2-19 in G#)
Ludlow	8 (16-2-16 in E)

Evening meal in Ludlow.

Sunday 7th July

Sunday morning ringing at Ludlow

A local campsite is being finalised (details TBC) and a choice of hotel/B&B accommodation.

** Clunton, Clunbury, Clungunford and Clun,
Are the quietist places under the sun.
From 'A Shropshire Lad' by A E Houseman*

**** Due to a variety of circumstances anything arranged three months in advance is likely to change, so final arrangements will be shown on the FSG web-site in the fortnight before the tour. Check there, or with the Organiser (see below) before departing!**

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

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.

BELLFOUNDERS BELLHANGERS
CARILLON BUILDERS
Tower Bells Chimes Handbells Bell ropes
Design service Building work Access systems
Profile matching Restoration Augmentations
Wrought iron clapper repairs

See our website: www.taylorbells.co.uk for specifications services and the latest information.



The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 1AR, England
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305
Email: office@taylorbells.co.uk

GUILD WALKING TOUR

ADVANCE NOTICE

This event will occur on
Saturday September 28th.

The walk is planned for the
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Longborough and Bourton-on-
the-Hill area.

The walk is being organised
by, and will be led by, Michael
Haynes.

Full details will appear in the
July Newsletter.

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



GUILD LAPEL BADGES NOW AVAILABLE!



The
original
badges
cost £1
in 1976!

At long last, the new Guild lapel badge is here.
It is slightly different to the previous version,
as its design is the same as the clothing
badges (the now 'standard' Guild badge). It is
slightly '3D' too, as the features are raised.
£4 each from the Hon Sec.

AROUND THE TOWERS

PEALS, QUARTER-PEALS AND OTHER SPECIAL RINGING:-

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 7th Jan, 1344 Spliced S Major (Camb, Yorks, Lincs): Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Peter Quinn 3, Chris Mew (C) 4, Robert Reeves 5, Alan Hartley 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8.

Evesham (Bell Tower), Worcs, 23rd Jan, 1260 Doubles (Grandsire & Plain): Peter Forder 1, Claire Penny 2, Matthew Kemble 3, Robert Hall 4, Chris Povey (C) 5, Tom Sandham 6. 1st Q: 1. **Congratulations Peter!!** We met just six for the practice, so decided to go for a quarter to get more ringers there – somebody else always turns up about a third of the way through: it's the law! This time nobody else came....., so we completed. (On the little 6: 7½cw)

Mickleton, Glos, 11th Feb, 1344 Yorkshire S Major: Keith Murphy 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 2, Peter Quinn 3, Nick Allsopp 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Nicholls 6, Clive Sparling 7, Mark Sayers 8. Circled the tower to Q's twice: 2.

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 17th Feb, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Rob Stansbury 1, Keith Murphy 2, Isobel Murphy 3, Joanna Murphy (C) 4, Joe Johnson 5, John Nicholls 6, Bill Nash 7, David Adams 8. In loving memory of Frederick Murphy, father of 2, grandfather of 4 and father-in-law of 3, who died on 31st January 2013 aged 89 years. On the eve of his funeral.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 25th Feb, 1260 Stedman Triples: Chris Mew (C) 1, Steven Tibbetts 2, Mark Sayers 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, John Gwynne 5, John Nicholls 6, Peter Quinn 7, Robert Reeves 8.

Middle Littleton, Worcs, 1st Mar, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Andrew Gunn 1, Tom Sandham (50yrs) 2, Matthew Kemble 3, Robert Hall (60yrs) 4, Chris Povey (C) (50yrs) 5, Barrie Wheeler (65yrs) 6. Rung to celebrate some long-term ringing anniversaries.

(Please let me have details of quarters. I cannot guarantee to see them on Campanophile, Bellboard, or wherever. I do some, but probably not all. Ed)

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 6 th	BADSEY , Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
Apr 13 th	GREAT WOLFORD , Warks	6, 11-3-7 in F#
Apr 20 th	WELFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
Apr 27 th	OFFENHAM , Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
May 4 th	EVESHAM , Worcs	12, 35-2-20 in C#
May 11 th	HALFORD , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
May 18 th	NORTON , Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
May 25 th	TEMPLE GUITING , Glos	6, 11-3-17 in F#
Jun 1 st	SHERBOURNE , Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F#
Jun 8 th	WHICHFORD , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
Jun 15 th	ODDINGTON , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
Jun 22 nd	SAINTBURY , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
Jun 29 th	GUITING POWER , Glos	6, 6-2-25 in Bb (GF)
Jul 6 th	NO PRACTICE. <u>GUILD RINGING TOUR, 5th – 7th JULY: SEE NOTICE FOR DETAILS, p.14</u>	
Jul 13 th	TODENHAM , Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
Jul 20 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER , Glos	8, 12-1-22 in F#
Jul 27 th	BUTLERS MARSTON , Warks	6, 14-0-20 in G (GF)

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>). 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.

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:

!! SUBSCRIPTIONS !!

FSG subs were due on 1st January 2013. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). If you haven't paid yet, please do so as soon as possible. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.)

Payment may be made to Peter Kenealy, Membership Sec, or to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer. It would assist greatly if, when paying by cash, you use the payment slip attached to the January Newsletter.

IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO PAY SUBSCRIPTIONS BY INTERNET BANK TRANSFER, which is a very convenient service if you are internet-connected and have internet banking. THE GUILD'S BANKING DETAILS ARE: Bank, HSBC; Acct No, 71118668; Account name, FOUR SHIRES GUILD; Sort Code, 40-41-26. For 'Reference', please insert your name and tower (or unattached), otherwise you and your payment will be untraceable!! You will not need a receipt, as the bank transfer process allows a copy of the transfer document to be printed off. (*I have used this system and it works well. Ed*)

(Please note: those who haven't paid their subs by June 30th will cease to receive the Newsletter)

Events for 2013: book the dates:-

Ringing Tour	Fri 5th- Sun 7th July, centred around Ludlow (see Notice for details, p.14)
Minimus Striking Comp.	Saturday 14th September at (surprise, surprise!) Wyck Rissington.
Guild Walking Tour	Saturday 28th September. See advance notice on p.15
AGM & Striking Comps	Saturday 12th October at Offenham, Worcs. Notice and details to follow.