

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

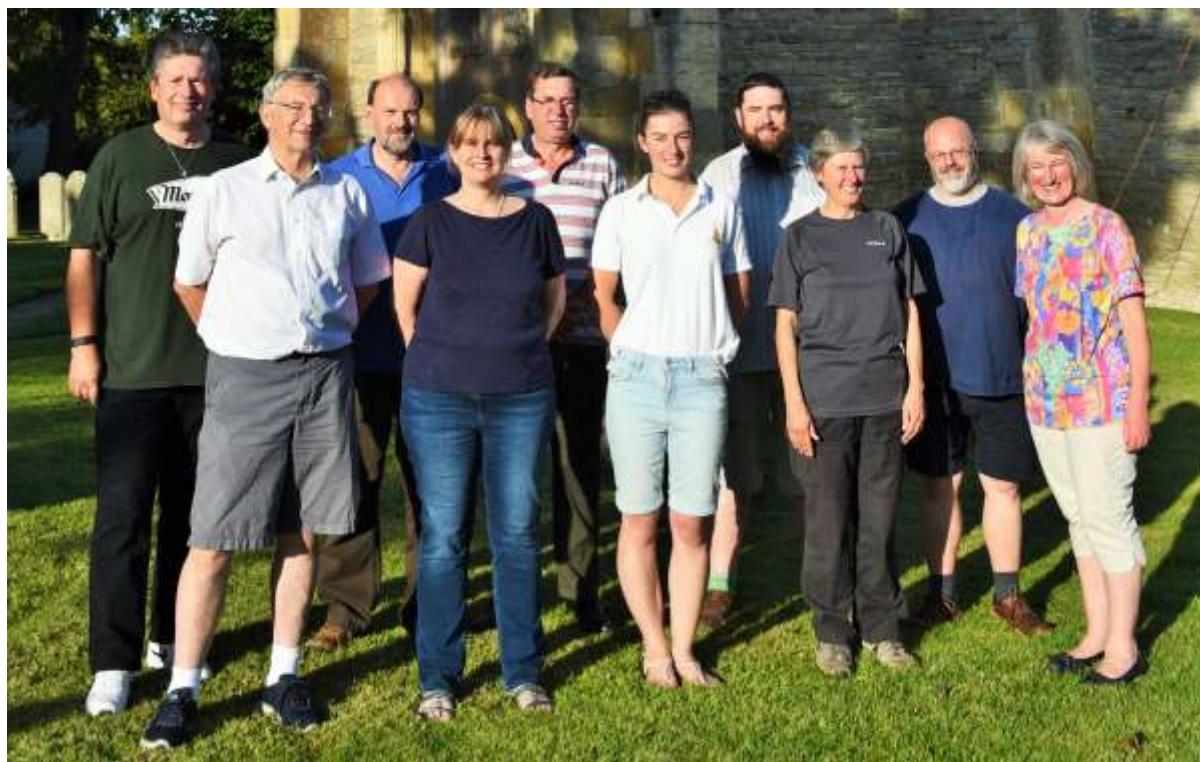
## NEWSLETTER No 154 - OCT 2017



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### PEBWORTH AT PEBWORTH!



(Photo: Roger Hunt)

A quarter peal of a new method was rung at Pebworth on Sunday 27th August and named Pebworth Bob Caters. There was much jubilation, and the unseasonal – some said 'illegal' - Bank Holiday sunshine afterwards added to the occasion and to the photo. Martin Penny's article on p.7 tells the story of the new method and the events leading up to the successful quarter that allowed the new method to be named. The band is in order of ringing, from Jeanette on the treble (front right), then clockwise.

#### 1296 Pebworth Bob Caters

Composed by Mark Davies

(11-3-9 in F#; 45mins)

- |                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Jeanette Davey  | 6 Martin Penny             |
| 2 Jane Gilbert    | 7 Roger Hunt               |
| 3 Georgie Roberts | 8 Nick Allsopp             |
| 4 Rachel D Page   | 9 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) |
| 5 Chris Povey     | 10 Steve Bowley            |

First quarter peal in the method

Pebworth Bob Caters

9.1.9.3.129.3.129.3.9lh129

# 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

peterquinn22@gmail.com

### **Ringling Master**

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

handbell.ringer@btinternet.com

### **Hon Secretary**

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.com

### **Hon Treasurer**

Mr Michael Dane

landm.dane@btinternet.com

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Christina Ireland

christinaireland46@gmail.com

Mr John Carroll

Mr Michael Haynes

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Matthew Kemble

mjkphoto1@gmail.com

## CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.com

Mr Matthew Kemble

mjkphoto1@gmail.com

## **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

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com

## **Membership Secretary**

## **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

## **Newsletter Editor**

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.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 (January 2018) is December 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. **NOTE: MY EMAIL IS NOW [chrismpovey@gmail.com](mailto:chrismpovey@gmail.com)**

**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.

**AS NOTED ABOVE, MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS CHANGING TO [chrismpovey@gmail.com](mailto:chrismpovey@gmail.com). PLEASE ALTER YOUR RECORDS NOW, AS SOON I SHALL NOT RECEIVE VIA MY OLD ONE – AND YOU WILL BE ANNOYED THAT I DIDN'T REPLY TO YOU, OR DIDN'T INCLUDE YOUR ARTICLE!!**

## EDITORIAL

It might be said this is something of a **Pebworth issue**, with the ringing for the Britain in Bloom competition (p.5) and the ringing and naming of the new method now called Pebworth Bob Caters (p.7). But this is a measure of what is now going on there. This tower had a meteoric rise from a derelict 5 to a 6 after the 1987 rehang; then an augmentation to 8 in 1995 and to 10 in 2002. There were some detractors who considered 10 was too many for a small country church, but much has happened here, particularly recently under Martin Penny's 3 years of tower captaincy. Immediately prior to Martin, there had been two years of total inactivity, and before that some lack of maintenance, such that work was necessary to bring them back up to scratch. Oh yes: no ringers either. The essential maintenance work has now been done (Georgie Roberts and Alison Foster have, I understand, been a great asset in getting into places that others cannot reach in that tightly packed belfry), and 'refining work' is underway. The bells have become a

delight to ring once more. Additionally, there have been learners from within the village and beyond, as the front 6 lend themselves perfectly to teaching people to ring. An active tower indeed.

**Lastly:** my email address is changing to [chrismpovey@gmail.com](mailto:chrismpovey@gmail.com). There is a note to this effect on page 2. The old one will be valid for a very short time, so I suggest you alter any email records for me now.

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

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September Angela and I joined the coach party from Blockley who were going to John Taylor's foundry for the casting of the two new treble bells and the recasting of the tenor. George Dawson gave a talk in the Bell Museum and showed us round and explained many things about bells, from their casting to their hanging. The last time I was at Loughborough was some 20 years ago and I came away with two bells of about 2cwt each that had been taken from a redundant Tyneside church. One of these is now in Manuka, Canberra, Australia. One Monday morning a visiting ringer came to Eastnor to join our advanced ringing practice. On enquiry she said that she rang at Manuka, and I was able to say that the bell she often rang was for over two years in my front porch at the Rectory at Brimsfield awaiting a new home. I have placed secondhand bells in about 26 towers in England, Wales, the Republic of Ireland and Australia, and three single bells in the United States of America.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

## THE GUILD MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to report that yet again your Guild in the year 2016 to 2017 has been very active and your committee which was elected at the last Annual General Meeting has been working very hard on your behalf. The Treasurer, Michael Dane, will make his report at this AGM. However, the accounts are published in the newsletter.

The weekly practices have again been very well attended, being run either by the Ringing Master or a deputy. Stuart Cummings has done a sterling job in arranging all the towers. The Ringing Master has also been able to arrange quarter peals on some Saturdays before the main practice and has invited ringers to ring in their first.

Thanks go to Richard Lewis Skeath for organising the Annual Ringing Tour to Herefordshire. There was good weather and everyone who joined the tour said it was an excellent day. The striking competition held at Longborough was a great success, with a lot of new members entering.

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 4th February 2017 at The Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, attended by 52 members and guests. Our Speaker this year was Keith Murphy who gave

us a poem based on Albert the Lion. The prize giving followed the speech, with the trophies presented by our President.

The website under Roland Merrick is still projecting an active Guild to the web world and the Guild Magazine is now read online. It also displays the Guild clothing on the website. This can be ordered in far smaller quantities as we are now using a local firm company, even one garment, so please place your orders with Matthew Kemble.

The Guild's Facebook group is very active which is administered by Richard Lewis Skeath. Just let him know if you are interested in joining.

Chris Povey is still editor of "The Four Shires Newsletter" and our thanks must go to him for producing each year an excellent product. As I have said many times before, the Newsletter has taken on a new dimension in editorial content. The printing is still done "in house" by a few loyal members producing a good quality product.

The Newsletter always contains an abridged copy of the current minutes of the Guild Committee meetings so all members are notified of any important business, and they can inform

the secretary of any items they want discussed at committee meetings or need clarification.

Our Bell Restoration Fund, which was set up, in 2010 has made a number of grants during the year and these have been reported in the Newsletter. The Committee are empowered to offer grants towards any suitable projects concerning rings of bells within the Guild's area of operation. If you have a project where a grant from the Guild will help please do not hesitate to enquire and obtain the necessary application forms. To continue giving grants to worthy applications we must increase our funding, otherwise our grants will be too small to make a useful contribution to a project. Ways of doing this are being considered by the committee, they are also looking at the ways other guilds are operating funding their schemes.

Finally thanks should go all members of the committee for their commitment and hard work, and for the time they have given to attending the committee meetings. Also to Isobel Murphy for the work she does in co-ordinating the FSG monthly tours.

**Peter Quinn – Guild Master**

# OBITUARY: JOHN BOLTON OF BADSEY

## JOHN ROBERT BOLTON



(Photo: Roger Hunt)

John was born to Dinah & Harold on St Swithin's Day 15<sup>th</sup> July 1940 at his beloved grandparents' house on Tolladine Road, Worcester. He was the eldest of three boys. Born into a farming family, John spent some of the time with his parents at Keeper's Cottage at Warndon Court, the rest with his grandparents to be nearer the Open Air School in Worcester due to being very chesty.

Moving to Birch Farm, Birtsmorton, aged around 13, he remained with his grandparents to finish school, with weekend visits to his home where he became a member of Castlemorton Church, this being more convenient than Birtsmorton at the time due to cattle feeding. He gradually became an Alter Boy and learnt to ring the bells. He made many friends along the way, Hilary being one of them.

After leaving school John did many things on the farm, including helping a neighbour with a milk round, but his main interests were with the tractors and machinery. He started an apprenticeship with J.C. Baker, Worcester, with Ford parts & accessories. He enjoyed life with Hilary and friends, and bell ringing, theatre, films and dancing. The only mode of transport at that time was our bicycles!

John married Hilary on a very cold winter's day in January 1962 at Castlemorton Church, with the vicar's black cat among the guests. The picture of the Rover 10 in his funeral's Order of Service took them to the local hall, where there was a most welcoming fire. From the start, John was Hilary's best friend and vice-versa. In the days when there was very little, they made the most of what they had.

In time they moved from a large flat in North Malvern to a tiny house of their own at West

Malvern with a fantastic view. During this time John's progression with Ford took him to work in Hereford. He gained the honourable status of one of ten people to be a member of 'The Top Hat Club.' with Ford Agriculture, and awarded with the first of many celebratory trips overseas.

Trevor arrived on a hot sunny day in June. Being the time of year John, was miles away assessing someone's tractor after a fire!

About two years later they moved out to Canon Pyon, joining a church with bells but with many parts missing. After a rummage around, John found most of the parts to get them ringing again for regular Service.

In July 1967 they were blessed with Carie's arrival, although John was busy with Harvest. Accepting his first Management position at Cirencester, they moved to Minety in Wiltshire to a property with no facilities, but again another property grew under their care from scratch. Together they made things happen: cried, laughed and helped one another to seemingly achieve the impossible, or so it seemed at the time. Arranging school for Trevor over a pile of sooty bricks, even! Uncle David's comment on finding them sat on the floor extracting nails with tears running down their cheeks: 'You two could create a home from a cardboard box!'

The next move was to Evesham, settling at Badsey in 1981. More house updating this time with the help of Trevor & Carie and a few moans. John worked for Coulters until they shut shop.

V.F.S. was formed from a group of willing people including John. Unfortunately, 12 to 14 years later animal diseases were doing the rounds where the farms became a no-go area. This affected business, which led to closure. John secured a position with Cutts of Campden until retirement, when he took a break to visit his younger brother in New Zealand, accompanying Carie on her great adventure to emigrate to Australia. Many lovely people were met there, who are friends to this day. Arriving back home John went back to work. Retired again. Another trip to N.Z. Then back to work. with one more trip to N.Z. being the last, before retiring again earlier this year.

Over the years John got great pleasure from his involvement with the church, finding time to help with the upkeep of St James, especially the churchyard and helping with looking after the bells and becoming Captain, etc. John felt more comfortable being Steeplekeeper than learning complicated methods, which only created frustration for him. Keeping the bells in good working order was more important. When the time came for refurbishment a faculty was granted for him to drop the clappers, which he took to Whites of Appleton. With admiration for good engineering, he duly replaced them.

Periodically, as a rope became weak, John got great pleasure from forming a splice to strengthen it. Each one of the ropes in use today sport at least one of John's splices. He was a very patient man when it came to teaching bell handling, never leaving the learners side until he was happy with their safety.

Sunday afternoons were down time to enjoy a ride out and a cup of tea. Towards the end he would fill a flask and we would go down by the river to sit quite comfortably with our own thoughts and watch the ducks and swans.

He was not always happy in his own skin expecting too much of himself. Social gatherings were not his scene. His great regret, due to his failing health, was not being able to get the old Rover 10 on the road, which Uncle David had left in his care. He was keen not to upset people, but very firm in his beliefs. He was a background man, not eager to put himself forward.

As a family man he was very patient, instructive, helpful, kind and very loving.

Thank you John for giving me nearly 56 years of loving companionship.

God Bless, wherever you are, with all my love, Hilary

Hilary wishes to thank all those who assisted at the funeral, in particular Christina, whom Hilary understands organised everything ringing-wise, Gordon, who tolled John from church for his final journey, Roger Hunt for assisting with the ringing, and Steve Bowley who played the organ so beautifully. STOP PRESS: the fund in memory of John being donated to the FSG Bell Fund is £460.31, for which our grateful thanks.

**Badsey, Worcs,** 6 September, 279 Grandsire Triples: 1 Tom Sandham, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Claire Penny, 4 John Carroll, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 John Nicholls, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Gordon Hills. Rung to the memory of John Bolton, ringer and steeplekeeper at this tower, immediately before his funeral service.

*(Hilary's eulogy is very lovely. Only she could write something so accurate. Badsey bells will continue to be a substantial memorial to John for a long, long time. But there is something else that I hope will remain with us for some time: John's splices in the bellropes there. I think my short splices are 'quite tidy', but they pale into insignificance compared to John's truly artistic ones. They are hardly noticeable! He told me he greatly enjoyed rope splicing. To achieve that standard, one has to work well beyond 'enjoy'!. Thank you for leaving us something of your meticulous standards that we can actually see, John, rather than being left merely to feel through the ropes that loving care you applied in the belfry. Ed)*

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

The Committee met on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Aug at Church House, Evesham.

1) Apologies for absence: none.

2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the May meeting were agreed and signed.

3) **Matters Arising:-**

Converting the Guild to a charity: agreed to obtain more information and to meet in Wellesbourne next time, to allow Simon Rogers to attend and advise

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

Guild Master: agreed to go to The Charlecote Pheasant again. Peter to book and firm up the menu.

Hon Secretary: Chris had received one proposal and seconding for a new member:-

Clare Davies (Hinton-on-the-Green)

Prop by Roger Hunt, sec by Chris P.

Treasurer: Michael D distributed his report re finances prior to the meeting. The Bell Fund now has £1718 of unallocated money due to the new donation scheme.

Ringing Master: Reported on the successful Ringing Tour to Herefordshire. Saturday practices continue to be well-attended.

Safeguarding Officer: An updating statement is due to appear in The Ringing World soon.

Fixture Sec: next quarter's towers being compiled now

Newsletter Editor: wanted the October issue out on time, due to the AGM being on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Paid adverts by Fusion Cleaning will appear.

CCCCR: the new-style CC is being developed quickly. Volunteers to assist and be part of the new 'work groups' are invited to apply..

6) **Bell Restoration Fund:** no new applications  
Updates:

Pillerton Hersey: new metal 5-bell frame to be supplied and to augment to 5 bells.

Blockley: bells out and at Taylors, Loughborough.

Moreton-in-Marsh: outstanding work here is the move the clock hammer.

Donation Scheme for BRF: working well.

**Items for discussion:-**

2017 programme:

Guild Walk, date now fixed; September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Unfortunately one tower is to be deleted; and unfortunately the Newsletter cannot advertise this in time.

AGM and Striking Competitions, October 21<sup>st</sup>; all arranged for Temple Guiting.

Inter-Shire Competition, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov: Chris has contacted Todenham Church and Village Hall. Village Hall booking to be confirmed.

Xmas Party, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec now at Badsey.

7) **AOB:**

An email from a member had been received requesting that (a) Little Comberton be included in the Guild's 'area of operation'; (b) that the Guild regards itself as a territorial organisation; and (c) it takes action against the Rules implying that members living outside the area of operation are 'lesser' members compared with members living within the area. The Committee considered these requests carefully and agreed that Little Comberton be included, but the other two requests were rejected unanimously. In the latter case, the Rules were amended recently to delete the 'ex-territorial member' category. A policy on admitting towers outside the area was agreed: that any tower could apply to the Guild to be included, but would have to supply very good reasons why this should occur. Such a decision to include would require ratification at the relevant AGM.

8) **Next Meeting: Tues 21<sup>st</sup> November** at Wellesbourne, 7.00pm start.

Future Committee meeting dates: 2018, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> Aug, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov..

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

## PEBWORTH IN BLOOM

It was early on a Wednesday morning in August that the villagers of Pebworth met in the village hall to welcome the judges for the 2017 'Britain in Bloom' competition. More than 3,000 cities, towns, villages and urban communities take part each year to show off their achievements in environmental responsibility, community participation and, of course, horticultural achievement. The campaign runs all-year round and participating groups report a wide range of benefits such as cleaner, greener and safer surroundings, a growing sense of community pride, and increased commercial enterprise and tourism. Pebworth was selected as one of the RHS Britain in Bloom Finalists 2017, and was one of only 5 in the 'village' category, facing competition from villages in Jersey, Guernsey, Northern Ireland and Filby in Anglia.

The judges were greeted by an excellent presentation from Yvonne Rose from the PiB Committee, and in it she referred to the integral part played by the ringers of St Peter's in village life. The revitalised band now boasts 5 'home-grown' beginners – all from the village or the surrounding area; and a number of them had been invited to be at the opening presentation.

The ringers then had to forgo the fabulous tea and scones laid on in the hall (shame I hear you cry) and make tracks up to the church so that they could ring while the judges went around the village. We assembled 8 ringers to give them a special 650 of mixed doubles in an arrangement that we called 'Pebworth in Bloom'. As the judges had not appeared by the end of the 650 we supplemented it with some open ringing, aided by Freda and Fiona with support from Pat and Elizabeth.

The judges eventually came into the Church where we discovered that they had been outside listening to the ringing! They were very complimentary, taking pictures of the band for the record of their visit. We

discovered later that the judges fed back to the PiB Committee that 'having bells rung in their honour was a first for them' and how much they had enjoyed it. One of them had been very emotional towards the end of the judging visit, really feeling the sense of community in the village, and the bells were the final 'cherry on the cake' bringing together all the parts of village life.

So now we wait until the results of this year's competition are announced at the Britain in Bloom awards ceremony in Llandudno, North Wales on 27 October. Each of the 78 finalists will be awarded a Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver or Bronze medal, depending on the standard reached. There is also an award for being the best in each category, for example, the village, town or city category. This is the first time that Pebworth had reached the finals so who knows, first time lucky??

But as we wait for the results PiB wanted to thank all the ringers who took part on the day and who ring regularly at the Church at Friday practice or for services. Having the support of the village is a great thing for the ringers, and for local ringing, and although we can't award ourselves a medal, I am pretty certain that this is an unusual, if not unique, reason for ringing the bells of St Peter's Pebworth.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 2 Aug, 650 Mixed Doubles (St Simons, St Martins, Plain Bob, April Day, Grandsire, Original): 1 Claire Allen, 2 Jackie Roberts, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Roger Hunt, 5 Martin Penny(C), 6 Alison Foster, 7 Graham Lee, 8 Bob Topp. Rung during the visit of the judges for 'Britain in Bloom'. An arrangement of mixed doubles with 7,6,8 covering to celebrate 'Pebworth in Bloom'.

Martin Penny  
Tower Captain



This was taken using the Pan facility of a mobile phone. Martin said 'I love it because it is so weird – might make a good picture for the newsletter??' Yes, some of the ringers appear to have amputated arms, because their arms work quicker than the camera is panning!

## WHAT COULD ART\* MODULE 2 DO FOR YOU AND YOUR BAND? (\* Association of Ringing Teachers )

**This article has been supplied by the Edge Hill Teaching centre (previously the Harry Windsor Teaching Centre) at Kineton. It's the most local Teaching centre to our area.**

People will take part in an activity when they are enjoying themselves, feel a valued part of the group, and feel they are achieving something they want to succeed at. How do we make our ringers feel such things? Do we know how to build such a rapport with our ringers? How much time do we spend trying to work these things out?

Module 2F and Module 2C of the ART Training Scheme each give an insight into how to keep our ringers enthused and how to give them the confidence to aspire to new achievements. This, coupled with a structured method of progressing ringers via the "Learning the Ropes" scheme, can keep them enjoying success and wanting to progress.

Each Module provides a learning and development journey, with the initial Day Courses providing materials you as a teacher can use during the subsequent Skills Development Period. This allows a teacher to build on the Day Course materials and techniques, using the additional online learning support available through ART's SmART Ringer website and practical teaching experience. The objective is to ensure ringers are enjoying their ringing as they progress from rounds to early method ringing, whilst at the same time ensuring that they are gaining and consolidating the all-important foundation ringing skills of bell control, listening, rhythm and understanding which will provide the maximum opportunity for future progression.

Module 2F – Teaching Foundation Skills explores in depth a range of ringing activities useful for providing variety and interest for those teaching in towers where method ringing is not the norm. The initial Day Course also gives delegates an opportunity to experience a host of interesting and entertaining techniques to develop basic ringing skills and to receive helpful tips and handy hints from their colleagues.

Module 2C - Teaching Elementary Change Ringing also explores the all-important teaching topics concerning building skills for ringing progress. It goes on to provide the course delegates with loads of ideas of how to progress ringers to early method ringing. The skills to teach counting places, ropesight, learning first methods and other essential skills are approached in a simple step by step way.

Both Module 2F and Module 2C provide the teacher with the means of trying to understand the learning process from the ringer's view point, tuning in to really tick that particular individual's box. Both Modules also assist the teacher to understand the causes of people losing interest in the activity and how to avoid falling into these

traps. These are skills which can then be put into action following the initial Day Course as you develop your teaching in order to achieve ART Accreditation at completion of each Module.

All ART Training Scheme Modules are based on university research which gives us an awareness of how to develop our judgement and perceptivity to refine our teaching to provide the maximum satisfaction to our ringers, which, in turn will lead to more enthusiasm, greater effort, improved performance and improved progression. All this will lead on to greater retention of ringers.

In short, the aim of ART Training Scheme Module 2F and Module 2C is to provide the teacher with a deeper understanding of the ringer's perspective alongside a set of tools to assist them to retain their ringers enabling them to provide strong bands in as many towers as possible. Not to mention that the whole process – especially the initial Day Courses encourages everyone to have a bit of fun and a few laughs!

Sign up for one now. There is nothing to lose and much to gain!  
**Pip Penney** (who is a prominent and active member of ART)

**To see what resources are available from ART re this, see page 18**

## ADLESTROP BELLS WERE HEARD IN BLOCKLEY!

Yes, it's true: Adlestrop bells have been heard in Blockley. How can this be, with more than a few miles between, and hills?

I had an email from the Rev Dana Delap, Vicar of Blockley, asking whether I could help. There was to be a wedding there while the bells were out, and the bride just had to have bells. What could be done for them? Recorded bells had been mentioned, but there was little that was (a) good enough to blast out at near real-bells volume; and (b) long enough to last half-an-hour. The family was happy to have a new recording made and having it played at the wedding. I made some proposals for this and the family agreed to it all happening. I chose Adlestrop, because those bells have very similar notes to those of the 'front 6' of the Blockley's future ring of 10 – and I suspect the front 6 there will be used very frequently for lots of ringing in future. My thanks to Ralph Price and St Mary Mag's PCC for allowing a recording to occur.

An evening for the recording was arranged. It was a glorious, balmy, quiet evening. Ralph Price said the day before, RAF Hercules aircraft had been droning around almost constantly, disgorging paratroopers over Little Rissington. Only one light aircraft flew over just once during our recording session, and that was hardly heard on the finished result. I'd arranged a good band. Two rarities appeared: my son Ian and my brother David. (Older ringers will remember David, who featured in the winning FSG Striking Comp bands in the 70s and 80s. He amply demonstrated he could still do the ringing bizz at a recent family wedding, much to everyone's surprise, including his.) Oh, and the recordist's name? My brother Robin, who's into all this fancy recording trickery. Yeah, a bit of a family job....

The others in the band were Roy LeMarechal and Chris Bennett from Taylors, who were staying in the area painting Evesham's bellframe, and Jackie Roberts. It was something of a family party really, as other members of 'the tribe' were there, too; and some of Adlestrop's residents turned out to listen and watch. We stuck to Grandsire and PB Doubles to ensure good striking. When that was all over we went to The Fox at Broadwell and had a very memorable time there.

The recording was, of course, only half the job. Robin and I decided a dry run was necessary a few days before the wedding. The bride's father didn't want the speakers to be seen, so that meant either the belfry or the church roof. We managed to obtain a very decent sound effect by having two speakers in the (now empty) belfry and two on the church roof just out of sight. The result? Had I not known beforehand it was a recording, I would have taken a little while to realise it wasn't the real thing.

The wedding day arrived and the recording was turned on. It all went well. Apparently one or two locals said it was obvious some of the bells hadn't been removed....! The real mark of approval came from the bride's father, who told me later his daughter was absolutely delighted to have bells at her wedding. Would I do it again? Possibly. It was a lot of work and a lot of arranging. Yes, the result was OK this time, but largely because the access up the tower was good enough (but only just) to enable speakers and whatever to be humped up there safely (such access is unavailable in many towers) – and the PCC officers were wonderfully helpful. Without their help it would have been far more difficult – probably impossible

**Chris Povey**

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## THIRD TIME LUCKY! (THE NAMING OF 'PEBWORTH BOB CATERS')

It has been a long time since the bells of St Peters were augmented to produce a fine light ring of 10 bells in the small village of Pebworth.

There is a method named 'Pebworth Surprise Major' but there was no 10-bell method for the revived band at Pebworth to call their own. So a conversation in March this year between the Tower Captain, Martin Penny, and Chris Povey led to Chris doing some research into the possibilities of devising a 10 bell method for Pebworth. Chris devised a bob caters method that looked like it fitted the bill. But when he researched further it looked like it would be a pure extension of St Alkmund's Bob Triples, so a Caters version would have to be called St Alkmund's Bob Caters. But Chris consulted with one of our local method 'gurus' Mark Davis to see if a spare slot for what could be 'Pebworth Bob Caters' might be available, and also whether the proposed method was true. We also wanted to check that it wasn't an extension of an already-rung Triples method.

The news from Mark was encouraging. There were actually three true extensions to St Alkmund's Bob Triples and none of them had yet been rung and named. The position was explained as follows:

*"...There isn't an "official" extension – the first band to pick one of the three possibilities and name it St Alkmund will fix it; alternatively if two of them are rung and named something else, the final possibility will automatically become the extension.*

This was encouraging news as it meant that we could ring a successful quarter peal of the method that Chris had devised and name it Pebworth Bob Caters, as long as we did it before anyone else rang it and named it! So, armed with the method from Chris and a composition kindly provided by Mark, Martin set off to find a band in April to ring a quarter and fix the name.

Sounds easy doesn't it – but it didn't prove to be as easy as it looked! Firstly Martin decided that possible band members should have a practice at the method on the regular third Friday 10-bell practice at Pebworth. The

May and June practices helped and the date of 25 June was set for the attempt (before evensong at Pebworth).

After a short 'false start' the band set out at the perfect speed for the bells and the ringing settled down with some nice striking. All was going well until two courses from the end of the quarter when 2 bells seamlessly swapped over and the attempt came round perfectly at a call, unfortunately two courses short!

Undeterred another attempt was scheduled for the following month, and with a couple of band members unavailable two willing volunteers stepped in to help with the second attempt. This took place on a hot day in July and with only 1 fan working in the ringing chamber it was not the most comfortable environment for ringing. We had a second attempt, but the band never really settled into a steady rhythm and some method mistakes led to the attempt being abandoned. However, the band did produce some nice ringing before the evensong service.

So on 27 August we had our third attempt. The original band were available again, even though Nick & Jane had only landed that morning having returned from the USA. Jeanette was back from her athletics and Georgie from her horses so the same band of 10 that had almost got there on the first attempt were ready and eager to go! It was again a hot day – but this time there were two fans in place!!

The attempt got off to a shaky start that resulted in a brief hiatus while one of the band agreed it would help if they rang the same method as the rest of the band!). But we set off again and this time all seemed to be going well when a bob caused a mini train wreck and Richard stood the attempt up again.

With only 50 minutes to service time the band set off on the third start in the third attempt to ring and name Pebworth Bob Caters. And third time lucky it was! The band settled quickly into rhythm and this time there were

no problems. After 1296 changes in 45 minutes the quarter was scored and Pebworth Bob Caters was officially named.

My thanks go out to all who have helped in this challenge, all the members of the band (including Jackie and Steph who stepped in for the second attempt), Chris for his devising and investigation of the method and Mark for the composition.

Duly published in the Ringing World as Pebworth Bob Caters we can be

proud of another Pebworth achievement. It was nice to have the Tower Captain and the Deputy Tower Captain of Pebworth ringing in the quarter (Martin & Georgie), and to record that the officiating vicar announced the success at Evensong to an appreciative reception from the congregation (who were happy to wait while we lowered the bells after the quarter).

So onwards and upwards at Pebworth. 'Britain in Bloom'; 'Pebworth Bob Caters'; what next?

**Martin Penny**

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## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

Things are beginning to happen with developing the Central Council. Instead of CC reps being elected by the affiliated bodies (of which, of course, the Guild is one), ringers from all backgrounds, whether members of an affiliated body or not, are being invited to apply to be part of the new set-up. It's rather like applying for a job, with statements of why one feels adequately qualified to be part of a Work Group, and statement as to why they should be chosen. It is, of course, a job application, as those that are chosen are expected to work to make the new Council successful. Work? Hells bells! this would have been total anathema for a goodly proportion of the 'old' Council. So, things are ratcheting up – and quickly, too. The

large number of individual committees will be grouped into just five 'work groups'. To be honest, this has been on the cards for a long time, so is no surprise: and it's a good thing.

I (Chris) have applied to be part of the Tower Stewardship & Management work group. They might want me, or they might not... After 20-odd years as a rep and a member of a Committee, I wondered whether it was time to call it a day. If they say 'yes, please come', that's OK; and equally if they say 'no' that's OK, too.

**Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble**

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

### 100 YEARS AGO

31<sup>st</sup> October 1917:

The War again prevented any Meeting taking place on this date.

(Signed) Herbert D'Este East  
President

### 40 YEARS AGO

22<sup>nd</sup> August 1977:

Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1977 at Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey.

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

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

Matters Arising from the Minutes: The Secretary reported that it had not been possible to arrange a further skittles match with the North Cotswolds Branch and it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until later in the year.

Arrangements for 1977 Ringing Festival: These were discussed and details and budgets confirmed. Financial results are to be reported to the next Committee Meeting.

Annual Dinner: Date of the 1978 Annual Dinner was fixed at (space) February at the Lygon Arms Hotel, Chipping Campden.

Repayment of Members' loans: it was agreed to ask Members concerned to agree delay in payment of loans until later in the current financial year.

Ringing Competition: The possibility of arranging an alternative venue to Willersey was reported. Mr Fairfax to check and take the action necessary. The format for certificates would also be checked by Mr Fairfax.

(Signed)

H O Hart

25<sup>th</sup> October 1977.

Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1977 at 32 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey.

Members attending: Messrs. H O Hart, (Chairman), P S Carter, M F

Fairfax, G Osborn, R Payne and A J Brazier.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1977 were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the Minutes: (i) Annual Dinner – It was agreed to require numbers for tickets to be with the Secretary seven days prior to the dinner date. Cost of tickets to be based on fifty tickets to be sold, four invited guests (Judges and wives), and the amount to be rounded up to a convenient cash figure.

Ringing Festival 1977: The Secretary reported receipts of £44-43, with that of one tower still to come. Expenses, advertising and postages, approximately £10-00. In addition, the donations at Tredington were handed directly to that tower fund. It was agreed to forward a donation of £1-00 to all towers visited during the day with the exception of Broadway, Childswickham, Tredington and, depending on donations received, Chipping Norton.

Ringing Festival 1978: For the proposed Festival in 1978 it was suggested that a limit of twenty towers be made; and a charge of 10p per person per tower (£1-00 for all towers). This to be considered at the appropriate time.

Ringing Competition: Mr M F Fairfax reported that arrangements were in hand. In general discussion on future competitions, it was suggested that the order of teams ringing should be decided by the Committee at least one week prior to the event. This would avoid the necessity of for all ringers to remain at the venue for a long period, a time would be agreed for each team to report to the competitions organiser.

Annual General Meeting: Mr G Osborn reported that arrangements for the meeting were in hand. Nominations for officers had not been received by the Secretary, Mr Hart declined to accept nomination for the post of Guild Master, and it was therefore agreed that the meeting should accept nominations on the day. It was agreed to recommend to the meeting that subscriptions be as for 1977.

Any Other Business: The Secretary reported receipt of a donation from Mickleton P C Council, and the presentation to the Guild of a painting showing the badge emblem by Miss F E Ives. The Committee instructed the Secretary to formally thank both donors.

(Signed)

M F Fairfax (*the incoming Chairman*)



## ST PETER'S, WELFORD-ON-AVON RINGERS', OLD AND NEW, GET-TOGETHER

St. Peter's Church bell ringers have been researching the history of the Welford bells with the assistance of Chris Pickford, a bell archivist of note, ever since Roger Timms showed us a photograph of a group of 10 bell ringers taken in Welford tower in 1964. Roger's Grandfather, Jesse Radbourne, was one of those ringers, but we did not know the names of the other ringers.

After extensive searching through local papers together with discussions with various bell ringers and some local villagers we have been able to identify the remaining nine ringers. One of them was Gordon Cooper who still lives locally and he helped us by making contact with two more of the 1964 ringers, the brothers John and Brian Hancox.

It was decided to arrange a Sunday Afternoon Tea in the Church Rooms on the 20th July 2017. We invited many ringers from local towers to come and meet the 1964 ringers. We also invited some of the villagers who had initially helped us identify the ringers on the photograph, several of whom had attended the Welford Junior School at the same time as Gordon, John and Brian.

The Afternoon Tea turned out to be a very happy occasion for all with much exchanging of news and bell ringing experiences, several of the ringers not having met or rung together for many years. We had on display quite a large collection of bell ringing memorabilia, together with some historical artefacts provided by Brad Plimmer from the History Society.

We discovered it had been Gordon's 70th birthday just a few days before our Afternoon Tea. Yvette, our Church Lay Reader, had made us a lovely cake decorated most appropriately with two golden bells. Much to his surprise we invited Gordon to cut the cake to a great round of applause.

The following Sunday one of the 1964 ringers, Barry Hancox, came and joined us ringing for the second service. It is always lovely to go back and ring in a tower you have rung at many years before, especially when there has been a gap of more than 50 years. We hope Barry will ring with us again when he is next in this area.

**Freda Cleaver**



## AN 'INTERNATIONAL' PRACTICE



Magda is on far left and Baerbel next to her. (Photo: Roger Hunt)

I received an email from a lady on a narrow boat on the River Avon, who was coming to moor up at Evesham. She was Dutch, but the reason for her writing to me was to ask whether she could come to the Wednesday practice to see English-style bell ringing and change ringing in action. Her name was Magda. She didn't ring, but had an interest in bells. She then met another boater who was a ringer. He lent Magda a book on English ringing and she became hooked on finding out something about it. She said she had moored up in a few places with a ring of bells, but none had rung when she was there. Magda looked me up on the Worcs & Dists web-site when there was a chance of being in Evesham on a practice night. I ensured there would be enough ringers there, and these included Sylvia and Paul Smith from Dumbleton, who arrived with a lady from Germany. Her name was Baerbel and she was staying with them at the time. Baerbel also had an interest in bells and ringing. Magda spoke excellent English, and being Dutch, spoke excellent German (as indeed does Sylvia). Roger Hunt managed to get a photo of the gathering.

**Chris Povey**

## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

### THE JULY TOUR (the 333<sup>rd</sup>) THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup>: MID NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

After some very hot days when we had all experienced trying to ring with everything sticking to you, this day was slightly cooler and ideal for ringing. The Outing, arranged by Brenda Dixon and Alan Marks was a compact tour centred just off the A14 in Mid Northamptonshire.

The first tower was St Giles at Desborough, one of four Anglican Parishes, but in itself a joint Parish with The Methodists – an arrangement that has been in place for some 40 years! The belfry is accessed by a vertical ladder, H & S conscious with handrails in place. The lovely 8 (9-2-4) are well maintained and go very easily. Here we were able to ring Grandsire, Cambridge SM, Stedman, PBM and Superlative, with an amazing turnout of 30 ringers!

Our next port of call was just down the road at Holy Trinity Rothwell, where many of the ringers were able to take advantage of post-service Coffee shop before climbing the stairs – 60 steps up, 2 down – to the ringing chamber. The original 8 bells were augmented in 2001 to give a fine ring of 10 and then in 2015 two extra bells were added to facilitate a light ring of 8. I was also assured that a perfect 11 was also possible. These bells go better if they are rung slightly faster and we felt we had done them justice with Grandsire, PBR, Yorkshire Royal and Stedman Caters. It would have been good to have had a bit more time here.

The Bone Crypt – access to which is by the South Door - is very interesting. Legend says that little was known about the Crypt until the day a hapless gravedigger fell 12 feet down into the 13<sup>th</sup> century Crypt. Surrounded by all the bones It turned his mind and he never recovered! Mind you, there are just a few bones down there – bones belonging to 2500 individuals.

Lunch was taken at The Hare at Loddington. Brenda was slightly worried about the Landlord's reaction when she had told him that there would be about 20 for Lunch and an extra 10 turned up. But she needn't have worried, he took it all in his stride, and was meticulous about the Service and Standard of food. Highly recommended if you are out that way.

The first tower after lunch was St Andrew, Great Cransley. The long draught of these bells with two sets of rope guides was at first quite intimidating. However, we needn't have worried – they behaved themselves very well! In 1988 they were a 'ring of 6 in 66 pieces' and a Committee was set up to restore the peal. This became a whole village project and the restored ring (6 bells, 9-2-9) was dedicated in January

1992 - the whole process being well documented in pictures. Sadly, today there is no regular band.

During the Second World War an American Service Station was established nearby and the soldiers used the Church for worship. At that time the Church Music and Choir were renowned for their standard and 15 broadcasts of Evensong were made back to America and also to the English troops abroad. Hilary's Uncle was one of the Choir Members and Hilary's father heard the broadcast whilst serving overseas. So, hundreds of miles apart two brothers were joined by their Faith. The belfry contains the 'American Window' a gift from the American Servicemen who worshipped there in WW11. The beautiful stained glass window (which can be viewed via Google) contains many aspects of America and in the bottom right hand corner are Roosevelt and Churchill – complete with cigars!

The last tower of the day was St Mary at Pytchley (5 bells. 8cwt). Access to this tower has been greatly improved during the re-ordering of the Church. Apparently, it used to be a long ladder but now there is an easy set of stairs followed by a user-friendly ladder. The ringing room is small so it was an afternoon of queueing on the stairs! There is also little ventilation - although just before the last ring the organiser of the tower said 'Oh, by the way, there is a fan in that corner' (not obvious since it was covered by a black plastic bag!) Many doubles methods were rung including a 120 of Dedworth, which ringers had to learn 'on the hoof'.

Just before ringing down, Jenny, the organiser of Pytchley tower, appeared with an American lady who had moved next door to the Church some 7 months ago and had been 'bell-bullied' by one of the ladies that had learned to ring under Jenny's tuition – she wanted to see for herself what it was all about! Having been mesmerised and transfixed by what she witnessed as the Band rang its last touch, she was then given a 'taster' of 'back-stroke only' and was hooked. She's coming back for formal tuition after the holidays at the beginning of September! That's how to recruit them!

And so, back to the A14 for the journey home. Thanks to Brenda and Alan (and Jenny) for an enjoyable day out, filled not only with ringing but snippets of history too.

**Joy Pluckrose**

### THE AUGUST TOUR (the 334<sup>th</sup>): THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>. NORTH-EAST OF WORCESTER

On the very wet morning of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 23 ringers were welcomed to the mediaeval church of St. Michael and All Angels in the pretty hamlet of Salwarpe, Worcestershire, close to the River Salwarpe and the Droitwich Canal. Several

flower arrangers were in attendance, when we arrived, producing beautiful flower displays for this surprisingly large church. The 6 bells, four of which were cast in 2000 as part of a millennium project to make the bells ringable once more, have a tenor weighing just over 11cwt. We must have done them justice ringing Plain Bob, Grandsire, Cambridge, Norwich and London, as the sun was out and the sky had cleared when we returned to our cars.

On to St. Peter-de-Witton in Droitwich situated on the edge of Droitwich Lido Park. Another lovely ring of 6, the tenor weighing just over 9cwt, and here we rang Stedman, Plain Bob, St. Clements, Chester and London.

We moved on to The Vernon Arms, Hanbury, for a very pleasant lunch in a stylishly renovated 18<sup>th</sup>-century inn.

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hanbury, a Grade 1 listed building, was our third tower of the day. Standing on the top of a hill we had beautiful views across the Cotswolds and to the Malvern Hills and beyond. The 8 bells, a 'classic' complete ring by John Taylor & Co from 1939 with a tenor of just over 12cwt, were a pleasure to ring and a pleasure to listen to. No wonder they're the bells that can be heard on The Archers. We rang Bob Major, Grandsire, Stedman, Superlative and, to finish, 5-spliced.

Sadly, we were unable to ring at our 4<sup>th</sup> tower as there had been a mix-up with times and a funeral rehearsal was taking place when we arrived.

Many thanks to Sandra Parker for organising the day. The ringing was particularly good and the bells excellent, and after a very wet start the sun came out for the rest of the tour.

**Jenny Ball**

### THE SEPTEMBER TOUR: THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> (the 335<sup>th</sup>). SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Our towers this month were mostly in South Northamptonshire. What would one do without the points of the compass to name locations? It's a good job that none of our ringers travelled to North Southamptonshire by mistake. Sat navs can be most temperamental!

Our first village location of Moreton Pinkney does have an interesting name. By all accounts the *Pinkney* is a corruption of *Picquigny*, a village in Picardy on the banks of the River Somme. The Norman takeover was complete by 1086 and the name has been with us ever since.

An unusual sight greeted us on arrival at the church, sheep grazing in the churchyard. Sheep may indeed safely graze, but only if you keep the gates and church door shut as numerous signs reminded us! To keep the sheep entertained, we rang Alnwick, London, Stedman



and Plain Bob Minor on the light six. The sheep requested *Shaun the Sheep Treble Place Minor*, but unfortunately none of us knew it.

Greatworth was our next stop. A small chamber which needs careful managing if you are to make the best use of your time. Thank you for keeping us in order Brenda! This church had no sheep, but the village had a high proportion of residents riding their horses up and down the very quiet high street. How the horses reacted to our renditions of Cambridge, St. Clements, Norwich, Grandsire and finally Westminster I cannot say. I did hear they wanted *Horsey Surprise Minor* but again, the band was unable to oblige.

Our lunchtime stop was The Star Inn at Sulgrave. An excellent meal, promptly and accurately served. Sulgrave has some important American connections. Sulgrave Manor was built by the ancestors of George Washington. George's great grandfather was the Washington who emigrated to the new world

in 1656 from Purleigh in Essex. Who'd have thought George Washington was an Essex boy?

Another more recent American connection was with our pub, The Star Inn. It is allegedly the only British pub visited and frequented by film star John (Duke) Wayne. Being just over six foot four, it would have been interesting seeing Mr Wayne cope with the low ceilings!

Ringling at Sulgrave Church followed. A tricky tower to get in and out of with access via a ladder and trap door and some hand holds that weren't ideally placed. Not everyone successfully made it up and down, so do be aware if you're planning a visit. We rang Stedman, St. Clements and York amongst other methods on the 10 cwt six. Just in case you're wondering, we didn't ring *The Duke's Arrival Surprise Minor*. Unfortunately the band didn't know it.



Cropredy was a quick visit for us as we had to leave rather promptly. We did however spot a significant peal board on which our good friend and tour regular Robin Green appeared. Robin passed away whilst on his annual boating

holiday up and down the canals of Britain during August this year. He will be sadly missed by all.

Cropredy is famous for its festival. Well, it's not as big as Glastonbury but it's quite famous in these parts. The festival was started by the group Fairport Convention in 1976. Festival Bell is an album by Fairport Convention, released in January 2011. So yes, there is a festival bell in the tower and it's shown in the photograph below.



Our thanks go to Alison Merryweather-Clarke for arranging our tour this month. Do consider joining us on the third Thursday of the month if you can spare the time for a relaxed day out with four towers and a lunch together at a convivial pub. Joining the lunch party is not compulsory, nor is it necessary to make it to all towers. We usually number from high teens to mid twenties. Unfortunately that's not our age, it's the number of ringers and we will ring within our capabilities which means nobody is stretched to breaking point, so come along and don't worry.  
**Keith Murphy.**

### APPEAL FROM JEANETTE DAVEY

I have lost my red Diagrams book (hardback, fabric on the cover), possibly having left it in a ringing chamber somewhere in the Four Shires area. If you've got one with an inscription inside saying something like: 'To Jeanie from Dad', dated about 1976 or 1986, with quite a few more words in-between, could you let me or Chris Povey know please and he'll get it back to me? Many thanks. Jeanette

### GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Guild's Christmas Party will be held at **Badsey Church** on **Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>**, after the practice there (note ringing will be from 7.00-8.15pm). Please come to support this event.

Donations of raffle prizes and festive eats and drinks will be welcomed.

**....AND COME TO THE AGM & STRIKING COMPS, TEMPLE GUITING, 21/10/2017**

## BELLS FOR ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, YPRES, BELGIUM

You will have heard of the successful fundraising undertaken in order to pay for the installation of eight English-hung bells at St George's Memorial Church in Ypres. The church was completed by the Church of England in 1929 to commemorate the 500,000 troops who died in the three battles fought on the Ypres Salient. It included a bell tower, with the intention of installing a ring of bells, but money ran out. So a fundraising campaign was launched in 2016 and the money was raised in the blink of an eye.

John Taylor & Co cast the 8 bells (tenor 6-1-11) earlier this year. This made it possible to deliver the bells to Ypres on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, coinciding with the centenary year of the Battle of Passchendaele, the third battle of Ypres. They were delivered to the church via various Commonwealth War Cemeteries by two ex-War Department lorries made in 1915. The two lorries were taken to the first cemetery (Tyne Cot) by a modern low loader. They were unloaded there and then continued under their own power. Amazingly, a third WWI lorry arrived to join the party.

About fifty of us, including Chris and Helen Povey, myself and partner Tim, travelled over from England to witness two days of very poignant, emotional and uplifting scenes; there were many moments during the two days when we all had tears in our eyes.

The bells visited five cemeteries with all of us following. Alan Regin told of the ringers buried in each (he writes the monthly RW article about ringers killed in The Great War). Three leads of Kent TB Major were rung at their gravesides on handbells donated to the project; these will stay in Ypres tower. Songs were sung at each cemetery by members of Dartford Choir. Sadly the day was wet, but, as Alan Regin remarked, the troops of 100 years ago had it far, far worse.

backdrop. Luckily the weather was fine, so, as you can imagine, the combination of bells and WWI lorries drew large crowds both here and at the Church.



The lorries in the Market Square outside the glorious Cloth Hall.



The three lorries lined up outside one of the cemeteries

The bells finished their tour on Day 1 at the Menin Gate, and were honoured in the Last Post ceremony there at 8pm.



At the Menin Gate after the Last Post. Note the bugler taking a look.

They spent part of Day 2 in the Market Square with the Cloth Hall as their



Unloading the bells at St George's Church.

We finished our two days with a Service of Dedication in St George's and with the ringing of a QP of Plain Bob Major by the handbell band under the Menin Gate. This was sometimes in trying circumstances, due to a cyclist who nearly went into one of the ringers and motorbikes that were very noisy when going under the gate, distracting the ringers.

The bells will be hung in a new steel bellframe by John Taylor & Co to be ready for their first official ring on Sunday, 22 October. Local ringers are to be trained by ringers from England, so that the bells can continue to ring out for the next 100+ years. This will continue to commemorate the sacrifice made by the troops, as originally intended when the church and tower were built.

**Jeanette Davey**

## THE ANNUAL RINGING TOUR, 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – ‘THE HEREFORDSHIRE BORDERS’

This year's tour was 'over the hill' (but not far away) as we sauntered around Herefordshire in the shadows of the Malvern Hills. Fine weather befell the 20 or so ringers who descended on **Cradley** where the eight bells (tenor 13-3-20) were tested with Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob Major and Yorkshire Surprise Major.



**Cradley**

Jackie Roberts ably took charge at **Coddington** (a Taylor 6 of 1866) with the 10cwt tenor being turned in to Cambridge and Kent Minor to supplement the Grandsire and All Saints Doubles.



**Coddington**



**Ringling at Coddington**

Arriving at **Colwall** (tenor 10-1-5) we ran the gauntlet of bees swarming near the church entrance. Rounds and Call Changes, Grandsire Caters, Plain Hunt 9 and Original on this very average ten seemed to suffice before we headed in the now near-sweltering heat over to **Ledbury** for lunch.



**Colwall**

A leisurely time was spent at the popular Prince of Wales Inn, albeit our party being split into small groups to be seated. Unfortunately, the nearby church bells were not available to ring on due to a potential clash with the local words and poetry festival.



**Eastnor**

Those who arrived early at **Eastnor** (tenor 9cwt) took advantage of parking under the shade of the trees but all too soon we were ringing Grandsire, Cambridge and St Clements on this easy going six.

Finally we rang Stedman, Plain Bob, Kent and Double Oxford on the 7cwt six at **Bromsberrow**.

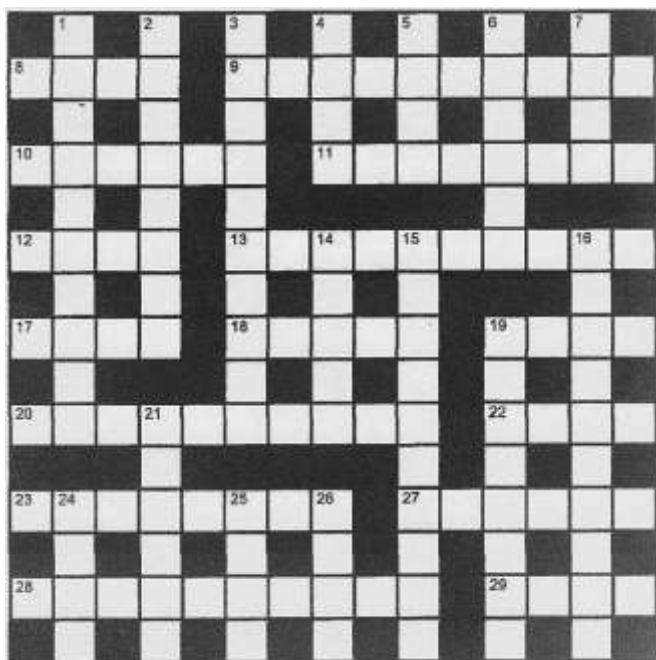


**Bromsberrow**

Thanks go to Richard Lewis-Skeath for arranging the day, those who took charge at each tower and to Steve Bowley for his impromptu renditions on the church organs at Eastnor and Bromsberrow to entertain both ringers and supporters. Most of us took to the M50 to facilitate our journeys home with memories being shared of the day (along with past tales no doubt being recounted of caps being hurled onto rope guides and the like...). **Roger Hunt** (and to whom all photo credits)

*(I understand the last-minute cancellation of Ledbury caused one or two grumbles, but organisers have no control over this type of thing. Richard worked hard to find a substitute tower, but none was available. The Newsletter Notice of the tour always says the itinerary is provisional, and an update beforehand is sensible. Ed)*

## EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to July 2017 X-word

### Across

- 8 Be off with you! (4)
- 9 Image breaker, mainly in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. (10)
- 10 A support projecting from the face of a church wall. (6)
- 11 12 and 13. An award given to senior members of a Society. (8)
- 12 See above. (4)
- 13 See above. (10)
- 17 Next below the treble in the church choir. (4)
- 18 Not the deepest voice but the deepest bell. (5)
- 19 Lowest part in music but could be a fish. (4)
- 20 Learners' trophy in the FSG Striking Competition. (7,3)
- 22 A sign which could be a warning. (4)
- 23 A word-game. (8)
- 27 Modernise this clue- (6)
- 28 -and disguise this one. (10)
- 29 Can you hear me over the water? (4)

### Down

- 1 History recorder. (10)
- 2 It keeps one's head in the shade. (8)
- 3 0.03937 ins. (10)
- 4 He knew the rain was coming. (4)
- 5 There is more than upland pasture in the county. (4)
- 6 These give a warning. (6)
- 7 Emperor of Russia. (4)
- 14 Crazy. (5)
- 15 Thrilled. (10)
- 16 Regular job for the Steeple-keeper. (10)
- 19 In Worcestershire but could be in New York. (8)
- 21 An extremist. (6)
- 24 A crack in the skin. (4)
- 25 Polish with leather. (4)
- 26 Jacob's brother. (4)

## PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION



Bill Nash was captured by Fran Chapman on the long access ladder at Adlestrop during an excellent short local tour for the Mickleton and Ilmington ringers organised by Chris Righton. She had the wonderful idea of offering this photo as a photo-caption competition (she assures me Bill is overjoyed to enter the limelight in this way).

Some captions have already been suggested:-

"Oh dear, I've been told I have to climb this ladder to ring Adlestrop's bells, or, even more importantly, to get some of Fran's banana cake!"

"Buster, the Adlestrop ginger Tom cat, got to the top in 30 seconds, so why have I taken 3 minutes to get just half way up?"

"That cat only climbs up. He is carried down. So will somebody carry me down?"

"Now, was I going up, or coming down? I've been here so long I can't remember...."

"Ah, that's the fall. I didn't quite make it in time. My watch must be faulty."

There must be others! Please submit in time for the next Newsletter.

Good to see you back ringing, Bill.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed,

Hearing regularly the tales of work in our belfries, whether it be frame painting, stay replacement or more serious maintenance and refurbishment, I wonder how much notice we take of what is in the bell chamber.



Yes, we find the odd discarded spanner, the coagulated oil in the vintage pop bottle and the pigeon or rook long since departed this world. Generally however there is evidence, sometimes very small, of life in the belfry whether it be a bat, a butterfly or a beetle.

On a bellframe painting job some years ago at Lower Slaughter I captured the image shown here of ladybirds clustered in the south window sill (*any red colour is NOT paint spillage by the way!*).

Maybe you could offer a bottle of your 'French fizz' to the ringer who can correctly identify how many ladybirds are in the photograph?

Answers on a postcard please .....

.....Roger de Flaedenburg

*(There have been some of these ladybirds in the Bell Tower in recent years, along with, I've noticed, butterflies hibernating inside the bells at the crown. They seem quite unconcerned about the bells being rung - perhaps they are deaf! I suspect both species are in most belfries to some degree or other - if we look. Ed)*

## TALES FROM A TOWER NEAR YOU (12) .....DOES SHAPE MATTER?

Some 10 years ago I was involved in the replacement of a poor-sounding chiming bell at **Coychurch** nr Bridgend (not exactly on the FSG patch...) with a redundant Taylor bell from Cardiff. The displaced Wm Evans of Chepstow bell dated 1766 weighed about 10 cwt and in order to remove it from the tower it had to be cut in half horizontally with a large hand-held disc grinder - the lower half (resembling a large cone-shaped washer) was then broken up outside the church in the carpark of the offices of the local Diocesan Advisory Council!



This was achieved placing the bell section on a sand bed and taking turns to fracture the casting with a 14lb sledgehammer - the shockwaves through the arms and body were quite severe with the process taking

about 2 hours and the accompanying noise perhaps causing the onlooking DAC members to rue their decision to allow the bell's destruction.....

The remaining crown section (shown in my photo opposite) gave a pleasant harmonic ring when struck - it was despatched to the bell foundry at Loughborough for melting down.

*William Evans, one of two sons of Evan Evans who founded the Chepstow foundry in 1686, achieved fame in 1729 when he was engaged to cast several bells for Exeter Cathedral including a bell named 'Grandisson' which at 62 ½ cwt was the then heaviest tenor bell in the world - this bell was also subsequently replaced by a presentday Taylor bell and renamed 'Grandison', which at 72 cwt is now the second heaviest tenor bell having been eclipsed by the 82 cwt tenor of the Liverpool Cathedral ring.*



Somewhat coincidentally at this time the ringers of **Sheldon**, Birmingham, were finalising their bell augmentation (to 8 after progressing from 4 to 5 and then 6) and had arranged to visit the foundry to see their new trebles with Arthur Berry and myself who were carrying out their work. Not to miss a trick (see my photo above) I quickly chalked up **SHELDON - NEW TREBLE** on the Coychurch crown where it lay on the foundry floor .... much to the amusement of some of the visiting Sheldon party.  
**'Roger de Flaedenburg'**

## AROUND THE TOWERS

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

**David Hammond of Willersey** died on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. An obituary will appear in the next Newsletter. His funeral, at Willersey, is on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm, with ringing open to all from 1.10pm until 1.40pm. A band will ring from then until 1.50pm, after which the tenor will be tolled until David's coffin enters the Church. There will be a quarter peal afterwards. All ringing will be open, ie, non-muffled.

**Blockley new trebles and the recasting of the tenor** took place on September 6<sup>th</sup> at Loughborough. A coachload went from Blockley to see this. I understand they were well impressed with what they saw. The trip included a tour around the Bell Museum.

**It's been reported that Long Compton's bells are ringing again.** Clearly the architect and the

contractor have pronounced the mortar to have cured sufficiently to withstand the vibrations caused by the bells when ringing. I see there is a FSG practice here on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Comberton:** this tower is now included within the Guild's 'area of operation'. See Committee Notes, p.5, for details.

### PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

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

##### Vale of Evesham Society

**Moreton in Marsh**, Gloucestershire, St David  
Saturday, 2 September 2017 in 2h 42m (10–0–14 in G)

##### 5088 Gloucestershire Surprise Major

Composed by BYROC

1 Nicholas K Allsopp	5 Roger H Hunt
2 Julie Tarling	6 Roderic K Bickerton
3 David T G Jones	7 Simon E Adams
4 Steve Bowley	8 Michael Chester (C)

Rung as a birthday compliment to Nick Allsopp, on the day of his 54th birthday.

##### Coventry Diocesan Guild

**Aston Cantlow**, Warwickshire, St John the Baptist  
Saturday, 16 September 2017 in 2h. 45m. (14–0–14 in F)

##### 5040 Doubles

(2 methods: 2520 each of Plain Bob and Grandsire)

1 Heather E Pickford	4 Roger H Hunt
2 Albert T B Williams	5 Christopher J Pickford (C)
3 John Newbold	6 James A Trewin

Remembering our friend Michael J.O. Gray (1933-2017) - sometime ringer and churchwarden at this church, past President and Secretary of the Coventry Diocesan Guild, and faithful supporter of this tower. R.I.P.

Charles Wilson (who rang in a previous attempt in July) would like to be associated with this peal

#### MILITARY IN MEMORIA

**Longborough, Glos**, 16 Aug, 1260 Mixed Doubles (Grandsire; Plain Bob; April Day; Dedworth): 1 Isobel Murphy, 2 Sara Woodgate, 3 Keith Murphy, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 John Nicholls (C), 6 Tim Woodgate. In memory of Alfred Partington, Longborough resident and ringer, killed at Gheuvelt Plateau on 16th August 1917. Also in memory of Frederick Hathaway-Taylor, also from Longborough, killed at Ypres on the same day. (Alfred Partington featured in an article by Stella Southam in the January 2013 Newsletter, no.135, together with his photograph.)

**Ewyas Harold, Herefords**, 22 Aug, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Povey, 2 Vicky Rees, 3 Martin Foster, 4 Ian Povey, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Nick Cooper-Tomkins. Rung in memory of Private Jeffrey George Povey, Hereford Regiment (attd. 5th Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry), who died at the Battle of Passchendaele on 22nd August 1917. He is listed on the memorial in this Church and in Tyne Cot Cemetery near Passchendaele. Great-uncle of 1 & 5. Great-great-uncle of 4. 1st Q for 20+ years: 1.

**Bretforton, Worcs**, 9 July, 10 mins of Call Changes: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Fiona Gibson, 4 Bill Boyce, 5 Rob Newman, 6 Ray Waldron, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelks. To welcome the Morris Dancers (including Clerical Error and Bunnies From Hell) to the Annual Morris Service.

**Bretforton, Worcs**, 17 July, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 2 Jane Gilbert, 3 Jackie Roberts, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Steve Bowley, 6 Michael Haynes, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Rob Newman. Rung as part of BretFest - a weeklong festival of music culminating in Bretforton Silver Band's 'Last Night of The Proms' on 22nd July.

**Harbury, Warks**, 24 July, 1344 Vancouver Surprise Major: 1 Julie Doyle, 2 Lucy Gwynne, 3 James Ingham, 4 John Keddie, 5 Christopher Mew (C), 6 Robert Reeves, 7 John Nicholls, 8 John Gwynne. Rung to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Canadian Federation

**Great Rissington, Glos**, 30 July, 1260 Spliced Doubles (Huntley, Winchendon Place, St Remigius, St Nicholas), 1 Rob Kilbey, 2 Steve Coleman (C), 3 Sue Coleman, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 John Nicholls, 6 Tim Woodgate.

**Warwick, Warks**, 31 July, 1280 Superlative Surprise Major: 1 Julie Doyle, 2 Robert Reeves, 3 Lucy Gwynne, 4 Peter Quinn, 5 Karen French, 6 Christopher Mew (C), 7 John Nicholls, 8 John Gwynne. Rung in memory of those who fell at the Battle of Passchendaele.

**Evesham, Worcs**, The Bell Tower, 13 Aug, 1344 Plain Bob Major: 1 Margaret Smith, 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 4 Rachel D Page, 5 Claire Penny, 6 Roger Hunt, 7 Chris Povey, 8 Martin Penny. Before Evensong

**Moreton in Marsh, Glos**, 30 Aug, 1280 Gloucestershire Surprise Major: 1 Jane Gilbert, 2 Nick Allsopp, 3 Julie Tarling, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Rod Bickerton, 6 Roger Hunt, 7 Simon Adams, 8 Michael Chester (C).

**Cropton, Worcs**, 1 Sept, 1260 Doubles (Grandsire, PB): 1 Andy Harris, 2 Jenny Roberts, 3 Steve Bowley, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Rob Newman. A compliment to Ron Stephens, Life Associate member and lifelong resident and ringer (retired) of this parish, on his 85th birthday.

**Pebworth, Worcs**, 10 Sept, 1260 Mixed Doubles (April Day, Plain Bob, Grandsire), 1 Graham Lee, 2 Jeanette Davey, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Georgie Roberts, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Alison Foster. First quarter on Tenor (6). Rung before Pebworth Party in the Park 2017

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



## NOTICES AND ADVERTS

### APPEAL FOR PHOTOS

**Pam and Ted Copson of Sherbourne (Warks).**

I would like to ask readers if they have a past photograph of Pam and Ted which could be copied for our archive and display in our tower. Please contact Tony Reece.01926 624608. -

### FRIENDS OF COLESHILL BELL RINGERS AND FOUR SHIRES GUILD MINI-OUTING. SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER.

Shipston-on-Stour (6, 9cwt)	10:00 - 11:00
Todenham (6, 13cwt)	11:15 - 12:00
Lunch in Moreton-in-Marsh (location tba)	
Bourton-on-the-Water (8, 12cwt)	14:30 - 15:00
Longborough (6, 11cwt)	15:15 - 16:00
Moreton-in-Marsh (8, 10cwt)	16:15 - 17:00

**All the towers above have been confirmed.** The ringers at Coleshill are novice ringers and this will be the first outing for many of them. Your help in supporting this day's ringing will be appreciated. There will be the usual FSG evening practice that evening.

Nick Allsopp, Organiser ([allsoppm@googlemail.com](mailto:allsoppm@googlemail.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

## ADVANCE NOTICE - GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

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

### MENU

#### **Starters**

Leek & potato soup with fresh bread roll (V)

Moreland Game pate with melba toast

#### **Main Courses**

Roast Chicken with sage and onion stuffing, served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Cod Mornay served with seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Butternut Squash Risotto (V)

#### **Desserts**

Fruit crumble and custard

Orange & Blueberry cheesecake

Freshly-brewed Tetley tea, or Douwe Egberts coffee with mints

**Cost per person £23.00**

**ORDERS TO THE FOLLOWING BY 20<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2018 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)

There will be a Speaker, and the Striking Competition trophies will be presented

**Association of Ringing Teachers**

**Available from ART**

Find out more at [www.ringingteachers.org](http://www.ringingteachers.org) or by contacting [admin@ringingteachers.org](mailto:admin@ringingteachers.org)

**Learning the Ropes**

**Development**

- Three ART Training Scheme Modules
- Workshop Materials
- Access to LIR structured learning programme for ringers

**Support**

- Online teaching resources
- Recruitment advice
- New ringer referrals
- Good practice guidance
- Quarterly magazine – ART WORKS
- Books and DVDs
- Safeguarding Checks & Liability Insurance
- Regional Development Support
- Teaching Centre & Hub Support
- ART Conference
- Facebook Group & Blog

**Recognition**

- ART Accreditation & Membership
- ART Awards
- ART & other Websites

**FOR TEACHERS**

- Three structured learning programmes – LIR, LIR Plus and LIR Handbells
- Technical Workshops

**FOR RINGERS**

- Online learning resources
- Quarterly magazine – TOWER TALK
- Facebook Groups – Learning the Ropes and others
- 50 Ringing Things Challenge
- Many Technical Books & DVDs
- Learning the Ropes and 50 Ringing Things Certificates
- Achievements in The Ringing World
- Learning the Ropes Website
- ART Awards
- LIR Masterclass

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Email: [office@taylorbells.co.uk](mailto:office@taylorbells.co.uk)

## 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

## GUILD LAPEL BADGES



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

£4 each from the Hon Sec.

(The original badges cost £1 in 1976!)

## NEED A CLEAN-OUT OF YOUR TOWER? THEN TRY FUSION CLEANING SERVICES.



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**Glen Mallinson**  
Industrial Cleaning Manager  
Fusion Industrial Cleaning Services Limited

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Oxleasow Road, Redditch | [www.fusioncleaning.uk](http://www.fusioncleaning.uk)  
Worcestershire B98 0RE

**Commercial and Office Cleaning Services**  
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Fusion has cleaned out Hampton, Hinton-on-the-Green and Evesham Bell Tower belfries. Recommended for such work!

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

<b>2017</b>		
OCT 7 <sup>TH</sup>	FLADBURY, Worcs	8, 12-3-03 in G#
OCT 14 <sup>TH</sup>	BUCKLAND, Glos	6, 14 cwt in F# (GF)
OCT 21 <sup>ST</sup>	TEMPLE GUITING, Glos	<b>A.G.M. &amp; STRIKING COMPETITIONS</b> <b>*NO EVENING PRACTICE*</b>
OCT 28 <sup>TH</sup>	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E
NOV 4 <sup>TH</sup>	CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Glos	8, 22-1-18 in Eb
NOV 11 <sup>TH</sup>	ADLESTROP, Glos	6, 4-2-21 in C ( <b>* NOTE 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.*</b> )
NOV 18 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>INTER-SHIRE COMP AT TODENHAM, Glos</b>	<b>*NOTE</b> <b>*NO EVENING PRACTICE*</b>
NOV 25 <sup>TH</sup>	ILMINGTON, Warks	8, 12-3-26 in E (GF)
DEC 2 <sup>ND</sup>	WILLERSEY, Glos	6, 12 Cwt in G
DEC 9 <sup>TH</sup>	BADSEY, Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F <b>*NOTE* 7-00PM. TILL 8-15PM.</b> <b>FOLLOWED BY GUILD XMAS PARTY</b>
DEC 16 <sup>TH</sup>	WELLESBOURNE, Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
DEC 23 <sup>RD</sup>	<b>* NOTE * NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK *</b>	
DEC 30 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>* NOTE * NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK *</b>	
<b>2018</b>		
JAN 6 <sup>TH</sup>	GREAT HAMPTON, Worcs	8, 12-2-4 in F#
JAN 13 <sup>TH</sup>	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F
JAN 20 <sup>TH</sup>	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks	8, 15-0-22 in F# (GF)
JAN 27 <sup>TH</sup>	OFFENHAM, Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) ( <b>*NOTE* 7-00PM TILL 8-30PM.!</b> )

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:

### **ELECTIONS REQUIRED AT THE 2017 AGM AT TEMPLE GUITING**

Every year the Guild Rules require that members are elected to various posts (see the July Newsletter for the positions available). **Firstly, please consider standing for these posts. Secondly, if not you, please propose candidates (with their permission).**

**Yes, folks, it's that time again: FSG SUBS are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.** The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). Please pay as soon after this date as possible, as it benefits the Guild. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.) Payment may be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer. It would assist greatly if, when paying by cash, you use the payment slip attached to this Newsletter.

**Also, please consider donating money to the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund again.** This is an annual scheme. £5 per member is the suggested amount, but more is gratefully received. **It's for a very good cause.**

**YOU CAN PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY INTERNET BANK TRANSFER.** It's 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.

## **Events for 2017 (& 2018) – book the dates now:-**

AGM & Striking Comps	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct at St Mary's, Temple Guiting, Glos (see last Newsl'r for details)
Inter-Shire Comp	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> November (alternates with the Minimus Comp).
Christmas Party	Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec at Badsey Church <b>*NOTE*</b> ringing starts at 7-00pm.
Guild Annual Dinner	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb <b>2018</b> ; The Charlecote Pheasant (see Notice p.18)