

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)



NEWSLETTER No 140 - APRIL 2014



Founded Oct 18th 1909

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TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ST NICHOLAS, ODDINGTON, GLOS



Photo: Chris Povey

It is entirely appropriate that the Guild should visit Oddington on the longest day of the year, because the Church is without electricity and therefore is fully reliant on daylight. Yes, we could rig up some sort of illumination to allow us to ring, but we would very likely miss the undoubted gems that are contained in this church. If ever a church were worth a good look round inside, Oddington would be a good contender for the first division! It is a very interesting building. It was abandoned in 1851 when the new church (Holy Ascension) was built in the village and therefore avoided the widespread ravages of the Victorian updatings many ancient churches received. It was brought back into use in 1912 by the then Vicar. A clean down the following year of old whitewash on the walls revealed the ancient wall paintings.

Its main claim to fame is the wall paintings, of which there are three. There is a very good pamphlet that explains these and I recommend it to you. Helen and I spent a fascinating time unlocking the mysteries when we visited. But there are other delights, too. The Jacobean pulpit, standing on a single wooden pillar, is a gem. The layout is also unusual until the history of the church is investigated. The South aisle is the original church; the present Nave and Chancel were added on the north side later for greater capacity. The tower was then built on top of the old Chancel, but the new arch between the old nave and chancel was found to be weak and the gap beneath was filled in with the present thick wall to strengthen it. Lastly, the tower contains the remains of what was once a ring of 5 bells cast in 1684 by Abraham Rudhall. The single bell remaining from this ring is the earliest known bell by this founder, the first of the mighty Rudhall dynasty.

The Guild has a practice here on Saturday June 21st, 7.00-8.30pm

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

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VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Phyllis Brazier

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

Chaplain

The Rev Patrick Wooster

Accounts Examiners

Mr Michael Fairfax

Mr Trevor Hobday

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Mr Chris Povey

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Mr Keith Murphy (until 25/5/14)

Mr Andrew Gunn (from 26/5/14)

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Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Child Protection Officer

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Mr Chris Povey

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* see p.7

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 2014) is June 13th 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.)

Have you paid your SUBSCRIPTION?

Those who haven't paid by June 30th will not receive the Newsletter from that date onwards. 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 continue to receive four issues of your favourite Newsletter.....

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to report that this Newsletter has had a number of contributors this time (12) and I thank each one of them for contributing. However, I would like more from the eastern-southern parts of the area, as I mentioned in the last issue.

The report from the Old Minute Book for this time in 1914 makes fascinating reading. The report about payments being offered to the Secretary to stay in office and the employment of a paid instructor are quite remarkable to us in this age, where such positions are given for free except for reasonable expenses (sometimes agreed under duress and then scrutinised). What a difference in cultures! Perhaps it is us, in this age, that needs to look again at the way we do things. Ringing is cheap: no capital outlay, no running costs in many cases and you can learn to ring for nothing. What an utter bargain. One of my ringers returned to ringing after 50 years absence and is amazed to find this situation exists. She likens it to membership of various clubs and similar organisations that exist to provide leisure activities. I intend asking her to provide an article about this. I am not suggesting we provide ringing at these levels of costs (many hundreds of pounds

is some instances), but it does make you wonder about the comparison. Perhaps we just need to be aware what a wonderful (and wonderfully cheap) pastime this ringing business is.

OK, if we are continue with this wonderful pastime, then new ringers are needed to allow it to continue. In this respect I encourage you to read the three items on teaching ringers in this issue: the advert from the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre in Kineton on p.13, Chris Righton's comments on p.5 when speaking at the Guild's Annual Dinner and Claire Penny's article about ITTS on p.6. Some people are trying to do something about it. 'Ah!' others might say, 'We don't need them fancy types to show us how to get people ringing. We done it before and they rings OK.' That may be so in a few cases, but some people's technique is downright dangerous and a proper tutoring would have been advantageous to all, especially to the ringers beside them!

The Mid-Week ringing tours continue in apparently excellent health – and the 300th of these tours approaches. The new format of reporting – a different reporter for each tour – makes for interesting reading. Thank you Isobel for your management of this.

I understand the Saturday practice at Shipston-on-Stour was well attended. This tower has been off the radar for a number of years, so it is good to see it back again. Shipston tower was a leading light in the Old Guild, with its ringers getting some high marks in the striking competitions then (see the Archives on p.7.)

Lastly, don't forget ST GEORGE'S DAY!

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.)

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 18th FEBRUARY.

The Committee met on Tuesday 18th February at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Peter Quinn, Michael Haynes, Sophia Lewis-Skeath and Keith Murphy presented their apologies. The President, John Nicholls, asked Chris Povey to take the chair again.

1) The Minutes of the December meeting were considered. Some amendments from Chris were agreed. Hon Sec to incorporate and have updated draft available for agreement at the next meeting.

2) Matters arising were:-

2014 Dinner, 1st Feb: a very good event; the food and Speaker were excellent. Good raffle;

North Oxon towers letter: done and agreed;

Guild artefacts database: Peter Q to complete his bit;

Old Minute Book: deposit deferred due to disagreement with Steve Bowley over the terms.

Chris to speak with Steve;

Inter Shires Comp rules: Alan Marchbank (Oxon judge) has written up the rules that were used at Harvington (Newing Shield Rules up to then).

Agreed that Alan's document be used in future;

AGM's teas contribution bowl: this was overlooked and needs to be done in future;

Peal books collation: Andrew has gone as far as he can with collating the data between the two books. Should be checked by John N, Chris and Mike Fairfax, plus Felstead data via Michael D;

Newsletter production: Chris said he does not need to be part of the printing team in future. He need only send out a computer file of the finished product. The question of updating the printers was discussed. High tech printers capable of printing quickly are now available at very reasonable

prices: one of these would be sufficient. Peter Q is investigating;

Striking Comp certificates: still outstanding action on Peter Q and Sophia. Defer to next meeting, as neither at the meeting;

Non Resident Life Membership: arising from the AGM. John said this had been discussed some years ago and was not proceeded with then. Varied opinions derived from a discussion now. Agreed that a proposal on this go to the May committee meeting.

3) Reports: the following are highlights:-

Hon Secretary: Andrew presented the CCCBR paper on ITTS for discussion: agreed to be left to the territorial societies. The Ringing Roadshow organisers asked whether the Guild wants a stand there: agreed not.

Treasurer: Michael D presented his draft accounts to 31/12/13, which are now with the Guild's Examiners. He also reported a donation of £100 from the Rev Peter Newing. However, a change to the cheque is reqd before cashing. Chris to speak with Peter N.

Membership Sec: 5 new members were proposed and seconded at the meeting;

Newsletter Editor: good progress on the April edition. A front page subject is to be chosen from the list of practice venues April-June;

CCCBR reports: there will be a discussion at the CC meeting about funding by affiliated groups. The Guild would appear to be advantaged by the new proposals, ie a reduced fee. There was general agreement

to this and the Guild reps would be asked to vote in this way if the proposals are voted on.

Bell Restoration Fund: no applications this time. Andrew reported that the Dumbleton grant had been paid. Michael D proposed, John seconded, that applications are considered the meeting after an application is presented at a meeting. Agreed.

4) Items for discussion:-

Chris Righton's offer to donate to a Ringing Centre like Kineton: this is a very nice idea and kind offer, but the cost of such will be very large. Will investigate whether the HWRC has, or can have, something akin to associate membership that would allow the Guild some advantage with this facility. Chris to contact Graham Nabb to investigate;

Minimus Comp 13th Sept), Autumn Walk (27th Sept), AGM & Striking comps (18th Oct): organisers are required. Minimus likely to be at Newbold Pacey and AGM is likely to be at Whichford. The Christmas Party to be at Wellesbourne again. No Inter Shires this year, but will run in 2015. The Ringing Tour is being arranged by Richard L-S in probably the Faringdon area.

Committee meeting dates: agreed as 20th May, 19th August and 25th November.

Next Meeting: Tues 20th May 2014, Ilmington. (NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2013

<u>Income</u>				<u>Expenditure</u>			
<u>2012</u>	General Fund	<u>2013</u>	Notes	<u>2012</u>	General Fund	<u>2013</u>	Notes
£527.10	Opening Balance	£484.39	1				
£945.00	Subscriptions	£820.50	2	£411.47	Newsletters	£206.29	3
£30.00	G&B Donation			£272.24	Insurance	£284.95	
£20.50	Garments	£64.00			Garments	£77.90	
£0.00	Annual Dinner			£21.00	Annual Dinner	£42.00	
				£50.00	CCCBR	£50.00	
					Room Hire	£42.00	
					Website domain	£7.08	
£22.50	Badges Donation	£44.00		£306.00	Badges & Shields	£217.60	
£210.00	BBQ			£210.00	BBQ		
£540.75	Bell Fund Donations	£421.70		£540.75	Transferred to Bell Fund	£421.70	
£15.00	Tour (donation to Tower)			£15.00	Donation (Summer outing)		
£1,783.75	Total receipts	£1,350.20		£1,826.46	Total expenditure	£1,349.52	
				£484.39	Closing balance	£485.07	
<hr/>				<hr/>			
<u>Restricted Funds – Bell Fund</u>							
			4				
£1,395.25	Opening balance	£1,387.10	1				
£200.00	Mid Week Tours	£200.00		£350.00	Wyck Rissington		
£12.00	Donations	£3.00		£200.00	Welford		
£1.10	Interest	£0.95			Hinton-on-the-Green	£100.00	
£105.00	Newsletter Advertising	£105.00			St Michael, Cropthorne	£60.00	
£50.00	HSBC Complaint						
£173.75	Other (Raffles, outing, teas etc)	£113.70					
£541.85	Total receipts	£422.65		£550.00	Total expenditure	£160.00	
				£1,387.10	Closing balance	£1,649.75	
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Creditors at year end				Debtors at year end			
£20.50	Garments	£0.00		None			
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Assets							
£306.00	Badges & Shields	£724.00					
£208.65	Ink & Paper	£81.66					

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.
- 2 Subscriptions:
The total membership for 2013 was 174. This includes 5 Life members, 9 who paid in 2012 and 2 who have paid for 2014 as well. 5 new members were elected at the 2013 AGM, but as these had not paid subs in 2013 they are not included.
- 3 Newsletters:
Covers cost of printing Newsletters. £208.65 was carried from 2012 & £81.66 is carried into 2014 for unused inks and paper. The 2 printers purchased by the Guild were written off in 2013 at a cost of £91.25. The true printing cost of the FSG printing for 2013 was £424.53.

- 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. In December 2013 the committee approved grants to Dumbleton (£350) and Whichford (£150); to be paid in 2014.

Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer

REPORT BY THE ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS:

Although there is some indication the Accounts Examiners (Michael Fairfax and Trevor Hobday) will be content with these accounts, their formal satisfaction has not been received at the time of publication on this Newsletter. A follow-up note in this respect will be published in the July Newsletter.

THE 2014 GUILD ANNUAL DINNER AT MORETON

Over 38 members and guests attended the 2014 Annual Guild Dinner, which was once again held at the White Hart Royal Hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Moreton is in the heart of the Four Shires' area of operation and is a very convenient central location. This will be the fourth year we have held the annual feast at this hotel. No doubt memories go back to 2012, when the dinner was nearly cancelled due to very heavy snow.



Again we had a good meal, the food and service being equal to that in previous years.

The President, John Nicholls, gave his introductions before dinner commenced and then asked the Rev'd Peter Newing to say The Grace.

Our speaker this year was Chris Righton, who rings at Mickleton and Illmington. He gave an excellent speech in an extremely good humour and relaxed manner. He spoke briefly about bellringing within the Four Shires area but mostly about his time representing farmers in the NFU and giving us some insight to the politics that he encountered.



Chris was right at the top of the NFU based in London for a number of years; he was also the NFU and British farming representative at the European Union in Brussels. This position gave him the opportunity to visit many other countries, which included conferences in the USA.

At the end of his speech he spoke about the lack of younger ringers coming into the Exercise and in particular in the Four Shires Guild's area. He was very concerned that when the present generation no longer rang, bells would fall silent on a Sunday. He asked the Guild's Committee to consider some teaching facility such as that at Kinton and that he wanted to be the first to make a £100.00 donation towards it.

The award-giving followed the Speaker. The Newing Shield was presented by Peter Newing himself; the Ringing Master's Merit Award was given by Guild Ringing Master, Sophia Lewis-Skeath; and the remainder of the awards were presented by the President, John Nicholls. The list of their awards and the recipients were:-

The Newing Shield Striking Competition:

The Shield, presented to the Winners

Mickleton



The Spencer Jones Cup: to the Runners-up

Moreton-in-Marsh



The Brazier Trophy Striking Competition:

Winners of the Brazier Trophy

Offenham

The Ringing Master's Merit Award

Presented to

Offenham



(Continued o/leaf)

The Minimus Striking Competition
Winners of the Trophy

The Committee team

After dinner the raffle was drawn in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund by Jackie Hands and the sum of £73.00 was raised. Thanks go to all those

who donated the many prizes and to Jackie for organising it.

Words: Peter Quinn
Photos: Michael Dane

THE INTEGRATED TEACHER TRAINING SCHEME (ITTS) WHAT CAN ITTS DO FOR YOU? WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ITTS?

An important advert from the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre (in Kineton, Warks) is displayed in this Newsletter, as it highlights a sad aspect of ringing at the moment – lack of ringers, both now and into the Future if something substantial isn't done to reverse the current trend downwards. Our Speaker at the Guild's Annual Dinner, Chris Righton, also recognised the problem we face. While truthfully outside the Guild's area, the HWRC 'employs' a number of Guild members to help in keeping the various activities going; and it is in truth our most local Ringing Centre. The HWRC isn't a business (more a labour of love and commitment on the part of the organisers and helpers), but it does need 'customers' to keep the show going. They cater for raw recruits wishing learn to ring, but courses on various aspects of bells and bell ringing are run, too. The advert on p.13 is a course to teach interested ringers how to be ringing teachers.

Claire Penny from Offenham has taken the ITTS course and is now an accredited ringing teacher. I asked her to pen a few lines on what the ITTS course is all about and how its accreditation system has benefited (and will undoubtedly benefit) the Exercise as a whole. Ed

I don't think that there is any argument about the fact that we need to recruit and, more importantly, retain new ringers. A lot of work is being done by individuals and organisations from the CCCBR downwards on how to attract both more people in general and younger participants in particular. This problem has to be tackled on multiple fronts starting with how to get people in through the door, but once inside we have to keep them and that is where the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) and the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS) comes in.

ITTS is not prescriptive about the way you teach, you do not have to 'do it the ITTS way'; what you have to do is embrace the philosophy, which is to teach people to ring competently and safely and keep them motivated and enthusiastic whilst they are learning. The only thing you *have* to do is follow the 'Learning the Ropes' scheme (LtR) and at a basic level that is just a checklist to make sure you have covered everything, and something that another ITTS teacher can look at and know at once where your learner has got to in their ringing career.

So what can ITTS do for you? Well, let's start at the beginning.....

Do you actually like teaching? If the answer is an outright 'No', then why are you doing it? Probably because you are the only person in your tower who is even willing to give it a go. Well, instead of putting yourself (and maybe your learner!) through 15mins of torture each practice night why not send them to somebody who likes teaching, and possibly has the time to give your learner more than 15 minutes a week on the end of a rope. Ringing 'clusters' are not a new idea, but could a group of towers within a sensible distance from each other working together be a way forward? If there is only one person in that group who likes teaching, well, let's hope they are rushed off their feet! However if there is more than one person the load can be spread, and by using LtR all the teachers in a cluster will be able to teach any of the learners knowing that everyone is heading in the same direction with the same objectives. Equally the learners will know the teaching they get is consistent and competent even if it is a bit different from teacher to teacher.

So back to the original question – Do you like teaching? If the answer is 'Yes', that's wonderful. Are you confident and happy doing it? If the answer is No then you should seriously consider an ITTS course. You will probably learn a lot and come away with a range of new techniques and exercises to try, but more importantly you will have met people who are in the same situation as you. You now have a support group of like-minded people with different skills and backgrounds, you have access to a range of information and teaching tools on the ITTS website, and you have a mentor; somebody you can talk to, who can advise and help you. Once you have passed your ITTS module (don't panic it's just a relaxed assessment, you may not even notice if it is your mentor who is assessing you!) you can be confident teaching in your 'cluster' and take some of the pressure off the overworked person who has been doing it all by themselves for years.

So what if the answer is 'Yes' and you are happy and confident teaching? In that case, what can you do for ITTS? Could you be a mentor? It's not a difficult task, and not a huge commitment in terms of time, but it could make so much difference to a tower or an area. A new teacher, confident in what they are doing could mean an active band in a tower instead of 'once a month ringing for service if we can get enough people'.

In the 21st century most young people think that planning something 20 minutes in advance is a long term appointment, so being told (as I heard in a tower not long ago) that it would take '3 or 4 months, sometimes more' to ring a bell unaided is unlikely to motivate them. Neither is giving them 10 minutes a week of practical instruction and expecting them to spend the other 80 minutes sitting in the tower absorbing the ringing jargon and theory by osmosis. The aim should be to give learners as much rope time as they want with consistent, competent teaching and have them ringing reasonable rounds and call changes in six weeks not 12 months. I appreciate that not everybody is going to be ringing surprise minor within a year of walking into a tower, however they are taught, but surely to ensure the 'future of change ringing' all we need is people who enjoy their ringing and therefore promote it as an excellent hobby to all their friends, and who can ring good rounds and call changes for services – anything else is a bonus.

For more information about ITTS and ART contacts please see www.ringingteachers.co.uk or I will be happy to chat about it.

Claire Penny

Anybody interested in what the HWRC does can look at the Centre's website. Should you want to take a look at the place itself, I have little doubt the organisers would be delighted to show you around. Contact details are:-

Website: <http://harry-windsor-ringing-centre.co.uk/>

Email: enquiries@harry-windsor-ringing-centre.co.uk

For more information contact: Graham Nabb on 01926 641812

or Angela Roskelly on 07880 985481

Ed

YOLLARI İÇİNDE YAPILMASI, TÜRKİYE (or THE WAY IT'S DONE IN TURKEY)

Helen and I couldn't be at the Guild Dinner, because we had a week in Turkey. We notched up 40 years of wedded bliss in December (Helen may be considering amending that statement....) and we thought we ought to mark the event in some way. I said going to the FSG Dinner would do that nicely, but there was some disagreement on this subject. I hung out for as long as could, but... Ladies see things differently.

Turkey was interesting. We did a coach trip around the south-western coast and inland: about 1000 miles in all, taking in some sites of ancient Christian activity. We also saw minarets for real. They were everywhere, town or countryside, highlands or lowlands. Minarets are the Muslim equivalent of our church towers: they are used to call the faithful to prayer, just as our towers and bells do here.



Minarets do not, of course, contain bells. A muezzin is meant to climb to the gallery and chant the call. The call is made 5 times per day for about 5 minutes: at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and night. I can confirm everything except night; and remember 5.50am on one occasion. However, the muezzins might be getting tired of climbing up what must in many cases be a very thin and severely restricted tower, as loudspeakers were to be seen on the majority of minarets. Perhaps like ringers, muezzins are getting old with no younger and more-sprightly blood to take over! I suspect, too, after listening to calls made in various parts of our tour, that the calls may be a recording, as the voice and the pitch sounded very similar: and why not? If just flicking a switch does the bizz... We could have the same system: just flick a switch and a record of bells starts, or stationary bells are chimed by hammers..... Perhaps not; and just imagine the outcry if bells sounded five times per day, every day! It may be what you're brought up to.

If we were used to having bells sounding five times per day (the French generally get bells soundings on 3 occasions, sometimes duplicated 5 minutes apart), then that would be the way of life and woe betide anyone who objected. What a very democratic society we live in: some person objects to a sound – a cockerel in the country, even – and it all has to stop because it's affecting someone's Human Rights to peace or whatever. What about those who like the sound – and what about the cockerel: does he head for the pot because he's doing what he's meant to do? Probably.

Our tour took us to the ruins of Ephesus, where St Paul stayed for some time. It is believed he wrote the Bible's Letters to the Ephesians. The site has been excavated over many years, with parts of some buildings being reconstructed from the relevant stones lying around: a very large jig-saw puzzle! The Celsus Library has become a famous trade-mark of the site since its reconstruction in 1960s and 1970s. It was in that building that I met Sophia. I did not expect to meet her in such an unusual location – and she was there without Richard. In fact, she's been there a very long time and I doubt whether this one knows anything of our illustrious Art, let alone anything about running a ringing practice: see below:



The goddess Sophia or ΣΟΦΙΑ (the name means Wisdom – but surely we knew that....).
CMP

FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

The Guild continued to flourish in contented and stable fashion as the Old Minute Book records. The Great War was only months away. 'Canon fodder' had not yet entered their language. There were two meetings in this quarter.

April 30th '14:

The Spring Meeting of the Guild was held at Moreton-in-Marsh on Thursday 30th April 1914, and it is very gratifying to record another successful gathering. Owing to time of starting the Competitions being fixed an hour earlier,

there proved to be ample time to complete them before Divine Service. Five teams competed, namely, Campden, Longborough, Shipston-on-Stour, Saintbury, and Willersey. Mr F J Johnson, of Hinton again officiated as Judge and awarded the honours as follows,

Rising & Sinking

Willersey	96%
Shipston	94%
Campden	92%
Saintbury	86%
Longborough	92%

Round Ringing

Willersey	99%
Longborough	94%
Saintbury	97%
Shipston	96%
Campden	94%

Call Changes

Willersey	99%	Shipston	96%
Saintbury	98%	Longborough	94%
Longborough	97%	Willersey	86%
Campden	96%		
Shipston	94%		

Method

Divine Service was held at 4-30pm the Preacher being The Rev Spencer Jones. Tea was laid at The Crown Hotel, when members and friends to number of 46 sat down. Afterwards the business meeting

was held, presided over by The Rev Spencer Jones. Letters of apology for absence was (sic) from the Rev J W Stoneman, Rev H Highly, and the Rev D Lloyd. The Minutes having been read and passed, the Secretary presented the Balance Sheet which showed that the income for the past year amounted to £12-15-10½ and the expenditure £4-11-4. There was therefore a balance in hand of £8-4-6½, an increase of £2-17-2 on the previous year.

The Sec in his Report stated that during the preceding year 2 more Belfry's (sic) had joined the Guild while 14 more ordinary and 3 Honorary members had been elected. The Sec reported that the question of the monthly visits to Towers having fallen rather flat, no Belfry having taken steps in that direction, he strongly urged the members to secure the services of a Paid Instructor to pay periodical visits to each tower, and thereby improve and strengthen the Intellectual (sic) work of the Guild. The Sec also recommended the adoption of some printed Rules, thus bringing the Society into line with others. A vote of thanks to the retiring President (The Rev Canon Houghton) was heartily accorded, on the proposition of the Chairman, sec by Mr A White, who testified to the good solid work done for the benefit of the Guild, both by his wise counsel, and generous financial support. The Chairman then distributed the Certificates to the winners of the Competitions at the previous meeting. The next business was the election of the Officers for the ensuing 12 months, and on the Proposition of Mr H Hallett, sec by Mr Harris (Camden) the present Secretary was nominated for re-election, but he declined to act again, unless the Guild could its way to make him remuneration for loss of time in carrying out the work which the office entailed. It was then pro by Mr Hinton sec by Mr A Williams that the question be left to the Committee to decide, Mr A White was thereupon unanimously re-elected. Mr H Jarrett was also re-elected Treasurer.

In pursuance of his recommendation given in his half-yearly Report, the Sec Pro and Mr W Harris

seconded, that the Guild appoint a paid Instructor. Carried unanimously. It was Pro by the Secretary seconded by Mr J Williams that Mr F Bird (Shipston) be appointed. Mr Bird consented and he was unanimously elected, the Committee will settle details.

On the question of the proposed Printed Rules, it was proposed, seconded and carried that we adopt same. This was also left with the Committee to formulate and lay before the next meeting.

It was pro by the Secretary seconded by Mr H Bird that the next meeting of the Guild be held at Saintbury. Carried. Votes of thanks to the Officers for their services during the past year, and to the Rector for presiding closed the meeting. Touches were as usual rung on the Tower Bells during the evening.

(Signed)
Hubert D'Este East
President

The 1913 accounts make interesting reading. The internet shows inflation has risen since 1913 by a multiplier of about 100, so the income by 2013 standards was about £1200, expenditure was roughly £450 and the amount in hand about £800. The comparable 2013 figures are income £1772, expenditure £927 and balance in hand about £1200 (all figures disregarding the Bell Restoration Fund income and expenditure, as the Old Guild had no such fund – and neither did it have a Newsletter with its attendant production cost). Unfortunately we do not know how many members the Guild had in 1913. Total Guild membership in 2013 was 174, which was very likely a lot more than 1913. However, the Old Guild had Honorary members, who were moneyed gentlemen and members of the clergy who weren't ringers but who wished to support – and be seen to support - 'good causes' financially. The Old Guild was clearly sufficiently well off to propose to pay the Hon Secretary and to propose to engage for a fee for the services of a ringing Instructor. Ed

A special Committee meeting was held at The Rectory, Moreton-in-Marsh on Friday 22nd May, 14 at 7.00pm, The Rev Spencer Jones presiding.

The first business was the new Rules, and after a prolonged discussion, various Rules were framed and ordered to be submitted to the next Half-yearly meeting for them to be sanctioned or otherwise.

On the question of the Secretary's Salary it was proposed by Mr Hinton (Saintbury) seconded by Mr T Williams (Longborough) that the sum of £2-0-0 be granted to the Secretary for this years (sic) salary. This was carried unanimously.

The Committee also decided to pay the Instructor 5/- per lesson per Belfry, one-third of which must be paid by the members of the visited Belfry. Also that the Instructor must acquaint the Secretary of the date and name of the place visited as early as possible. A hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the Room and presiding concluded the proceedings.

(Signed)
Spencer Jones

Using the 100 times multiplier again shows the Secretary's salary at 2013 rates was about £200. Just imagine the outcry from the members now if the present Committee decided to pay the Hon Sec anything at all. Additionally, the Instructor would have received the present day rate of £25 per hour (about £8 of which to be found by the members in the tower visited and £16 per hour from the Guild). Imagine the ridicule that would be heaped upon a member if he or she were to propose engaging a paid ringing Instructor now! The Old Minute Book provides amazing snapshots in time and cultures from Society of 100 years ago. Ed

FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

As if to compensate for two meetings in this quarter in 1914, there were no meetings within this period in 1974!

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NEWS

The new 'Triennium' of the Central Council starts at the Council Meeting on May 26th (it is called a Triennium, because the Council representatives remain essentially unchanged for three years). The Meetings work their way around the UK; this year it's near Maidstone. The Guild's representatives to this Meeting are Chris Povey and Andrew Gunn. Chris has done a few years in this capacity (previously as a Worcs & Dists CRA rep), but this is Andrew's first since his election at the last AGM. This Meeting will be the last for Kate Flavell as President, as she will hand over the Badge of Office to Guild member Chris Mew at the end of the session.

CCCB R reps are expected to work for their position! The CC has a number of sub-committees, which undertake the 'day-to-day business' of the Council. Chris is currently a member of the Towers & Belfries Committee. Andrew is interested in serving on the Library Committee and/or the Tower Stewardship Committee. We wish him well in becoming a member of one of these committees.

Kate Flavell has become known to us through her monthly blogs, the first CC President (I believe) to use this type of regular communication. I think these blogs have been a great success.

ST GEORGE'S DAY, 23rd APRIL

Does your tower ring for St George's Day, which, as I'm sure we all know, is on April 23rd (unless you live in Stratford-on-Avon, when it is submerged by Shakespeare's birthday celebrations)? In recent years there has been a big push to have church bells rung for St George's Day. This has had the backing of the Church as a whole: from the very top down. It's most unlikely your Incumbent will disagree with it.

At my tower we ring at 7.30-8.15am, ie get up, get ringing, get out and get on with the rest of the day! I see the Central Council is suggesting ringing at 6.00pm, probably to allow those who work to get home and then ring. It doesn't really matter when the ringing occurs during the day, as long as there's ringing.

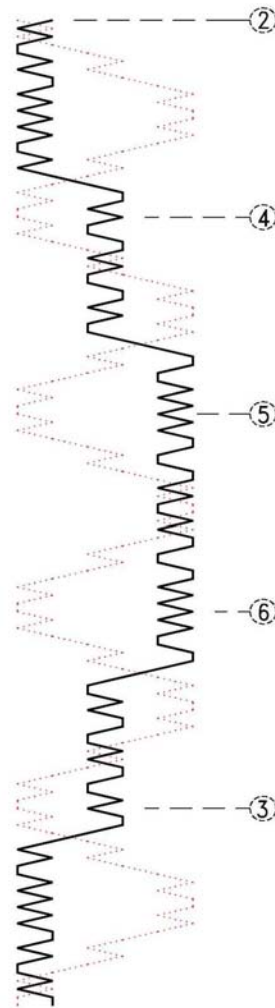
St Patrick gets some almighty celebrations on his Day, not just in Ireland, either. A report on the BBC News said the celebrations in Birmingham are the 3rd largest in the world (exceeded by those in Dublin and New York apparently). It seems perfectly reasonable to me that we should accord England's Patron Saint celebrations in a style that only England truly knows how! CMP

METHOD(S!) OF THE QUARTER?

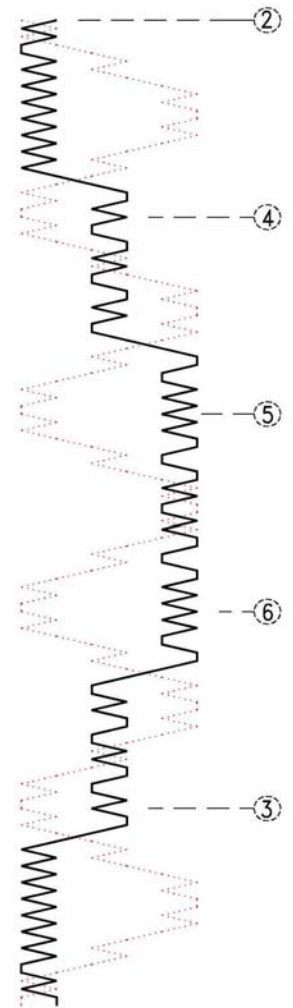
The Evesham Surprise Major was tried out at the practice held there on February 15th. Strangely, two attempts on the 15cwt 8 failed to complete a course, but an attempt on the 36cwt 8 did succeed. Not sure what this says about the Guild's abilities!

If the Evesham Major spiced-up the practice there just a little bit, here is another to make the Saturday practice at Great Wolford on May 24th more interesting, Wolford Surprise Minor; and another to make the Saturday practice at Whichford on June 28th more interesting, Whichford Surprise Minor. Both these methods were first rung in July 1969 as part of a multi-Minor peal rung for the Coventry D Guild at Shilton, Warks. A number of new methods formed part of the peal, all of which were named after Warwickshire places. Two of those new methods were the two here, so it's nice to have the towers after which they were named paired up for the Saturday practices in this quarter and the two method 'twins' also offered as a pair (particularly as they are almost identical).

WOLFORD S. MINOR



WHICHFORD S. MINOR



CMP

PS: full marks to those who noticed I'd placed the start of 6th's place bell in the wrong position for the Evesham S Major in the last Newsletter. Sackcloth and ashes to those who had sufficient experience to notice, but didn't! CP

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

THE JANUARY TOUR (the 291st)

The January outing was blessed with much better weather than one might expect in that month. It was dry for the main part and there was no frost or snow, but there was plenty of evidence of the rain which had already fallen – parts of the area resembled a water park. This did not deter the twenty or so ringers who arrived to enjoy the day's outing which Chris Seers had arranged for them.

The first tower was Tredington, a ground floor ring of 6. The ringing here was dedicated to the memory of Geoff Potter, Chris Seers' uncle, who had died recently. Geoff had been born in the village where he grew up before emigrating to Australia. May he rest in peace. At Tredington various methods were successfully rung, including Plain Bob, London, Cambridge, Grandsire and Durham. The next tower was Tewkesbury – a real treat – lovely bells and a comfortable ringing chamber – pity about all those stairs to get there! Here Ruth Border, who was on holiday in the area, put on a guest appearance and enhanced the ringing by her expertise on 12. We made the most of the opportunity to ring on 12 bells, ringing rounds and call changes, plain hunt on 11 and 12 and Grandsire Cinques.

When we had all worked up an appetite for lunch we set off for the Railway

Inn at Ripple, hoping that Wellington boots would not be necessary! The pub produced excellent food served by friendly and cheerful staff. The first tower after lunch was Ripple, another ring of 6. Here probably the best ringing of the day took place when a sparkling course of Bourne was rung. Other touches included London, Cambridge and Stedman. The last visit was to Ashchurch, the only 8 of the day. Grandsire, Plain Bob Major, Oxford Bob Triples and Eight Spliced Surprise Major were among the methods rung here. John Nicholls expressed thanks to Chris for arranging such an enjoyable day, with an excellent pub and four rings of good bells. Chris thanked Isobel Murphy for her part behind the scenes in arranging the monthly outings.

Pat Halls

THE FEBRUARY TOUR (the 292nd)

On a lovely, sunny morning about 25 ringers walked through the churchyard, full of snowdrops and crocuses, of St Giles in Sheldon to ring the 8 bells to methods ranging from Rounds and Call Changes, for young Imogen on half term holiday, through Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge, Bristol and finally Yorkshire. There were

originally 4 bells at Sheldon, the oldest dating from 1350, the tenor was then sold to make 6 and finally in 2009 they were augmented to 8, the tenor weighing just over 8cwt and the bells coming from various foundries. On to St. Peter's in Bickenhill, an 8½cwt 6, where we rang Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor, Cambridge and London Surprise.

Lunch was at 'The Boat' in Catherine-de-Barnes and on our way to Hampton-in-Arden it was no surprise when it started to rain!! Officially this winter has been the wettest on record. St. Mary's in Hampton-in-Arden, with yet another churchyard full of beautiful snowdrops, has 8 bells, the tenor weighing just over 12cwt, which originally came from a Church in Miles Platting, Manchester. Here we rang Grandsire, Stedman and Oxford Bob Triples, Yorkshire Surprise and 8-spliced. On to our last tower of the day, St. Swithin's in Barston, where more spring flowers adorned the churchyard. Ringing up caused a problem when the tenor refused to be rung up! Many ringers rushed upstairs to investigate and to find that the gale force winds we have experienced over the past few weeks had blown the louvres in against the tenor bell. Help, as you would expect from a group of experienced ringers, was at hand and the louvres and frame were pushed back into place, though, unfortunately, some masonry fell from the tower into the churchyard in the process. After our only bit of drama of the day the 6 bells, just over 5cwt, were successfully rung up and Imogen had another ring of Rounds and Call Changes before Stedman Doubles, Bob Minor, Norwich and Beverley Surprise were rung by the rest of the group.

We had a lovely day out, I think most people grabbed at least one new tower and many thanks must go to Geoff and Margaret Pratt for organising the tour.

Jenny Ball

THE MARCH TOUR (the 293rd)

The monthly tour on this occasion took place south of Warwick and was well attended by around 30 ringers. There was an added attraction for this tour as the tower after lunch at Horley had only just been opened for ringing after completion of works to commission a very pleasant ring of six. In addition we were able to visit the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre at Kineton.

The first tower was St Lawrence at Lighthorne. These bells benefitted from

two extra trebles in 2006 and are now a light and manageable six. Plenty of method ringing was attempted with most efforts successful. After following the raise immediately with Bob Minor we went on to ring London, Norwich, Stedman and Little and Bob Minor. The party then moved to Kineton, which is an extremely active ringing centre in the Coventry Association. Those with sharp eyes would have seen this very church and one of its well known ringers appear briefly on Songs of Praise a few weeks ago when the programme covered churches and a sporting theme. But enough of this, what about the ringing? The (almost) highlight of the ringing day was the 8-spliced that unfortunately faltered at about six and a half! Those of us lesser mortals were unable to diagnose the problem but the day is not about dissection of problems and we were able to perform splendidly in delivering Grandsire, Stedman and Little Bob Major.

Lunch was some way off at Fenny Compton (The Wharf), which can be recommended for its food and service. Horley bells are a ground floor ring placed centrally in the Church and will no doubt be keenly sought out by those ringers who specialise in collecting towers. We were all delighted to see Jill Roberts who had been invited to attend the day. She is a well-known ringer based in the locality, who has recently been seriously ill and has not rung for a little while. She overcame all and successfully completed ringing on the new bells which was a marvellous achievement considering what she has been through. We realised this was a new installation when some of the front ropes were a little stiff. No doubt they will settle down in time and we completed London, Stedman and Grandsire amongst others. After our session at Horley, Ian Thompson gave a vote of thanks to Robin Green for arranging the day and securing such a new ring. He also congratulated Isobel on her birthday and recently completed History MA. Our last tower of the day was Mollington where we ended an enjoyable day with more Stedman and some Primrose.

Should you wish to be put on the circulation list for future tours please email Isobel.murphyt@btinternet.com.
Keith Murphy

“WE RAISE THE BELLS FOR RINGING.....”

HARRY WRIGHT. Now there's a name most older Mickletonians will remember. An extremely busy man, but he could always find time to be kind and helpful to others who wanted support. Harry and his family (wife Nancy and daughters Doreen and Beryl) lived at No 6 Granbrook Road.

As a young person I always marveled at the energy and enthusiasm he put into every task – easy or difficult! After a day's work on the land (he was employed by Joseph Webb Junior, market gardener), he would literally gulp down his tea and join a similar band of working men to nightly complete another couple of hours work – for pocket money! He kept a pig at the top of his garden, he was a bookie's runner, he played cricket for Mickleton (his bowling action in today's world would be questioned as 'throwing'). He bowled a constant length of medium pace and regularly featured among the wicket takers. He maintained a very tidy garden and was not averse to assisting others with their plots.

Harry was of course a bell ringer! He never claimed to be among the elite method ringers, but like his counterparts - Sam Loynes, Len Kinchin, Roger Kinchin, Francis Powell, Roger and Donald Niblett, Rodney Bowld, Graham Mills; the list goes on (yes, you actually queued to ring in those days) - he was a stickler for the correct striking of a bell. Just take a look in St Lawrence's ringing chamber at the tower awards in those days.

After Harry's death, Nancy passed on to me his accumulation of ringing manuals. "I don't suppose they will be of particular interest to you, so dispose of them as you wish", she said.

I retained these manuals (now there's a surprise) and how interesting they are. I shall refer to one only at this present time. It's 'A Manual for Ringers – the Four Shires Guild of Bellringers'. Regrettably no publishing date is given, but I guess it was the late forties or early fifties. It was supplied by Beachus & Sons, printers, Shipston-on-Stour.

The manual cover price was 4d (2p). Despite a stipulation (front cover) that 'this book is the property of the above Guild and must be returned to the Secretary', Harry held on to his copy. Alongside the 4d price he had written 'WAS PAID' – so I suppose he felt justified in retaining it. Thank Goodness.

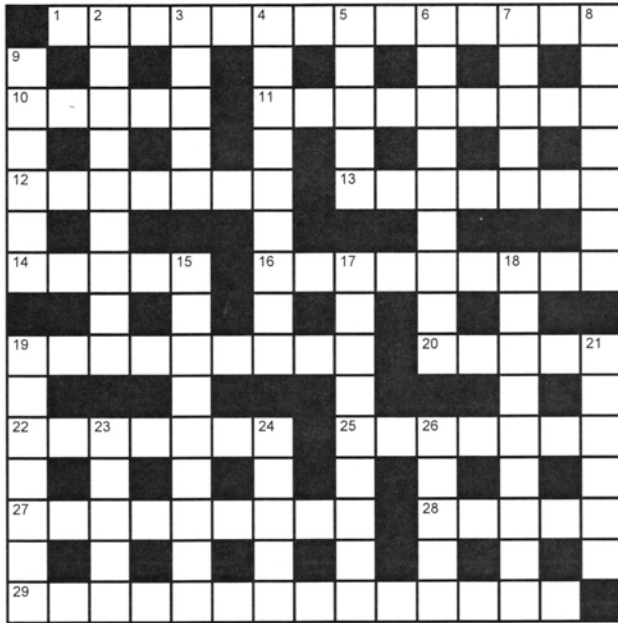
The booklet consists of 32 pages, listing prayers for various ringing occasions, a selection of Scripture passages, Psalms, hymns.... In respect of the latter, I detail the first verse of Hymn number one:

'Unchanging God, who livest
Enthroned in realms on high,
To men the power thou givest,
Thy name to magnify.
We raise the bells for ringing
With ready mind and will,
And come before thee, bringing
Our hearts, our strength, or skill.'

John Kinchin.

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

E Pres has managed yet another Crossword. His staying power is outstanding.



Answers to the crossword in the Jan 2014 Newsletter



Across

- 1 This chippy is no 'small potatoes'. (8,6)
- 10 There are others who make music on eight. (5)
- 11 Never mind the ringing blisters, this is even more painful on the hand. (9)
- 12 Union man Joseph Arch was born here. (7)
- 13 Enchantment when making those internal places? (7)
- 14 A musical Senora. (5)
- 16 Literally not keeping with the others. (3,2,4)
- 19 Athos? (9)
- 20 The muse of poetry. (5)
- 22 French department, capital Dijon. (4,1'2)
- 25 The side of the ladies. (7)
- 27 A friendly clue. (9)
- 28 Could be a camp but more often it is 'apres ringing'. (5)
- 29 Where would you find Titan, Iapetus and Tethys? (8,6)

Down

- 2 This might do for continental ringing but not for us! (3,2,4)
- 3 Usually the site for the barbeque. (5)
- 4 Occurrence. (9)
- 5 We know it's an association of mutual interest. (5)
- 6 Having taken everything into consideration a bell is often this. (2,7)
- 7 A strong suggestion this is a local intonation. (5)
- 8 A property of a true peal. (7)
- 9 & 21dn The method for Morse and Lewis? (6)
- 15 That puts it right! (9)
- 17 This often causes mistakes in ringing. (9)
- 18 21st October 1805. (9)
- 19 This made models before Lego. (7)
- 21 See 9 dn. (6)
- 23 Vibrate. (5)
- 24 A colourful, pugnacious little songbird. (5)
- 26 A divorce on the Croatia coast? (5)

... AND EL PRES'S WORD GAME: THE ANSWER(S).

Here is the official answer (ie, the answer as supplied by EP).

Winchcombe	Welford	Hook Norton	Upper Slaughter	All dedicated to St Peter
Kingham	Salford Priors	Bretforton	Mickleton	All Ground Floor 8s
Childswickham	Great Wolford	Moreton-in-Marsh	Tredington	All have spires
Badsey	Snitterfield	Barford	Hinton-on-the-Green	All rung from balconies

However, EP does say, "I would be very interested to know if any other arrangements are viable." So, here goes.....

Here is one sent in by Stella Southam:-

Barford	Welford	Hook Norton	Hinton-on-the-Green	All dedicated to St Peter
Winchcombe	Mickleton	Upper Slaughter	Moreton-in-Marsh	All in Glos
Childswickham	Great Wolford	Snitterfield	Tredington	6-bell towers
Badsey	Kingham	Salford Priors	Bretforton	8-bell towers

And one from me, but it's not as elegant; and while Welford has all Taylor bells, only the back 6 are a true 'complete ring':-

Salford Priors	Welford	Hook Norton	Kingham	All 'complete rings'
Winchcombe	Mickleton	Upper Slaughter	Moreton-in-Marsh	All in Glos
Childswickham	Badsey	Bretforton	Hinton-on-the-Green	All in Worcs
Welford	Snitterfield	Barford	Tredington	All in Warks

Any more?

GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR

SATURDAY 5th JULY 2014

The Annual Ringing Tour this year has reverted to a single day. Richard Lewis-Skeath has wrought his magic once again and has arranged 8 towers for our delectation around **Faringdon**, an area that is effectively 'just down the road'. This promises to be, once again, an excellent Tour. If only the weather can contrive be the same as on last year's Tour....

Here is the itinerary as it's known at the moment: book the date now. Most towers are confirmed at the time of writing.

EXPECTED* ITINERARY

Saturday 5th July

LONGCOT	8 (8-1-24 in Ab)	0930am
FARINGDON	8 (17-1-7 in E) (complete Taylor 8, 1926 vintage....)	10.45am
SHELLINGFORD	6 (6-2-10 in B)	11.45am

Lunch (no favoured watering hole arranged yet)

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE	8 (8-1-17 in G#)	2.00pm
BUCKLAND (the Oxon one of course!)	8 (14-2-7 in E)	3.00pm
ASTON	6 (12-2-11 in G)	4.15pm
BAMPTON	8 (23-0-4 in D)	5.15pm
CLANFIELD	8 (12-3-16 in F#)	6.15pm

* Arranging a ringing tour three months in advance is likely to attract changes, 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, once again, all thanks

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.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD 2014 AGM & STRIKING COMPETITIONS

**PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT WILL
TAKE PLACE ON THE 3RD
SATURDAY IN OCTOBER (18TH)
THIS YEAR, NOT THE 2ND
SATURDAY AS IN THE PAST.
(Location will be Whichford, Warks)**

THE HARRY WINDSOR RINGING CENTRE

(Based at St Peter's Church, Kineton, Warks. CV 35 0LL)

Need more ringers? Need to recruit? Ageing band?

You are not alone!

We are due to lose a good proportion of change ringers, leaders & teachers over the next 10 years – we have to act **NOW** to secure the future of Change Ringing.

Step 1 – teach teachers how to effectively teach good handling and encourage & support them to recruit and train.

Step 2 – teach the practice leaders & coaches to develop their learners into change ringing.

General – support those Leading, Teaching & Coaching with the materials and ideas to motivate their new ringers and allow them to develop.

Module 1 Programme - Bell Handling

Experienced teachers- find a new or less experienced teacher to develop and attend Module 1 of the ART Integrated Teacher Training Scheme.

New teachers – attend the ITTS Module 1 programme with an experienced teacher to mentor you!

- Latest techniques for teaching a skill – Theory & Practical
- How to become a better teacher
- Dealing with Handling Problems
- Recruitment ideas and help being developed
- Course packs.
- Ongoing support for New Teachers after the course via a mentoring scheme
- On line teaching resources and assessment and data collection via a Virtual Learning Environment - MOODLE
- Logbook to record New Teacher experience
- Recognition of new teaching skills- by accreditation
- Learning the Ropes- a progressive learning scheme to use with new ringers

Module 2 Programme – Teaching Elementary Change Ringing

You can do this separately or in conjunction with the Module 1 programme – work with a Mentor as Module 1.

- Latest techniques for teaching change ringing theory & practical
- Evidence based approach to building a band
- Course packs
- Ongoing support for New Teachers after the course via a mentoring scheme
- On line teaching resources, toolboxes and assessment and data collection via a Virtual Learning Environment - MOODLE
- Logbook to record New Teacher experience
- Recognition of new teaching skills- by accreditation
- Learning the Ropes- a progressive learning scheme to use with new ringers supported by learners logbook, certificates & badges.

Neither module is just a one-day course; – to succeed, teaching and mentoring afterwards is essential to ensure the ideas and techniques are put into practice and are properly understood.

Notify your interest today to Graham Nabb & the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre
graham@nabb.orangehome.co.uk and be notified of the next course.

For more info look at <http://ringingteachers.co.uk/> or <http://harry-windsor-ringing-centre.co.uk/>

NOTICES AND ADVERTS (cont)

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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!)

Kev's Guide to Church Bells Around the World

Detailed hardback reference guide to all the Known bell towers & churches around the World, 590 pages, 18,147 bell towers & Churches in 159 countries around the world, Also over 2,000 pictures an U.K. Postcodes for every tower.

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FOUR SHIRES GUILD CLOTHING

A few people have asked about Guild clothing recently. It is still available. All items have the FSG badge embroidered on the left breast (except the reversible fleece, which is both sides) and come in many colours. More detailed descriptions of these products are available on the FSG website: 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) just hover the mouse over the colour, otherwise I can email you the colours. Payment is cash/cheque with order to:

Peter Quinn, 22 Mountford Close, Wellesbourne, Warwick. CV35 9QQ
Tel 01789 840827; Mob 07785793500; Email peterquinn22@gmail.com

Please make cheques payable to The Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers

AROUND THE TOWERS

QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

Offenham, Worcs, 5th Jan, 1260 Mixed Doubles: Christina Ireland 1, Robert Hall 2, Chris Povey 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Bob Topp 6. Rung for Samuel Thomas Room, born 21/12/13.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 13th Jan, 1250, Hwange D Major: Michael Dane 1, Peter Quinn 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8.

Childswickham, Worcs, 24th Jan, 1260 Doubles (Stedman, Grandsire, P. Bob): Martin Penny (C) 1, Chris Povey (C) 2, Tom Sandham (C) 3, Roland Merrick (C) 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Andrew Gunn 6. 300 called by 1 and 240s called by 2-5. Birthday compliment to 6.

Harbury, Warks, 27th Jan, 1260, Erin Triples: James Ingham 1, Peter Quinn 2, Ian Thompson 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Nicholls 6, Chris Mew (C) 7, Jackie Hands 8.

Great Tew, Oxon, 31st Jan, 1260, Stedman Triples: Claire Tarrant 1, Sally Austin 2, Heather Bletchly 3, Daniel Austin 4, Sue Burchell 5, Robin Green 6, Graham Clifton (C) 7, Michael Austin 8. 1st Stedman: 4. To congratulate Rev. Sue Burchell on gaining an MA.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 10th Feb, 1260, Middlesex B Triples: Peter Quinn 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, James Ingham 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Nicholls 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, John Wheeler 8. 1st Q on 8: 8. Good wishes from the band to Ann Mew, who is recovering from an eye operation.

(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:-

David Hammond fell and broke his hip recently, so was carted off to hospital to have it repaired. He was, of course, on crutches for a time. Amazingly he has been into Willersey's Ringing Chamber very recently. This is quite a feat, as the steps up there are narrow and not the easiest. Hopefully this is an indication of David's progress and not him tackling more than he should at this stage! Best wishes for a full recovery, David.

Until I received details of the April Mid-week tour from Isobel, I was unaware Jill Roberts had suffered a heart attack. Isobel had included in her email a short message from Jill: *Thank you all ever so much for your get well card and best wishes, it is wonderful to have so many kind friends. I made a good recovery from the heart attack, but unfortunately picked up a chest infection, which I'm just getting over. Everyone has been quite amazingly kind, and I can't speak highly enough of the NHS care here and at the JR (John Radcliffe Hospital). I am now retired from going on outings, but hope to see some of you sometime. Best wishes and thanks. Happy memories! Jill.* Best wishes from all of us for a speedy recovery, Jill.

Daniel Austin appears to be going places ringing-wise at the moment. He rang his first quarter of Stedman Triples at Great Tew on 31st January, and then a week later at Wigginton rang inside to Cambridge S Minor, his first of Minor and of Surprise. Congratulations Daniel. Keep it up!

New members: Mark Newbury of Childswickham, and Sylvia and Paul Smith of Dumbleton. Welcome to the Guild!

There is to be a 'ringers' wedding' at Hinton-on-the-Green soon. Although not Guild members, those who've been to the Saturday evening practices at Hinton-on-the-Green will have met Ringing Master Nick Frost and fellow ringer Sheila Marshall. Sheila and Nick have announced they are to be married on 4th July. This will be one wedding for which Nick will not have to arrange bells, as there will be plenty of ringers who will be very happy to partake. Congratulations, Sheila and Nick.

Roger Hunt has sent in the following report:-

'Bret bells out of action'. An eerie silence has descended on the village of Bretforton at the beginning of March. No merry pealing on a Thursday

Chipping Campden, Glos, 24th Feb, 1282 Lincolnshire S Major: Robert Reeves 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, Karen French 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 4, Michael Dane 5, Jonathan Tallis 6, James Ingham 7, Peter Quinn 8.

Salford Priors, Warks, 28th Feb, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Claire Penny 1, David Roskelly 2, Tom Sandham 3, Angela Roskelly 4, Matthew Kemble 5, Martin Penny 6, Chris Povey (C) 7. 1st Q inside for Bob Triples: 3 & 5. 100th Q: 4. Rung after meeting short for Major.

Wigginton, Oxon, 7th Mar, 1382 Cambridge S Minor: Michael Austin 1, Daniel Austin 2, Sally Austin 3, Claire Tarrant 4, Heather Bletchly 5, Graham Clifton (C) 6. First of Minor and of Surprise for Dan Austin. With the band's best wishes to Mark Tarrant & Constance Young of Oxford and Sarah Conway & Patrick Romanelli of Montreal on their recent engagements.

Salford Priors, Warks, 17th Mar, 1280 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: Michael Gray 1, Chris Mew (C) 2, James Ingham 3, Karen French 4, Michael Dane 5, John Nicholls 6, Robert Reeves 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath 8. For St Patrick's Day.

Badsey, Worcs, 28th Mar, 1344 Plain Bob Major: Freda Cleaver 1, Angela Roskelly 2, Chris Povey 3, Roger Hunt 4, Claire Penny 5, Matthew Kemble 6, David Roskelly 7, Martin Penny (C) 8.

night or the striking of the church clock to comfort those not able to sleep. At last the Diocese issued the long-awaited 'F' word and so the bells are undergoing a mini-overhaul and some TLC. The octave is being fitted with ball bearings as the original plain bearings were almost life-expired and also the remains of the iron staples (from which the clappers originally hung) are being drilled out to avoid potential corrosion and cracking to the crowns of the bells. The TLC comes in the shape of a complete redecoration of the bellframe and fittings! More details will be published in the next issue.

Pebworth: no change here yet, other than a decision to obtain an alternative quotation for replacing the tenor's cracked headstock.

Moreton-in-Marsh Ringing is currently suspended due to an unsafe weather vane at the top of the spire. The builders have been contacted, who have put flying scaffolding on the spire and seem to have stabilised the very top. At present there is no progress report or indication of a date when ringing will commence again.

An arsonist attacked St. Eadburgha's Church, Broadway, overnight between Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th April. Flammable liquid was poured over the centuries-old entrance door and ignited. Luckily the fire did not spread beyond the door, but the interior has a covering of soot from the smoke. Specialist vacuuming can remove the soot, but the door was wrecked. The arsonist similarly attacked the doors of the Lifford Hall, library, the Police Station and Barn Close Surgery, but the latter didn't catch fire. St Eadburgha's is out of action while the damage is repaired, so no ringing there for until at least June.

Stella Southam reports that she has heard from a lady whose Great, Grand Uncle (her words, Stella says) was Alfred John Partington of Longborough. The lady saw Stella's article in the April '13 Newsletter when researching her family history, and Stella has passed on the details that Alfred's name appears in the CCCBR Memorial Book.

Lastly, congratulations to Isobel Murphy on gaining a History MA.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 5 th	BADSEY , Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F	Note: 7.00-8.30pm
Apr 12 th	MICKLETON , Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E	Note: 7.30-8.45pm
Apr 19 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL , Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F	
Apr 26 th	WELFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G	
MAY 3 rd	OFFENHAM , Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F (GF)	Note: 7.00-8.30pm
MAY 10 th	HALFORD , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)	
MAY 17 th	NORTON , Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)	
MAY 24 th	GREAT WOLFORD , Warks	6, 11-3-7 in F#	
MAY 31 st	TEMPLE GUITING , Glos	6, 11-3-17 in F#	
JUNE 7 th	SHERBOURNE , Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F#	
JUNE 14 th	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD , Glos	8, 27-2-24 in D	
JUNE 21 st	ODDINGTON , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF)	Note: 7.00-8.30pm
JUNE 28 th	WHICHFORD , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)	
JULY 5 th	NO PRACTICE. <u>GUILD RINGING TOUR, 5th JULY</u>: SEE NOTICE FOR DETAILS, p.12		
JULY 12 th	SAINTBURY , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F (GF)	
JULY 19 th	TBA		
JULY 26 th	TBA		

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.

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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

Subs were due on 1st January 2014. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). (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 Jan 2014 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 30th will cease to receive the Newsletter)

Events for 2014: book the dates:-

Guild Ringing Tour	5th July: Faringdon area; see p.12 for details
Minimus Striking Comp	13th September: expected to be at Newbold Pacey (details tba)
Walking tour	27th September: <u>Organiser reqd!</u> Details tba in July Newsletter
AGM & Striking Comps	18th October: likely to be at Whichford. Full details in July Newsletter