

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)



## NEWSLETTER No 139 - JAN 2014

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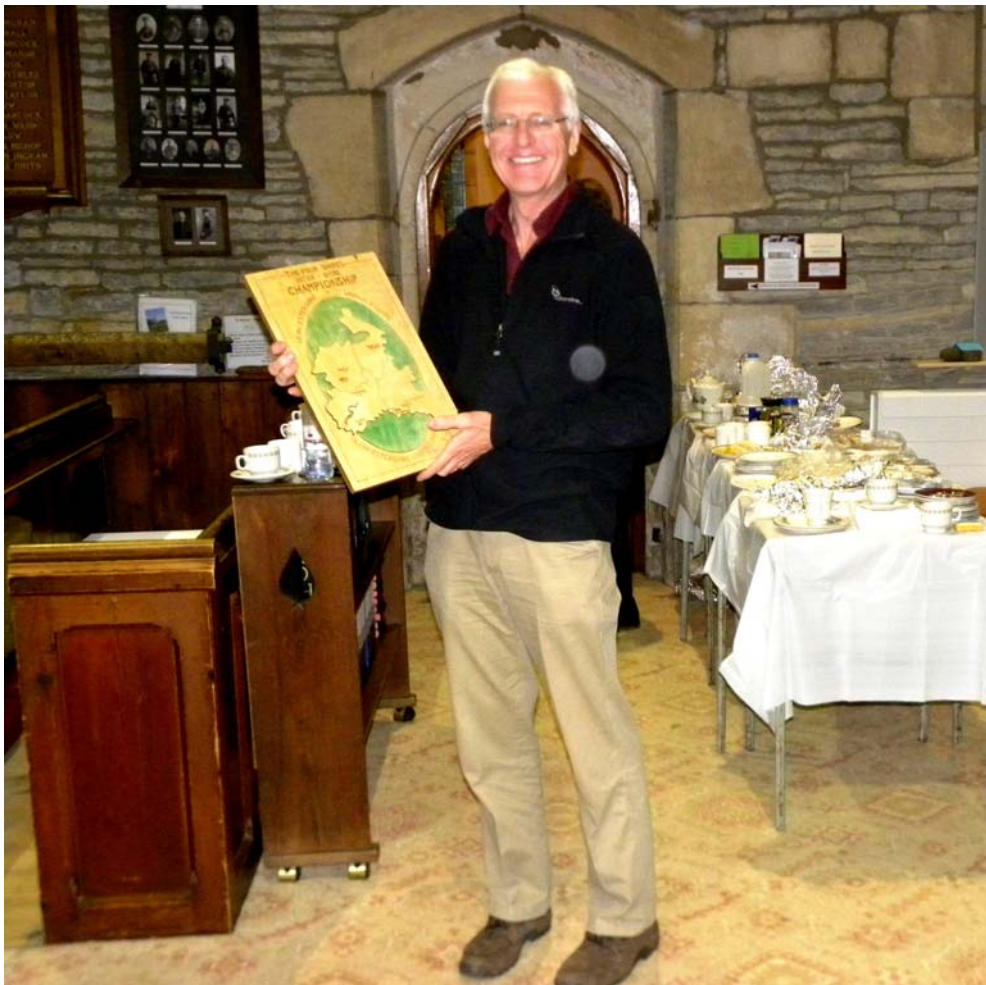
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Founded Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1909

### THE GUILD INTER-SHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP STRIKING COMPETITION. HELD AT HARVINGTON ON SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

#### WORCESTERSHIRE WIN!



#### TONY COCKS, CAPTAIN OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE TEAM, PROUDLY HOLDS THE INTER-SHIRE TROPHY

Teams from the four Counties met at Harvington to compete for the Guild's Inter-Shire Championship Trophy. Mickleton represented Gloucestershire, as Tewkesbury Abbey, last year's winners, were unable to attend. Oxfordshire was represented by Drayton St Leonard, Warwickshire by Bilton, and Eckington batted for Worcestershire.

There was little between the first and second places. But of course, all the ringing was good! Full report on p.8

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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## **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

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### **Hon Secretary**

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr Peter Kenealy

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Mr Keith Murphy

Mr Chris Povey

## **CCCBR Representatives**

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Mr Keith Murphy (until 25/5/14)

Mr Andrew Gunn (from 26/5/14)

## **Guild Peal Recorder**

Mrs Sandra Parker

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## **Programme Secretary**

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## **Child Protection Officer**

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

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## **Membership Secretary**

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## **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

## **Newsletter Editor**

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

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## **The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (April 2014) is March 13<sup>th</sup> 2014**

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.)

**Yes folks, it's that time again, by which I mean SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

If you think it's only 5 minutes since you paid last time, you've clearly had a fun-packed year to shift the intervening months forward at a scorching rate. The sub remains at £5 for the year (£2 for juniors: see rates above). See back page for methods of payment.

And of course you receive four issues of your favourite Newsletter.....

## EDITORIAL

Firstly, I hope you all had a good Christmas and I wish you health, happiness and excellent ringing for 2014!

This Newsletter is another bumper issue: 18 pages again. There have been a number of contributors this time, which I think is a measure of the health of an organisation. If people are interested enough to submit articles for an organisation's publication, then they must be interested in the organisation behind it. Particular thanks to John Kinchin in this respect, as he provided a number this time. I have to say, too, that John's article about the traveller's notebooks, while not specifically about ringing or bells, was delightful. I was rather disappointed when John brought the article to an early end, because I was enjoying it. John, your knack of picking out the interesting bits and concentrating just enough on them, while making brief mention of the less interesting parts is masterful! Personally I would like to have the second (or third?) part of this for a future Newsletter. How about it JWK?

I must also thank Isobel Murphy for arranging reporters for the Mid-week Tours now that Frank Spiers has retired from this post. Thank you, Frank, for your contributions in the past; and thank

you to those reporters who have so far put their heads above the parapet. Your different writing styles and content make the whole item a treat to read. Keep these reports coming.

Having said there have been many contributions this time, I am conscious that all (with the honourable exception of Stuart Cummings' list of towers for the back page) have come from the western/northern sides of the Guild. I would be delighted to have more contributions from the eastern/southern and middle parts. There must be happenings in these parts (such as the Royal Birth ringing report from Cherington in the last Newsletter). If you are in these areas, please consider writing something on a regular or semi-regular basis. The Newsletter is for all members.

Benjamin Lewis-Skeath has now joined the ranks of the quarter-pealers with a slightly longer-than-the-norm quarter of 1415 changes at Moreton. Congratulations, Benjamin! Why the unusual length? Big Daddy Richard explained it was Benjamin's

birthday, when he passed from the age of 14 to 15. Interesting comp to get that length...

Lastly, I would like to thank Guild members for electing me an Honorary Life Member at the AGM at Offenham. It is a great honour, and I know the other Founder Members elected HLM at the time feel similarly (in particular, see Mike Fairfax's letter on p.11). The Guild is an excellent ringing organisation, which undertakes very successfully its intended function of being an 'umbrella body' for our otherwise segregated area. I am very proud to have been there at its re-founding 40 years ago and to have been part of its role since.

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.)

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## THE 2013 AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS AT OFFENHAM

AGM day this year was an 'OK sunny day'. Not as sparkling as last year at Chastleton, but acceptable nonetheless. The venue this year was Offenham in 'grower country' in the Vale of Evesham. Claire Penny (Offenham RM) and Matthew Kemble, Deputy RM) were our hosts. We had a nice little 6 to play with and, once again, the tea tables heaved with food. What lovely occasions the Guild AGMs are!



*Various members 'loitering with intent (to ring)' The Ringing Room of this ground-floor ring is through the rather fine modern door at the end.*

We had two judges for both competitions this year, Steve Bowley and Jonathan Adkins from Tetbury. The Brazier Trophy went first and had two 'real' teams in it. This is the competition for novices and does not include rising and falling. Nice to have this competition run again after so long.

After this was the Newing Trophy, where the experienced teams slug it out for the Guild's silverware. There were five eligible bands in it. Time was running short towards the end, so some scratch teams were curtailed.

It was then across to the Village Hall for tea. Traditionally this is a fine affair, and this year's tea did not disappoint. There was more than enough for all. Tea over we had to vacate the Hall, so it was back to the Church for the Service, the AGM and the Competitions results.

The Vicar of Offenham, the Rev Richard Court, conducted a very pleasant Service. As is now usual, Steve Bowley played the organ. The highlight was an excellent sermon that centred on the ringing of bells. It was very cleverly crafted and held most of us, if not all, in thrall. Thank you!

The AGM proved to be nicely straightforward, as the following Minutes show: just over half-an-hour from start to finish. The accounts came in for praise again. There was, as last year, unanimous support for Michael being re-elected as Hon Treasurer.

Steve and Jonathan Adkins announced the Striking Competition results. As will be seen in the Minutes below, Mickleton once more took the Shield and Moreton-in-Marsh 'A' team took the Spencer Jones Cup.

The President thanked everyone for coming and thanked those who had brought food for the gathering. He singled out Claire Penny and Matthew Kemble, who had masterminded the Offenham end.

CMP

## The Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held at SS Mary & Milburgh, Offenham, Worcs, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013 starting at 1732 hrs, with the President, John Nicholls, in the Chair. John welcomed everybody to the meeting. About 20 members attended. Prior to the Meeting, the Brazier Trophy was competed for, followed by the Striking Competition for the Newing Shield and Spencer Jones Cup.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Andrew Roberts, David Adams, Robert Hall, Wendy Ryder, John Kinchin and David Clarke.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were published in the January 2013 Newsletter. The Chairman asked whether they may be taken as read, to which agreement was given. No issues of accuracy were raised. It was proposed by Michael Fairfax and seconded by Michael Haynes that these Minutes be accepted as a true record. This was agreed and the Minutes were signed as such.
3. Matters arising: Chris Povey mentioned that the lapel badges are available. Steve Bowley asked whether they were different to the previous badge. Chris explained that they now match the one on the Guild's clothing. No other points were raised.
4. Guild Master's Report: This appeared in the July 2013 Newsletter. Peter Quinn had nothing further to add to this. No points were raised.
5. Treasurer's Report: Michael Dane reported that the accounts, which appeared in the April 2013 Newsletter, are the first full year under his control. Since appearing in the Newsletter they have been examined and nothing of note had been discovered. He highlighted that a small amount of interest had been added to the Bell Fund and the 2012 expenses were higher due to the purchase of the lapel badges and presentation shields. Michael Fairfax thanked Michael for bringing the accounts into good order and for the clarity of their presentation. Michael Dane proposed and Michael Fairfax seconded that the accounts be adopted. The proposal was agreed. The Examiners are to sign the formal copy.
6. Election of the President: The Guild Master, Peter Quinn, took the chair for this item. He reported that a written nomination had been received from the Rev Peter Newing proposing John Nicholls for this post. The proposal was seconded by Michael Fairfax. There being no other nominations, John was duly elected to act in this capacity for a further three years. John again took the Chair and thanked everybody. He said he enjoys doing it.
7. Vice Presidents: Chris Povey said he had spoken to Peter Newing, who said he would be happy to continue as a Vice-President if the

Guild wished. Chris therefore formally proposed Peter; Michael Haynes seconded. Michael Fairfax proposed Phyllis Brazier as the other Vice-President; Freda Cleaver seconded. Peter and Phyllis were re-elected Vice-Presidents for a further three years.

8. Election of Officers:  
Guild Master: John Nicholls said Peter Quinn had steered the Guild well during the year and was pleased to propose him; seconded by Sophia Lewis-Skeath. At the vote Peter was re-elected.  
Ringing Master: John said Sophia Lewis-Skeath had run the Saturday evening practices successfully and has ensured all who attend are included in varied ringing. He was pleased to propose that she continue; seconded by Andrew Gunn. At the vote Sophia was re-elected.  
Secretary: John said Andrew Gunn was diligent as the Hon Secretary. A written proposal for Andrew to continue in this post had been received from the Rev Peter Newing; seconded by Chris Povey. At the vote Andrew was re-elected.  
Treasurer: John said Michael Dane had undertaken excellent work as Treasurer and hoped he would continue. Michael was willing. Michael was proposed by Michael Fairfax and seconded by Michael Haynes. At the vote Michael was re-elected.
9. Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: The members of the current Committee were asked whether they were happy to continue in post. They were. It was proposed that they be returned en bloc if there was no dissent. There was no dissent, so the present Committee continue. The Committee members are therefore: Stuart Cummings, Michael Haynes, Jackie Hands, Peter Kenealy, Keith Murphy and Chris Povey. The Chairman was reminded that Keith would be retiring from the Committee when his term as CC Representative ends in May 2014. John said that the Committee could co-opt another if the need arose; it was felt not applicable at this time. Richard L-S asked whether Isobel Murphy, as the organiser of the Vice President's Mid-week tours, would wish to join the Committee. However Keith said Isobel was willing to continue to organise the tours, but doesn't want to be on the Committee.

The Account Examiners (Trevor Hobday and Mike Fairfax) were both returned after being proposed by Michael Dane and seconded by John Nicholls.

### 10. Election of two Central Council Representatives:

Keith Murphy did not seek re-election as a representative. Two written nominations had been received from the Rev Peter Newing. He proposed Chris Povey, who was seconded by Freda Cleaver, and Andrew Gunn, who was seconded by Michael Fairfax. At the vote both were elected to serve for three years. John thanked Keith for his time, energy and input as a Guild's representative, although he would continue in post until the day before the 2014 CC Meeting.

### 11. Life Members:

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman asked the meeting to ratify Viv Barnes of Hinton-on-the-Green as an Honorary Life Member of the Guild. She had been omitted from the list of known HLMs that were formally ratified at the 2012 AGM. The meeting ratified this request.

The Committee made two proposals for new Honorary Life Members. These proposals appeared as a Notice in the October 2013 Newsletter. Being made by the Committee, the proposals required no seconding. Under Guild Rules each of these proposals required the support of 75% of the AGM attendance.

The first proposal was:-

*"The Committee proposes that Honorary Life Membership of the Guild be conferred on those surviving members who attended the inaugural meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1973. These members are John Nicholls, Michael Fairfax, Clinton (Clint) Evans, Malcolm Stewart and Christopher Povey. The sixth surviving member, the Rev Frederick Rothery, is already a Life Member."*

This received full support and the members involved were transferred to Honorary Life Members.

The second proposal was:-

*"That Mrs Phyllis Brazier, currently a Vice-President, be accorded Honorary Life Membership of the Guild."*

This received full support and Phyllis Brazier was transferred to Honorary Life Member.

Chris Povey, John Nicholls and Michael Fairfax then personally thanked those present for conferring this honour.

### 12. Confirmation of New Members:

The membership of the following was confirmed after John asked the floor if they agreed to them becoming Members. All agreed:-

All from Quinton: -

Pam Sutton.  
Julia Philips.  
Gerald Phillips.  
Nigel Green.

Jonathan Adkins, Tetbury.

### 13. Any other Business:

The Chairman reminded those present about the upcoming 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, of the burial of Fabian Stedman. The CCCBR suggests ringing Stedman in some form on that day. He mentioned the Guild's Inter-Shire Championship striking competition was also on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November at Harvington, Worcs.

The Chairman said the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the First World War is next year and the subsequent key dates were mentioned, but he said it was very much up to each tower how they wished to mark those occasions and whether by open or muffled ringing.

Nick Allsopp asked whether the Guild would consider including a Non Resident Life Member category, as most guilds/societies/associations have. He would like to have rung his recent 50<sup>th</sup> birthday peal at Moreton-in-Marsh for the FSG, but the lack of NRLM for his four friends from

Hampshire helped to cause the peal to have been rung for the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild. He asked the Committee to consider adding a NRLM category. A short discussion followed after which it was agreed that the Committee should look at this aspect and report back. An inclusion of NRLM would require a rule change that could only be approved at an AGM.

### 14. Results of the Striking Competitions:

The Brazier Trophy competition was run this year. It was judged by Jonathan Adkins and Steve Bowley. The results were as follows:-

1 <sup>st</sup> Offenham.	Total 41 faults.
<i>(to be awarded the Brazier Trophy)</i>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quinton.	Total 69 faults
<i>Scratch (Disregarded)</i>	Total 28 faults

The Newing Shield competition followed. The judges reported that all the ringing was of a good standard, but all teams seemed to have had difficulty at some point with the rise, especially around the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> bells. The results were as follows:-

1 <sup>st</sup> Mickleton.	Total 12 faults.
<i>(to be awarded the Newing Shield)</i>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Moreton 'A'.	Total 15 faults
<i>(to be awarded the Spencer Jones Cup)</i>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Long Compton.	Total 20 faults.
4 <sup>th</sup> Wellesbourne.	Total 36 faults.
5 <sup>th</sup> Moreton 'B'.	Total 38 faults.

The Merit Award was awarded by Sophia L-S to Moreton 'B'.

The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner on 1st February 2014

The Meeting closed at 1809 hrs. The Chairman thanked the Judges, Sophia and others for their input to the event. He thanked the Vicar, Claire Penny and Matthew Kemble for making the Tower available, as well as overseeing the hire of the Hall for the teas and other facilities.

Andrew Gunn  
Hon. Secretary.

Please note that these Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2014 AGM.

## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.

The Committee met on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Peter Quinn, Michael Haynes, Sophia Lewis-Skeath and Keith Murphy presented their apologies. As the President, John Nicholls, needed to leave the meeting early, he suggested that Chris Povey take the chair for continuity.

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

2) **Matters arising** were:-

2014 Dinner, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: reported that no deposits were required. Details were on the website.

North Oxon towers letter: still to do; CMP/PQ;

Guild artefacts database: Peter Q has looked at 2 towers; his others are still outstanding;

Old Minute Book: its deposit has been booked to Gloucester Archive in Feb. Andrew to take Peter Q to obtain book from Steve Bowley before then;

EIG Guild insurance: renewal is up from £273 £285. Enquiries suggest no cheaper elsewhere.

Michael D prop. and Stuart sec. it be paid: carried;

AGM feedback: there seemed to be no donations towards the teas this time. This would have been added to the bell restoration fund;

Inter-Shires Comp: a letter had been received from Alan Marchbank (Oxon judge) saying it had been a good event. It was suggested that we should have other towers available for teams to ring at. Need to have a copy of the Rules available at the event;

Peal books: Andrew yet to finish a definitive listing before it goes to Sandra Parker. He hoped to finish this over the Xmas period, and will then distribute to all for discussion at the next meeting;

Newsletter production: Chris presented a list of the

components he is seeking assistance with. He will email these to all members for further discussion at the next meeting.

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

Hon Secretary: Andrew said he had sent a thank you letter to the Pennys for the assistance with the AGM at Offenham;

Treasurer: Michael D presented his report (circulated prior to the meeting). He reported the Guild has 175 members. Michael wanted values of surplus inks and paper as at 31/12/13 given to him, so he can compile the 2013 accounts;

Fixture Sec: Stuart is compiling the list for the next Newsletter;

Newsletter Editor: the January issue is coming together and is likely to be 14 sides, although this can change very easily. The Oct edition had been printed by Peter Q, Stuart and Chris at home, because it had been expedient to do so in this case;

Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours co-ordinator: it was reported that there was a surplus of £163.08 from these tours, which will be transferred to the BRF;

CCCBR reps: Chris reported on an incident that had been reported to the Towers & Belfries Committee. It concerned a bell that had fallen through the belfry floor and partly through the Ringing Room ceiling at Kilmersdon after a gudgeon had failed. The CC President has asked the T&BC for a report. Also, the President had her monthly blog available on the CC website;

Bell Restoration Fund: There were two applications: Wichford and Dumbleton; the

former for ropes and refurbishing the pulleys; and the latter for refurbishing and renewing pulleys, turning the tenor 180° and welding the historic CI bellframe. To give some guidance on size of grants it was decided to aim for 5% of cost and a bonus if relevant: both aspects only where funds allowed. Whichford was granted £150 and Dumbleton £350 (both amounts prop and sec as reqd, and carried).

4) **Items for discussion:**-

Striking Comp certificates: still outstanding. Action, Peter Q and Sophia;

Non Resident Life Membership: arising from the AGM. Thought insufficient members present to discuss adequately. Leave to Feb meeting;

Membership Rules: new members should not be elected at AGMs, but through Committee meetings, as Guild Rules. The AGM members will be allowed to stand this time. Chris Povey put forward Mark Newbury for membership, as the Rules;

Xmas Party: Stuart to run a raffle;

2014 events and locations: AGM and Striking Comp; Chris ask that we consider 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat in Oct, location to be decided;

Minimus Comp and Inter-Shires to alternate; Minimus in 2014 (Sept?) and Inter-Shires in 2015. Guild Ringing Tour 1<sup>st</sup> w/end in July (Richard L-S to arrange?); Guild Walk in Sept.

Next Meeting: **Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014**, Ilmington. (NB: these notes do not supplant the formally agreed Minutes.)

## BOBS, SINGLES - AND BINGLES, TOO.....

Tim Pinner was taken aback by the amount of interest in poems and limericks. He is on the mend from his recent health problems and expects to be back out on the Sunday morning circuit soon. The limerick thing clearly got him going, as he sent through the following:

A certain young caller called Dingle,  
Couldn't decide on a Bob or a Single,  
He gave a great shout,  
And how it came out,  
Was neither Bob, nor Single, but Bingle!

What Tim didn't know is a 'Bingle' actually exists as a call in Grandsire Doubles. As Michael Caine might say: not many people know that.....

Tim was intrigued when I mentioned the Bingle's existence, so here goes for everyone who is similarly intrigued: the why, where and how of Bingles.

For anyone able to ring Singles in Stedman Doubles, the Bingle is basically that: a Stedman Doubles Single. Its function is merely to swap over the two bells double-dodging in 4-5 at a Grandsire Bob. For those

who don't ring such esoteric stuff as Stedman Doubles, here are some changes to illustrate what happens:-

Grandsire Bob

34251  
43521  
45312  
54132 Bob  
51423  
15432  
14523  
41532  
45123  
54213  
52431

Grandsire Bingle

34251  
43521  
45312  
54132 Bingle  
51423  
15432 Make 4<sup>ths</sup> & 5<sup>ths</sup> at  
14532 the treble's full lead  
41523  
45132  
54312  
53421

There was a discussion about Bingles, Bobs and Singles one Sunday morning at Evesham. One clever-dick question was: if a Bingle is a cross between a Bob and a Single, what's a Sob? Answer: yes, that does exist. It's a fire-up! CMP

## A MEANS TO AN END

No doubt we have all at some time scratched our heads, argued fervently with our opposite number, cursed, and adopted an attitude 'I shall never overcome!' (As an example, have you ever tried putting together an 'easy-to-assemble flat pack'?)

It is unfair to write at length about a subject close to my heart, but I have in my possession the bellringing trials and endeavours of the late Doug Whitfield (two fully written exercise books), which clearly indicate how difficult it is to overcome learning something 'new', particularly at an advanced age.

Doug was a delightful character. He regularly attended tower practices, and when proficient at handling a bell attended Church Service ringing. His books are a revelation. The initial difficulty of handling a bell, ie basic hand and back stroke requirements, progressed into rounds and eventually to learning a couple of methods, is identified with his graphics. I find some of his comments amusing – BUT this was his way of a 'means to an end'. Examples are:-

"Listen and count, one, two, ME, four, five, six."

"My bells sounds when my hands pass my nose going up."

"When I ring the third bell, ie in sequence, two ropes must pull before me."

"When leading, follow the tenor sound (DONG)."

"Number of bells, pass treble, NAY ONLY USE if treble is right."

He achieved his objective through sheer persistence, both theory and practical. The page upon page of pencil written notes must have occupied many, many hours.

So, Douglas proved that you can achieve. Go on then! Go to the garage and retrieve that discarded 'flat-pack'. Have another go!

John Kinchin

PS. One of the exercise books (cost 9d in old money; 4p in new money) contains a set of conversion tables. Next time I visit my local I shall order 0.568 litres. I'll bet that'll fool them!

PPS. It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing away of Audrey (Doug's wife) shortly after compiling this article – quite coincidental I assure you. Audrey was a lovely lady, always wishing to pass the time with a chat on a chance encounter. A few years ago Audrey wanted her small front garden tidied. She particularly required an unkempt tallish tree felled. I obliged – without planning permission! The expression of joy that overcame her on completion of the task will remain in my memory forever. "Now I can see people coming and going at Greyrich from my window", she said. Thank you for passing Doug's records on to me, Audrey.

JWK

## A TURN-UP FOR THE BOOKS!!

A few months ago a fellow bell ringer from Ilmington passed to me some books that had been among a job-lot of books he had purchased at a sale at Stratford-on-Avon. "These books", he said, "were obviously the property originally of a very religious person with connections to St Lawrence Church, Mickleton." Would I like them? I should point out that my friend regularly attends sales searching for the bargains of a lifetime from which his fortune will be made. He's still searching. (*Hmmm. I wonder who..... Ed*)

The purchase was pure speculation on his part – 'Nobody else wanted them and my bid was successful....' He added, "When I saw the Mickleton connection I immediately thought of you." I'm so pleased he did.

Each book and slip of paper is handwritten. There is one photo album less a few prints. Frankly, you would require a handwriting expert to study some of

the extremely small print (and then decipher!). All has been painstakingly written. The content is mostly about religious outings.

One trip was made to the North East of England. There is a well-kept Durham Cathedral service sheet, Evensong July 1959. There is a well-preserved booklet on the Cathedral features, special dates and a full ground plan. The trip included a visit to Hexham Abbey (another descriptive booklet), details on a stay at Shepherd's Dene (Newcastle Diocese retreat house), a visit to Blanchland Abbey (Northumberland and another booklet) and Rievaulx Abbey (car park ticket 1/-). The trip concluded with a visit to Lincoln Cathedral. And finally tucked into the back cover of the booklet is a large newspaper cutting from The Daily Telegraph, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1959 that carried the headline: 'Northumberland is worth it, despite the weather'.

A smaller booklet with cover heading 'Holiday Diary' is difficult to untangle. This holiday commenced on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1964 and the journey took a route via Wenlock Edge and, by-passing Shrewsbury, travelled through Welshpool and eventually reached Portmeiron. On the second day the following acquisitions were made: saucepan 17/6d, Nescafe, marmalade, Banaid 2/-, hand cream 4/6d, Corknife, grapes 3/6d, umbrella, suspender belt 8/11d, 2 pens 9d each, Guide book 1/-, Book on Wales 8/11d, three thrillers 2/6d each, 2 ices 1/2d and an apron 8/6d.

The holiday concluded on 24<sup>th</sup> June with a note of all purchases made – most costed. During the trip places visited included Builth Wells, Portmadoc, Harlech and Capel Curig. One entry reads, 'Had breakfast in bed again.'

A small hardback book contains details of a Franciscan Pilgrimage in April 1953. On 7<sup>th</sup> April the diarist attended 7.00am Holy Communion at St Matthew's, Westminster. The party travelled to Victoria Station and were met by Mother Superior. They embarked at Newhaven and touched French soil at about 2.00pm. They left Paris at 7.50pm for Rome (Pat and Rosalind nearly left behind!).

On 8<sup>th</sup> April they awoke to a lovely daybreak. Thereafter our scribe describes in great detail all that they saw during their journey. They continued to Geneva and turned inland to Pisa (a glimpse of the famous tower). A coach journey took them to 'Pallego Salviat' (Palace of Salvation). By now it is claimed 'we are very travel worn!' From 9<sup>th</sup> April every day commenced with Holy Communion. On this day they first visited the little Church of St Cecilia, followed by a tour of the Basilicas of Rome (vivid descriptions).

Later they went to St Paul's – outside the walls, whilst five minutes prior to lunch they had a glimpse of St Peter's, the centre of Christendom. Immediately after the meal they visited the Mamertine Prison where 'traditionally Peter & Paul were imprisoned'.

And the journey continued..... BUT SO COULD MY NARRATIVE!! Anyone wishing to borrow these diaries is welcome to do so – just call me on 01386-438323  
John Kinchin

## A TALE OF TWO 3's....

Rings of 3 aren't especially rare, but ringing on them might be for 'mainline' ringers. It is fair to say, too, that as few ringers wish to ring on 3's, they are generally overlooked maintenance-wise and ringability suffers accordingly. Many are unringable or are nearly so. However, and most unusually, there are now two rings of 3 in the Guild's area that are fully ringable. One has been so for some years, but the other has just become ringable again. Both rings contain very ancient bells. They are:-

### St Michael Archangel, South Littleton, Worcs



(Photo: Chris Povey)

The bells were rehung in a new 6-bell, 3-upon-3, cast-iron and steel bellframe with modern bell fittings by Taylors in 1965. It was hoped that the ring could be augmented as part of the Ring in the Millennium scheme, but sadly that project foundered. Details of the bells are:-

Treble	Worcester Foundry	c1420	4-0-17	C#
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Taylor & Co	1901	6-0-0	B
Tenor	Worcester Foundry	c1420	8-1-1	A

The treble and tenor retain their canons. Both bells are listed by the Church Buildings Council (CBC) as being worthy of preservation because of their historical importance. The original 2<sup>nd</sup> may also have come from the Worcester Foundry, but it is recorded in Church Bells of Worcestershire (H B Walters, 1925) that the bell preceding the present 2<sup>nd</sup> was cast by Thomas Hancox of Walsall in 1628. CBoW also records that 'during the restoration

of the Church in 1883 excavations were made in the nave for laying a new floor, and an old pit was discovered between the font and the tower, containing pieces of melted metal and charcoal. It has been thought probable that this indicates the bell was cast here on the spot in 1628'. In 1900 a crack was discovered and Taylors recast the bell.

I have just finished hanging a set of repaired ropes here. Ropes on the treble and 2<sup>nd</sup> had disintegrated.. As these bells get very little use (probably 2-3 times a year at most) they are in effectively new condition and consequently go very well indeed.

### Tidmington (dedication unknown), Warks



(Photo: Richard Lewis-Skeath)

All three bells are listed by the CBC, but none retains its canons. Apparently Taylors removed the bells over a year ago, so that work to the tower could be undertaken. Taylors have fitted modern headstocks and other fittings. The details of the bells are:-

Treble	Robert Atton	1619	4-0-6	E
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reading Foundry	c1530	5-1-9	D
Tenor	Bartholomew Atton	c1590	6-0-22	C

Michael Chester's website 'Church Bells of Warwickshire' (<http://warksbells.co.uk>) gives further info about the tower and bells and is worth looking at. There are photos of the bells before and after Taylors recent work. Richard Lewis-Skeath rang on them a few years ago and says they were very hard to ring. I suspect they go very much better now. CP

## THE INTER-SHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP STRIKING COMPETITION

The annual Guild Inter-Shire Championship ringing competition took place at Harvington, Worcs, on 16<sup>th</sup> November. The Oxfordshire team was Drayton St Leonard and they nominated Alan Marchbank as their judge. Bilton rang for Warwickshire, their nominated judge being Mark Sayers. Eckington represented Worcestershire, with Paul Marshall being the nominated judge. Mickleton represented Gloucestershire (last year's winners, Tewkesbury Abbey, being unable to attend) with their judge Chris Povey. *(It surprised some that I actually live in Glos. Only my postcode is Worcs! CMP)*. The fifth judge, representing the Four Shires Guild, was Bill Nash.

After the judges went into the Vestry, turned on the heater and ascertained that they could hear a trial ring adequately, the ringing order was drawn.

Throughout the afternoon the rising, ringing and lowering, all marked as the Guild's Newing Shield competitions, was very competent. The result, announced by Bill Nash, was:-

First place: Eckington (Worcs)  
Second place: Drayton St Leonard (Oxon)

As is our custom, the order of the remaining teams was not given. The Inter-Shire Championship Trophy was presented to Tony Cocks, the captain of the winning team (see his smiling face on the front page).

The Guild's thanks extend to the four competing teams for coming to make this a successful day. We hope you enjoyed it.

Additionally many thanks are due to the Harvington ringers, particularly Anthony Wheeler and Chris Haynes, for their part in the arrangements. Thanks also to the food and drink providers, particularly Jackie Hands, Stuart Cummings, Andrew Gunn and others. Thanks are also due to those who did the washing up, while the rest of us were enjoying a ring.

Finally the afternoon would not have progressed so smoothly without the help of our Ringing Master, Sophia Lewis-Skeath.  
John Nicholls

*(Thanks to you, John, for making the arrangements. Ed)*



*The Oxon team: L-R, Amy Herlihy, John White, Hilarie Rogers, Daniel Rogers, Charlotte Rogers, Christopher Rogers*

Sadly I can't show a photo of the Glos (Mickleton) team, as whomsoever took the photo shook the camera and it's blurred! I suspect most members will know the persons in this team regardless of lacking a photo: John Kinchin, David Clarke, Chris Righton, Mike Fairfax, Andrew Gunn and Jackie Hands.



*The Warks team: L-R, David Price, Linda Allen, Chris Idle, Sally Idle, Dave Sammon, Gerry Allen*



*The Worcs team: L-R, Andrea Goodall, Polly Goodall (the lucky mascot?), Kath Cocks, Phil Sagar, Ros Long, Tony Cocks, Caroline Evans.*



*The five (supposedly-)wise men: L-R Mark Sayers (Warks), Bill Nash (FSG), Chris Povey (Glos), Paul Marshall (Worcs), Alan Marchbank (Oxon)*



## MICKLETON & ILMINGTON BELLRINGERS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Twenty ringers and their partners attended the annual Christmas Luncheon at the Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton (home of the Pudding Club), on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone joined in the festive spirit with fancy hats, crackers and men wearing Christmas theme ties. Following an excellent meal, Fran Chapman recited an introductory piece of poetry as follows:-

Well, here we are, another year's gone by,  
And in that time we've drunk the pubs dry!  
We've practised hard on Tuesday night,  
Some villagers closed their windows – in fright?  
We rang a quarter when Chris was eighty,  
He keeps on ringing slow and stately.  
We've rung Grandsire, Grandsire and Grandsire  
And when we're brave we try Bob Minor.  
So from you next year I expect great things  
And not a load of noisy ding, dong, dings!

Nicola Amphlett read a suitably adapted piece from a tome by Pam Ayres

relating to being late. (No prize for other ringers guessing to whom this referred!). Pam McFarlane and Chris Righton rendered an equally enjoyable narrative – this time self-composed.

John Kinchin spoke on behalf of both Tower Captains, giving thanks to all the ringers at both towers, particularly those who regularly travelled distances to practices and Service ringing – and to their partners for their forbearance. Our Poet Laureate (Chris Righton) had prepared a suitable 'thank you' to Fran, our luncheon organiser:

We're a difficult lot to organise,  
But if you can, you get a prize.  
For organising this our Christmas date  
We thought you would appreciate  
Our small offering of CHOC-O-LATE!

John Kinchin

## FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

The Old Minute Book records the following for the quarter 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 1914. This particular year is the start of a very poignant period, as it is the year in which it was said, "The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our life-time". We know what's coming, but Guild members at the time didn't. The War started later in the year and it was to be 'over by Christmas'. If only it had have been. Here is the entry:-

March 31<sup>st</sup> '14:

A Committee Meeting of the Guild for the purpose of arranging the programme for the Spring meeting

was held at The Rectory, Moreton-in-Marsh, on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, The Rev Spencer Jones being voted to the Chair. The first business was the question of competitions, and it was Pro. by Mr E Harris, sec by Mr H Evans that the competitions be as usual. Carried. It was also decided that the time for starting be at 1pm instead of 2pm.

Special Service to commence at 4.30pm. The selection of Preacher was left in the hands of the Rev Spencer Jones. The arrangements for the Tea was (sic) left for the Rector of Moreton and the Sec to carry out. It was also decided to leave the selection of the Large Certificates to the discretion of the Rev S Jones and the Sec. It was Pro. by Mr

Barnes sec by Mr W Harris that Mr F J Johnson of Hinton be again asked to officiate as Judge in the Competitions. Carried unanimously. It was thought the time had arrived when some Printed Rules should be formulated and adopted by the Guild and it was decided to bring the matter before the Spring meeting.

A vote of thanks to The Rev Spencer Jones for the use of room and for presiding closed the meeting.

(Signed)  
Spencer Jones  
Chairman

## FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

Committee Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 1974 at The Red Lion, Chipping Campden.

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October were read, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

Guild Dinner: Arrangements for the Dinner at the Three Ways Hotel, Mickleton were discussed and agreed.

Ringling Competitions: A programme for the Ringing Competition to be held on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> was agreed, and the appointment of Judges was delegated to the Secretary. Proposals for a set of rules for the Competition were then discussed. With the desire to allow the maximum opportunity for all ringers to enter, the following rules were agreed:

- (i) All ringers must be Ringing Members of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers;
- (ii) Each team shall consist of five or six ringers. Five-bell teams shall have the number of faults awarded by the judges increased by one-fifth;
- (iii) At least four ringers with each team shall be attached to, or regularly ring with, the named tower;
- (iv) A tower may enter more than one team;
- (v) A ringer may ring with two teams, and only one team from each tower;
- (vi) The competition shall be divided into four categories:
  - a) raising the bells in peal: time allowed, five minutes, faults will be recorded against teams exceeding this time;

- b) call changes – approximately five minutes;
- c) method ringing – 120 changes in any method, one false start will be allowed, faults recorded on the false start will be cancelled;
- d) falling the bells in peal – time allowed, five minutes. Faults will be recorded against teams exceeding this time.

- (vii) Where two or more categories are attempted, the two categories with the least number of faults will be considered in placing the teams in order of merit.
- (viii) Certificates will be awarded to each team taking part in the Competition stating the faults awarded in each category and the placings in order of merit.
- (ix) Teams will be allowed a maximum of two substitutes for the second part of the Competition.
- (x) Faults will be awarded by the Judges and their decisions on this account will be final.
- (xi) On all other matters, the decisions of the Committee will be final.
- (xii) The team having the lowest number of faults in the categories used to assess the order of merit for both half-yearly competitions will be awarded the Spencer Jones Silver Cup, which may be held by their representatives for eleven months, after which time it will be handed back to the Guild Master. In the event of a tie, custody of the cup will be decided by the Committee.

The Meeting was then closed by the Chairman.  
(Signed) H O Hart,

## OTHER ARCHIVES OF INTEREST (JOHN TAYLOR & Co)

Members with an interest in the history of bells and bell frames will be fascinated by the new facility from John Taylor & Co. Their web-site

now shows what the Company's huge archive contains. To quote from that web-site:-

*The entire collection - along with the John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum - is now administered by a separate "not for profit" company, Bell Foundry Collections Ltd (BFCL), which exists to ensure that this incredibly rich heritage material is safeguarded for the future. All income from activities related to the collections goes to support the preservation and maintenance of the Museum and archives.*

*Both BFCL and John Taylor Bell Foundry (Loughborough) Limited are happy to make the archives accessible for people undertaking research. Indeed, we are keen to encourage use.*

Of particular interest to the Guild are the pictures of the original works drawings of Badsey's bell frame, installed by Taylors in 1897. It's not quite the first frame of this type (that accolade goes to Dumbleton: installed 1892), but it's a very early frame nonetheless.

Information on the Taylor Archives can be found via the following link: <http://www.taylorbells.co.uk/web/?q=node/72>

## TERCENTENARY OF FABIAN STEDMAN'S BURIAL

Fabian Stedman, the inventor of Stedman's Principle in about 1670, was buried on November 16<sup>th</sup> 1713 in the Church of St Andrew Undershaft in London. His Principle has become one of the foundations of change ringing and is regularly rung from Doubles to Cinques (and sometimes beyond). The Central Council encouraged towers to ring Stedman on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his burial.

The Guild managed to do this on two known occasions (*if there are others, please let me know, Ed*). Firstly, an account from Freda Cleaver:-

As there was no usual FSG Saturday evening practice scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November (*due to the Guild's Inter-Shire Striking Competition at Harvington that afternoon, Ed*) it seemed an excellent opportunity to get together with other ringers and spend the whole evening ringing just Stedman here at Welford-on-Avon. It turned out to be a most interesting and enjoyable evening and Rosemary, one of our own ringers, rang Stedman Triples for the first time and Stuart rang Stedman Doubles. Richard very kindly called the touches for us and I never realised there could be so many bobs and singles in just one touch. It was great fun and quite challenging. Several of us ended up in the Shakespeare pub to round off a most enjoyable evening.

Continuing the Stedman celebrations on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> we first rang Stedman on 3 bells and then on 4 bells before the first Service but managed Stedman Doubles before the second service. No hope of ringing Stedman Triples here on a Sunday unfortunately.



*From L-R: Ian Sturgess, Ted Copson, Peter Kenealy, Rosemary Cole, Richard L-S, Ian Stonehouse (visiting ringer), Michael Cummings, Michael Haynes, Freda, Stuart Cummings, John Nicholls.*

The second event actually preceded the Welford event. It occurred at the conclusion of the Guild's Inter-Shire Striking Competition, when two of the judges said they hadn't rung at Harvington. A band was formed and the bells were risen. A touch of St Clement's Minor wasn't overly successful. Somebody suggested Stedman Doubles would be appropriate; so 300 changes were duly rung in deference to the man himself. The band was 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 2 Bill Nash, 3 Alan Marchbank (judge for Oxfordshire), John Nicholls, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Andrew Gunn. RIP Fabian Stedman.  
CMP

## CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NEWS

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Mrs Kate Flavell, writes a monthly 'blog' about what her month as President and that of the Council in general consists of. Her **November blog** contained two particular items of interest:-

Firstly, Kate tells us there is to be another Ringing Roadshow in 2014. It will be held at Newbury Racecourse and will be on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The Roadshow is the opportunity for ringers, bell-related suppliers, ringing societies, ringers and who/whatever to show their products and services to a large audience.

Secondly - and this is a very interesting one; this is about insurance; and I will quote Kate direct: '*Having spent my working life in insurance I am always interested to see the insurance queries that crop up from ringers, although these are now expertly handled by the Tower Stewardship Committee, chaired by Christopher O'Mahony. As President I still enjoy our annual meetings with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) and our successful efforts to demonstrate to them how safe ringing is, compared to other dangerous popular pursuits such as driving and DIY. Just recently a query came up involving a tower whose ringers had, like so many others,*

*opened their own bank account to manage their own money. Their PCC then told them that EIG had told the PCC that this meant that the ringers were now a separate body from the church and needed to arrange their own insurance. Despite several calls to EIG, along the lines of "this can't possibly be right" they appeared to be adamant. Through the Council's contacts at senior level within EIG we were able to establish that ringers can indeed have their own bank accounts and still be covered by the PCC's EIG insurance, as they are still just as much a part of the church's family. They have taken steps to ensure that their staff will not give out this incorrect information any more. Much relief all round, and a demonstration of the value of our regular meetings with senior EIG executives.'*

My tower has such a bank account to look after money that is for bell maintenance. There will be other towers that do this. It's well worth having the weight of the Central Council to help sort out little sillies that big organisations tend to inflict on little organisations occasionally. Kate's blogs are worth reading. They can be found on the internet link: <http://cccbr.org.uk/blog/>. CMP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

### FOUR SHIRES GUILD LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The front page of Newsletter 136 highlighted the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-formation of the Four Shires Guild of Bellingers. Subsequently, at the recent A.G.M. of the Guild, the committee and members approved a motion that the surviving members who attended that meeting be granted Life Membership of the Guild to celebrate the occasion. As one of those members, I am very appreciative the resolution was passed unanimously and I thank all members for their support.

Sincerely,  
Mike Fairfax

Dear Mr Editor,

Twelve months have elapsed since my article 'Can I rope you in' in this Newsletter. How time flies! I offer an update on this.

I am pleased to tell you that the new ropes will be delivered in January 2014. I thank all who contributed to them. Meanwhile, we've carried on – make do and mend, loan from local towers, etc, with regular practice night, Service ringing and 'specials' (eg, weddings, anniversaries, funerals, etc) continuing to take place.

Sufficient practice continues to allow the band have successes in two recent striking competitions – not bad for a ringing band with an average age of 70!

As I write this, Christmas will soon be with us, and Mickleton bells will strike out frequently during that period. On behalf of the ringers of St Laurence, I wish you a HAPPY & PEACEFUL time.

John Kinchin

### XMAS PARTY AT WELLESBOURNE SATURDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

The last Saturday evening practice before Christmas started with ringing at St Peter's, Wellesbourne, from 7.30 until 8.30pm. It was attended by approximately 24 people. The ringing was far better than the previous year, finishing with a plain course of Yorkshire Surprise Major.

St Peter's Church Centre was the venue for the Christmas social. As always we were met with a magnificent spread, the setting up of which was organised by Veronica Quinn and Linda Dane.

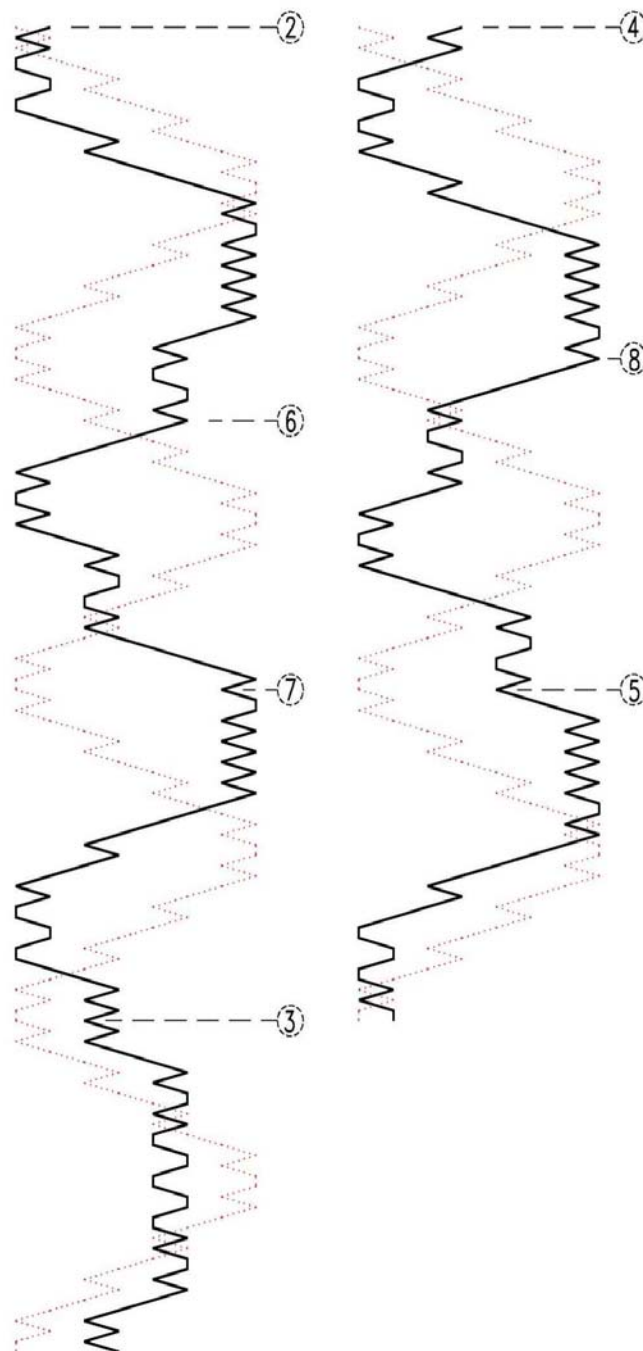
Having eaten, we settled down to some carol singing, with Eliza Lewis-Skeath organising the carols to be sung from members' requests, and accompaniment from Linda Dane on piano. There followed a raffle with numerous prizes. All the proceeds from the raffle will help to the swell the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund. (*£35.20 was raised. Ed*)

The party finished at 10-30pm, when John Nicholls thanked everybody for attending. Special thanks were given to Linda Dane for playing the piano and Veronica Quinn for the organisation of the venue. It was again a very successful evening.  
Peter Quinn

## METHOD OF THE QUARTER?

A question circulated in the background at the last Guild Saturday practice at Evesham, 'Do we have enough to ring Evesham Surprise Major?'. We didn't, but there would have been sufficient to ring it if (a) some notice of the intention had been given beforehand in the Newsletter, and (b) a 'blue line' had been circulated with that notice. I find it a thrill to ring 'Home Methods' at their towers, so here goes with the first of these: Evesham Surprise Major. For those that ring Surprise Major, it's an easy one, because it's all 'right place'. The 5-6 places work at the half-lead needs a bit of care in remembering where you are in it, but it goes together tidily.

### EVESHAM SURPRISE MAJOR



There are Evesham S Royal and Evesham S Maximus, too, which are pure extensions, but we may not be ringing those (but who knows....?). The Guild practice at Evesham is on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.  
CMP

## OBITUARY; GRAHAM HALL OF BRETTFORTON



Graham (centre), with Tony Shilham (left) and Thelma James (right), taken on Monday 4th June 2012 when Bretforton bells were rung to open the village celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. (From a photo by Roger Hunt.) The malt whisky was courtesy of 'The Fleece'!

As 2013 drew to a close the village of Bretforton lost another of its sons with the passing of Graham Hall, the local tower captain, on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the age of 66 years. Graham had grown up in Bretforton learning to ring at St Leonard's church, as did his father Alf before him, besides playing cornet with Bretforton Silver Band amongst the many other pursuits on offer to the local youth.

He established himself as a haulier with a small fleet of lorries and employed his skills as both a mechanic and driver whenever the situation required. Following his marriage to Linda, a local girl from the Jelfs family, they nurtured their two children, Stuart and Karen, and as time passed enjoyed their three adoring grandchildren.

Whilst not playing with the Band for some years he maintained his allegiance and support for their longevity through being chair of the Supporters' Club and also a Trustee thus contributing to the strong fellowship that exists within their midst – Bretforton Silver Band is the only surviving village band in Worcestershire and has been going continuously since 1895.

Graham's term in office as the local tower captain extends back well before the Millennium arrived and he has kept together a small but loyal band of ringers. The onset of his illness several years ago curtailed his ability to both train recruits and ring for Sunday service with his periods of absence being covered by John and Hilary Bolton of Badsey whenever they could. His outstanding bravery and determination to triumph over his physical trauma involving several sessions of facial reconstruction and the attendant chemotherapy amazed everyone but sadly it was a battle that he could not win. In recent months he occasionally called in on the regular Thursday night practice – he last rang in the tower on August 15<sup>th</sup> ringing the treble to call changes.

Not surprisingly the church was packed at his funeral with some 30 people standing outside - such was his popularity with folk from not only Bretforton but also the wider Cotswold escarpment with whom he had rubbed shoulders in his travels over the years. Bretforton Silver Band played throughout the service and fittingly the local ringers had rung before. The tenor bell was tolled as he was interred a short distance away, at his wish, within earshot of his beloved bells. Donations given went to Bret Band, Bretforton Bells and Saving Faces (the charity who had supported him so well).

Later that day, a quarter peal was rung on Bretforton bells as follows:

### St Leonard's, Bretforton, Worcs

Saturday, 23 November 2013 in 44 mins (9)

1260 Doubles

(240 Stedman, 480 Plain Bob and 540 Grandsire)

1 Sandra Parker

2 Martin Penny

3 Steve Bowley

4 Matthew Kemble

5 Roger Hunt (C)

6 John Cleveland

Rung to the memory of the local tower captain, Graham Hall, whose funeral took place here earlier today.

Although I knew Stan Betts, Wilf Newman and Philip Jelfs of the Bretforton ringers back in the 60s and 70s, Graham did not appear on my radar until 2003 when one of my sons joined the Silver Band. Our friendship grew as we rubbed shoulders supporting the band and eventually I found myself joining in with the local ringing on a regular basis. I found Graham to be totally reliable, forthright, a great pleasure to be in the company of and I am sure a tremendous loss to all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

Roger H Hunt

## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

There is a further change to the format of this article this time: a photo, and Isobel has instituted a system of 'guest reporters' for these tours. This makes the whole feature a good read.

### The October tour

Twenty four ringers made their way to the picturesque villages south of Brize Norton airfield in Oxfordshire for the October mid-week outing. The journey was a little longer than usual for those travelling from the north but all were outdone by Pat Halls' dedication in returning from Australia for the day's ringing. St Luke's little summer arrived a day early after torrential rain

earlier in the week and we were treated to fine warm weather for the whole of our day out.

The first tower, Clanfield, is a ground floor ring where fund raising is in progress for a substantial overhaul to the bells and fittings untouched since augmentation to eight in 1905. The bells went better than we have expected and, after touches of Stedman and Plain Bob Major, half a course of Cambridge was rung. This was followed by Double Norwich and Grandsire before the lower.

Next to another eight at Buckland where a door in the outside wall leads up a spiral stairway and across the top of a nave screen to the central tower. A board records that these bells were retuned by Whitechapel and rehung by Whites in 2010. Grandsire was rung first, followed by Yorkshire and Plain Bob Major. The conductor's call of 'Go Plain Bob Triples' at the start of the next touch was immediately contradicted by the rest of the band, who had all caught hold for Single Oxford. Once that method had been rung successfully, eight-spliced was attempted by the next band. Starting from London, the touch was safely completed under the watchful eye of Geoff Pratt. Some of the party then couldn't resist trying out the handbells on display and ringing the Saxilby simulator before we left the tower for lunch.



*Geoff Pratt, Ian Thompson and Pat Halls on the handbells (Big bells, too! Ed)*

The 'Chequers' in Charney Bassett provided excellent 'pub grub' matched by a choice of ales including Pedigree and Hobgoblin although, judging by the glasses on the table, the local Brakspear was the most popular. A tempting choice of sweets delayed some from setting out for the next church.

A light ground floor six at Hinton Waldrist proved ideal for the start of the afternoon's ringing and we began with Stedman. This was followed by Cambridge, London, Cambridge again and then a very rapid course of Norwich before finishing with Plain Bob. An interesting feature of the church is a window of old French glass in a side chapel commemorating Airey Neave, a former resident of the village.

Northmoor was the final tower of the day where, due to uncertainty over whether we should be met, for a minute or two we could only look up at the gallery inscribed in 1701 by its builder, Richard Lydall, with a request that ringers should pray for him. Fortunately, a lady flower arranger had a key and we were soon ringing Stedman and then Cambridge. There had been some muttering among the enthusiasts about 'crankshafts' and 'Carlisle over Beverley' and they duly rang their course of Chester. Those who didn't aim so high variously took hold for Plain Bob Minor, London and Grandsire to complete a good day's ringing. Many thanks to Isobel and Keith for all the arrangements.

Peter Olding

#### **The November tour**

The 289th mid week outing of the Four Shires Guild on 21 November was arranged by Sandra Parker and our thanks go to her for a well organized day.

Our first tower was Holy Trinity, Stratford upon Avon, (19cwt 10). I counted 25 ringers there; I think a couple more joined a bit later. The narrow spiral staircase with some narrow treads meant access to the tower was not easy. The second bell was not easy to handle, but apart from that they are a fine

ring of bells, which sounded excellent outside.

A party of Japanese tourists arrived in the church just as were about to go up the tower. If they were listening they heard Grandsire Caters, Bob Caters, Cambridge Royal and rounds & call changes to finish.

The second tower was Aston Cantlow (14cwt 6). One or two people found the open wrought iron spiral staircase to the ringing chamber not to their liking. Not an easy 6 to ring well, the 5th was difficult to get to strike when ringing it up and also to chime when nearly down. I was told it was cast in 1410 and is a slightly different shape to a more modern bell. We rang Bob Minor, Norwich, Cambridge, Stedman and Double Court.

Then to lunch at the Twisted Boot at Kings Coughton. I entered the postcode into my sat-nav and in the middle of Alcester it informed me "You have reached your destination"! No sign of a twisted boot, perhaps it had untwisted and walked off! I was able to find a map for the pub on my phone, which indicated it was about a mile further on. I think one or two others experienced a similar problem. An excellent value (and quality), "all you can eat" buffet lunch was available, which some hungry ringers made the most of.

After lunch we rang at Coughton (11cwt 6). The church is in the splendid grounds of Coughton Court, a National Trust property. It has been occupied by the Throckmorton family since 1409. I read that it holds a unique place in English history with its close connections to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Gaining access through the security gates provided a challenge. We rang Bob Minor, Cambridge, Stedman, London, Double Oxford and Original.

Our last tower was Studley (11cwt 8). The ringing chamber had a very low ceiling and the sallies tended to muffle the sound at back stroke, otherwise they were a good ring and tapped along quite well. We rang Plain Bob Major, Grandsire, Cambridge, call changes, Stedman and 8-Spliced.

The weather obliged with a sunny day, if a little chilly.

Clive Sparling

#### **The December tour**

The 290th outing was held in towers between Coventry and Leamington. The ringing began at the 8 at Ryton-on-Dunsmore followed by the 6 at Bubbenhall before lunch. An excellent lunch was held at the Three Horseshoe Inn in Bubbenhall where about 20 people enjoyed the food, drink and company.

In the afternoon our first tower was at the newly restored church at Radford Semele ; where ringing its 6 bells was interspersed with looking and marvelling at the restoration. A high, uninterrupted wooden roof, 3 beautiful new stained glass windows and excellent toilet facilities required some time to enjoy.

We finished ringing at the 8 at Lillington, which even people without a Sat Nav managed to find. During the day a variety of methods were rung including London, Norwich, Double Dunkirk, Westminster Minor, Bristol and London Surprise Major. An attempt at 8 Spliced Major came to grief. There was plenty of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman.

The weather was reasonable and quite mild for the time of year. Thanks are due to Barbara Howes and Ruth Border for organising the day.

Brenda Dixon.

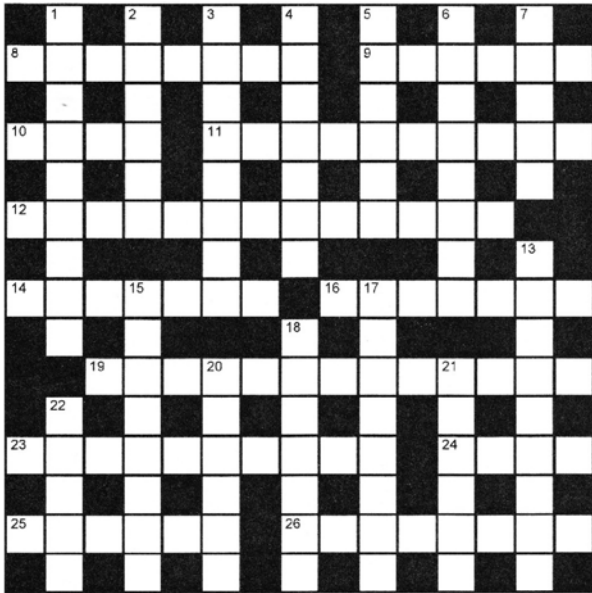
# EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

The following appeared on an internet news feature dated 21 December 2013:

*One hundred years ago the first proto-crossword appeared in the New York World newspaper. Since then there have been millions of chewed pens and scratched heads.*

Some naughty people might be tempted to believe that El Presidente helped compile that first crossword, but I can advise it's just a myth!

El Presidente tells me he is alarmed at how easy his crosswords for this esteemed publication have become. So, to arrest this shocking trend, he is now not saying when an answer is an anagram of the clue....!! Clearly, you cruciverbalists need to up your game!



Answers to the crossword in the Oct 2013 Newsletter



### Across

- 8 Niece of William IV, born in 1819. (8)
- 9 Mr C M Povey. (6) *(Incorrect. Should be (9,6) CMP)*
- 10 City containing the Taj Mahal. (4)
- 11 A medieval journey possibly to the tomb of Saint Thomas A'Becket. (10)
- 12 Eg, Ranch singer could be the ambition for beginners of the Exercise. (6,7)
- 14 Even if witty, this no help to the learner. (7)
- 16 All of us, but not everyone is benevolent. (7)
- 19 Beware of being this. It may lead to mistakes. (4-9)
- 23 This would certainly lead to mistakes. (5,5)
- 24 This cross between a grapefruit and a tangerine sounds offensive. (4)
- 25 A mountain range. (6)
- 26 A perfectionist. (8)

### Down

- 1 Often the meeting place after ringing! (5,4)
- 2 Traditionally, The best time to hear the chorus. (2,4)
- 3 Eligah, Elisha and Isaiah etc. (8)
- 4 Emotive name for some newspapers. (7)
- 5 High-risk activity showing this to a bull. (3,3)
- 6 German battleship chased and sunk in WW2. (8)
- 7 Two bells swap positions. (5)
- 13 Continental random clashing is definitely this. (2-7)
- 15 Its famous Cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence, was consecrated in 1962. (8)
- 17 Describes bells changed by a call. (8)
- 18 Central to the ringing community. (7)
- 20 Do it again. (6)
- 21 Describes a method that is rotationally symmetric. (6)
- 22 Describes a method where the treble hunts without dodging. (5)

## ... AND YET ANOTHER BY 'EP', BUT OF A DIFFERENT NATURE.

This one clearly demonstrates the breadth of El Presidente's puzzle setting ability and some might say the depth of his fiendish mind. The Rules are as EP has given below. I do not know the solution, because EP didn't give me the answer! Hopefully he will provide the answer for the next Newsletter.

Re-arrange the churches so that each ROW (horizontal) has a common theme.

<b>Winchcombe</b>	<b>Badsey</b>	<b>Childswickham</b>	<b>Kingham</b>
<b>Barford</b>	<b>Hinton-on-the-Green</b>	<b>Welford-on-Avon</b>	<b>Salford Priors</b>
<b>Bretforton</b>	<b>Hook Norton</b>	<b>Snitterfield</b>	<b>Great Wolford</b>
<b>Tredington</b>	<b>Mickleton</b>	<b>Upper Slaughter</b>	<b>Moreton-in-Marsh</b>

## GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

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

### MENU

White Onion and Cider soup with Sage croutons and crusty bread  
or

Smoked salmon and Cream Cheese Roulade with Beetroot Compote and salad leaves  
or

Ham Hock terrine, Spiced apple Chutney and Country Toasts

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Pan fried chicken breast, Creamy Garlic Potatoes and roasted carrots  
or

Butternut Squash risotto with Blue cheese and Rocket Salad

\*\*\*\*\*

Dark Chocolate Brownie with chocolate sauce and vanilla Ice cream  
or

Coffee Crème Brulee served with Shortbread biscuit  
or

Somerset Brie with Grapes and oat meal Biscuits

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cost of Dinner £21.00**

Please let either John Nicholls on 01386 841084 (email: [john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com](mailto:john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com)), or Peter Quinn on 01789 840827 (email: [peterquinn22@gmail.com](mailto:peterquinn22@gmail.com)) know your choice of menu by Saturday 18th January 2013

There will be a guest speaker

The striking competition trophies will also be presented.

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### GUILD LAPEL BADGES



The new Guild lapel badge is available. It is slightly different to the previous version, as it is now the same as the clothing badges (the 'standard' Guild badge). It is slightly '3D' too, as some features are raised.

£4 each from the Hon Sec.

(The original badges cost £1 in 1976!)

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS (cont)

### FOUR SHIRES GUILD CLOTHING

Guild clothing is still available. I shall be happy to take your order.

All garments have the FSG badge embroidered on the left breast (except the reversible fleece, which is both sides) and come in many colours.

More details are available on the FSG website: [www.fourshires.org.uk](http://www.fourshires.org.uk).

**Clothing with Guild Logo Prices at 1st June 2013 (notice the addition of the lambswool V-necked jumper):-**

KK403 Polo Shirt £14.50

R16 Reversible Fleece with Waterproof Lining £27.50

SS50 Half Zip Fleece £21.50

SS24M Sweat Shirt £17.50

SS51 Full Zip Fleece £22.50

H730 Lambswool V-necked jumper £31.00

If choosing colours from the web site ([www.fourshires.org.uk](http://www.fourshires.org.uk)) just hover the mouse over the colour, otherwise I can email you the colours.

Payment is cash or cheque (payable to The Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers) with order to:

Peter Quinn, 22 Mountford Close, Wellesbourne, Warwick. CV35 9QQ

Tel 01789 840827; Mob 07785793500;

Email: [peter@quinn22.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@quinn22.fsnet.co.uk)

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### FOUR SHIRES GUILD BELL RESTORATION FUND

At the 2010 AGM the Guild established a Bell Restoration Fund, from which the Committee are empowered to offer grants towards suitable aspects concerning rings of bells within the Guild's area of operation. Such aspects may include a range of needs, from maintenance to augmentations.

Rules and Constitution of the Fund and application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary.

## AROUND THE TOWERS

### QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

**Salford Priors, Warks, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1250 Valparaiso D Major:** Chris Mew (C) 1, Per Quinn 2, Robert Reeves 3, Karen French 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, John Gwynne 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. Rung as a compliment to Jackie and Robin Hands for their Pearl Wedding anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Mickleton, Glos, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 1260, Grandsire Triples:** John Gwynne 1, John Kinchin 2, Karen French 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Jackie Hands 5, Michael Dane 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Chris Povey 8. Rung as a compliment to Jackie and Robin Hands for their Pearl Wedding anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**Middle Littleton, Worcs, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1260 Stedman Doubles:** John Richards 1, Claire Penny 2, Robert Richards 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Andrew Gunn 6. First Q of Stedman: 4.

**Offenham, Worcs, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles:** John Richards 1, Matthew Kemble 2, Robert Richards 3, Claire Penny 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Bob Topp 6. First Q: 6.

**Broadway, Worcs, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Minor:** Mark Newbury 1, John Richards 2, Matthew Kemble 3, Claire Penny 4, Robert Richards 5, Chris Povey (C) 6.



**Bletchington, Oxon**, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1260 Doubles (60 Stedman, 1200 Plain Bob): Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 1, Michael Haynes 2, Rosemary Hemmings 3, Keith Abbott 4, Alan Griffin 5, Allen Turner 6. Rung in memory of Edna Everitt of Bloxham, who died on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Harbury, Warks**, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1260 Stedman Triples: Chris Mew (C) 1, Mark Sayers 2, Robert Reeves 3, Karen French 4, John Nicholls 5, Michael Dane 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath 7, R J Taylor 8. Rung for Remembrance Day.

**Lighthorne, Warks**, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1260 Minor (2 Methods): Chris Mew (C) 1, Annie Hall 2, John Nicholls 3, Mark Sayers 4, Robert Reeves 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6.

**Buckland, Glos**, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1260 Doubles (St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain & Grandsire): Andrew Gunn 1, Tom Sandham 2, Chris Povey 3, Martin Penny 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Roland Merrick 6.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Christina Ireland 1, Chris Povey 2, Roland Merrick 3, Robert Hall 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Bob Topp 6.

**Salford Priors, Warks**, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1250 Johannesburg S Major: Michael Dane 1, Chris Mew (C) 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Gwynne 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. Rung in memory of Nelson Mandela, also Stanford Nicholls, brother of John.

**Mickleton Glos**, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Andrew Gunn 1, John Nicholls 2, John Kinchin 3, Keith Murphy 4, Bill Nash 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Gwynne 7, Jackie Hands 8. Dedicated to those who so generously, this time last year, donated to the bell rope fund appeal.

**Hook Norton, Oxon**, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1260 St Simon's Bob Doubles: Helen Burchell 1, Gayle Woods 2, Sally Austin (C) 3, Mick Austin 4, Jonathan Muller 5, Daniel Austin 6. Rung for the Christmas Tree Festival. First in method – 2. Rung on the front 6.

**Hook Norton, Oxon**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Daniel Austin 1, Andrew Kenyon 2, Selina Harris 3, Sally Austin (C) 4, Mick Austin 5, Nick Burchell 6. Rung before the Carol Service. First in Method: 2. First as Cover: 6. Rung on the front 6.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1415 Doubles & Minor (96 PB Minor, 1200 PB Doubles, 119 Grandsire Doubles): Benjamin Lewis-Skeath 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, David Adams 4, Denise Hughes 5, Rob Stansbury 6. Rung as a birthday compliment to Benjamin, 15 today - also his first quarter peal.

**Saintbury, Glos**, 30<sup>th</sup> Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Jenny Chadburn 1, Sarah Chadburn 2, James Allen 3, Robert Hall 4, Claire Penny 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, Robert Chadburn (C) 7, Chris Povey 8. Rung for Christmas. First quarter on 8: 3

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

## PEOPLE AND PLACES:-

### DOUG CARR'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORY QUARTER



*The quarter peal band with Doug: Michael Dane (Hon. Treasurer), Chris Povey (CC Rep), Doug, Peter Kenealy (Membership Sec), John Nicholls (President), Andrew Gunn (Hon. Secretary). The sixth person in the band, Allen Turner, took the photo.*

Doug Carr, for many years one of the Guild's Accounts Examiners until recently, was 90 on 9<sup>th</sup> October. It was suggested that members of the Committee ring a quarter peal to mark the occasion, and such was arranged. It wasn't possible to ring on the actual day for a number of reasons, not least being a cracked stay on one of the bells, so a date as soon as possible afterwards was chosen. Unluckily, Michael Haynes (part of the Committee band) was unavoidably delayed in Oxford and was unable to ring. Fortunately Allen Turner had accompanied Doug, so was there to step into the breach by ringing the tenor behind. Details of the Q are:-

**Halford, Warks**, 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1290 Grandsire Doubles: Andrew Gunn 1, Michael Dane 2, John Nicholls 3, Peter Kenealy 4, Chris Povey (C) 5, Allen Turner 6. To celebrate Doug Carr's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (9/10/13)

Doug had brought along some sparkling wine and some nibbles, so the 'Après Q' was very pleasant, as can be seen. Congratulations Doug!

The bellframe at **Dumbleton** has been listed by the Church Buildings Council as being of special and historical merit. This may be the first all-metal frame to be listed in this way. It is the very first cast-iron lowside 'A' bellframe constructed by John Taylor & Co, and was completed on December 13<sup>th</sup> 1892 in time for the bells to be rung for Christmas. It is, of course, the forerunner of hundreds of that type of frame world-wide. While it is very clearly similar to those that followed, there are little differences, the most obvious being the cast-iron 'gate-ends' at the ends of the pits. They are now fabricated in steel. One of the cast-iron gate-ends was found to have a crack in it when the work to replace and refurbish the pulleys was undertaken earlier this year. Due to its historical importance it was decided to weld the crack in-situ, as getting the gate-end out was very difficult (apparently Taylors still have the patterns for these gate-ends 'somewhere in the pattern store'). A sub-contractor of Taylors, who has all the necessary qualifications to weld cast-iron, undertook the welding. Naturally fire prevention measures were much in being (it was done in conjunction with the PCC's insurers, EIG). There is a Saturday night practice at Dumbleton on January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you come, just remember that you are ringing on a big lump of bellhanging history. (Query to John Bolton: does the 1897 Taylor frame at Badsey have cast-iron gate-ends, or fabricated steel ones? I can't see from the Badsey frame drawings on JT&Co's archives web-site.)

No movement at **Pebworth** yet regarding the replacement of the tenor headstock. Alan Strickland, the Gloucester DAC Bells Advisor, has been in touch with the Vicar and PCC to provide any help he can in getting something sorted with this problem. Pebworth are a useful light 10 and having them out of action as a 10 is a loss. (The front 6 are, of course, a 'proper' 6, - and an 8 in the Dorian mode, 2-9, are quite ringable – so ringing there is still possible.)

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E	
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	DUMBLETON, Glos	6, 11cwt in G	
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	BARFORD, Warks	6, 4-3-22 in B	
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Glos	8, 22-1-18 in Eb	
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, Moreton-in-Marsh: See Notice p.15 – <u>NO EVENING PRACTICE</u></b>		
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	WINCHCOMBE, Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#	
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	EVESHAM, Worcs	12, 35-2-20 in C#	
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	HARVINGTON, Worcs	6, 8-1-14 in A	
Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Warks	10, 19-0-2 in E	
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	LANGBOROUGH, Glos	6, 11-0-2 in F#	
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Warks	8, 14-0-24 in F	
Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup>	SNITTERFIELD, Warks	6, 16-1-13 in F	
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	MORETON-IN-MARSH, Glos	8, 10-0-14 in G	
Apr 5 <sup>th</sup>	BADSEY, Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F	<b>Note: 7.00-8.30pm</b>
Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	MICKLETON, Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E	<b>Note: 7.30-8.45pm</b>
Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	BOURTON –ON-THE-HILL, Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F	<b>(To be confirmed)</b>
Apr 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>To be advised in the April Newsletter</b>		

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 !!**

Yes, folks, it's that time again: FSG subs are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). Please pay as soon after this date as possible, as it benefits the Guild. (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 this Newsletter.

**YOU CAN PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION 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 30<sup>th</sup> will cease to receive the Newsletter)**

## **Events for 2014 so far: book the dates:-**

**Guild Annual Dinner**  
**Guild Ringing Tour**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton: see Notices**  
**July: 1<sup>st</sup> Sat (5<sup>th</sup>) or 1<sup>st</sup> week-end (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>); hopefully Richard L-S will oblige!**