

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

## NEWSLETTER No 151 - JAN 2017

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



A very interesting variation on the traditional Christmas tree! Claire Penny made this chicken wire bell for display during Offenham Church's Christmas period. If it seems life-like and life-size, it is. Claire moulded the wire around one of the trebles, but she said bellhangers don't make this job easy, because, "they put wheels and bellframes in the way!" Bellhangers, please take note...

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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## PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Freda Cleaver

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Chaplain**

Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Accounts Examiners**

Mr Robert Hall

Ms Jane Gilbert

## GUILD OFFICERS

### **Guild Master**

Mr Peter Quinn

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### **Ringling Master**

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

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### **Hon Secretary**

Mr Chris Povey

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### **Hon Treasurer**

Mr Michael Dane

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Christina Ireland

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Mr John Carroll

Mr Michael Haynes

Mrs Jackie Hands

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Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Matthew Kemble

mjkphoto1@gmail.com

## CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

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Mr Matthew Kemble

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## **Guild Peal Recorder**

Mrs Sandra Parker

parker@bidford948.fsnet.co.uk

## **Programme Secretary**

Mr Stuart Cummings

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Mr Chris Mew

## **Mid-week Tours**

### **General Contact**

Mrs Isobel Murphy

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## **Membership Secretary**

Mr Peter Kenealy

## **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

## **Newsletter Editor**

Mr Chris Povey

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 (April 2017) is March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**

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!

**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.

**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, FOLKS.....**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY: SEE RATES ABOVE**

**AND PLEASE MAKE A DONATION (£5 MIN) TO THE GUILD'S BELLS RESTORATION FUND**

## EDITORIAL

**Yes, yes, I'm late in producing this Newsletter.** Final compilation was expected over the Christmas/New year period, but it just didn't happen that way.... apologies! It was, perhaps, heartening to hear one or two say a day or so after 1<sup>st</sup> January, 'Where's the Newsletter?' on the basis that it's missed. Hopefully that's the case....

**You will see (p.7)** that there are some new names in the Officer and Committee Member line up arising from the AGM elections. Thank you to those stepping out of positions and thank you those stepping in – and back in – to these important managerial posts.

**The AGM agreed to a donation scheme** to boost the resources of the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund. Please see p.8 to tell you how it will work.

**You will see I've included a quarter peal** that doesn't comply with my normal rule about publishing them in this august publication (which is at least half the band should be members of the Guild). However, four Guild members arranged and took part in an all-ladies' quarter peal of Plain Bob Cinques at Evesham Bell Tower, which was a significant event in its own right. Yes, Evesham bells are some old lovelies and they are beautifully behaved, but nonetheless they are still heavy and skill is required to put them in their proper place. Jeanette Davey's beautifully-written article tells it all.

**One of two big happenings in the bell world** since the last Newsletter was the 'sacking' of the York Minster band in its entirety by the Dean and Chapter of the Minster, with full support for the action from the Archbishop of York. This action is the equivalent of sacking the St Paul's Cathedral band with full support by the Archbishop of Canterbury, if such were ever to occur: an action of the highest possible profile and one of national interest. The Dean of York Minster wants a new band, and is fully prepared to have no bells rung until sometime in the New Year, when such a band is ready to take on the 59cwt 12. She intends to employ (that is, pay) a new Ringing Master, who will then choose – presumably in conjunction with the Dean and Chapter - volunteers to join the new band. In this way, the Dean will have control of who is, and who isn't, a ringer in her building. There have been a few reasons cited for her action, some of which have gradually appeared. Lack of direct control of the previous band regarding some significant issues has been mentioned. Regardless of all the reasons, whether right or wrong (although I doubt she had a bad night's sleep and woke up deciding to take it out on the ringers), it has highlighted one significant and very important feature about which many ringers might not be aware: that an incumbent and/or the PCC of any Church (the Dean and Chapter of a Cathedral is the equivalent) has the legal power to exclude anyone from its buildings or land without having to give a reason. I was unwillingly involved in such an instance some years ago when it was necessary to ask a ringer not to come to the Bell Tower again. This person involved solicitors to try to force the PCC to relent. It became an unpleasant situation, with the PCC being very cowed about the threat of court action, particularly as there was an interregnum at the time. When the new Vicar arrived in post he immediately referred the situation to the Diocesan Registry (the diocesan solicitors), who replied to the person's solicitors in exceedingly clear terms explaining the rights an incumbent and

PCC have for excluding individuals and asking that this information be passed on to the client in similarly clear language. Nothing more was heard. We all ring at our towers with the tacit permission of the incumbent and/or PCC, until for some (usually very good) reason that permission is withdrawn. We should remember that none of us has an absolute right to enter any tower – even that to which we are attached. As some will know the York situation involved (alleged) safeguarding issues. The CofE has recently introduced a set of guidelines that will be for PCCs to enact in its churches. Chris Mew, the Guild's Safeguarding Officer, outlines how this is likely to affect ringers: see p.13. I strongly advise you to read it, as some will gradually become affected by it.

**The other big happening is the closure of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry later this year** – at least in its present form. The owners, Alan and Kathryn Hughes, have decided that retirement beckons. With no member of their family wishing to continue the Hughes' presence at Whitechapel Road since 1904, and very likely the mounting difficulties and costs of operating the foundry in that part of London, the decision may have become steadily easier to make. The foundry buildings have already been sold and a buyer for the business is currently being sought. Whether a buyer will come forward and start up a foundry elsewhere in the UK – or the business transfers to an existing foundry, either here or overseas - is the \$64,000 question at the moment.

**Typing out (yes, one finger at a time)** the 100 year and 40 year old Minutes for From the Archives gives me a better chance to read and understand what went on with the Guild at those times. The 1977 Minutes mentioned there was a surplus of £2-40 from the Dinner account. That amount would now be considered very small change, although its present value (about £24) would be thought worthwhile. An interesting reflection on the intervening 40 years.

**The Guild Christmas Party at Badsey** on 10<sup>th</sup> December sadly didn't attract as many as last year, which was a shame, as it was very enjoyable. Badsey Church provides good facilities. Many thanks to Stuart and Michael Cummings, who made the arrangements with Hilary and John Bolton. Perhaps the Committee will need to discuss this event.

**Lastly, it is subscription time again.** This issue carries a renewal slip at the back to assist with paying such – and to make a donation to the Bells Restoration Fund. Please renew and donate. You know it's for a good cause!

Chris Povey, 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 ringing of our Church bells on Sundays, and on other important occasions, can have far-reaching effects upon those who hear the bells. The sound made by the bells can touch the hearts and minds of those who hear them, their sound, imbued with tradition and mystery, probes often inaccessible minds and triggers responses that may be secular, or religious in each individual who hears the bell.

The ringers may be totally unaware of the effect of their ringing.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

# FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

## Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in St James' Church, Longborough, following the Striking Competitions and the Guild Service held at this Church. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair. Members attending numbered 21. Handouts of the agenda, Minutes of the 2015 AGM, Guild accounts and the Guild Master's report were available (all had appeared in various Guild Newsletters during the year).

- 1 Apologies: were received from the Rev Peter Newing (Vice-President), Peter Quinn (Guild Master), Neil Allsopp and Jane Gilbert, Claire Penny, Stef Whittle.
- 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were published in the January 2016 Newsletter (nr 147). 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 by the Chairman.
- 3 Matters arising: An update on Chipping Norton, Churchill and Kingham was given by Chris Povey, Mick Austin and Stuart Cummings, the latter having had discussions with the personnel there. These towers are expected to be part of the Guild's Saturday night practices soon.
- 4 Guild Master's Report 2015-2016: appeared in the July 2016 Newsletter and was taken as read. Nothing arising: accepted.
- 5 Treasurer's Report: The Guild accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 appeared in the April 2016 Newsletter (no 148) and were taken as read. Michael Dane gave a verbal update. The accounts have been examined: nothing of note 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 President and Vice-Presidents (to serve for 3 years): Michael Dane took over from John Nicholls for the election of Guild President:  
Guild President: John Nicholls, prop by Christina Ireland; sec by Richard Lewis-Skeath. No other proposals, therefore carried.  
Vice Presidents: Phyllis Brazier did not wish to seek re-election, having served 20 years. The candidates were: Rev Peter Newing, who was very happy to continue. Also, Mrs Freda Cleaver: prop Chris Povey, sec Martin Penny. There being no other candidates, Peter and Freda were elected as Vice-Presidents when put to the vote.
- 7 Election of Officers:  
Guild Master: Richard Lewis-Skeath prop and Michael Haynes sec Peter Quinn, who had indicated his willingness to stand again. There being no other candidates, Peter was re-elected.  
Ringing Master: Freda Cleaver prop and John Carroll sec Richard Lewis-Skeath as Ringing Master. There being no other candidates, Richard was re-elected.  
Secretary: John Nicholls prop and Rob Newman sec Chris Povey. There being no other candidates Chris was re-elected.  
Treasurer: John Nicholls prop and Michael Haynes sec Michael Dane. There being no other candidates, Michael was re-elected.
- 8 Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: Peter Kenealy had earlier indicated he would not seek re-election this time. The Committee members as elected were:

	Prop	Sec
Christina Ireland	Wendy Ryder	John Nicholls
Jackie Hands	Michael Haynes	Mick Austin
John Carroll	Richard Lewis-Skeath	Christina Ireland
Stuart Cummings	Roger Hunt	Peter Kenealy
Michael Haynes	John Carroll	Martin Penny

Matthew Kemble                  Chris Povey                  John Nicholls

Accounts Examiners: Trevor Hobday had earlier indicated that he did not wish to seek re-election as Accounts Examiner. There were two candidates prop for the two posts and there being no other candidates, both were elected:-

Robert Hall: prop Christina Ireland, sec Michael Dane;  
 Jane Gilbert: prop Michael Haynes, sec John Nicholls.

- 9 Election of two Central Council representatives (to serve for 3 years): two candidates were proposed for the two posts; and as there were no other names, the following were elected:-  
 Chris Povey: prop Richard Lewis-Skeath, sec Michael Dane;  
 Matthew Kemble: prop Michael Dane, sec Freda Cleaver
- 10 Confirmation of New Members:  
 New members whose elections were ratified by the Committee since the last AGM were:-

Milla Jackson	Welford	Mick Downing	Welford
Elizabeth Spencer	Pebworth	Pat Bell	Pebworth
Jackie Roberts	Moreton	Chris Roberts	Moreton
Julia Lucas	Alveston	Elizabeth Green	Alveston
John Harbottle	Alveston	John Liggitt	Harvington
Chris Gooding	Willersey	Ian Jervis	Offenham
Martin Young	L. Compton	Ralph Price	Adlestrop
John Hearn	Unattached	Tom Tibbets	Childswickham
Steve Roderick	B-Itchington	Sue Roderick	B-Itchington
Timothy Hughes	Bosley (Cheshire)	Denise Hughes	Ditto

- 11 The Proposal by the Committee that the Guild introduces a donation scheme to provide funds for the Bell Restoration Fund  
 The full wording of the proposal was shown on page 18 of the July 2016 Newsletter, of which every member receives a copy and therefore the proposal was taken as read. Being proposed by the Committee, no seconder was required

Allen Turner proposed an amendment to the proposal, it being that a donation of £5 minimum be given. The proposal in its original form and the amendment were accepted nem con by those present.

- 12 Any other Business:  
 There was none.

- 13 Results of the Striking Competitions:

The Brazier Trophy competition: only one beginners' team competed, Pebworth, so this tower was awarded the Trophy.

The Newing Shield competition was judged by John Carroll. The (overall) results were as follows:-

1 <sup>st</sup> Mickleton	29 faults	awarded the Newing Shield
2 <sup>nd</sup> Moreton.	32 faults	awarded the Spencer Jones Cup
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pebworth	70 faults	
4 <sup>th</sup> Scratch	22 faults	but ineligible for any award.

The Merit Award was awarded to Pebworth for the significant progress this tower continues to make; and fielding two teams this time.

The awards will be presented at the Annual Dinner in February 2017

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

Chris Povey  
 Hon. Secretary.

These Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2017 AGM.

# THE GUILD'S DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

These are hot off the press from Michael Dane and will soon be sent to the Accounts Examiners for confirmation

<b>Four Shires Guild of Bellringers - DRAFT Accounts 2016</b>							
2015	Income	2016		2015	Expenditure	2016	
<b>General Fund</b>							
£525.34	Opening Balance	£695.01	1				
£1,143.00	Subscriptions	£974.00	2	£237.35	Printing & Postage	£393.51	4
	G&B Donation			£310.57	Insurance	£317.56	
	Garments	£169.25		£24.00	Garments	£245.93	
£200.00	Annual Dinner		3	£22.50	Annual Dinner	£167.50	3
£35.30	Donations towards Tea			£60.00	CCCBR	£60.00	
				£51.00	Room Hire		
				£11.98	Website Domain		
£44.00	Badges	£13.00		£0.00	Engraving Shields	£38.00	
£761.37	Bell Fund Donations	£444.75		£1,261.37	Transferred to Bell Fund	£444.75	
					Funeral Flowers	£30.00	
	Trans from Bell Fund (grants)	£1,225.00			Grants Paid	£1,225.00	
<b>£2,183.67</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£2,826.00</b>		<b>£1,984.07</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£2,922.25</b>	
				£695.01	Closing Bank balance	£598.76	
				£10.00	Cash in hand		
				<b>£705.01</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£598.76</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds - Bell Fund</b>							
			5				
£1,981.37	Opening balance	£2,544.20	1				
£100.00	Mid Week Tours	£100.00		£200.00	Pebworth		
£475.17	Donations	£112.00		£500.00	Stanway		
£1.46	Interest	£1.50			Sherbourne	£150.00	
£105.00	Newsletter Advertising	£80.00			Adlestrop	£500.00	
£81.20	Raffles, outing, teas etc	£122.00			Great Hampton	£75.00	
	Clothing Profit	£30.75			Bourton-on-the-Water	£500.00	
£500.00	From General Fund						
<b>£1,262.83</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£446.25</b>		<b>£700.00</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£1,225.00</b>	
				£2,544.20	Closing balance	£1,765.45	
<b>Creditors at year end</b>				<b>Debtors at year end</b>			
£161.00	Subs paid in advance	£40.00			Dinner deposit	£100.00	
£536.00	Badges & Shields	£523.00					
Other assets of the Guild include: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer Jones							
<b>Notes</b>							
1	Opening balances			4	Printing		
	The Guild operates 2 bank accounts, one for the General Fund and the other (which incurs interest) for the Bell Fund.				This covers the cost of all the Guild printing & posting, including the Newsletters.		
2	Subscriptions			5	Bell Fund		
	The total membership for 2016 was 219. This includes 11 Life members & 39 who paid in 2015.				The Committee decided that all the nett profit from Teas, Raffles, Clothing sales etc would go into the Bell Fund. The outstanding grants are Pillerton Hersey (£500), Blockley (£500) and Moreton-in-Marsh (£175); to be paid in 2017.		
3	Dinner figure; This includes a deposit of £100 for the 2017 dinner.						

## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER.

The Committee met on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at Wellesbourne's Church Centre.

- 1) Apologies for absence: John Carroll, Richard Lewis-Skeath, John Nicholls, Jackie Hands, Matthew Kemble
- 2) **Welcome to New Member:** Peter welcomed

Christina Ireland to the Committee.

- 3) **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the May meeting were agreed.

### 4) **Matters Arising:-**

Guild badged clothing: clothing samples purchased and will be made available at

Saturday practices for members to inspect;

Note re bequests in wills to BRF: Chris reported that such had appeared in the October Newsletter;

Peal book updates: now done.

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

Guild Master: Peter reported that the Dinner has been arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Charlecote Pheasant. The Speaker to be Keith Murphy;

Hon Secretary: there was one proposal for a new member, which was agreed nem con:

John Collett (Burford): p. Richard, s. John N Chris reported the personnel changes from the AGM (as reported in full in this Newsletter). He had reported the cost of renewing the Guild's insurance with EIG prior to the meeting, so members were fully aware beforehand. Renewal was proposed and was agreed nem con. Chris to send the cheque.

Treasurer: Michael D circulated his report: beforehand: nothing contentious. BRF has £466 of uncommitted funds post this meeting;

Ringling Master: Richard reported via Chris 'practices well-supported and some good ringing'. The Committee expressed best wishes to him and Steff with the problems Stef is undergoing with her pregnancy;

Safeguarding Officer: Chris Mew forwarded a report about the new CoE safeguarding proposals (his expanded report for wider CC/national use is reproduced in this Newsletter, p.13);

Membership Sec: Peter Kenealy has relinquished this post. The Committee to

decide whether to continue with this post, as the Treasurer and Secretary seem to have the function in hand;

Newsletter Editor: the January issue is underway. A revised membership slip that includes donations to the BRF will be included with this issue;

CCCCBR: Chris said he has been sent a copy of the full CoE's Safeguarding document. If anybody wants to see it, he will email it;

6) Bell Restoration Fund: the application from Bourton-on-the-Water was considered and £500 (prop: Michael D; sec: Peter Q) was agreed nem con to be offered. The application from Great Hampton was considered and after discussion is was agreed (prop. Stuart, sec Michael D) that £75 be offered.

Pillerton Hersey update: it is possible an order may be placed soon with Taylors;

Blockley: faculty application made. Work is still scheduled to start April 2017. A letter of thanks for the grant offer had been received.

New applications: none received.

Donation Scheme for BRF: agreed by the AGM and to start 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. An amendment to the AGM proposal by Allen Turner agreed that the donation should be '£5 minimum'.

6) Items for discussion:-  
2016 Events Programme:-

Minimus Striking Comp: was at Ettington. The Committee team came second (beaten at long last!);

Guild Walk, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept: not well supported. The Committee to consider whether a Walk should take place in 2017 or not;

AGM/Striking Comps: was at Longborough and was judged to be a successful event. There was excellent support from Denzil Spear and other locals;

Xmas Party, Badsey, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: to be as last year, which went well.

Annual Dinner, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017: to be at the Charlecote Pheasant. The menu appeared in the October Newsletter.

7) AOB:

Both Michael D and Stuart are finding printing costs are higher than the 6p/double-sided sheet. It was agreed to raise this to 8p/double-sided sheet if this is required

8) Next Meeting: Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Feb at Church House, Evesham, 6.30pm start.

Future Committee meeting dates: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.

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

## FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

### 100 YEARS AGO

There was no meeting held within the first quarter of 1917. The next after that of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1916 (reproduced in the last Newsletter) was on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1917 (to be reported in the April 2017 issue)

### 40 YEARS AGO

*Committee Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1977 at Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey.*

*Members attending: Messrs H O Hart (Chairman), A J Brazier, P S Carter, M F Fairfax, G F Osborn and R Payne.*

*Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous Committee Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1976 were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.*

*Matters Arising: President – the Secretary reported that The Lord Dulverton had declined the Committee's invitation for nomination due to present commitments. It was agreed to actively pursue other suggestions for this office, and discuss again at the next Committee meeting with a view to making a formal nomination at the 1977 Annual General Meeting.*

*Ringling Competition, Membership of the Guild – The Secretary reported that membership of two specific ringers had been taken up with the Tower representative concerned, and that the matter should be quickly resolved.*  
*Arrangements for the Annual Dinner: These were reported to, discussed and agreed by the Committee.*

*Alterations to Competition Rules: These were discussed at length, and Mr M.F.Fairfax agreed to prepare revised rules and forward to Committee members prior to the next Committee meeting.*

*Accounts for 1976: A summary of unaudited accounts and Balance Sheet was verbally given to the Meeting, full accounts to be submitted for audit*

*prior to the next Committee meeting.*  
*(Signed) Henry O Hart.*

*Committee Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1977 at Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey.*

*Members attending: Messrs. H.O.Hart (Chairman), A.J.Brazier, P.S.Carter, C.E.Evans, M.F.Fairfax, G.Osborn, and R.Payne..*

*Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1977 were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.*

*Annual Dinner: The Secretary reported a lower than expected attendance at this event, and generally it was considered that too much emphasis had been placed on the limit to available seats. It was agreed that the entertainment provided through the Guild Master's efforts was excellent, and the Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks. It was suggested that a change of menu be made for the 1978 Dinner. A surplus of £2-40 on the Dinner account was recorded.*

*Alterations to Ringling Competition Rules: Mr M.F.Fairfax reported on the proposed amendments. Following discussion, a final format was approved for the April competition.*

*Accounts for 1976: Copies of the audited accounts presented to the members. The accounts were approved and recommended for acceptance by the next Annual General Meeting*

*Silver Jubilee Ringing Arrangements: Mr R Payne agreed to oversee arrangements for ringing on 6<sup>th</sup> June.*

*Ringling Festival: It was agreed to promote a Ringling Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> September on similar lines to that held in 1976.*

*Social Activities: Following the successful skittles match at Blockley on 18<sup>th</sup> February, it was agreed that Mr A.H.Wright be asked to arrange a return match at Mickleton, to be followed by challenges issued to the Southern Branch and Chipping Norton Branch.*

*(Signed) Henry O.Hart*

## RECENT CHANGES TO THE GUILD OFFICERS.

The Annual General Meeting saw changes in the Guild Officer line-up. The people associated with these changes are shown here, together with thanks to those who are leaving and a welcome to those who are entering the Guild's 'hall of fame'.

Those to whom we say 'goodbye' and 'thank you for the time and effort you have given the Guild' are:-

**Phyllis Brazier**, who has been a Vice-President for the last 20 years;



**Peter Kenealy**, who has been a member of the Committee for many, many years, and who looked after Membership subscriptions until the BACS method of payment became popular and it became more a function of the Treasurer.



**Andrew Gunn**, Hon Secretary for some years and latterly one of the Central Council reps, whose 3-year term of office for this ends at the end of May.



Lastly, **Trevor Hobday** decided to retire from his long-held post as one of the Accounts Examiners.



Those members filling these places, and to whom we say 'thank you for volunteering to do these jobs' are:-

**Freda Cleaver**, who was elected a Vice-President to replace Phyllis. There can be few, if any, who don't know Freda, as she is an enthusiastic supporter of the Guild. Her election as VP was very popular. Freda has previously served on the Committee and is a past Master of the Guild.



**Christina Ireland** replaces Peter on the Committee. Christina took up ringing again after a very long gap and is well-known to many members, as she attends a number of Saturday evening practices.



**Matthew Kemble** was elected the Central Council representative to replace Andrew Gunn when his term of office expires in May.



**Jane Gilbert** agreed to her name going forward to replace Trevor and was voted in to complete the Accounts Examiner team.



# SUBSCRIPTIONS, SUBSCRIPTIONS – DONATIONS, DONATIONS....

You will find a different Subscriptions Payment Form on the back of this Newsletter to that you've seen before. This is because the new BRF (Bell Restoration Fund) Annual Donation Scheme has started. The proposal to start the scheme was advertised in the July Newsletter, so that it could be presented for agreement, or otherwise, at the 2016 AGM at Longborough. The Annual Donation Scheme did get the agreement of the AGM, together with a very important amendment from Allen Turner; and for it to start on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. So here it is, ready for your donations.

Why is it needed? You will have seen in the Committee Meetings reports that the Guild gives donations to deserving bell-related causes within its area. The Fund is administered by the Committee. A quick look at the Draft Accounts on p.5 show the Guild gave £700 in 2015 and £1225 in 2016 to various projects. These are goodly amounts – as I've said before, PCCs love hard cash. We get a lot of brownie points by doing this. It shows we, members of The Four Shires Guild, are prepared to pay our way in using their very expensive equipment. As mentioned previously, the amount of bell work going on at the moment is running faster than many bell repair funds are collecting money from their members. Many associations are raising their fees to match outgoings, so we are no exception. Yes, the Guild could give less in grants, but that would be a shame.

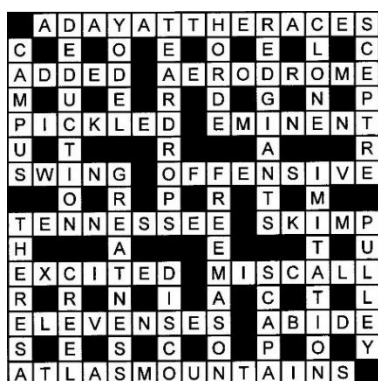
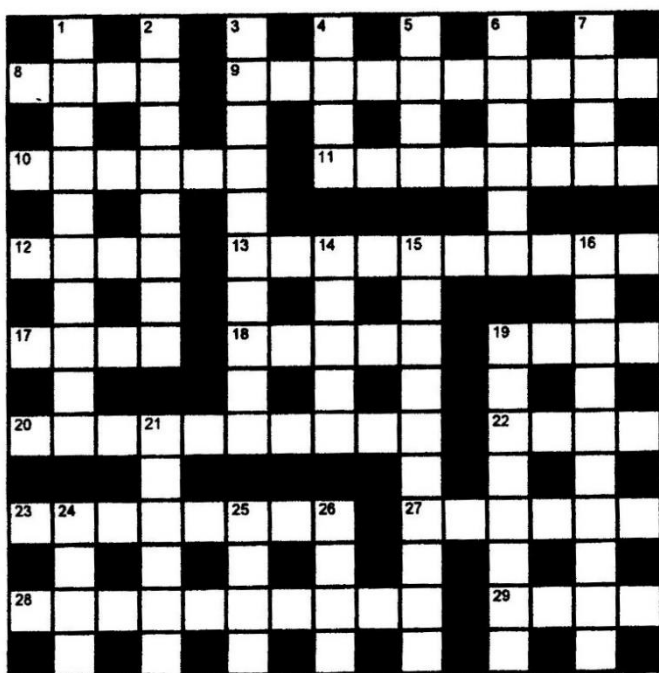
OK, you're content with giving a donation annually, so what do you need to do? Please use the Form to renew your sub, because there is a place to let the Hon Treasurer that (a) you are giving a donation and how much, and (b) it is you that is giving it. The list of donors will be confidential – only those who need to know will know. Remember, too, that £5 is the minimum amount to be given. You can give more if you'd like to – and please do if you feel inclined. The Guild gives a maximum grant of £500 to any project, which is the equivalent of half the membership (roughly 100) giving £5. The Bell Restoration Fund has roughly £470 of uncommitted funds in it at the moment, which means we couldn't award the maximum amount if a deserving case came it. Please donate, so that we, ie the Guild, can continue. It is the Guild that gets the kudos, not the Committee.

Lastly, there are various ways to pay: see the back page for information.

**Chris Povey, Hon Secretary.**

PS: Honorary Life Members please note: the annual donation scheme applies to you, too....!

## EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to October' X-word

### Across

- 8 This is responsible for passing on characteristic from parents to offspring. (4)
- 9 This will tell you if you have the wind up! (10)
- 10 Back of the viewing system. (6)
- 11 You will find it difficult to get your teeth into this. (8)
- 12 Ditch this answer! (2-2)
- 13 Our nearest relative. (10)
- 17 Sounds like strength but really very weak. (4)
- 18 Dig loose ground holding primitive dwelling. (5)
- 19 It has a sharp point but no cutting-edge. (4)
- 20 Ten ate into a doomed lady. (10)
- 22 The Big Man came from here. (4)
- 23 Using integers to keep on the right track. (8)
- 27 He told us about the god after the gold. (6)
- 28 Patricides could be bad for the father but good for the children. (10)
- 29 Dine out with this lady. (4)

### Down

- 1 Feared by professional footballers. (10)
- 2 Think hard about this. (8)
- 3 Novel hostelry serving rum. (7,3)
- 4 A venerable man. (4)
- 5 Stride to work in the French fashion. (4)
- 6 Force the scientist to name it. (6)
- 7 I hope you find this funny. (4)
- 14 Take a wobbly line to the junction and you will be up a creek! (5)
- 15 It may not turn out as one hoped. (5,5)
- 16 Adjust cot, recline and get an influence on modern life. (10)
- 19 Now we can vote! (8)
- 21 The odd goal. (3,3)
- 24 Not us! (4)
- 25 The Greek letter I. (4)
- 26 This word is grating to most people. (4)



## GUILD LADIES ORGANISE A 12-BELL LADIES-ONLY QUARTER PEAL.

Claire Penny sidled up to me after a 12 bell practice night at Evesham and quietly asked me if I'd like to be in an all-ladies 12-bell quarter peal at Evesham. I cannot deny that I grew in height there and then, delighted that she thought me up to joining what must be a very capable team: a privilege indeed! 'Yes please!' I said. 'How many others have you got in the team so far?' 'One', she replied: 'Me'.

Therein started about ten weeks of planning, including four Sunday evening 'rehearsals'. An early recruit to the team, a wise member offering great advice, was Margaret Smith of Gloucester Cathedral. Her contributions, ringing capabilities and no-nonsense style were invaluable. Margaret told it as it is if someone wasn't striking well or if an opinion needed airing, all in good humour. As Claire said, it is a privilege to be told off by Margaret: she is wonderfully specific and amazingly informative. In those ten weeks Claire and I probably swapped in the region of 200 emails whilst delicately tip-toeing around the questions of who, what and when. Margaret deftly side-stepped the online chat by not having an email address – again a wise move.

Team talk included distance required to travel by those on our 'potentials' list, their availability and, of course, capability. We were aiming for a team that had some experience and could happily build up to this QP together, but was not necessarily a ready-made band. Capable ringers were essential but there was also the desire for a sense of achievement for some of us (principally the organiser and her helper!), over and above what we normally ring. Our list included, over the first few weeks, 35 or more names, bizarrely including 8 men: more of them later. Even more bizarre is how news travels. Martin Penny, whilst ringing in London one evening, was questioned about the forthcoming QP, when the idea had probably only been hatched about four weeks prior.

We met with a range of ringers to practise for Sunday evensong over a period of four weeks. It was decided almost instantly at our first practice by Margaret and her more capable advisors that, having practised Grandsire vs Plain Bob Cinques, we should ring Plain Bob. Our original conductor, Sarah Franklin, called two lovely long touches and then we all realised that she wouldn't be available for the likely QP date options: a great shame. In our last practice, Margaret called it and said it would be a 'long touch'. 1,320 changes later, she called 'That's all!' So that was the 12 bell QP done and dusted in principle, but we had four of those eight men in the team.

The men were our stand-ins when practising because the ladies couldn't all get together from the start and it wasn't necessary to get some of the better ringers, who also happened to live furthest away, to our practices. We were

lucky to be joined by a trio from Herefordshire: Fran Cinderey as conductor, Rachel Coates as willing tenor and Maddie Johnson, who probably won't mind me declaring her age as 13 years old. Maddie clocked up two QPs of Cinques on two consecutive Sundays at Evesham, neither of which were her first – that box had been ticked in September.

Evesham, Worcestershire,  
The Bell Tower, Sunday, 16 Oct 2016 (36cwt)

### 1320 Plain Bob Cinques

1 Jackie Roberts	7 Madeleine Johnson
2 Jeanette Davey	8 Rachel D Page
3 Yvonne Grainger	9 Carole Wood
4 Claire Redstone	10 Margaret Smith
5 Nicola Piper	11 Francesca Cinderey (C)
6 Claire Penny	12 Rachel Coates

First on 12 as Conductor  
Birthday compliment to the conductor



The ladies: names clockwise from front-right (treble) in the position in which they rang.

Having successfully completed our first QP, we're going on to ring together again, the first being a half-muffled QP attempt at Stratford with ten of the ringers on Remembrance Sunday, to recognise the sacrifice made by women in the First World War.

Many thanks to Chris Povey, who was hugely supportive throughout, and to the other seven men who came along to fill in gaps – they knew that we were going to just use them as required and drop them for the all-important QP. We were very grateful to them for being there as required.

#### Jeanette Davey

*(Martin Penny and I sat in the churchyard listening to this Q. We had intended to hear just the start and then ease ourselves away to the Red Lion in the Market Place for the remaining time. However, the ringing was so enjoyable that we just sat and sat – in the sunshine - until all of a sudden rounds came up. It was a lovely pace for the bells – I wish more bands would ring them at this speed. Big round of applause! Ed)*

### NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

**DOES ANY RECIPIENT OF A PRINTED NEWSLETTER WISH TO HAVE THEIR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? IF SO, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND I WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES. (EMAIL COPIES ARE MUCH CHEAPER TO PRODUCE THAN PRINTED COPIES, SO GOOD FOR GUILD FINANCES, TOO.).**  
**CHRIS POVEY, EDITOR**

## GERALD C HEMMING – A LEGEND REMEMBERED

October 30th was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gerald's passing and fittingly peals marked the occasion – the regular ringers of the Vale of Evesham Society arranged simultaneous attempts at Great Hampton and Fladbury but sadly two or more bells crossed over unnoticed for too long resulting in a loss at Hampton.

Despite his eccentricity and vocular points of view Gerald, a former FSG member, was a popular and useful ringer besides being an avid peal ringer. Fortunately, I had already booked Hampton bells (Gerald's home tower besides Evesham) for an attempt on the eve of the anniversary and the band included FSG members Steve Bowley (elected a College Youth only 2 weeks before) and myself who were both taught to ring at Hampton and had rung with Gerald over some 40 years (I'd rung exactly 100 peals with him). The remainder had similar ringing credentials with Gerald - notably Paul Jopp having rung a handbell peal of Bob Minor with him whilst perched in an apple tree!

As is usual there were ringers who were not available to ring but wished to be associated with the peal including Chris Povey, Neil Garner, Andrew Hartley, David Jenkins, Michael Uphill and Ian Lloyd.

A good peal resulted with the chosen method being one of Gerald's favourites (he'd rung 83 peals of it) and well as adding a 'U' to my alphabet list.

### Ancient Society of College Youths

Great Hampton, Worcs

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in 2 hrs 45 mins

5184 Ullesthorpe Surprise Major

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Simon E Adams       | 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath,  |
| 2 Roger H Hunt        | 6 Andrew D Evans,        |
| 3 Michael Chester (C) | 7 Christopher J Pickford |
| 4 Steve Bowley        | 8 Paul Jopp              |

Rung in affectionate memory of Gerald C Hemming on the eve of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing by some of his many ringing chums over his last 50 years.

Roger Hunt



Above: Gerald in pensive mood during the Southern Branch (W&DCRA) June 2005 Quarterly Meeting held in Hinton-on-the-Green churchyard [no doubt learning his next peal method!]. (Photo: Roger Hunt)

For those who never knew him, or never knew him well, Gerald was a genuine character: truly a legend. He appeared to be known up and down the country. Ringing peals with him was a very interesting experience, particularly if there was a bust-up. Gerald's conducting was 'old-style'. Instructions were given at 50 words per second with arms flailing, recommendations (in 'direct-speak' and sometimes in the vernacular) to wake up and get stuck into it, then calm and happiness when everything was corrected. I remember we once nearly lost a peal when everybody was convulsed with laughter. It was always exciting ringing with GCH! Somebody in a letter to the Ringing World once bemoaned the fact that old-style conductors seemed to have disappeared. I replied saying if they wanted to experience the thrill of such a style, then it was still alive and kicking in the Vale of Evesham. You hadn't rung a peal until you'd rung a peal with Gerald! He conducted a few peals for the Guild. Happy days.

Chris Povey

## TALES FROM A TOWER NEAR YOU (9) WARWICKSHIRE RECOLLECTIONS

The Welford-on-Avon ringers tour reported in Newsletter 150 yet again provides a platform for some of my recollections of the towers mentioned therein.

**Studley** provided a challenge to the bellhangers when augmented to 8, as the frame had to be rejigged and bells re-positioned to achieve a good rope circle. Bells and materials were fed into the bell chamber via an outside scaffold lift on the north side of the tower and I recall the inordinate time taken to recover a fibre lifting sling which Arthur Berry had thrown from the belfry window to me on the ground below, which unfortunately became snagged on a tree branch halfway down. On another occasion there we listened early afternoon to the FSG mid-week tour ringing nearby (as the crow flies) at Coughton. *(A lesser known fact is that one or two of Studley's bells had to be converted from Hastings stays to stay & slider during this work. I wanted to convert the stay & slider system on Evesham's flat 6<sup>th</sup> bell to Hastings setup, to match all the others. Why the bell had been supplied with stay & slider by Taylors in 1976 I do not know. Arthur Berry let me have the redundant Hastings' gear off one of those bells and it is now working happily on the flat 6<sup>th</sup>. I believe the gear came from one of Studley's back 5 – can you confirm Roger? -, in which case, as those bells were cast in Evesham by Matthew Bagley in 1688, it*

*genuinely transferred from one Evesham bell to another – although the latter was not., of course, cast in Evesham! CMP)*

**Alcester** bells (cast by Taylors in 1948) are, unsurprisingly, almost identical to the 1948 Taylor octave at Great Hampton where I was taught to ring and so I was elated to be included in the first full peal on the bells in 1971. Alarm bells rang when we assembled for the peal as the local tower captain announced that we couldn't proceed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> stay had been broken mid-week (but after a few minutes of appropriate discussion and understanding we sallied forth). We scored an enjoyable peal of Plain Bob Major with yours truly ringing the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The bellfounding prowess of Gillett & Johnson is evident at **Salford Priors**. When refurbishing the single bell at Wyre Piddle some 10 years ago a gentleman mowing the churchyard enquired as to what we were doing and if the bell (A Rudhall 1794) was to be recast! It transpired that he had been to G&J at Croydon in 1945 to see Salford Priors bells recast and thought that it was a standard procedure for refurbishment of any church bells.

**'Roger de Flaedenburg'**

## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

### THE OCTOBER TOUR (the 324<sup>th</sup>): THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup>: NORTHANTS AGAIN.

October 20th started off a little misty as over thirty people made their way to Daventry in Northamptonshire. The ringing on the fine ten started with some good rounds and call changes. After two attempts at Little Bob Royal had come to grief the rest of the ringing did justice to the bells with Grandsire, more rounds and call changes and finishing with half a course of Yorkshire Royal.

There is a dumb bell made by a local ringer in the corner and at the moment the Harry Wooding memorial trophy takes pride of place. This trophy is awarded to the winner of the PDGs inter branch eight bell striking competition which the Daventry branch won by one percent in September.

The trophy is a beautiful model of a bell hung in a wooden frame given in memory of a ringer from Yardley Hastings.

We then drove through the Northamptonshire countryside with trees just turning to the village of Wilton. The church stands on the edge of the village with fine views from the churchyard at the back with footpaths branching through the fields. This is always a cold church and today was no different. Ringing consisted of the usual Grandsire, Stedman, Cambridge and half a course of Superlative. The bells are not the easiest to ring with the ringer of the third having to work out where their feet should go as the bottom of a ladder stands in the way. A lovely mosaic of the last supper is on the wall at the east end of the church.

The Spencer family village of Great Brington came next with an excellent lunch at the pub before ringing at the church. There is so much of interest in the church that ringing came second for a while. The great great grandfather of George Washington is buried in the churchyard and the Spencer family chapel takes up quite a lot of room in one corner with lots of monuments. The floor of the chancel has a beautiful pattern made in marble. Ringing on the fairly heavy six did take place with Plain, Surprise and Stedman being rung.

The final tower of the day was at the church in the village of Harpole. Several people had left after lunch to ring a quarter peal and more left now for various reasons so only a few people had to manage the vertical ladder up to the ringing room. The ringing was good with a course of Alnwick being the highlight. The village has some fine needle women as could be seen by two lovely wall hangings.

As John had gone home Ian thanked Jenny for an excellent outing.

**Brenda Dixon**

### THE NOVEMBER TOUR (the 325<sup>th</sup>): THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup>. NORTH GLOS

November found us at Great Rissington on a squally November day with the scorched colours of autumn still in evidence. This is a ground floor ring, where the ropes drop into the church, every ring a public performance. It was hard to get going in a somewhat cold church. As is often the case in ground floor rings, the ringer disperse within the church and some gentle persuasion is required to round them up.

We welcomed Alison & Michael, some new faces from Witney branch, (numbers were slightly lower at 17 today), as well as some American visitors from Virginia who heard the bells and were delighted to see the ringing. They had a ringing ancestor, Joe Bagnall from Barrow in Furness, and were generous enough to make a donation to the Four Shires Guild.



We rang some Single Oxford here, my favourite method, but sadly not shared by many of the other ringers, but a decent touch nonetheless. We found this lovely illustrated kneeler, pictured, and the stitching even matches the sally colours.

On to Northleach, up the steep anti clockwise stairs, of this magnificent wool church, and traditional ring of 8. They require some effort to ring, and there was some very creditable Stedman, and Yorkshire here. There is a bakery in the square which sells legendary custard slices, useful if you have been ringing the 18 cwt tenor.

Lunch in Bourton on the Water, at The Old Manse, was greeted with the most horrendous hailstorm, the perfect weather for ducks in the Venice of the Cotswolds.

Suitably refreshed, next up Stow on the Wold, a 28 cwt 8 in another wool church. These stately, majestic bells are not the easiest to ring, but are worth the effort. There was some excellent Stedman, (conducted by one of our ladies, who made the valid point that the lady conductors are often overlooked, please note) and creditable Cambridge with the best lower I have ever heard on these bells. One can only wonder what the peal of 1850 on a 30 cwt 6 on

plain bearings must have been like, we don't know how lucky we are \*. We certainly worked off the puddings from lunch, and a member of the public was heard to comment how lovely the bells sounded.

Finally, on to Naunton, a delightful 6. A grab for Clive the organiser, one of the advantages of organising a tour, getting to ring in new towers. Here we had the best ringing of the day some well struck plain bob, and Cambridge, finishing with a request for Primrose.

Thanks to Clive for a varied and interesting tour, with excellent lunch.

**Chris Seers**

(\* The 'peal' of 1850 wasn't a peal in the accepted sense. It is likely to have been an extent of Bob Minor, ie 720 changes, as extents of 5- and 6-bell methods at that time and previously were sometimes referred to as such – particularly in places remote from the major ringing centres. Nonetheless, hauling that big lump around for 30 minutes or so would have been a major undertaking, especially as the present Taylor bellframe wasn't installed until 1883. The first true peal at Stow was on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1900: Grandsire Triples. The first time the tenor was turned-in to a genuine peal was on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1930, when Geoffrey Hemming of Evesham rang it to Bob Major – as shown by the peal board on the Ringing Room wall. Yes, the present bellframe had been installed by then, but the back 6 bells were still on plain bearings and wooden headstocks; plus the tenor was 74lb heavier than it is now. With all this against him it might be thought Geoff was a big man with lots of muscle. Not a bit of it! Geoff was no more than 5'-6" tall and very wiry – but he was an excellent bell handler and could ring very efficiently. However, he told me his ribs ached for a week after the peal! It is interesting to see that the following four peals at Stow, all before the 1954 rehang, were all of Major; and one of these was Double Norwich, with lots of dodging. Perhaps people back then were used to really hard manual work. Ed)

### THE DECEMBER TOUR: THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> (the 326<sup>th</sup>). NORTH OXON

At last month's meet it was suggested that we wore Christmas Jumpers. Oh no, don't have one, what shall I do? Have a Christmas necklace and some Christmas Lapel Pins, this will have to do. Well done to those who turned up in the relevant jumpers and to Jenny who made stars for her jumper.

The first tower of the day was Wigginton, where parking was a little tight on narrow lanes. This ring of 6, 6cwt tenor, was accessed by an internal spiral staircase and then back down a ladder to a cosy ringing room. Ropes here were

a little stiff probably because of the damp weather, but the bells went well.



The Christmas jumpers on display

Off then to Great Tew, an estate village with a 22cwt ring of 8. Great Tew claims to have the oldest ring of 8 in Oxfordshire, excluding Oxford, dating back to 1709. I remember ringing here many years ago and enjoying this ring. I was not disappointed this time around.

I believe 20 of us made our way to The Falkland Arms, named after a former owner of the estate at Great Tew. Although we were tightly packed into the one small room, it was cosy and gave us all a chance to warm up. The pub was all nicely decorated for Christmas, tree lights lit and lights around the beams. A pub with character.

Replenished, it was off to Swerford and here it was warmer to stand outside rather than hang around inside the cold Church. This, a ring of 5 was augmented to 6 in 1998 giving a tenor weight of 6cwt. Once again we found the ropes to be a little stiff and that boxes were required by most people. Close to the Church are the remains of a Motte and Bailey Castle built in the 1100s. Had it been drier it would have been worth a further look.

Narrow lanes took us to our final tower

of the day being the 20 cwt 8 at Hook Norton. Hook Norton is also the home of a popular beer, and I was half expecting to see the drayman pass by on his cart making his way back to the brewery. We arrived early and were greeted by someone who was making a lovely green floral decoration around the arch over the Church door, in readiness for concerts on the Friday and Saturday. Here a course of Yorkshire was rung by a selected band as a tribute to Michael Brown and Doris Randall, both having recently died and being former members of this group.

Ringling during the day comprised Primrose, London, Norwich, Grandsire, Stedman and Plain Bob just to name a few. Our thanks go to Chris Seers for organising this enjoyable day, a pity it was a little cold and damp but nothing can be done about this.

**Sandra Parker**

## GATEWAYS...

Mickleton and Pickering (Yorkshire) both make similar claims – the former 'Gateway to the Cotswolds' and the latter 'Gateway to the North Yorkshire Moors'. It would be unfair to make too many comparisons, though both suffer to some degree the problems of heavy traffic passing through each, though Mickleton has just one main thoroughfare., whereas Pickering is situated on major cross-roads – west to east the A70 from Thirsk to Scarborough and north to south the A169 Whitby to Malton. Both roads are difficult to cross, particularly during the early morning and afternoon rush hours.

BOTH have magnificent churches! Pickering Church stands on a prominent piece of ground within the town centre. It is a wonderful structure approached by either a series of steps or lengthy gradients. The interior is most magnificent – lovely stone pillars, a great number of stained glass windows, and many, many memorials in highly polished brass.

I spent a week on holiday there with my daughter Helen, who, as usual, organised the stay to perfection. It was a great week weatherwise – she somehow has a special knack of organising consistent clear blue skies!

Our first full day was Sunday, and we sat in the walled garden of our rented cottage. Within minutes Helen said, 'Hark, the bells are ringing'. Her hearing is much better than mine! Actually, the bells were not particularly audible despite being close to the church. Helen had already arranged for me to attend their mid-week practice, but the love of ringing brought me to my feet and I ran (well, almost) to the church.

My self-introduction to the Tower Captain brought an, 'Oh good, now we can ring all eight'. Little did I realise at that moment, but this was to be another 'first' for my records. The eight ringers in sequence consisted of seven ladies and myself.

I rejoined the Sunday ringers plus a few more bodies later in the week. Fortunately I could join in with all the methods we ring regularly at Mickleton.

As I was about to leave, prior to the mid-morning Service, I was asked if I would like to know how well I had rung during the last sequence. Fearing the worst I very apprehensively peered at the modern gadgetry he had rigged up, and to my surprise I was the third-best striker in the team. All in all, a very enjoyable visit.

Inscriptions on Pickering's bells:-

Treble (4-2-16): *'Whose traffickers are the honour of the earth. Thy will be done'*

2<sup>nd</sup> (5-0-0): The farmer's bell. *'He loved husbandry. Thy Kingdom come'*

3<sup>rd</sup> (5-2-7): The women's bell. *'Born of the Virgin Mary. Hallowed be thy name'*

4<sup>th</sup> (6-0-12): The Long bell for Albert de Landre Long (Major, Gordon Highlanders). *'He shall give his angels charge over Thee'*

5<sup>th</sup> (7-1-0): *'For the honour of God in memory of Wm. Wood. Come Holy Spirit'*

6<sup>th</sup> (7-3-13): *'Victory of the Lord. St Martin's Day, 1918'*

7<sup>th</sup> (10-0-8) *'The battle is not yet yours but God's. Praise the Lord'*

Tenor (13-2-2 in F): *'First I call you unto God's World. Let us walk in the Light of the Lord'*

All the bells were cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1919.

During the week we travelled many, many miles, often visiting churches in towns or villages. St Gregory's Minster, Kirkdale, proved the most interesting to ringers. It has two very small chiming bells and we were able to discern from the faded notice board on the wall by the side of the ropes: 'The bells are rung at 15 minutes and 2 minutes before a Service is scheduled to start (both at two minutes). Co-ordination between bellringers and the organist is necessary to prevent the discordant noise of bells and organist competing.'

**John Kinchin**

## REPORT BY THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

The preparation of an update regarding Safeguarding had commenced before the events in York but is nevertheless a timely reminder of where ringers stand in relation to requirements of the Church. In the space of just over a year there have been four major documents emanating from Church House, Westminster relating to safeguarding, these were:-

June 2015: Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment - Revised version issued July, 2016

January 2016: Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework

October 2016: Promoting a Safer Church: The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults.

The latter document was issued for consultation and has been circulated to all society secretaries for comment by their respective Safeguarding Officers, the Central Council responding as well. Herewith a reminder that consultation ends on 11<sup>th</sup> November so comments quickly please.

In addition to the above documents there was a joint "General Statement on Safeguarding Children in Towers" issued by CCCBR in collaboration with the Church of England National Safeguarding Team. This statement was issued to Diocesan offices and society secretaries in January 2016 and was subject of an article in the Ringing World.

At the risk of repeating some aspects covered earlier, the following note is a reminder of key processes which are required of ringers who lead towers and teach young people. In each parish where bells are rung and teaching of minors is involved, there is now a mandatory requirement for the "leader" (Tower Captain) to have a "Role Description" which clearly sets out responsibilities, this may be drawn up with the Parish Safeguarding Officer (a sample "Role description will be posted on the CCCBR website). A confidential declaration covering past conduct is required and a DBS check completed. If at any stage, the individual does not complete these requirements their confirmation in post will not proceed. It may be good practice to have number of the band DBS (Data and Barring Service) checked to act as deputies and even where no young people are at present being trained, a DBS cleared leader will meet potential demand. It would be bad if a young person presented themselves and could not be taught until "certified adults" were available.

In applying for a new DBS certificate or for a renewal, it is recommended that all applicants tick the requirement for the DBS Update Service AND for automatic renewal of that facility. The Update Service means that an individual's records are continuously updated to include any possible relevant details including, investigations, cautions or convictions. The whole point is that, for most people, there will be no change from a "clear" certificate and this can, with permission of the individual, be verified on line. This in turn means that if someone is moving from one parish to another a new certificate is not required for the same activity (i.e. working with children), since their history is on-line and up to date. Key points, application for the Update service MUST be made at the time of application or within 19 days of issue to the individual of their certificate. Furthermore, the AUTOMATIC updating can only be requested at time of application otherwise this service must be renewed each year. Complicated, yes, but the good thing is that it is all free for volunteers. Applications for renewal or new DBS certificates has now become much easier with most Dioceses now operating on electronic systems.

Quite apart from the DBS Update Service, the latest Church Guidelines recognise a degree of portability with certificate issued in one parish (for say bell ringing teaching) being recognised for the same activity in other parishes but ONLY within the same Diocese. This will facilitate a lot of the mutual assistance which exists in ringing, also helping at Guild training days. We know that many ringers do assist towers across Diocesan boundaries and the question has been asked as to whether our unique activity may receive a fully portable "peripatetic" use. Certificates are not

portable between activities so one held for work with children would not be valid, for example, for a vulnerable adult role such as "befriending" elderly parishioners.

A very important development is that of alterations to Canon Law 34 under the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure, which came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2016. From this date, all incumbents and PCCs must have "due regard" to Safeguarding Guidelines and Practice which means that there will normally be no derogation from implementing those requirements. PCCs will be required to make a statement within their Annual Report to the effect that they have complied with their duties. Some Dioceses are already carrying out audit of safeguarding processes. Finally, the Measure gives more extensive powers for suspending clergy, churchwardens and PCC members on safeguarding grounds.

There have been concerns raised about the level of safeguarding training which is now expected and which is described in the Learning and Development Framework manual. Regarding Tower Captains this could extend to two modules in the first year and a third every 5<sup>th</sup> year, a total of 5 hours training. In addition, there are a further 5 specialist modules totalling 12 hours which are classed as "desirable". At present there appears to be no statutory requirement but the burden upon trainers and attendees alike could be heavy and delegated training an unresolved issue.

Very pertinent sections of the October 2016 consultation document refer to provisions for protecting "whistle-blowers" whether paid or volunteer workers. Similarly, there is a clear policy on giving pastoral care to those who are, for whatever reason, under investigation or are considered a risk.

The Church in Wales has been developing its own policies which came into effect on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 and which are similar for bell ringers in England. Whereas the first point of contact in England is the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, there are in Wales Provincial Safeguarding Officers for North Wales and South Wales, with supporting officers covering six areas. In Scotland, the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme continues, there being a confusing reference to Disclosure Scotland in Section 8 of the Church of England documents.

There are still questions that remain to be clarified by the Church National Safeguarding team, but the foregoing sets out where we stand today. Queries regarding safeguarding are regularly received and are answered as quickly as possible to the best of our ability.

**Chris Mew** 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 (Report produced primarily for the CCCBR's Tower Stewardship Committee)

*(The York Minster situation, about which all ringers must have heard, was primarily the result of a safeguarding situation, although other issues were involved. The rights and wrongs of the way in which this was identified and handled are immaterial to the safeguarding issue. The CoE had produced the document Chris refers to, and the Dean and Chapter of York Minster must have felt they had no choice but to implement the recommendations within that report. If this is happening to such a high profile band of ringers at this very elevated ecclesiastical level, it is clear the recommendations will start filtering down via each diocese before long. It is fair to say the CoE has been largely 'behind the curve' on child and vulnerable adult abuse in that it had guidelines, but their actual implementation by PCCs in churches was very variable and limp in many cases. Some recent safeguarding cases seem to have prompted a much more positive action, ie the production of the document. It is very clear incumbents and PCCs will soon be under great pressure to comply with the requirements, and it would be well worth ringers becoming aware of these requirements before then. I can supply an emailable copy of the whole document if anybody wishes to see the actual wording of what it contains. Ed)*

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS

### GUILD ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

To be held at The Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, Charlecote, Warks: 7.00 for 7.30pm.

#### MENU

##### **Starters**

Cream of vegetable soup with fresh bread  
Brussels pate with melba toast and red onion chutney

##### **Main Courses**

Chicken Breton in cream Mornay sauce with cheddar cheese, leeks, bacon & mustard,  
and seasonal vegetables and potatoes  
Oven baked cod with a lemon and herb crust served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes  
Mushroom, spinach and red onion tart (V), filled with a cheese sauce topped with crumble,  
and served with a mixed leaf salad

##### **Desserts**

Apple crumble and custard  
Luxury white chocolate honeycomb cheesecake  
Freshly-brewed Tetley tea, or Douwe Egberts coffee with mints

**Cost per person £22.00**

**ORDERS TO THE FOLLOWING BY 14<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2017 AT THE LATEST.**

Peter Quinn: 01789-840827; [peterquinn22@gmail.com](mailto:peterquinn22@gmail.com),  
Michael Dane: 01789-470491; [landm.dane@btinternet.com](mailto:landm.dane@btinternet.com),  
Stuart Cummings: 01608-685576; [stuartcummings@madasafish.com](mailto:stuartcummings@madasafish.com)  
John Nicholls: 01386-841084; [john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com](mailto:john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com)

## GUILD-BADGED CLOTHING

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE:-**

Polo shirts:	£15.00	Full-zip ladies fleece	£25.00
Sweatshirts:	£17.50	Half-zip fleece:	£22.50
Full-zip fleece:	£25.00	Lambswool V-necked sweater:	£35.00

**Orders to:** Matthew Kemble, contact details on page 2. **Payment to:** Michael Dane, contact details on page 2 (cheques to be made payable to 'Four Shires Guild of Bellringers'. Payment via BACS may be possible: check with Michael first). There are no extra carriage charges on the prices above.

All profits from the sale of this clothing will go to the Guild's Belfry Restoration Fund

**Colours:** The range of colours can't be shown in this advert to any reasonable extent, but the range can be accessed via the Guild's website. Please see the advert on <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>.

Some idea of sizing can be gauged from the following:-

Chest size in inches:-

	Small	medium	large	X-large	xx-large
Polo shirts	36-38	40	42	44	46-48
Sweat shirt	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Men's full zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Half zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Dress size:					
Ladies' full zip fleece	10	12	14	16	18

## AROUND THE TOWERS

### PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

#### THREE PEALS THAT INVOLVED A LARGE PROPORTION OF FSG MEMBERS AND/OR LOCAL REASONS FOR RINGING THEM.

##### Vale of Evesham Society

Bretforton, Worcestershire; St Leonard  
Saturday, 30 July 2016 in 2h 49m (8–3–11)

##### 5040 Grandsire Triples

Composed by J J Parker (12 part, 7th obs)

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Simon E Adams   | 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath   |
| 2 Lucy J T Gwynne | 6 Steve Bowley           |
| 3 John W G Gwynne | 7 Michael Chester (C)    |
| 4 Roger H Hunt    | 8 Christopher J Pickford |

Rung to celebrate the wedding anniversaries of:  
Colin & Jean Jelfs - Golden Wedding on July 23rd;  
George & Jeanne Jelfs - 46 years on July 25th;  
Roger & Val Hunt - Ruby Wedding on July 24th.

##### Vale of Evesham Society

Pershore, Worcestershire, St Andrew's Centre  
Saturday, 3 December 2016 in 2h 41m (9–0–18)

##### 5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jane Gilbert       | 5 Robert Tregillus    |
| 2 Roger H Hunt       | 6 Roderic K Bickerton |
| 3 Nicholas K Allsopp | 7 Ian N Robinson      |
| 4 Raymon A Sheasby   | 8 Michael Chester (C) |

Rung with the best wishes of the band to Stef Whittle and Richard Lewis-Skeath on the birth of a son, Jack. We hope that Jack is soon well enough to leave hospital.

##### Vale of Evesham Society

Evesham, Worcestershire; The Bell Tower  
Saturday, 31 December 2016 in 3h 19m (25–3–27)

##### 5040 Plain Bob Triples

Composed by C Ravenscroft

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 John W G Gwynne  | 5 Steve Bowley        |
| 2 Raymon A Sheasby | 6 Nicholas K Allsopp  |
| 3 Roger H Hunt     | 7 Michael Chester (C) |
| 4 Robert Tregillus | 8 Christopher M Povey |

Rung half-muffled in the Aeolian mode to mark the passing of 2016.

First peal on this 8.

*(The Vale of Evesham Society was formed some years ago by Gerald Hemming as a protest against the substantial raising of the W&DCRA's peal fee, which he regarded as a tax on peal ringers, because it was far above the cost of printing the peals in the Association's Annual Report, the original reason for the fee. The increased fee lasted for a few years, until it was realised that GCH's peals represented a very large proportion of the W&D's peal total and the total without them looked pitiful. The fee was then reduced to its original amount. Largely as a tribute to GCH the Society continues purely as a tidy - and free - 'flag of convenience' under which to assign peals, as it enables ringers of varying association memberships to ring peals together with a nice title instead of labelling, orphan-like, those peals Non Association. I said GCH was a character - p.10. Ed)*



The band at Ilmington who rang the quarter peal celebrating Chris and Ruth Righton's Diamond Wedding, with Chris and Ruth. The Q was reported in the October Newsletter

**Whitnash, Warks**, 10 Oct, 1344 Lincolnshire Surprise Major: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 Robert Reeves, 3 Alan Hartley, 4 Karen French, 5 Peter Quinn, 6 Simon Oram, 7 John Nicholls, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath. 1st in method - 6.

**Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks**, 23 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Royal: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 2 Michael Haynes, 3 Jeanette Davey, 4 Bob Jones, 5 Keith Abbott, 6 Rosemary Hemmings, 7 Matthew Kemble, 8 John Nicholls, 9 Roger Hunt, 10 Rod Bickerton. 65th birthday compliments to Peter Bridges, ringer at this tower and to celebrate the birth of his first grandchild, Charlotte Mary Williams.

**Willersey, Glos**, 23 Oct, 120 Called Changes (Devon principle): 1 Jenny Chadburn, 2 Helen Chadburn, 3 James Allen, 4 Sarah Chadburn, 5 Robert Chadburn (C), 6 Mark Newbury. A 60th wedding anniversary compliment to Dorothea and Peter Standley, parents of 2 and grandparents of 1 and 4.

**Cherington, Warks**, 27 Oct, 126 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Chris Roberts, 3 Annie Hall, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Mark Sayers (C), 6 Imogen Murphy (aged 12). 1st quarter - 6. (CONGRATULATIONS ON RINGING YOUR FIRST QUARTER, IMOGEN!)

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 7 Nov, 1280 Plain Bob Major: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 John Kinchin, 3 Peter Quinn, 4 Robert Reeves, 5 Karen French, 6 Simon Oram, 7 John Nicholls, 8 Mark Sayers. 80th birthday compliment to John Kinchin and his first of Bob Major. (CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 80TH, JOHN!)

**Warwick, Warks**, 5 Dec, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 John Kinchin, 2 Mark Sayers, 3 Peter Quinn, 4 James Ingham, 5 Karen French, 6 Chris Mew (C), 7 David Leafe, 8 Bob Reeves. Rung in memory of Doris Randall, ringer at this church for over 50 years

**Sherbourne, Warks**, 9 Nov, 1260 Doubles (2m): 1 John Wheeler, 2 Len Morley, 3 Stewart Heritage, 4 Michael Haynes, 5 Michael Dane (C), 6 Simon Oram. 1st Q away from tenor 1

**Fulbrook, Oxon**, 11 Nov, 1260 Julie McDonnell Bob Doubles: 1 Nigel Harrison, 2 Keith Murphy, 3 Chris Seers, 4 Daniel Glyde, 5 Nick Allsopp (C), 6 Isobel Murphy. Half muffled for Armistice Day

**Ilmington, Warks**, 11 November, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 David Clark, 2 John Kinchin, 3 Fran Chapman, 4 Bill Nash, 5 John Nicholls, Jackie Hands, 7 Michael Dane (C), 8 Michael Fairfax. Rung half muffled for Armistice Day

**Offenham, Worcs**, 11 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Claire Allen, 2 Matthew Kemble, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Freda Cleaver, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Bob Topp. Rung half muffled as the sun went down on Armistice Day

**Offenham, Worcs**, 28 Oct, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Roland Merrick, 2 Claire Allen, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Bob Topp. Rung to mark the 155th anniversary of the re-consecration of the church after the rebuild by Frederick Preedy.



**Evesham, Worcs** 1 Dec, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Chris Povey (C), 2 Freda Cleaver, 3 Matthew Kemble, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny, 6 Ian Povey. Rung to celebrate the birth on 19th October 2016 of Sebastian Shamus Povey, first grandchild of Helen and Chris. Rung by four ringers who rang for the wedding of Dominic and Kathryn, Sebastian's parents, in 2014, his uncle and his grandfather. The treble of this ring carries Sebastian's surname.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 9 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Minor, 1 Claire Allen, 2 Roland Merrick, 3 Matthew Kemble, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Claire Penny, 6 Martin Penny (C). Rung for the Christmas Tree Festival. 1st of Minor – 1.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 10 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Alison Foster, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. 1st quarter - 1 & 6. 200th Q – 5. Rung for the lighting of the Pebworth Christmas Tree

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 16 Dec, 1620 Grandsire Caters: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Margaret Smith, 4 Rachel Page, 5 Jane Gilbert, 6 Martin Penny (C), 7 Chris Povey, 8 Roger Hunt, 9 Nick Allsopp, 10 Claire Penny. Rung to mark the retirement of Elizabeth Spencer after 36 years as a head teacher in the area. 1st Caters: 2

**Adlestrop, Glos**, 18 Dec, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Claire Penny, 2 George Osborn, 3 Mark Newbury, 4 Robert Chadburn, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Rob Kilbey. Rung prior to the Parish Carol Service. The first quarter peal on the remodelled and augmented ring, and the first in the tower since at least 1974.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 20 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Chris Gooding, 2 Claire Allen, 3 Bob Topp, 4 Christina Ireland, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Claire Penny. Rung by the practice night band to wish Margaret Clayton a speedy recovery

**Evesham, Worcs**, 21 Dec, 1260 Mixed Doubles: (Stedman, St Martin's, St Simon's, Plain Bob, April Day, Grandsire): 1 Chris Povey, 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Margaret Smith, 5 Martin Penny (C).

**Willersey, Glos**, 22 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Jenny Chadburn, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Martin Penny, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Sarah Chadburn, 6 Robert Chadburn 6 (C). 1st Q of Minor, 1

**Bretforton, Worcs**, 25 Dec, 10 mins of Call Changes (pt 1): 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Fiona Gibson, 4 Nana Hirayama, 5 Alan Curry, 6 Nigel Smith, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs. Rung by local band members. 'Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning'. **Also** 10 mins of Call Changes (pt 2): 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Nana Hirayama, 4 Bill Boyce, 5 Tony Shillam, 6 Alan Curry, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs. Rung by local band members prior to the Christmas Eucharist Service

*(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

Many will know that Richard and Stef have had some heart-rending experiences recently, which culminated in their baby, Jack, being born very prematurely in a Plymouth hospital that has highly specialist facilities. I understand that Jack is now putting on some weight and that his situation is improving. I'm sure we all send them our heartfelt best wishes for the forward progress to continue as speedily as possible. I also understand that Stef and Jack are now in hospital in Birmingham, so they are nearer home. Let us hope the medics give the OK so they may all return to their new home in Badsey.

**Robert Hall** has had a pacemaker fitted. He was feeling very unwell and was taken into the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, where his heart beat was monitored. At one point a 9 second delay was recorded, at which point he was rushed to Worcester Royal Hospital, where by happy chance the expert on fitting pacemakers was operating that day (apparently he had done 250 at that time in 2016!). It is a pleasure to record that Robert is feeling '500% better' (his words to his wife, Sue, when she visited him later). Robert was off ringing for a time, but hoped to ring for Christmas Day - and happily did; and the Sunday after, too.

**It's been reported to me that Steve Carter** died

just before Christmas. Steve, from Childswickham originally, served on the Guild Committee in the early years (see 'From Archives'), became at one time the Guild Mast and very likely at another time the Ring Master, too. He was active in ringing Broadway and for a year or so joined Evesham Sunday band. He was very good to me when I broke my leg, coming round from Childswickham to take me to ring at Evesham and return me afterwards. He ceased to be a Guild member some time ago. He later moved into Evesham and latterly (I understand) Pershore, where I believe his death occurred.

**Blockley:** the Diocese has asked for further details regarding the faculty application, so there will be a delay in deciding it. Hopefully this will not delay the work, with Taylors due to start in mid-April, or a delay the Dedication Service, earmarked for 1st July in the presence of the Bishop of Gloucester. There is good news, however, as all the money to pay for the rehanging has now been collected or promised. All they want is a green light to go. Father Brown will be able to hear a different sound from 'his' church when the film-makers come again

**Long Compton:** Trevor Hobday reports the following about the devastating lightning strike

there. The Church Architect's concerns about conductors sound rather odd!:-

*The church and tower have been fully checked out by the architect and structural engineer. The outside of the tower was surveyed by a drone. The architect suspects that the force of the bolt lifted and dropped the top of the tower. The tower will be scaffolded in the new year to allow for rebuilding of the rampart, which will require dismantling and measuring old stone and carving new stone. There is some doubt about whether a lightning conductor will be fitted, as the architect has a concern that by attracting a strike it may do more harm than good. The tower lead roof, nave and chancel power circuits, and alarm circuits have been or are currently being repaired, but not yet the tower electrics. So there will be no ringing at Long Compton for some months yet.*

**There is further new life to report:** Matthew and Georgina Kemble had a daughter, Chloe Rose Kemble, on 31st December. She arrived at 8.20am and weighed 6lb 4oz. Also, Helen and I became grandparents for the first time, and Ian a first-time uncle, with the birth of Sebastian Shamus Povey on October 19th. He weighed in at 7lb 12oz. Quarter peals were rung in both cases.



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### FOUR SHIRES GUILD

### BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Guild has a Bell Restoration Fund, from which the Committee is 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 emailable.)

Chris Povey (Hon Sec)

### BEQUESTS TO THE GUILD'S BELL RESTORATION FUND

Have you made, or you about to make, your will? The Guild would be grateful if you would consider making a bequest from your estate to its Bell Restoration Fund. The Fund is now a significant part of the bell restoration scene, and we need money into it so that it can be distributed to the good causes that have arisen and will continue to arise. Speak to the undersigned if you need advice.

Chris Povey, Hon Sec

### THE EDGEHILL RINGING CENTRE, KINETON

#### MODULE 2F COURSE AT KINETON, 11TH FEBRUARY 2017

Tutored by Paul Lewis, this Module 2 Foundations course is the newest day course in the ART Training scheme. It is already proving to be full of helpful tips for teachers who are working with ringers progressing from rounds to plain hunt. It is not necessary to have attended an ART Training course before.

By spending a whole day focussing on teaching core skills such as dodging, place making, ringing by place, kaleidoscope, ropesight, listening skills and call changes, the M2F course is useful for anyone involved in an ongoing recruitment drive, especially those who are working with recently formed bands who do not yet ring methods.

By teaching foundation skills thoroughly in small, manageable stages, ringers will gain the confidence and skills to help them more easily progress onto method ringing if they wish to. The M2F day course will not cover method ringing, but coaching theory, running an effective practice, setting goals and motivation will all be covered in the theory sessions, leaving plenty of time in the tower to try out practical ringing exercises and activities.

Delegates for the course must be able to ring a minimum of plain hunt on 5 bells and raise / lower a bell in peal. It is suitable for new teachers and experienced teachers alike who wish to extend their skills and gain new ideas to use in the tower.

The course which is to be held at the Edgehill Ringing Centre in Kineton will start just after 10am and finish at 17.30pm, with a lunchbreak and tea breaks.

Course fees are £20 payable to ART. A sandwich lunch can be provided at £7.50 per head – this cost also includes teas, coffees and biscuits throughout the day.

**ANYBODY INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SHOULD CONTACT:-**  
**GRAHAM NABB ON 07974-743766 or [graham@nabb.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:graham@nabb.orangehome.co.uk)**

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JAN 7 <sup>TH</sup>	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks,	8, 15-0-14 in F# (GF)
JAN 14 <sup>TH</sup>	CHERINGTON, <b>WARWICKSHIRE</b>	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF) ( <b>DON'T GO TO THE GLOS ONE!! *</b> )
JAN 21 <sup>ST</sup>	WILLERSEY, Glos,	6, 12 cwt in G ( <b>Be careful with the tricky steps</b> )
JAN 28 <sup>TH</sup>	PEBworth, Worcs,	10, 11-3-09 in F#
FEB 4 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>* GUILD ANNUAL DINNER * AT CHARLECOTE PHEASANT HOTEL (7-00PM. FOR 7-30PM.)</b>	
FEB 11 <sup>TH</sup>	MORETON-IN-MARSH, Glos,	8, 10-0-14 in G
FEB 18 <sup>TH</sup>	MIDDLE LITTLETON, Worcs,	6, 12-2-27 in G (GF)
FEB 25 <sup>TH</sup>	TODENHAM, Glos,	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
MAR 4 <sup>TH</sup>	WINCHCOMBE, Glos,	8, 11-2-11 in F#
MAR 11 <sup>TH</sup>	BARFORD, Warks,	6, 4-3-22 in B
MAR 18 <sup>TH</sup>	CROPTHORNE, Worcs,	6, 10 cwt in F#
MAR 25 <sup>TH</sup>	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos,	8, 27-2-24 in D
APR 1 <sup>ST</sup>	DUMBLETON, Glos,	6, 11 cwt in G
APR 8 <sup>TH</sup>	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs,	8, 10-1-8 in G
APR 15 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>* NOTE * NO SATURDAY PRACTICE THIS WEEK * EASTER SATURDAY *</b>	
APR 22 <sup>ND</sup>	T.B.A.	

For any alterations to this programme, check the FSG web-site (<http://www.fourshires.org.uk>). & also **BELLBOARD website** [bb.ringingworld.co.uk](http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk) (diary section)

**Meetings are from 7.30pm until 9.00pm unless otherwise stated.** All are welcome. You do not have to be a FSG member and we are especially pleased if members of the local band wish to come along and ring.

The Guild carries Public Liability insurance through the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for all its activities. Non-members attending these activities are also covered by this insurance, providing they abide fully by the Guild's Health & Safety and Child Protection policies. (Both policies now appear on the FSG web-site, so their contents are available to all, whether members or non-members.)

## TAG-END:

### **!! SUBSCRIPTIONS !!**

Yes, folks, reminder time again: FSG subs were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). If you haven't paid yet, please do so soon – it benefits the Guild. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.) Also, please give a donation to the Guild's Bell Restoration at the same time - £5 minimum. It's a very good cause!!

Payment in cash can be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer or any Committee member. If paying cash it will assist the person to whom you are giving the money if you use the payment slip attached to this Newsletter. With the best will in the world it is sometimes difficult to remember who gave you money.....!!

**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. I suggest those who pay subs and donations for a group of ringers follow it up with an email to the Treasurer listing those names. Ed*)

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

## **Events for 2017 – book the dates now:-**

<b>Guild Annual Dinner</b>	<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb: The Charlecote Pheasant Hotel (at a cheaper rate than 2016!)</b>
<b>Annual Ringing Tour</b>	<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July: where and which towers to be announced</b>
<b>Inter-Shire Comp</b>	<b>Saturday in mid-Sept (alternates with the Minimus Comp).</b>
<b>Walking &amp; Ringing tour</b>	<b>Possibly: Saturday in late Sept (<b>organiser required</b>)</b>
<b>AGM &amp; Striking Comps</b>	<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> October: venue to be announced</b>