

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

## NEWSLETTER No 145 - JULY 2015

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

## STANWAY REVIVED ..... AND AUGMENTED!



*(Photo: Chris Povey)*

The bells unloaded from Whites of Appleton's lorry and lined up in the churchyard prior to being trundled into the Church.

The bells are (L-R):- tenor probably by John Martin of Worcester 1638 (11-0-2); 4<sup>th</sup>, John Rudhall 1826 (9-1-17); 3<sup>rd</sup>, Henry Bond of Burford 1904 (6-0-7); 2<sup>nd</sup>, possibly by James Keene 1625 (5-0-6); new treble, Whitechapel 2014 (5-1-3) Story on p.8. And a Saturday practice there is booked for October 24<sup>th</sup>.

# 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**

Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Accounts Examiners**

Mr Michael Fairfax

Mr Trevor Hobday

## **GUILD OFFICERS**

### **Guild Master**

Mr Peter Quinn

### **Ringing Master**

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

### **Hon Secretary**

Mr Chris Povey

### **Hon Treasurer**

Mr Michael Dane

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr Peter Kenealy

Mrs Jackie Hands

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Mr John Carroll

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Michael Haynes

Mr Matthew Kemble

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## **CCCBR Representatives**

Mr Chris Povey

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Mr Andrew Gunn

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## **Guild Peal Recorder**

Mrs Sandra Parker

parker@bidford948.fsnet.co.uk

## **Programme Secretary**

Mr Stuart Cummings

## **Membership Secretary**

Mr Peter Kenealy

## **Child Protection Officer**

Mr Chris Mew

## **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

## **Mid-week Tours**

### **General Contact**

Mrs Isobel Murphy

## **Newsletter Editor**

Mr Chris Povey

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

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

It also has a Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1548368912115550/>

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**The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (October 2015) is [September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015](#)**

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.. 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

**It helps me hugely if you send articles to me by email, so I can cut-and-paste.** If sending articles in this way, please use MS Word 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.

***PLEASE NOTE: the October Newsletter is to be produced early this time, due to other constraints on the Editor. The deadline date for articles has therefore been brought forward: see above.***

# NOTICE OF 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

## ON SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

AT THE CHURCH OF ST PETER, PEBWORTH, WORCS

**BELLS: 11-3-9 in F# (back 6),  
or possibly 4-3-2 in C# (light 6)**



### ORDER OF THE DAY

2.15pm	<b>Brazier Cup Striking Competition</b>
3.00pm	<b>Newing Shield Striking Competition</b>
4.30pm	<b>Service</b> in the Church
5.15pm	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> in the Village Hall (a little down the road) (Chairman: the Guild President)

**Evening ringing:** if there are sufficient ringers to do so

The **AGENDA** for the AGM is:-

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting  
(*published in this Newsletter and on website\**)
- 3 Matters Arising.
- 4 Guild Master's Report (*to be included in the October Newsletter*)
- 5 Treasurer's Report (*included in this Newsletter and on website\**)
- 6 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer).
- 7 Election of Committee and Honorary Independent Examiner(s).
- 8 Confirmation of new members
- 9 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)
- 10 Results of the Striking Competitions.

(\* available from the website for printing out if reqd: [www.fourshires.org.uk](http://www.fourshires.org.uk); then select 'Newsletters')

Chris Povey, Honorary Secretary

Light refreshments will be available in the Village Hall from about 3.30pm.

As usual, donations of food will be gratefully received.  
Stuart Cummings or Jackie Hands can advise on what to bring.

**Teams intending to take part in the Striking Competitions should contact the Ringing Master (Richard Lewis-Skeath) about their entry.**

## EDITORIAL

It's truly amazing how many significant anniversaries there are to be celebrated this year and we haven't reached the end of them yet. The 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Evesham is still to come, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, but there will be no celebratory bells from the Bell Tower, as by that time it will be enshrouded in scaffolding and the masons should have started on the stone repairs. There is one very big event that is very likely to occur on September 9<sup>th</sup> – HM The Queen will equal and then surpass the length of Queen Victoria's reign. We have all grown up being told Queen Victoria held this record, but now we are to witness a big change in British history. HM looks very well and, with less than 3 months to go, seems more than able to get there. I guess bells will be ringing all over the country for that.

We are now seeing In Memoriam ringing for soldiers killed in WW1. This is a very appropriate way to remember them. Isobel Murphy's article on p.16 is most interesting, in that she gives some history of Major Clement Freeman-Mitford and Pte. John Aston. Although articles containing such a wealth of information are particularly welcomed, I shall be pleased to receive all reports of ringing for the Fallen.

You will notice that part of Joan Newbury funeral donations were directed to the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund (see p.8). This was a very generous donation by the family. It will, of course, go towards keeping, or making, bells throughout our area ringable – and that is a wonderful thing. The Guild contributed to the recent very-successful Stanway project, and a grant is in place towards Adlestrop's rehanging. Another grant application towards a Stanway-like project is pending. Yes, we provide ringers when ringing is required, but PCCs do view grants towards their fabric (ie the bells and belfry) as very substantial material support.

The Guild's Annual General Meeting and Striking Comps are to be held on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> at Pebworth (see Notice, previous page). There are no proposal/seconding slips this year, because nobody appeared to use them, so the paper and the printing costs will be saved. This is when members can assemble to gripe about how the Guild is run, or – hopefully – congratulate the Committee. If gripes aren't forthcoming because nobody turned up to express them, it is reasonable to assume the Guild is running OK. If that's the case, fine; if not, please tell us. It is hoped the long-running top performers, the Mickleton/Ilmington band, will be able to perform in the Striking Competition this year. They won't have far to come.

The Guild's performance at the Great 'International' Striking Competition at Longborough recently was a cause for huge jubilation, both by the band and by the Guild. Devon call-change ringing is notoriously very high-class,

and trying to better the quality of striking produced by the Devon bands competing was a forlorn hope. To obtain 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and the highest-scoring method band was unbelievable! We must be doing something right.

Avid readers of 'From the Archives' will be disappointed this time. There is nothing from either 100 years ago or from 40 years ago. Sorry, just one of those quirks. **But El Pres is back with his crossword!!**

I'm delighted my plea for more news items from the eastern side of the area brought forth such delights from Great Wolford. Thank you for these, Isobel. Please keep them coming – and I encourage others over that side to do similarly.

I rang a Q of Minimus recently. I'd never done so before. Ah yes, you might say, just a quick way of getting a Q was it? Well, it was fairly quick, but it certainly wasn't a simple way of claiming a Q. If anybody thinks ringing Minimus is far below their capability, I recommend they take a look at the line for the 168 change block of Wyck Rissington Hybrid Minimus, which is necessary to make the method 'legal' for a quarter. The plain course has 21 changes instead of the normal 24, so there has to be some bobs and singles to get all the changes in. Tony Smith of Central Council methods fame provided a composition, the 168 change block ensuring all the available changes are rung 7 times. Simple it ain't! It is one of the hardest methods I've learnt. And it can fire up very quickly, too! It took a few practices before the quarter was scored – the first in the method; and very pleasingly it occurred at Wyck Rissington.

Why, you might wonder, do we have the Guild's accounts again? This is to keep up my consistency of having to apologise for inaccuracies in the Newsletter. While numerically correct last time, I labelled the year columns incorrectly: both were one year behind.

Another 20-page Newsletter hits the streets. Thank you for all the submissions. Who says nothing happens in the FSG...?

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.)

## THE CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has launched First Peal 2015, which has the aim of encouraging at least 300 ringers to ring their first peal this year. This is an ambitious target, for many ringers never ring a peal, one reason being that they are not asked to do so. Ringing might not have developed into the skilful and absorbing art and science that it is without the passion of leading peal ringers. Most of us are not destined to be leading peal ringers, but just to ring a few peals.

The Church has not always encouraged ringing and ringers. Even in the 19<sup>th</sup> century some clergy discouraged ringing. It is important that at least one ringer in each tower is a member of the Parochial Church Council in order to know what the Church is planning. Equally important is that the Vicar, or Rector, visits the tower from time to time and knows the ringers. The Annual Meeting of the ringers ought to be chaired by the clergy.

The Rt Revd Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, told a large gathering of ringers in about 1997 that the Church undervalues ringing at its peril. Ringing is, said Dorothy L Sayers, "the one loud noise that is made to the Glory of God".

Rev Dr Peter Newing

# **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

Repeated here as the headings to the Income and Expenditure columns were incorrect (*my error: Ed*) and the formal agreement by the Accounts Examiners has now been received.

<u>Income</u>				<u>Expenditure</u>			
2013	General Fund	2014	Notes	2013	General Fund	2014	Notes
£484.39	Opening Balance	£485.07	1				
£820.50	Subscriptions	£889.00	2	£206.29	Newsletters	£278.74	4
	G&B Donation	£30.00		£284.95	Insurance	£292.37	
£64.00	Garments			£77.90	Garments		
	Annual Dinner			£42.00	Annual Dinner	£221.00	3
				£50.00	CCCBR	£60.00	
				£42.00	Room Hire		
				£7.08	Website domain		
£44.00	Badges	£164.00		£217.60	Badges & Shields	£10.55	
£421.70	Bell Fund Donations	£630.60		£421.70	Transferred to Bell Fund	£830.60	
<b>£1,350.20</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£1,713.60</b>		<b>£1,349.52</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£1,693.26</b>	
				£485.07	Closing balance	£505.41	
					Cash in hand	£10.00	
<b><u>Restricted Funds – Bell Fund</u></b>							
			5				
£1,387.10	Opening balance	£1,649.75	1				
£200.00	Mid Week Tours	£200.00		£100.00	Hinton-on-the-Green		
£3.00	Donations	£155.00		£60.00	St Michael, Cropthorne		
£0.95	Interest	£1.02			Dumbleton	£350.00	
£105.00	Newsletter Advertising	£115.00			Whichford	£150.00	
£113.70	Other (Raffles, outing, teas etc)	£160.60					
	From General Fund	£200.00					
<b>£422.65</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£831.62</b>		<b>£160.00</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£500.00</b>	
				£1,649.75	Closing balance	£1,981.37	
<b>Creditors at year end</b>				<b>Debtors at year end</b>			
					White Hart (Dinner Deposit)	£200.00	3
<b><u>Assets</u></b>							
£724.00	Badges & Shields	£560.00					
£81.66	Ink & Paper	£62.52					

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 2014 was 189. This includes 11 Life members, 2 who paid in 2013.
- 3 Dinner Figure:  
This includes a deposit of £200 for the 2015 Dinner
- 4 Newsletters:  
Covers cost of printing Newsletters. £81.66 was carried into 2014 for unused inks and paper, and £62.52 into 2015. The true printing cost of the FSG printing for 2013 was £297.88.

- 5 Bell Fund:  
The Committee decided that all the profit from Teas, Raffles etc would go into the Bell Fund, together with any interest generated by the account. In December 2014 the committee approved grants to Pebworth (£200); to be paid in 2014.

**Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer**

## **REPORT BY THE ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS:**

*The Guild's Accounts Examiners, Michael Fairfax and Trevor Hobday, have now assessed these accounts. They have found nothing untoward and have given their formal satisfaction. They will sign a copy of the accounts to this effect for the Guild's records.*

# MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held in The Reading Room adjacent to St Michael's Church, Whichford, Warks, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 starting at 5.30pm. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair. About 20 members attended.

1. **Apologies:** were received from Peter Quinn (Guild Master), Rev Peter Newing (Vice-President) David Adams, Sue Bacon, Bill Nash, and Trevor Hobday.
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These were published in the January 2014 Newsletter. As the Newsletter is issued to every member, the Chairman asked whether these Minutes may be taken as read, to which agreement was given. No issues of accuracy were raised. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and were signed as such.
3. **Matters arising:** the non-payment of subscriptions by the ringers from Lower Quinton elected as members at the 2013 Annual General Meeting was raised. According to the Guild Rules they ceased to be members. Richard Lewis-Skeath suggested that as they were not at the 2013 AGM when the election occurred, combined with a subsequent lack of contact with the Guild, could mean they were unaware of the need to pay. He proposed they be reinstated. This was agreed.
4. **Guild Master's Report:** This appeared in the October 2014 Newsletter, but as it was possible some members had not received this issue prior to the AGM, it was read out by the Chairman. No points were raised.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** The Guild accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 appeared in the April 2014 Newsletter and once again were taken as read. Since appearing in the Newsletter they have been examined and nothing of note had been discovered. Michael Dane proposed and Chris Povey seconded that the accounts be adopted. The proposal was carried. The Examiners are to sign the formal copy.
6. **Election of Officers:**  
**Guild Master:** Michael Dane proposed and Richard Lewis-Skeath seconded Peter Quinn, who had indicated his willingness to stand again. There being no other candidates, Peter was re-elected.  
**Ringing Master:** Sophia Lewis-Skeath had indicated that she wished to stand down from this post. Freda Cleaver proposed and John Carroll seconded Richard Lewis-Skeath as Ringing Master. There being no other candidates, Richard was elected.  
**Secretary:** Andrew Gunn announced his

resignation as Hon Secretary. No proposals and seconds for candidates to this post were to hand. Chris Povey said if somebody wished to propose and second him, he would undertake the Secretary's duties. Allen Turner proposed and Michael Haynes seconded Chris for this post and he was duly elected.

**Treasurer:** Michael Haynes proposed and Chris Povey seconded Michael Dane to continue in this post. It was clear to all that Michael had done an excellent job in keeping the Guild's finances under control. There being no other candidates, Michael was re-elected.

## 7. **Election of the Committee and Accounts**

**Examiners:** The members of the current Committee were asked whether they were happy to continue in post. There were two vacancies caused by resignations. John Carroll was asked if he would consider filling one of these posts and he agreed to do so. There being no other candidates for the remaining vacancy, it was left for the Committee to fill this by co-option as allowed under the Rules. The meeting was asked to confirm these arrangements. There was no dissent and the following members were therefore elected to the Committee: Stuart Cummings, Michael Haynes, Jackie Hands, Peter Kenealy and John Carroll.

Sophia Lewis-Skeath did not wish to continue as Child Protection Officer. Nominations for this post drew no candidates, so this was left for the Committee to deal with by co-option.

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

It was reported that the Rev Patrick Wooster wished to relinquish his position as Guild Chaplain. The Committee would endeavour to fill this post.

## 8. **Life Members:**

There were no Life Members to elect this year.

## 9. **Confirmation of New Members:**

New members elected to the Guild since the last AGM were:

Mark Newbury, Chidswickham  
Paul & Sylvia Smith, Alderton  
A Dean, Ebrington  
G Fermor, Ebrington  
Bob Topp, Willersey  
Roger Hunt, Bretforton  
George Jelfs, Bretforton

Ray Waldron, Bretforton  
Alison Merryweather-Clarke, N. Leigh  
Neil Ephgrave, Freeland  
Michael Probert, Freeland  
June Arran, Sherbourne  
Ian Sturgess, Welford-on-Avon  
Sheila Hughes, Tewkesbury  
Martin Mellor, Burbage  
Len & Pam Morley, Shipston-on-Stour  
Julie Lawrence, Shipston-on-Stour

## 10. **Any other Business:**

Arising from Nicholas Allsopp's request at the 2013 AGM to consider introducing Non Resident Life Membership, the Committee had discussed this. It was felt that the number of occasions were currently extremely low and there was no overriding reason to alter the status quo at the present time. It was agreed to monitor this and it was agreed to revisit it if it becomes a bigger factor.

A request was made for a wider selection of menus for the Annual Dinner; and was noted.

## 14. **Results of the Striking Competitions:**

There was no Brazier Trophy competition this year.

The Newing Shield competition was judged by Alan Hartley. The ringing was of a good standard, although it was unfortunate that so few teams competed (there was a scratch team, but this did not count towards the ranking). The results were as follows:-

1<sup>st</sup> Moreton 'A' awarded the Newing Shield  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wellesbourne. awarded the Spencer Jones Cup  
Scratch (no official position)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Moreton 'B'

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

The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner in February 2015

The Meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the Church authorities, the Judge, those contributing to the teas and the resigning members for their time in post.

Chris Povey  
Hon. Secretary.

These Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2015 AGM.

## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 19<sup>th</sup> MAY.

The Committee met on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at the Wellesbourne Church Centre. John Carroll, Michael Haynes and Richard Lewis-Skeath presented apologies.

- 1) The Minutes of the August meeting were agreed.
- 2) **Matters arising** were:-

Old Minute Book: Chris still to pursue with Steve Bowley;

Guild Facebook Group: up and running, and seems very good. Committee to monitor;

Striking Comp certificates: still outstanding

Guild Library books: collection sold to Ian Thompson;

Guild Rule Book: distribution to all who haven't got one is on-going

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

Hon Secretary: reported that 4 new members had been proposed and seconded as the Rules for membership dictate. They are: Simon Adams (Unattached); Peter Hayward (Unattached), Roderic Bickerton (Unattached) and Andrew Dean (Ebrington) Their elections were confirmed. Guild details have been submitted for the Ringing World Diary. Letters of thanks had been received from Pebworth PCC and from Stanway for the offer of a grant;

Treasurer: Michael D presented his report: no comments. It was proposed that £500 be transferred from the General Account to the BRF

account: agreed;

Ringing Master: reported via the Hon Sec that practices are well-supported and that a variety of methods are being rung. A number of 'Saturday@six' quarters have been rung. The Guild performed well at the Striking Competition at Longborough recently, being the highest-placed method ringing band. This was a good day, with formidable opposition from Devon call-change bands;

Fixture Sec: concentrating on obtaining the next batch of towers.

Newsletter Editor: working on the next (July) edition. Could be another big one;

CCCCBR: the Council meeting at Hull approaches. He would be going, but was unsure whether Andrew Gunn would be. Peter Q to enquire.

- 5) **Bell Restoration Fund**: the application from Adlestrop: their application was considered and it was agreed to offer £500 towards the project;

Pebworth: the new headstock has been fitted and the grant has been paid;

Stanway: work is progressing and the Re-dedication Service is arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> June. Chris to go;

Pillerton Hersey: an application had been received. It will be considered at the August meeting.

- 6) **Items for discussion**:-

Website: some discussion. Chris to pass on points to Roland;

2015 Events Programme:-

InterShire Comp: John N is organising this for 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. The likely location is Shipston-on-Stour;

Ringing Tour: Richard has this in hand for 4<sup>th</sup> July and details will appear in the April Newsletter;

Guild Walk: Michael H has it all hand for another on 26<sup>th</sup> September;

AGM & Striking Comps: agreed with the PCC and Ringing Master for this to be at Pebworth. Details in July Newsletter;

Xmas Party: a different location will be investigated. May be at Badsey. Stuart to investigate further. Date will be 12<sup>th</sup> December.

- 7) **AOB**:

Guild badged clothing: Matthew to pursue.

- 8) **Next Meeting: Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015.**

Location and time to be announced.

Future Committee meeting dates this year: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov.

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

## VE DAY RINGING AT GREAT WOLFORD



On Saturday morning 9<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 to 11.15 local ringers rang Great Wolford's church bells to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. We rang called changes of a course of Grandsire doubles and very good it was too! The band consisted of; (back row left to right) James van Helden, Steve Duck, Keith Murphy, (front row left to right) Tom Baker, Shirley Wrench and John Wrench.

Isobel Murphy

OLD PHOTO:

## FATHERS & SONS PEAL

Robert Hall came across this photo of a Fathers & Sons peal he rang in Essex on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1978. He is in the front row with his son, Michael, for whom it was his first peal. He wondered whether anyone else has rung a fathers & sons peal?



## JOAN NEWBURY, 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 1928 – 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2015

Joan Newbury used to be a FSG member, along with her sons, Mark and Murry, but she discontinued it when she stopped ringing and when Murry and his wife moved to Derbyshire. She continued arranging ringers for Buckland until some Benefice changes occurred a year or two back, and at Broadway until the end.

I have a photo of Joan taken prior to a ringing practice at Buckland one evening. Yes, these could be quite leisurely occasions, but why not? Happy memories...



(Photo: Chris Povey)

Joan is on the far right. Of those that still ring are David Hammond and Mark Newbury.

Joan learnt to ring at Broadway, before the present rope guides were installed. I guess the ropes used to come down all over the place then! In response to my comment in the last Newsletter that Joan's ringing style was 'interesting', Murry said, 'That's because she learnt to ring at Broadway!' (I am pleased to say this is not the case at Broadway now!)

Joan became something of a legend latterly. Those most affected were those she didn't know and who asked if they could bring a band to ring at Broadway or Buckland. She wasn't the type to gush over you. Her reply would be business-like and straight to the point – but always polite and never aggressive. I guess a number would have thought they were dealing with the Iron Lady! But if she knew you and liked you, then she would take a joke with the best. I've bought our weekly vegetables from Mark for a few years now and go and collect them. Mark would invariably be out 'on the ground', so I'd see Joan every week. We'd chew over a few things, sometimes about ringing and sometimes not, but I never saw her fiercer side. She was as sharp as a tack. Somebody might, just might, put one over her - but it would only be once! But regardless of who or what you were, Joan was absolutely gun-barrel straight; and Mark and Murry have inherited all her qualities.

Joan was a wonderful, truly Vale character. Her like is disappearing. She'd talk as most do if

she was in company she knew, but she'd hang fire with the verbals if she didn't. Her policy was to listen. When she did speak, though, it was always good to listen, as normally she'd be smack on the button about someone or something. She always reminded of a poem that used to hang on my childhood bedroom wall:

*The wise old owl sat in an oak,  
The more (s)he saw, the less (s)he spoke,  
The less (s)he spoke, the more (s)he heard,  
Why can't we be like that old bird?*

Yes indeed....

Guild members who had known her well rang half-muffled before and after her burial Service at Childswickham on 13<sup>th</sup> April. She was laid to rest next to her husband, who died when Mark and Murry were still very young. Her popularity could be gauged by the fact that the Church was full for the Service. Donations in memory of Joan were divided between St Mary the V Church, Childswickham, and the Four Shires Guild's Belfry Restoration Fund, and an astounding £417.17 was given to our BRF. As Honorary Secretary I have thanked Mark and Murry for this donation, but it is right that our thanks should be more widely advertised through this article.

A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles in her memory was rung later, and was rung open in celebration of her life.

**Childswickham, Worcs**  
Thursday 28 May 2015  
**1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1. Murry Newbury
2. Robert Chadburn
3. Mike Fairfax
4. Matthew Kemble
5. Chris Povey (C)
6. Mark Newbury

Rung in very affectionate memory of Joan Newbury, long-time resident of this village and a ringer here for many years.

Another Q will be rung at Broadway.

Thanks for some good memories, Joan. I'm very glad to have known you.

Chris Povey

## STANWAY: NOW A VERY RINGABLE 5

Back in 1996, I think it was, the Guild held its Minimus (Minnie Mouse) Striking Competition at Stanway. It's the only time I ever rang there when they were a ring of 4. Why was that, when they are only 3 miles from my home? Simple. They were seriously dreadful. They went like the proverbial side of a house, and there were perfectly reasonable questions about which mode they were tuned to, the conclusion being they were just a collection of sounds. A lot happened after then. Simon Ridley from Cheltenham bravely, very bravely, took them on. He did some maintenance work up there (see

Newsletter 133; July 2012) and launched an appeal to rehang them, and, if possible, add a treble. The latter was straightforward, because the four bells hung in a 5-bell frame.

Fast forward to last year, when the appeal reached its target and an order was placed with Whites of Appleton to undertake the work. A local donor provided funds to have a new treble cast. The bells were taken out and transported to WoA's works.



It was there, after removing the headstocks, that the crowns of the old treble (now 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the tenor were found to have too many holes drilled through from past hangings for them to be safe to ring full-circle. They looked like pepper pots. An extra bill of about £6000 was required to weld up the holes and make them strong enough to once again ring.

While the bells were away the wooden bellframe was strengthened. It was OK in itself, but there were no tie bars to squeeze the joints together, and it moved around on its foundation beams. It was hardly surprising the bells went as badly as they did. New tie bars were inserted and a new steel foundation base was installed. In addition, the Ringing Room received some TLC, with various areas being wood panelled. Nice.

The bells returned on Monday 1st June. As is the norm, they were lined up along the path for the photos. It is extremely unlikely that they will be seen in the churchyard again for a very long time.

afterwards was in the Great Hall of Stanway House, by kind permission of the Earl & Countess of Wemyss and March.



Mr & Mrs Graham Clifton, looking pleased with the result



Graham Clifton of WoA (and Guild member), bringing the 4<sup>th</sup> bell up

By the end of that day all the bells were in their pits and some fittings were on. Tuesday saw all the big pieces on the bells, and the smaller bits and pieces were being done. It is amazing how quickly the big pieces go on, but how long it takes to fit the little bits – is it something about the 80:20 rule: 80% of the work will take 20% of the time, whereas the remaining 20% needs 80%.... ?



The frontage of Stanway House, with waiters in attendance



Activity in the belfry: Simon Ridley in the foreground.

Friday lunch time was the try-out. I felt privileged to be invited along considering I hadn't got my hands mucky, so I hung back outside to listen to the rise. It was a lovely sunny day. The bells sounded good; definitely tuned to a major scale now. All sounded even, too. I ventured up the tower to find a smart Ringing Room, from the ceiling of which hung ropes with psychedelic salleys. Psychedelic? You don't believe me? OK, you need to go and see for yourself. If you want some like this, ask Simon how he obtained them. They may catch on. What a big change with the bells! Very good Simon. Very good Whites.



Mingling in the Great Hall of Stanway House

The reception was delightfully 'old-style and old-money', as one might expect from an ancient titled family, with uniformed waiters and waitresses circulating with drinks, delicately-prepared sandwiches and mini-desserts. It rounded off a sunny day in a Cotswold church and village, with the previously-dreadful bells now augmented, and sounding and ringing well; plus the historic and architectural delights of Stanway House to savour. Hmmm: very nice. I could manage this every weekend....

Fast forward again by just over a fortnight, to the Re-dedication Service on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Re-dedication ceremony was performed by The Rt Rev David Jennings, the Honorary Assistant Bishop of Gloucester. The reception

The Guild will get a chance to try out Stanway bells on Oct 24th.

Chris Povey.

## THE GREAT 'INTERNATIONAL' STRIKING COMPETITION AT LONGBOROUGH

Do you know anything about Devon Call-change ringing? If so, have you had first-hand contact with it, or is it something about which you've heard only a few snippets? If the latter, or you don't know anything about it, it's a style that is largely confined to Devon and Cornwall. They don't ring methods, but just ring call-changes. They ring 'peals', but these aren't peals in the normal sense. The Devon 'peal' is: ring up in peal, ring call changes for about 10 minutes and then ring down in peal. All with no gaps in between.

Ah! simple you might say. Yee-e-ss, but Devon bands intend doing everything without a bell out of place anywhere (and by 'out of place' I mean no more than the odd millisecond away from perfect placing). The other complication for any non-Devon/Cornwall ringer is that all ringing has closed handstroke leads. (This is no gap at the handstroke leads, ie cartwheeling.) Closed handstroke leads for non-Devon/Cornwall ringers is extremely difficult, because it's a totally different rhythm – although I've noticed some manage closed handstroke leads without any difficulty.....

Lastly, they have 'stick-down-the-railings' starts to the rises. This involves swinging all the bells without them sounding, then at a signal from the person leading up they check the bells and the bells strike for the first time all together down the scale. None of this 1, 1-2, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4, etc starts And if you think Devon starts are impossible with bells over 15cwt or so, you need to think again. I saw a Devon band rise the 'back 8' at Evesham (36cwt) with a Devon start (actually it's on Youtube). I've rung with Devon call-change bands on two occasions and it's scary. If there's any clipping, it will be you, not them. That's what it's like. Very scary indeed if your striking is even just a little bit wayward....! So, if you think call-change ringing is too easy and beneath your standard, you just want to think again. Call changes sort out the men from the boys, because it's so repetitive. There's time to listen carefully and hear the inaccuracies. Method ringing goes on to the next change.

So, with this background to Devon/Cornwall ringing and how it differs from 'scientific' method ringing, imagine my surprise when Denzil Spear spoke to me last year about having a striking competition between method ringing and Devon ringing.

Denzil's accent marks him down as a Devonian – he grew up in Barnstaple and learnt to ring at the parish church there. He thought it would be interesting for the two styles of ringing, the scientifics and the call-changers, to go head to head. Hmm, thinks I, will you get any of the call-changers up here (it's a long way to come); and how might the two styles compete equally? I thought it might die a natural death.

I've learnt Denzil is a man that perseveres, as earlier this year he told me he'd got at least three call-change bands interested in coming to a contest at Longborough, and he needed to get some scientific bands from here signed up. He invited the Guild to send at least one team. Luckily, the rising and falling parts were already undertaken as part of the Guild Striking Comp, so that wouldn't faze us, except that the scientifics would ring up, ring a method piece and fall without a stop, and for the whole of the performance to take at least 15 minutes. This would allow equal footing between both camps. The scientifics didn't need to do Devon starts for the rises. There would be one judge each from both styles. The other major point was that there would be no practice ringing before the test piece. Just get up there and get on with it!

The Guild, through our Ringing Master Richard Lewis-Skeath, took up the challenge with enthusiasm. Denzil sent invitations to the North Cotswold Branch of the G&B and the wider G&B, and to ringers in Warwick. The Guild team had two practices, one of which

(under the rules of the comp) was at Longborough. The band knew what we were up against, and to be honest we did not believe we'd be anywhere near the first three places. But we had to do it, because it would look poor if the call-changers travelled all the way up here and there were no scientifics to take them on. It would look as though we were running scared.

The appointed day arrived, Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather was glorious: lots of sunshine on lots of Cotswold stone. Not only that, there were lots of people about, mostly speaking rather like Denzil. Ah, they must be the opposition. But what a truly lovely bunch of ringers, all with ready smiles. They thought the Cotswold scenery was delightful (of course it is, but better than Devon? Unlikely. It's just different). The judges were installed in an upstairs room in The Coach & Horses. The draw came. We were drawn a few teams down, which was probably a good place to be. A couple of the call-change bands kicked off and they set the standard: not just high, but very high. Phew...



*Scientifics and call-changers mingling at the draw*



*The FSG team L-R: Richard L-S, Lucy Gwynne, Steve Bowley, Roger Hunt, Chris Povey, John Gwynne*

The Guild team got its call and we went up to do our bit. Richard had brought along a large clock, so that he could see precisely where we were with the timing. Anything less than 15 minutes ringing would disable us from the competition, whereas all ringing over 15 minutes would still be marked. The ideal was therefore to ring for 15 minutes plus a few seconds. At the practices it was intended that we would not rush the ringing. We got the bells up and we started the method – yes, good old Grandsire Doubles. The

pace was a little faster than we had practised, but it all seemed to flow. We got the bells down and finished in the chime at just over 15 minutes. We'd focussed heavily on the striking at every part of the 'peal'. We'd done the best we could.

A couple of call-change bands followed us, the striking from one of which was simply glorious – absolutely machine-like and metronomic.



Richard L-S accepting the 3<sup>rd</sup> place certificate

Were we surprised at these placings? Er, no. Then the results were announced for the best striking of the whole 'peal'. First place was awarded to Chagford (15 faults), who took the Ruth How Silver Salver back to Devon with them. Second was Burrington (15½ faults); and third was the Four Shires Guild (17½ faults). There was

The results were announced in the Village Hall. The scientific's judge was Alan Hartley (who judged the Guild's striking competition last year) and for the call-changers was Mervyn Way. We assembled to hear the two wise men pronounce. First were the results for the best rise This went to a call-change band. Then the best fall: again a call-change band.

a second or so before realising that's what the judge had said. We'd made it into the first three places, thereby exceeding our expectations! Incredible. The next placed scientific band (Warwick) was 6<sup>th</sup>, so we'd won big time. Richard went up to collect the certificate.

Inaugural  
Six Bell Striking Competition for the  
**Ruth How Plate**

held at  
St. James Church  
Longborough  
on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

THIRD PLACE  
CERTIFICATE AWARDED TO

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD

<p><u>Team</u></p> <p>Treble <u>RICHARD LEWIS-SKEATH(C)</u></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> <u>LUCY GWYNNE</u></p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> <u>STEVE BOWLEY</u></p> <p><u>Judges</u></p> <p>Mr. Mervyn Way <u>M. C. Way</u></p>	 <p>4<sup>th</sup> <u>ROGER HUNT</u></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> <u>CHRIS POVEY</u></p> <p>Tenor <u>JOHN GWYNNE</u></p> <p>Faults <u>17½</u></p> <p>Mr. Alan Hartley <u>Alan E. Hartley</u></p>
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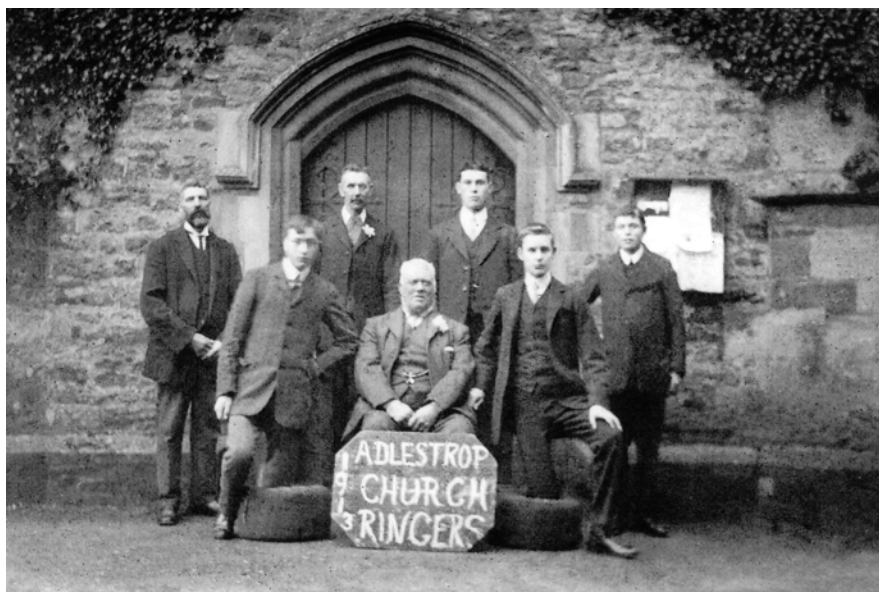
It wasn't just 'a good time was had by all'. An excellent time was had by all. The Devon ringers were truly a treat to be with; and we are all looking forward to the repeat contest next year, which is to be held in Devon. Denzil is to be congratulated for bringing his amazing vision to fruition, which must have been a long, arduous and frustrating path to tread (he said he'd be delighted if the contest continued, as long as someone else did the arranging!).

While there was a great sense of achievement, I think the band felt we'd taken on a crack Devon call-change band, one of the best sources of good striking in bell ringing it's possible to hear, and put up a decent show. The competition the call-changers provided made us up our game. CMP

## FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

There was no Committee meeting held in the quarter between July and September 1915. The next entry is the Minutes of the 1915 Annual General Meeting, which was held in October.

However, while it's not strictly an Archive of the Four Shires Guild as such – although it's very likely the people concerned knew about it, as Adlestrop is close to Moreton and Todenham – I was given a copy of this delightful photo of the Adlestrop ringers in 1913 by Ralph Price, who is the person in Adlestrop who has been pushing for many years to have the bells there rehung. That is, of course, now beginning to happen. Although having only 5 bells then (the same bells as now), there were seven ringers in the village. They clearly didn't greatly worry about the ropes dropping down about 4 inches from the walls. Perhaps they had hard knuckles...!



## FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

Similarly, there was no Committee meeting held in the quarter between July and September 1975. The next entry is the Minutes of the 1975 Annual General Meeting, which was held in October.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I read with some interest comments which appeared in your issue number 144, and which referred specifically to the North Cotswold Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. I am at a loss to understand why this comment has been made at this time, since I am unaware of any great history of the branch producing new young ringers, certainly not in recent years. Nevertheless I am only too aware that a problem exists and that is why I raised the issue as an agenda item in one of our quarterly branch meetings earlier this year. What I would like to see happening, is for all the Churches within the Branch to act as a nursery for new ringers, young or not so young, to develop a village bell ringing team for all our churches, for each church to continue to develop the ringing skills of the team, and eventually to see team members attending branch practices to receive one to one mentoring.

However I would like to point out to your writer that there is a corner of the North Cotswold Branch, where much is being done to develop new ringers. In the last two years or so, a total of eleven people have been taught to handle and control a bell and beyond, so I already have the ringing nursery at Longborough. Two of those people have been adults and continue to ring when "life" allows. Three of the group are teenagers and whilst they are unable to join in weekly branch practice, they do ring for Sunday Services and so I have established a village team of bell ringers.

I have to be completely honest and point out that six of the original group were children and they have all walked away from ringing having reached the stage of ringing rounds. Two had already established themselves as having potential in a sport, and felt that they could not give their time to bell ringing, the remainder I suspect found the burden of being part of a team too much. However, undaunted, I am currently, with the help of a colleague, teaching two more young people who provide us with great encouragement through their enthusiasm.

So there are people out there if we are prepared to take the time to find them and importantly give them our time. Longborough is but one of the churches with ringable bells in the branch, now we need the other 25 to do their bit.

Just as a footnote to the above, at a Six Bell Striking competition recently held at Longborough, the winning team producing some excellent striking, included one ringer aged 19 years, one aged 22 years and one aged 24 years, and you do not achieve that level of ringing overnight. They have been ringing for some years. Yes they are out there, all we have to do is find them and teach them.

**Denzil Spear**

Chairman - North Cotswold Branch.  
Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for allowing me to comment re the communication you received from Mr Denzil Spear, Chairman of the North Cotswold Branch, G&BDACBR, re the article in the last issue of the Newsletter: 'Mickleton NIL – Others 121'

Firstly my congratulations to Denzil and his success in recruiting young ringers at Longborough. This was admirably noticed at the G&B North Cotswold Branch annual striking competition at Saintbury last year.

Yes, I'm envious of Denzil's achievements, and I bet I'm not the only one in the North Cotswolds! He obviously has a better way of attracting ringers than we certainly do in Mickleton. I personally have tried and tried over the years, as fellow ringers I'm sure would acknowledge.

For example, when I was Ringing Master of the North Cotswolds Branch I wrote to every Tower Captain advising them of our monthly practices and inviting them to attend. The response? NIL. I contacted local schools. The response? NIL. I wrote regular articles (and still do) for our excellent Church Magazine. These articles were aimed predominantly at the younger generation. The response? NIL.

I invited by personal letter all those who so generously contributed to my bell fund appeal and advised via the Church Magazine of an Open Day so that they could view bell ringing first hand. The magazine article invited younger people to attend. The response? Aged: good. Younger people: NIL.

A village trust of which I'm Chairman provides annually what the trustees believe to be very generous grants for education to pupils leaving primary school and those attending universities, colleges or apprenticeships, etc. On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013 we held a Service at St Lawrence Church, Mickleton on the occasion of the Trust's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Again, I personally sent or delivered letters to recipients of grants and their parents (over 200) inviting them to attend. The bells were rung and the tower was open for viewing. Adult attendance: good. Young persons: TWO.

So the drive for new ringers over the years has been unsuccessful! I've probably 'over-answered' the original communication content. Sorry! In conclusion, I should point out that the article was written especially for the St Lawrence Church Magazine, hence Mickleton NIL – NOT G&B NIL. But you cannot deny printed facts, viz: The North Cotswold Branch membership: JUNIORS, NIL!

Sincerely,

**John Kinchin**, Mickleton.

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## CENTRAL COUNCIL NEWS

### The Council Meeting

As one of your representatives I attended the Central Council Meeting in Kingston-upon-Hull on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting was just as it has been for many years (I went to my first in 1994, so getting the hang of them now). Familiar people milling about; get name badge; discover our other rep, Andrew Gunn, had tendered his apologies; find seat; look through papers placed on seat and get meeting papers (which I've already read through!) out ready; at 9.30pm it kicks off. The President, Chris Mew (and incidentally a member of the Four Shires Guild) is in the Chair.

I have to say the size of the meeting regularly amazes me. There are roughly 200 people attending, so the meeting must not only be difficult to manage, but does it really need this many people either to rubber-stamp the workings of the committees or to get something done? The vast majority of representatives say nothing – and sadly a large percentage of the reps do not belong to any of the Committees (which is where the real CC work is done). Perhaps they like wearing CC membership as a medal: being elected a rep is sufficient to show they've 'arrived'. Nothing more required of them. Sorry; being cynical....

The CC's accounts came and went, happily without comment: all agreed. After this there are usually some proposals to consider, one of which this time was to move the Meeting to September. Arguments for and against were made, but the proposal was lost by a large majority.

This year there was a big break from tradition in having reps forming seminars allied to geographical areas. The object of these was to discuss the future of ringing, ie what are we going to do the increase the number of ringers? A paper on this had been circulated to all reps some weeks previously. The FSG straddled the West Midlands and the South West Groups, but we were placed in the W. Mids. As a group we were asked what our organisations did badly, what they did well and what measures could be taken to solve problems. We had to write our comments on post-it notes and stick them on wall boards. With the Guild on something of a high at the moment (membership rising and the Saturday practices being well attended) it was difficult to think of anything that we are obviously doing wrong. In contrast, it was difficult not to gush over what we are doing right. When it came to 'Do you organise any cross boundary activities?' well, what could I say except 'yes – regularly; and successfully, too.' After all this the comments were collected and have now been reproduced in a general document for further consideration. I do think, however, that this part could have been done better. I think it would have been very useful to know the questions beforehand, so more considered answers could have been submitted. Perhaps they wanted us firing from the hip.

First thing after lunch is always the AGM of the Ringing World Ltd. The Ringing World is having a bad time at the moment. It's losing money because of dwindling subscribers. There has been much discussion about what the RW Board can do to stem this decline. There might be charges for peals and quarter peals; it might become a fortnightly paper. The Board were charged with discussing the situation further and implementing proposals. I do think the present Board have been really good in sounding a warning loud and clear about what is happening, something that may not have happened in quite this way previously. The Chairman, Nigel Orchard, is a 'good egg' (he and I rang regularly together in 1969-70) and will, I firmly believe, do everything that can be done.

The afternoon continued with the reports of the CC Committees. These are sometimes updated by the chairmen at the meeting. The reports are open to questions, and some questions are asked. Many reports go through on the nod. There is now a rolling election process to the committees, wherein one-third of the members are elected every year. Are the committees overflowing with reps fighting to get on them? I wish...!! It saddens me to say some committees do not have their full quota; and one can only assume from this that many reps are very happy to do nothing at all. The committee of which I'm a member (the Towers & Belfries Committee) has always been oversubscribed for potential members, but this year there were only three proposals for the four vacancies, so we are one person down, the

first time in 20 years to my knowledge. I really do believe the Council is too large. Its size allows people to 'hide in the corners' much too easily.

From the committee reports it's usually a smooth-run down to the end, and so it was this time. Is the CC a good idea? Yes, it is, but I do think serious changes are required. Personally I would halve the number of reps, but charge twice as much for each, thereby maintaining the CC's income. Hopefully this would reduce the 'passengers' who just want to wear the medal, and also reduce the ability to hide in the corners. My own view is you become a rep to work, but that thinking may be too severe for some! This week's RW (26<sup>th</sup> June) carries a most interesting letter from somebody who was lambasting the Council. He said: *'I was not surprised to see in your last issue that at length someone has plucked up courage enough to tell the Central Council that they are mere time-wasters. Year after year they sit in solemn enclave. The talking is done by a few who have views to air on some crank scientific subject which not one ringer in a hundred understands, and not one in a thousand cares a snap of the fingers about. ... In my own association I know the members feel strongly on the subject of the waste of money in sending a number of delegates to a meeting at the other end of the country to sit and listen while half-a-dozen folks talk of things which are of no use interest or use to ringers at large. .... I read your report of the Meeting in London on Whitsun Tuesday from end to end most carefully, and if ever 75 men spent a day doing nothing – many of them at somebody else's expense – the Central Council, in my opinion, did so on that occasion. Yours truly, A Country Ringer'* Hang on though, the Meeting wasn't in London, and the meeting wasn't on a Tuesday. And there were more than 75 present: women too. Oh, I see; the letter was dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 1915...!

It is clear CC problems of this type have existed for at least a century, so some extreme solutions do seem to be long overdue. Should the Guild be part of it? Yes, without doubt, because it does good work behind the scenes (but it could always, of course, do more...having more reps signed-up to work would be useful...); and because you've got to be in it to push for those changes.

The opinions expressed here are obviously my own. It is possible that my fellow representative, Andrew Gunn, may disagree with them. I am of course aware that the President of the CC is likely to see these views, but I would not ask him to respond to this article via the Newsletter, although I hope Chris might talk to me about it in the pub sometime!

Chris Povey.

CC Rep

(PS: I don't claim expenses from the Guild to attend these meetings.)

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## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

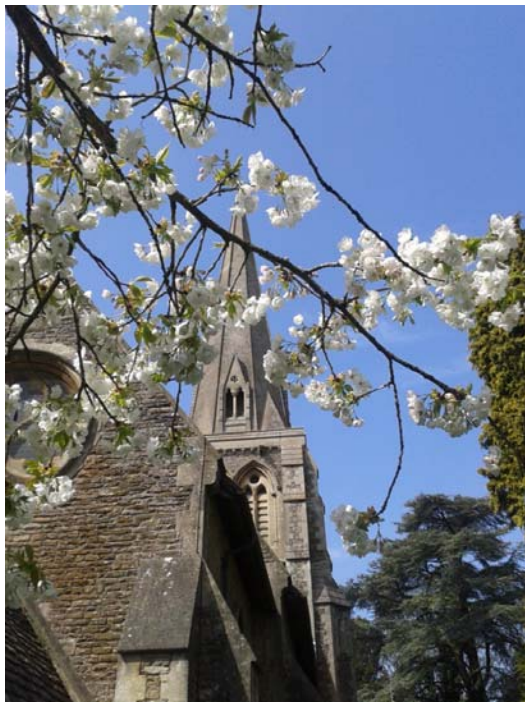
### THE April TOUR: THURSDAY 16TH (the 306<sup>th</sup>)

The April tour was centred on the historic Roman Cotswold town of Corinium, better known to us today as Cirencester. Twenty five or so ringers joined for this tour ably arranged this month by Chris Seers.

Our first stop was the parish church of St. John the Baptist in the bustling Market Square. If you haven't visited recently please do, as you can now see a thoroughly renovated spectacular south porch that positively gleamed in the early morning sunshine we experienced on our visit. The interior of this opulent wool church is no less impressive; and with an opening onto the roof from the ringing chamber, the brave can view the town from on high.

We gave the Thursday morning shoppers our renditions of Plain Hunt, Plain and Little Bob, Grandsire Cinques and Call Changes. On descending the 90 steps, we were greeted by the magnificent sounds of the organist practising Widor's Toccata from the rebuilt Father Willis organ; a fitting ending to our visit to this grand 12 bell tower. *(It didn't used to be! It had a dingy, grotty, uninviting ringing chamber – very similar to that of a church up here - and a rough old ring before the rehang that occurred in 1984. Peter Holden, the post-rehang tower captain, put much effort into tidying the place up, which, with the rehung ring and its recast tenor, plus a bit of retuning throughout, made a huge difference to the 'oldest ring of 12 in the world'. Ed)*

Across the town we found ourselves in the smaller Church of Holy Trinity, Watermoor. The church was designed by that well-known Victorian architect,



Sir George Gilbert Scott, famous for the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station, the Albert Memorial and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. What Sir George would have been unable to design was the fabulous blossom on the trees in the churchyard shown in our photograph. The ground floor eight rang out to Grandsire and Cambridge, plus Grandsire and Stedman spliced.

The party continued from Watermoor to waterside and onto our lunch venue, The Old Boathouse at the Cotswold Waterpark. Despite its name, The Old Boathouse was quite new and an interesting contrast to the Gilbert Scott design at Watermoor.

Our tower after lunch was Meysey Hampton some six miles from Cirencester. The ringing chamber, like Cirencester, has what looks like a door onto the roof. However, ringer beware, the door when opened leads straight out into the roof space of the nave and some 25 foot drop onto the pews. This brings new meaning to the old joke; "when is a door not a door".

Before leaving, our attention was grabbed by a single military gravestone in the churchyard. Gunner W H Bulpit of The Royal Field Artillery is buried here. What makes this so poignant is the date. Gunner Bulpit died on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1918 aged 37, just two days before the Armistice. Whilst it's possible W H Bulpit made it home and died of wounds local to Meysey Hampton, it's sobering nevertheless. *(There's a similar grave in the Old Church at Broadway. Private E E Emms - wonderful initials - of the Royal Berkshire Regt was killed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1918, aged 34. Very bad luck to be killed so near to the end. But apparently the guns kept firing on both sides right up to 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Ed)*

At this point my small party of two others and I had to leave the tour, so I admit to completing this account using information supplied. The last tower was Fairford, chiefly known for its stained glass windows and is by all accounts the only complete set of late medieval glass in a parish church in the country. As for the ringing, the draught was very long since it is a Chancel Crossing ring; and you certainly didn't want to look up, as that would put you off. If you have rung in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, these were similar. We rang some very creditable Stedman, Double Norwich, Grandsire and finished with Superlative.

The kneelers in the church were absolutely brilliant, very fine work and in the same way the ringing mats had been handmade. Someone had been busy, as they had the same mats at Watermoor.

**Keith Murphy (plus Chris Seers and Sandra Parker)**

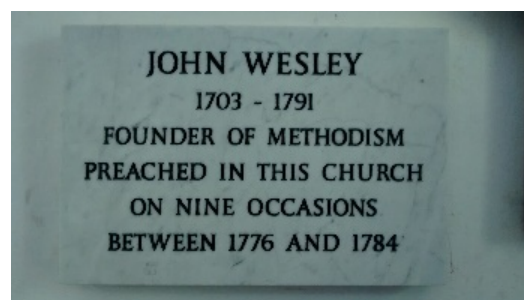
## THE MAY TOUR: THURSDAY 21<sup>TH</sup> (the 307<sup>th</sup>)

We stayed close to home for our May tour organised by Sandra Parker on one of the first warm and sunny days of summer. Being on familiar territory meant that we didn't uncover quite so many interesting nuggets that we are used to reporting back on a monthly basis from less familiar towers and districts.

A good day's ringing was enjoyed, starting at Ilmington with Grandsire and Stedman Triples and leads of Bristol. At Mickleton, those standing out were able to enjoy the sunshine to listen to more Grandsire, Plain Bob Major and Double Norwich. Lunch was at The Thatched Tavern in Honeybourne before we moved onto Pebworth.

There we appreciated the recruitment poster and learned about John Wesley's connection with the church before climbing to the ringing chamber where after some Plain Hunt successful touches of Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Cambridge Royal were scored.

Our last tower was Middle Littleton where we indulged in some less often rung minor methods: Chester, St Clements and Single Oxford.



If anyone would like to organise a tour, please get in touch. **Isobel Murphy**

## THE JUNE TOUR: THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> (the 308<sup>th</sup>)

A RECIPE FOR A MID WEEK TOUR

Ingredients:

Some ringing Friends  
A pub for lunch  
Four towers

Method:

- 1 Find a pub. The pub is usually the most difficult ingredient. Good bellringers' fayre, rather than a "gastro" pub, being the order of the day. Two course set menus are popular. Road testing the pub first is a good excuse for a trip out, to check the quality of the food & the pub can cope with around 25 hungry bellringers and turn them around in 1 1/2 hours.
2. Choose some towers, near the pub. It is a good excuse to arrange a tour where you may want a "grab" or two. A couple of 8s are good, include some interesting towers where possible, augmentations, a 10 or 12, or unusual features are popular.

3. Book towers. A few days before the tour, check bookings and access arrangements, lock-outs are not fun.
4. At the first tower, complete with menus, collect food orders and phone through to pub.
5. Mix together with friends and enjoy!

Well, Brenda Dixon and Alan Marks took the challenge and organised a three counties tour. The first at Yardley Hastings welcomed the ringers with a message on the blackboard, and we signed the register to dedicate the ringing to the 200th anniversary of Battle of Waterloo day. With some respectable ringing, although the Original failed due to yours truly not knowing about the singles - although a good attempt! Woodbine Delight was tempting on the peal boards.

The Desiderata poem was on the church notice board, annotated to St Paul's Church Baltimore dated 1692, reproduced here for those who may not be familiar -

### *Desiderata*

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.*

*As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.*

*Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.*

*If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter;*

*for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.*

*Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.*

*But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals;*

*and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself.*

*Especially, do not feign affection.*

*Neither be critical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.*

*Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.*

*Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings.*

*Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars;*

*you have a right to be here.*

*And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.*

*With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.*

Outside the village cake(?) shop we spotted the following sign "skinny people are easy to kidnap, save yourself, eat cake", which kept us amused all day.

Lavendon welcomed us with an open iron spiral staircase, to which your correspondent has an aversion; so instead spent some time admiring the 12th century piscina in the church, and reading the newsletter, discovering, among others, details about the Lavendon narrow gauge railway.

On to the excellent pub, The Green Man, Lavendon, which greeted us with the following sign



They must have known we were coming!

Next on to Bedfordshire, Turvey, the only 8 of the day, where it was helpfully pointed out that the other exit should we need it was up a wooden ladder out onto the roof and shout for help! Ian Thompson complimented us on the raise, praise indeed. These were not the best struck bells in the world, slow turning and not to be rushed. The best ringing was some Stedman and three leads of Bristol.

At the last tower, Carlton, it snowed feathers on the raise, and for me the best bells of the day. A vote of thanks for Brenda & Alan before we had to dash left us with the perfect execution of the Recipe for the day. Well done!

**Chris Seers**

## AROUND THE TOWERS (Pt 1)

### PEALS, QUARTER PEALS OF OTHER RINGING

Once again, there's a bumper crop of quarter peals and a peal – congratulations to all who scored and huge congratulations to Stefanie on ringing her first peal. Richard L-S's 'S@S' quarters are having a big impact. Good to see Pebworth and Shipston returning to these columns

**Willersey, Glos**, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles. 1 Doug Bott, 2 Mark Newbury, 3 Robert Hall, 4 Robert Chadburn (c), 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 6 Robert Topp. In memory Philip Keatley.

**Willersey, Glos**, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Doug Bott, 2 Jenny Chadburn, 3 Mark Newbury, 4 Robert Hall, 5 Robert Chadburn (C), 6 Stefanie Whittle. 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday compliment to Doug Bott.

**Freeland, Oxon**, 10 April 1320 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 2 Neil Ephgrave, 3 Anthony Williamson, 4 Melanie McGregor, 5 Michael Probert, 6 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke. Rung in memory of Rosemary Elizabeth Hunter 28/4/1934 - 5/3/2015, mother of 4.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 11 April, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Martin Penny, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Matthew Kemble, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Roger Hunt (C). In memory of cricket legend Richie Benaud. Rung on the front 6 to mark the 20th anniversary of the augmentation to 8. An S@S Q.

(CONTINUED ON P.17)

## 'BELLS TO REMEMBER'

On Wednesday 13 May, two quarter peals were successfully rung at Great Wolford in memory of Major the Honourable Clement B O Freeman-Mitford DSO and Pte. John Aston.

In the morning, the first quarter (St. Clements Bob Minor) for Major Clement Freeman-Mitford took 47 minutes and Pte. John Aston's quarter in the afternoon (Grandsire Doubles) ran out slightly quicker at 45 minutes.

The band was pleased to have successfully completed the quarter peals. It's always possible to go wrong! We hope to pay the same compliment to the remaining six WW1 soldiers on the memorial at the appropriate time.



The band (l to r): Keith Murphy (Great Wolford), Andrew Roberts (Fairford), Isobel Murphy (Great Wolford), Richard Lewis-Skeath (Moreton in Marsh), Chris Seers (Shipton under Wychwood), Clive Sparling (Stow on the Wold).

### Major the Honourable Clement B O Freeman-Mitford DSO, 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars. Killed at Ypres, 13 May 1915



gates at the entrance to Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery in Belgium where Major Mitford is buried.

Clement's death was to dramatically change the course of family, and perhaps Great Wolford's history. He died before the birth of his only child, Clementine, in October 1915. As a girl, Clementine could not inherit the

Redesdale title. This was to pass in 1916 to David, father of the famous Mitford sisters.

Clement is the only one of those remembered on the war memorial who was never resident in Great Wolford. His father, the 1st Lord Redesdale, owned the Batsford estate, and the villages within it, including Great Wolford, were 'closed'. In 1920 Great Wolford was sold and became an "open" village. Would Clement have sold? We shall never know. But certainly it is possible that Great Wolford would have developed differently had he retained possession.

#### Great Wolford, Warks

Thursday 13 May 2015

#### 1260 St Clement's Bob Minor

- 1 Isobel Murphy
- 2 Christine Seers
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C)
- 5 Keith Murphy
- 6 Clive Sparling

Rung in memory of Major the Honourable Clement B O Freeman-Mitford DSO, killed at Ypres, 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915

### Pte. John Aston, 5<sup>th</sup>Bn Gloucestershire Regiment, Killed at Ypres, 13 May 1915

The Commonwealth Graves Commission records that John Aston, Private, of the 5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, died 13 May 1915 and was buried at Ploegsteert (Plug Street) Wood Military Cemetery in Belgium. Local records show that fellow Wolfordians Charles Hall and F Barrett were at Plug Street. It was recorded that; 'one of the first men from Wolford [Jack Aston] was killed and buried in the wood with others of the 5th Gloucester Regiment.'

John Aston was the eldest son of Louis & Elizabeth Ashton and was baptised in 1885. He had three younger brothers; William (baptised 1890), Charles (baptised 1891) and Charles Valentine (baptised 1895). Louis was buried in Great Wolford in 1904. In 1901, John, aged 16 was a plough-boy living with his parents. William and Charles Valentine were both at school. In 1911 John, William and Charles were all farm labourers living at home with their widowed mother. In the Evesham Journal Roll of Honour, John, William & Charles Valentine had all volunteered for military service in September 1914.

As far as is known, John's brothers survived. It is a tragic coincidence that Great Wolford has two soldiers of the Great War to remember on 13 May.

#### Great Wolford, Warks

Thursday 13 May 2015

#### 1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Clive Sparling
- 2 Christine Seers
- 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 4 Isobel Murphy
- 5 Andrew Roberts (C)
- 6 Keith Murphy

Rung in memory of Pte. John Aston, volunteer from this village, killed at Ypres on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1915.

(Biographies courtesy of Lawrie Thompson and Henry Warriner)  
Isobel Murphy



## Tales from a tower near you (4):

### THREE BLIND MICE.... SEE HOW THEY RING!

To many ringers there is little or no appeal for 3 bell ringing, yet the very existence historically of 3 bell installations led to the various rings of 4, 6 and 8 bells we enjoy today. Many 3 bell installations are usually chimed as opposed to being rung full circle.



*Rudry, nr Caerphilly, has a chime of 3 with trigger-action clappers (tenor 2 cwt 2qtr 6lb)  
(photo: Roger de Flaedenburg)*

My photograph above shows a refurbished installation of 2010 with the treble having been tuned. A new supporting twin RSJ frame carries the three elm deadstocks to which the bells are bolted, and trigger-action clappers have been fitted. The ropes are attached to levers that simply flick the clapper ball against the bell, which remains stationary. [Originally each bell here was suspended from a clamp clipped over a single steel girder with the bell hanging from the 3/4 " diameter bolt holding the clamp together and allowed

to swing as the clapper struck it – all 3 bolts were perilously close to being worn through when the refurbishment took place!]

In our neck of the woods there is an interesting chime of 3 (with a tenor about 2 ¼ cwt) at All Saints, Luddington, near Stratford-upon-Avon. These are hung in a miniature spired tower somewhat open to the elements. All were cast by William Blews and Sons of Birmingham in 1871 and inscribed 'Blews & Sons' in Victorian Gothic lettering (Bengeworth also has a similar Blews ring of 6 cast in 1872 although the 5<sup>th</sup> there is also dated 1871). Luddington's tower is too small for full-circle ringing and the groundfloor ringing room is basically a narrow cavity in the walls where you walk in about one step, almost as if the church walls didn't line up properly when built.

A refurbishment less than 20 years ago included drilling out the remains of the cast-in clapper staples and fitting new conventional clappers. The ropes are fastened to levers bolted to the wooden headstocks giving the same swing action as we get with our bigger tower bells on the chime. Both swing chime and trigger-action clappers are ideal for allowing novice 'ringers' of all ages, shapes and sizes (well maybe not all sizes at Luddington) to actively participate in the ringing for church services. If you go to Luddington to ring keep your elbows in!

P.S. For those of you now craving for a 3 bell 'full circle fix' there is a ringable 3 at South Littleton (who knows we may get an FSG practice there one day...).

*'Roger de Flaedenburg'*

## AROUND THE TOWERS (Pt 2)

### PEALS, QUARTER PEALS OF OTHER RINGING – CONTINUED FROM P.15

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 18 April, 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1 Michael Dane, Sue Bacon, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 John Carroll, 5 Len Morley, 6 Michael Haynes, 7 Steve Bowley, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C). A birthday compliment to Steve for tomorrow. The first S@S Q on 8.

**Willersey, Glos**, 25 April, 1440 April Day Doubles: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Michael Haynes, 4 Roger Hunt, 5 Steve Bowley, 6 Stef Whittle. Rung for St. George.

**Snitterfield, Warks**, 25 April, 1260 Mixed Doubles (300 Stedman, 480 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): 1 Michael Haynes, 2 Jeanette Davey, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Matthew Kemble. Rung in memory of David Grimson, cousin of 3, who died on Wednesday..

**Offenham, Worcs**, 2 May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Matthew Kemble, 2 Steve Bowley, 3 Andrew Roberts, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Roger Hunt (C). A Good Luck compliment to the conductor's youngest son Gareth and Katie Train following their marriage on April 30th at Bretforton (in this benefice) and to The Rev'd Richard Court, vicar of the benefice, Rural Dean of Evesham and motorcycle enthusiast who officiated and retired on the same day. Also a welcome to a Royal Princess, born today.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 4 May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Freda Cleaver, 2 Martin Penny, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Georgie Roberts, 5 Claire Penny, 6 Matthew Kemble (C). First Q of Minor 4; first Q of Minor as conductor 6. In Memory of Steve Beck (1957-2015) former York City Chairman

**Bredons Norton, Worcs**, 9 May, 180 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Roger Hunt, 2 Martin Penny, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), Claire Penny, 5 Andrew Roberts, 6 Steve Bowley. For the 70th anniversary of VE Day. Remembering also at this time Bernard Hunt, a former ringer and father of Roger, liberated 24 April 1945 (aged 23 years) from Stalag IVD POW Camp in Germany (having been captured 15 June 1942 at Gazala in Libya while on operational duties with an RAF Advanced Ground Reconnaissance Unit). Rung following an S@S Q attempt lost after 40 mins.

**North Leigh, Oxon**, 9 May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Judy Kirby, 2 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke, 3 Neil R Ephgrave, 4 Michael Probert, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Hugh Deam (C). Rung to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE day, when peace replaced war in Europe.

**North Leigh, Oxon**, 9 May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Judy Kirby, 2 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke, 3 Neil R Ephgrave, 4 Michael Probert, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Hugh Deam (C). Rung to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE day, when peace replaced war in Europe.

**Shipston-on-Stour, Warks**, 19 May, 1260 Mixed Doubles (480 Grandsire, 780 Plain Bob). 1 Gerald Phillips, 2 Isobel Murphy, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), Nick Allsopp, 5 Keith Murphy, 6 Len Morley. Rung for the Archdeacon's visitation service. 1st Q: 1.

## THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

Willersey, Gloucestershire  
Church of St Peter  
Saturday 23 May 2015  
in 2 hours 47 mins (tenor: 12cwt)

**5040 Doubles**  
(1200 Grandsire, 1200 St Simon's,  
1200 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, 1440 Plain Bob)

- 1 Martin B Penny
- 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C)
- 3 Roger Hunt
- 4 Michael A Haynes
- 5 Nicholas K Allsopp
- 6 Stefanie Whittle

First peal for Stef and rung at her home tower.

First peal as conductor

Remembering the Halling family, former residents of 8 Church Street, Willersey (1924 - 1966), especially Phyllis (Roger's aunt) who passed away 18th May 2015 aged 87 and Florence (Roger's mother) who would have been 89 on the 26th May.



The band, L-R: Michael Haynes, Richard L-S, Stefanie, Martin Penny, Nick Allsopp, Roger Hunt. (Photo Roger Hunt)

*(Five big blokes and they put the little lady on the biggest bell..... Ed)*

**Badsey, Worcs**, 23 May, 1296 Plain Bob Minor. 1 Jane Gilbert, 2 Andrew Roberts, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Michael Haynes, 5 Nick Allsopp, 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C). Remembering the sad loss of lives in the Quintinshill Rail Disaster on the 22nd May 1915. An S@S Q.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 26 May, 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: 1 Bob Topp, 2 Judy Wallington, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Matthew Kemble (C), 5 Claire Allen. First quarter 5, first quarter of Minimus 1, 2

**Cleeve Prior, Worcs**, 29 May, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Claire Penny, 2 Rod Carless, 3 Matthew Kemble, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Georgie Roberts (C), 6 Chris Povey. First Q as conductor 5

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 31 May, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Freda Cleaver, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Matthew Kemble, 6 Chris Povey, 7 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 8 Sandra Parker. In memory of Sir Terry Pratchett (The End - 12 March 2015). Rung by the Lords & Ladies of Pebworth, Evesham, Bidford-on-Avon, Welford-on-Avon, Offenham & Moreton-in-Marsh plus Miss Susan and Ponder Stibbons

Church Lench, Worcestershire  
Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015

General ringing at mid-day by the Church Lench ringers  
in memory of:

**Private Robert Geoffrey Aston**  
Warwickshire Yeomanry Service

Died 11<sup>th</sup> April 1915, aged 22.  
Drowned at sea from HMT *Wayfarer*



Robert Aston was a ringer, and his name is recorded on the Central Council's Roll of Honour. He was the son of Enoch James and Marion Ada Aston of Church Lench.

**Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks**, 7 June, 1296 Grandsire Caters: 1 Rachel Page, 2 Jeanette Davey, 3 Jennifer Winslow, 4 Mick Mears, 5 Jane Gilbert, 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 7 Charles Wilson, 8 John Perry, 9 Nick Allsopp (C), 10 Jacqui Hands. Rung to celebrate Jacqui's 40th year of ringing. Also to congratulate Mick on the birth of his first granddaughter, Evelyn Marie Salter, born on the 14th May 2015. 1st on 10: 4.

**Todenham, Glos**, 13 June, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Denise Hughes, 2 Tim Hughes, 3 Nick Allsopp, 4 Jeanette Davey, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Roger Hunt (C). Rung on the official birthday of HM Queen and to mark the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. A S@S Q.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 14 June, 800 Mixed Doubles (All Saints, Reverse Canterbury, St Simons, St Martins, Plain Bob, April Day, Grandsire): 1 Phyllis Brazier, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Matthew Kemble, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Claire Allen. Rung at 3pm to celebrate 800 years since the signing of Magna Carta.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 14 June, 1260 Mixed Doubles (Stedman & Grandsire): 1 Georgie Roberts, 2 Chris Povey, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Matthew Kemble (C), 6 Anita J Harrison. For Offenham Wake and to mark the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta. First Q: 6

**Wyck Rissington, Glos**, 23 June, 1344 Wyck Rissington Hybrid Minimus (comprising 8 round blocks of 168 changes): 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 2 Chris Povey, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Nick Allsopp (C). First Q in the method. First Q of Minimus 2,3,4. First Q of Minimus on tower bells 1.

**Freeland, Oxon**, 26 June, 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor: 1 Michael Probert, 2 Anthony Williamson, 3 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke, 4 Malcolm Fairbairn, 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 6 Neil R Ephgrave (C). Rung to celebrate the birthday of Neil Merryweather-Clarke.

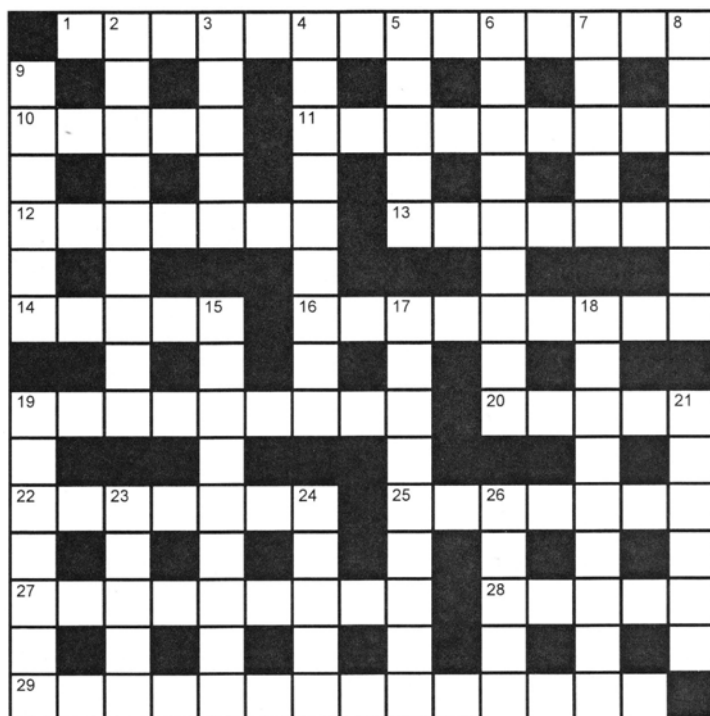
**Willersey, Glos**, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Chris Gooding, 2 Jenny Chadburn, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Robert Chadburn (C), 6 Bob Topp. For the Willersey Flower Festival. First Q: 1.

**Harbury, Warks**, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1282 Cambridge S Major: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 S Oram, 3 James Ingham, 4 Karen French, 5 Robert Reeves, 6 Michael Dane, 7 John Nicholls, 8 Peter Quinn. 1<sup>st</sup> in method: 2.

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

## EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

Cruciverbalists! your prayers are answered. El Pres is back on form and has dished up another X-word for your delectation.



- 15 A light sparkling wine. (9)  
 18 Deeply distressing. (9)  
 21 Metallic but rubbishy. (6)  
 24 The highest ranked clue. (5)

### Across

- 1 Change-ringing on 6 bells. (7,2,5)  
 10 No tax could make me hold forth! (5)  
 11 E.g, delight. On a bus? (9)  
 12 Controversial addition to London's skyline. (7)  
 13 Able to pay for the methanol. (7)  
 14 Modern correspondence. (1,4)  
 16 Pointed out the cat died in turmoil. (9)  
 19 The church at Shipston-on-Stour. (2,7)  
 20 Listen to the wind and then design your answer. (5)  
 22 It is out of order to gripe in a ringing chamber. (3-4)  
 25 He camped 'by a billabong under the shade of a coolabah tree' (7)  
 27 Romantic light? What a load of rubbish! (9)  
 28 A mathematical relationship. (5)  
 29 Wretched warrener cannot easily get in. (6,8)

### Down

- 2 Taken as the usual representative value. (2,7)  
 3 Take a holiday, but be careful with your stay. (5)  
 4 Give one to the next nose, after injury, it could cause a stretch (9)  
 5 No friend would give these jewels. (5)  
 6 Lost the answer to this clue. (9)  
 7 Sinister way of tying the end of a rope. (5)  
 8 Recycle to tread in a spin. (7)  
 9 Make lego go to a source of information. (6)  
 17 Employ Ted's chute for keeping things clean. (9)  
 19 The author of the second ever book on ringing. (7)  
 23 One can smell an answer to this. (5)  
 26 I tell you from the heart this is important. (5)

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS

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### FOUR SHIRES GUILD BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Guild has 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 are in the Guild Rule Book, and application forms are available from me. (These forms are available.)

Chris Povey (Hon Sec)

### 2015 GUILD WALKING TOUR - Saturday September 26th.

Start at **Whichford (8)**, ringing **10 - 10.45am** (please park considerably in this area)

Walk to **Long Compton (6)**; ring **12 - 12.45pm**

Followed by Lunch at 'The Red Lion' pub in Long Compton, or bring your own sandwiches: (approx 1 - 2 pm)

Walk to **Great Wolford (6)** and ring **3 - 3.45pm**; and then return to cars in Whichford by about 5 pm

Organiser: Michael Haynes - to whom our thanks

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JULY 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR</b>	
JULY 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OFFENHAM</b> , Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) ( <b>NOTE: 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.</b> )
JULY 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ODDINGTON</b> , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) ( <b>NOTE: 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.</b> )
JULY 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WHICHFORD</b> , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
AUG 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>SHERBOURNE</b> , Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F#
AUG 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BRETFORTON</b> , Worcs	8, 8-3-11 in F# (GF)
AUG 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GREAT WOLFORD</b> , Warks	6, 11-3-7 in F#
AUG 22 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SAINTBURY</b> , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
AUG 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BROADWAY</b> , Worcs	6, 18-1-16 in E (GF)
SEPT 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHILDSWICKHAM</b> , Worcs	6, 11-3-26 in F#
SEPT 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER</b> , Glos	8, 12-1-22 in F#
SEPT 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BUTLERS MARSTON</b> , Warks	6, 14-0-20 in G (GF)
SEPT 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TODENHAM</b> , Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
OCT 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>WELLESBOURNE</b> , Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
OCT 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHERINGTON</b> , <b>WARWICKSHIRE</b>	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF) ( <b>Don't go to the Glos one!!*</b> )
OCT 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PEBWORTH</b> , Worcs	<b>GUILD A.G.M. &amp; STRIKING COMPS. ( DETAILS ON PAGE 3 )</b>
OCT 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STANWAY</b> , Glos	5, 11-0-2 in F# ( <b>NOTE: 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.</b> )
OCT 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>T.B.A.</b>	

\* It has happened....

For any alterations to this programme, check the FSG web-site (<http://www.fourshires.org.uk>), or Campanophile/Bellboard'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.

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:

### **ELECTIONS REQUIRED AT THE 2015 AGM**

Every year the Guild Rules require that members are elected to the posts of Guild Master, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Ringing Master (the Guild Officer posts). In addition, six members are elected to serve on the Committee. There are no elections this year for President, Vice-Presidents and Central Council representatives

There are no proposal slips this time, because nobody seemed to use them.

**Firstly, please consider standing for these posts.**

**Secondly, if not you, please propose candidates.**

### **DID SOMEONE SAY THEY DIDN'T GET A JULY NEWSLETTER?**

**IF SO, ASK WHETHER THEY PAID THEIR 2015 SUBS BY THE END OF JUNE.  
IF THEY DIDN'T, THAT'S WHY THEY DIDN'T GET ONE – NO SUB; NO NEWSLETTER.  
(AND IF THEY DID PAY, CONTACT THE EDITOR)**

## **Events for 2015: book the dates now:-**

<b>Guild Walking Tour</b>	<b>Sat 26<sup>th</sup> September. Organiser is Michael Haynes. Details p.19</b>
<b>Guild AGM, etc</b>	<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October; Pebworth, Worcs. Details to be confirmed</b>
<b>Inter Shire Comp</b>	<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> November. Organiser 'El Pres'. Details tba</b>
<b>(Note: no Minimus Comp this year, as this and the Inter Shire Comp now alternate.)</b>	
<b>Guild Xmas Party</b>	<b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December, venue to be announced (probably Badsey)</b>