

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 155 - JAN 2018



Founded Oct 18th 1909

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EDWARD (TED) J COPSON; DIED BOXING DAY 2017



Ted at one of the last Guild Dinners he attended (Photo: Chris Povey)

Ted Copson passed away on Boxing Day at his Care Home in Warwick. The photo above shows him as most of us remember him, but sadly life wasn't too kind to him soon after. Chris Mew has written a few notes about Ted for the College Youths' obit and he has passed these to me for use here: see p.3. I hope someone will provide a more comprehensive obituary for the next issue. His funeral will be at Sherbourne on January 26th at 11.00am. Half-muffled ringing beforehand 10.00-10.50am and after the Service. Ed

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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/>

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (April 2018) is March 13th 2018

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**

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. 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

Yet another of our members passes on: two obituaries this time. Ted was part of the dynamic duo that put a lot of oomph into the Guild: Ted and Pam Copson. They did a lot for the Guild and ringing generally: the Newsletter 'came of age' under Pam's editorship - it received a good quality and very strong foundation that I use today, they printed and distributed it, they attended many Saturday practices, they helped and taught many learners, they organised; and of course Sherbourne Ringing Aids came into being. They were in many ways Mr & Mrs FSG. Pam's death was untimely – she had so much more to give. I doubt Ted ever came to terms with it. While his death is sad, it may have been something of a release for him, as his life probably became an existence. Yes, the end of a very good era, but we should be thankful that we had it. As I say on the front page, if somebody writes a more comprehensive obit, I shall be very pleased to publish it.

Yes, folks, it is that time of year again: subscriptions. And not only subs, but voluntary donations to the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund. This started last January on an annual basis, to put money into the Fund so

that we can give grants to needy bell restoration causes. Please consider giving at least a fiver to this. It will salve your conscience about paying something for your ringing.

Welcome to John Wheeler, who was elected a Committee member at the AGM. John is a pro-active Guild member and I am sure he will contribute much to the running of the Guild.

Thank you to Roger Hunt, who proof-read this issue. It is why there are fewer, if any, typographical errors this time!

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.)

EDWARD (TED) J COPSON

Edward "Ted" Copson died quietly in Warwick hospital after a short illness on 26th December 2017, aged 83. Ted was brought up in Warwick and went to Warwick School before leaving to work in Warwick County Council.

Ted was taught to ring c. 1970 by his future wife Pam and supported ringing at Stratford, Wellesbourne and Sherbourne.

The latter was his home tower and gave its name to the famous Sherbourne Teaching Aids publications, produced by Pam and which Ted continued to distribute until he went into a nursing home 2 years ago. It is a legacy that some 4,000 items including 2,500 "One Per Learner" books were purchased in 2017.

Ted was a quiet and supportive ringer, always ready to help other towers. He rang only 3 peals including one of Stedman Triples but helped many through first quarters. He will be missed in Warwickshire, Coventry Guild and Four Shires Guild circles.

Chris Mew

THE CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

For many centuries it has been customary to ring bells on royal occasions. In the two villages on the outskirts of Canterbury where I learnt to ring the tower captain, Percy Smith, told us that bells are often 'fired', that is, all striking at once and taking their lead from the tenor bell. This only happened on important occasions and would only be done for Royalty, Rectors and Ringers when occasion demanded something special.

Now that Prince Harry has become officially engaged to Meghan Merkel we, as ringers, are likely to be asked to ring for a royal wedding and I hope that the occasion will be marked by ringing at as many towers as possible. Few will 'fire' the bells, but we must all ring to the best of our ability. Some will ring peals and quarter peals but less-experienced bands can ring rounds, call changes and whatever they are capable of, be it Plain Bob Doubles or Grandsire Double.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

(As many will know there is a tradition in these parts of 'firing' as the first part of ringing immediately after a wedding. I was told it was to wish the new couple the best for their future life together. A number of towers have ceased this tradition and I think this may be due to ringers not liking the effect. While the idea of striking the bells together isn't difficult to understand, the practice of doing so appears to be, as much firing is ragged - the bells don't actually strike together. Good firing is a treat to listen to, but it's quite hard to achieve without some practice at it and a good ear to hear whether your bell is part of the general 'crump': or not. As Peter says above, the lead for firing is from the tenor, and one description I heard was that it's like backwards rounds with the bells rung very close together. Due to the different diameters of the bell wheels, the ringers of the trebles must pull off fractionally later than the tenor to make their bell sound at the same time as the tenor. Firing can be very satisfying when the bangs upstairs are really like a canon going off – but not when it's a disorderly jangle Ed) See also John Kinchin's article on firing on p.10

GUILD AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

This took place at St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting. Both competitions were judged by Neil Garner and Alan Moulton, who, because of the excessively stormy and windy weather, were housed inside the ringing chamber in deference to their comfort and their ability to hear the bells above the howling wind! There were an unprecedented number of entries for the Brazier Trophy: six! It was a treat to see so many ringers congregating inside the Nave. This was wonderfully encouraging, as this competition caters particularly for inexperienced bands, who are excused the rising and the falling parts demanded in the Newing Shield Competition. Due to the large number, the Newing Shield competition ran later than scheduled, to the point it became essential to start the Service and then continue with the remaining band afterwards! Nobody could remember such a thing happening before.

The Service was conducted by the Guild Chaplain, the Rev Peter Newing and the organ was played by Steve Bowley. It was a very pleasant Service and it was well-attended. The tea afterwards was a good, old-fashioned spread, that is, lots of various delicacies to eat and warm drink – the Guild does this well. Thanks are due to Stuart and Michael Cummings for this bit of the proceedings, as they provide the overall management of the catering. But, of course, they were aided by many ladies; thank you so

much. (Can you imagine what it would be like with just men doing this?)

It was a hectic and certainly a memorable event!

Chris Povey



View down the Nave before the real crush started. (Photo: Chris Povey)

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held on Saturday 21st October 2017 in St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting, following the Striking Competitions and the Guild Service held at this Church. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair. Members attending numbered 26. Handouts of the agenda, Minutes of the 2016 AGM, Guild accounts and the Guild Master's report were available (all had appeared in various Guild Newsletters during the year).

As one of the judges had to depart, it was agreed that the results of the Striking Competitions should be given before the main business

Results of the Striking Competitions:

The Brazier Trophy competition:

1 st Moreton-in-Marsh	28½ faults (awarded Brazier Cup)
2 nd Pebworth A	30 faults
3 rd Brettforton	43 faults
Scratch band (ineligible for placing)	43½ faults
4 th Childswickham	44 faults
5 th Pebworth B	71 faults

The Newing Shield competition:-

1 st Moreton-in-Marsh	6½ faults
	awarded the Newing Shield
2 nd Ilmington	14½ faults
	awarded the Spencer Jones Cup
3 rd Pebworth A	18½ faults
4 th Pebworth B	60 faults

The Ringing Master (Richard Lewis-Skeath) subsequently awarded The Merit Award to Pebworth for the significant progress this tower continues to make; and for fielding two teams in each competition.

The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner in February 2018

The AGM business then continued as the agenda.

- 1 Apologies: were received from the Rev Peter Newing (Vice-President), John Carroll, Matthew Kemble, Robert Hall, Isobel Murphy, Stef Whittle.

- 2 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were published in the January 2017 Newsletter (nr 151). 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: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

- 4 Guild Master's Report 2016-2017: nothing arising: accepted.

- 5 Treasurer's Report: The draft Guild accounts to 31st December 2016 appeared in the January 2017 Newsletter (no 151). Since then the accounts have been examined and the final accounts were included in the AGM hand-out, together with a written report on the finances by the Treasurer, Michael Dane. Nothing of note was discovered. The accounts were adopted. The Examiners are to sign the formal copy.

- 6 Election of Officers:

Guild Master: Freda Cleaver prop and Richard Lewis-Skeath sec Peter Quinn. There being no other candidates, Peter was re-elected.

Ringling Master: Peter Quinn prop and Allen Turner sec Richard Lewis-Skeath as Ringing Master. There being no other candidates, Richard was re-elected.

Secretary: Martin Penny prop and Freda Cleaver sec Chris Povey. There being no other candidates, Chris was re-elected.

Treasurer: Peter Quinn prop and John Wheeler sec Michael Dane. There being no other candidates, Michael was re-elected.

- 7 Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: Michael Haynes had earlier indicated he would not seek re-election this time. The Committee members as elected were:

	Prop	Sec
Christina Ireland	Peter Quinn	John Nicholls
Jackie Hands	Richard Lewis-Skeath	Peter Quinn
John Carroll	Michael Dane	Allen Turner
Stuart Cummings	Allen Turner	Chris Povey
John Wheeler	Michael Dane	Peter Quinn
Matthew Kemble	Michael Dane	Jackie Hands

Accounts Examiners: neither of the present Examiners Jane Gilbert and Robert Hall) had indicated that they wished to retire, so both were re-elected. Nick Allsopp raised the question about having only one Examiner, but the Guild rule requiring two could only be changed at

the next AGM. Roger Hunt suggested staying with two at the moment if two were willing to undertake the role.

8 Confirmation of New Members:

New members whose elections were ratified by the Committee since the last AGM were:-

John Collett (Burford)	William Boyce (Bretforton)
Gerald Trevor (Wolvey)	Andrew Cummings (Falmouth)
Elizabeth Kyberd (Gt Hampton)	John Smith (Gt Hampton)
Frances Smith (Gt Hampton)	Alyson Jackson (Sherbourne)
Tony Reece (Sherbourne)	Edward Alexander (Sherborne)
Ken Spensley (Willersey)	Robert Moon (Childswickham)
Clare Davies (Hinton-on-the-Green)	

9 The Proposal by the Committee to confer Honorary Life Membership on a member.

Chris Povey said the Committee was proposing that Freda Cleaver became an Honorary Life Member of the Guild. Freda was a Vice-President of the Guild and had held many positions of the Guild over many years. There was no doubt that she had served, and continues to serve, the Guild faithfully and meritoriously in everything she has taken on. As the Committee is making this proposal, so a seconder was required. All that was required was a large indication of support from the members present. This was given and Freda was duly accorded HLM status.

10 Any other Business:

There were four items:-

(1) Little Comberton: as reported in the October 2017 Newsletter the Committee had agreed that Little Comberton should be included within the Guild's 'area of operation', as defined in the current Guild Handbook. Prior to this decision it was proposed and subsequently

agreed that any tower could apply to be included in this way, giving good reasons why inclusion should be accepted. Any agreement to include should then be referred to the relevant AGM for ratification by the membership. As the decision to include Little Comberton was made at the August Committee meeting, this was the relevant AGM to request ratification. On being asked whether the Committee's decision should be ratified, those present indicated acceptance with none against.

(2) Jackie Roberts suggested that the Guild keep a stock of ash for making stays, as at least a couple of towers locally had required new stays recently. She said the Chester Diocesan Guild had operated such a scheme successfully, and offered her garage as a place to store the wood. Chris Povey supported this and said in his experience the hardest part of making a stay was in ensuring the right wood was to hand when it was required.

(3) Nick Allsopp reminded those present that he had organised a ringing tour in the FSG locality for ringers from Coleshill, as he had promised to do when the Guild visited Coleshill on the Ringing Tour in 2016. This tour is Saturday November 4th (and advertised in the recent Newsletters).

(4) Stuart Cummings asked that he could thank those who had donated gifts of food for the tea and those who had helped with organising and presenting the tea.

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 2018 AGM.

OBITUARY: DAVID HAMMOND

DAVID GEORGE HAMMOND 6th April 1936 – 25th Sept 2017



David with Jane and Phyllis Brazier at Saintbury after some ringing there.

David started his ringing career as a child in the 1940s and 1950s at Wisborough Green in Sussex, learning from his mother.

He started ringing regularly again at Bosham in Sussex in the 1970s, which is when the rest of his family (wife Jane and children Tim, Anne and John) got 'roped in'. At this stage he became increasingly enthusiastic, and by the time they

moved to Willersey in 1978, they had become a fanatical ringing family. They would spend many an evening sitting at the kitchen table, each holding a wooden block that David had made - learning the changes of Plain Hunt, Grandsire, Bob Doubles etc.

David's family took part in many striking competitions, tours and Quarter Peals over the years. For a while they were the "young blood" within the Four Shires fraternity, and would spend many evenings and weekends jumping from tower to tower to make up the numbers.

David took over from Frank Ingles as Willersey tower captain in the 1980s, and, as a result of his passion for the hobby, was responsible for a surge of beginners there. Many who are ringing today can look back to David as their inspiration. David took his duties as ringing master and steeple keeper seriously, not just at Willersey but also at Saintbury, and he commanded the greatest respect and affection from all who rang with him. Practice nights were always inclusive and fun, which is one of the main reasons why Willersey still has an active band of ringers today.

Meanwhile the Hammond family was growing with the addition of numerous grandchildren, several of whom have also learned to ring. So

there have been occasions when the entire band has been populated by three generations of Hammonds.

Jane and David's partnership was a special one, and Jane's death from cancer a few years ago left a hole in David's life from which he never truly recovered, but he continued to ring in Willersey for several years thereafter and for as long as his health permitted.

Thank you, David, for your example and friendship over so many happy years of ringing.

John Hammond and Robert Chadburn.

A quarter peal followed David's funeral:-

Willersey, Glos, 10 October, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 John Kinchin, 2 Martin Penny, 3 John Nicholls, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Robert Chadburn (C), 6 Mark Newbury. Rung open to celebrate the life of David Hammond, who was laid to rest in this churchyard today.

(It is true Willersey's band has been well-populated with ringers. The tower has long been active, the foundation for such being set by David and Jane. But, as the above states, Willersey's influence went far and wide within the area. There is a lot to thank David and Jane for. Happily, the Willersey tradition lives on under Robert's considerable influence. Ed)

WELFORD-ON-AVON RINGERS OUTING, WARWICKSHIRE 14 OCTOBER 2017

A good number of local ringers gathered at Lillington, east of Leamington Spa on Saturday 14 October for the start of the 2017 Welford tour, arranged by Freda Cleaver and Ian Sturgess.

Lillington, St Mary Magdalene, (8 bells 9-0-18)

The village has been swallowed up by its close neighbour, Royal Leamington Spa. The church of St Mary Magdalene stands on the brow of a hill in the old village centre, and unless you are careful and observant, you could easily miss it. Sadly, the church was not open on the day of the visit, a reflection very much of the world we live in. However, although the tower is perpendicular and there is evidence of some 14C work in the chancel, most of the building is Victorian. Highlights include an octagonal, Perpendicular font with shield decoration and stained glass by Kemp.

The bells, originally a three, and augmented to eight in 1927, go well, although a little difficult to strike. The ringing room is somewhat cluttered with additional items relating to the organ, which gives it a messy appearance. A good selection of methods were successfully rung.

Offchurch, St Gregory (6 bells 13-3-26) The church is very old and contains some interesting features, including Norman windows, a door and chancel. Most of the nave is also Norman, see one blocked S window and a N door. Once the outside S wall of the chancel, note the one Norman window, the arched headstone of which is decorated with a serpent

The ringing room is accessed up a short spiral staircase on the south side of the tower. Originally a ring of four, with two bells cast by Robert Hendley of Gloucester in 1500, and by Newcombe of Leicester in 1605 and Matthew Bagley 1 of Chacombe in 1681, the bells were augmented in 1992 by the addition of two John Taylor bells. Altogether a pleasing ring of bells which were enjoyed by all those present.

Lunch followed at The White Lion, Radford Semele, just five minutes' drive away from Offchurch, on the main road between Leamington and Southam. The food and beer were excellent and a welcome opportunity to re-charge the batteries in convivial company and surroundings.

The first tower after lunch was **St James, Southam (8 bells 15-1-25)**, the church building standing proudly behind the Market Place in the centre of

the town. The tower is 14C, but the broach spire, very much a local landmark, and the pinnacles on the broaches were most probably added later in the 15C.

The bells go well, although a little quiet when heard from the ground floor ringing chamber. The three back bells are 17C, and three additional George Mears bells were added to them in 1863 to make a ring of six. The two trebles were cast just before WW1 by John Taylor & Co completing the present octave.

The penultimate tower of the tour was **All Saints' Church, Royal Leamington Spa (8 bells 12-3-16)**, a fine building both in its scale and style, begun in 1843 on the initiative of the then vicar, Dr John Craig and designed by local architect JC Jackson. The building is 172 feet long and 72 feet high in a continental gothic style. The North Transept has a large rose window patterned on that at Rouen Cathedral. The stained glass in the apse surrounding the high altar is very beautiful and deeply glowing. The bells are very poor acoustically inside, which sadly does not make them enjoyable to ring or to listen to. For such a large tower, perhaps a heavier ring might have been more suitable, although there may be a structural reason why this was not done. Five of the current ring are by Thomas Mears II (1826) and were installed as a 6 with the present 7th as the tenor, when the tower was built. The ring was increased in number and weight by 'topping and tailing' in 1901, with a new tenor, treble and 5th bell to give the present octave. This was undertaken by Mears & Stainbank.

The final tower of the day was **All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton, (6 bells 7-3-4)**, situated in a lovely village setting just a few miles outside Warwick. The bells were restored and augmented in 2015 by Taylors and are arranged anti-clockwise, which took a little getting used to. However, once in the swing of things, Stedman was the order of the day and the volume of the bells (which is quite loud) easily rose above the occasional exclamation of surprise when a less alert ringer had forgotten which way to look!!

Our sincere thanks go to Freda and Ian, for all their practical arrangements and for organising such an excellent tour.

Charles Wilson and Stuart Formby



The Committee met on Tuesday 21st November at Church House, Evesham.

1) John N, acting Chairman, welcomed John Wheeler to the Committee

2) **Apologies for absence:** Peter and Christina.

3) **Minutes of the last meeting:** The Minutes of the August meeting were agreed and signed.

4) **Matters Arising:-**

None; all subjects were on the agenda

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 proposals and secondings for the following:-

Cilla Watts, Jacqui Corstorphine, Fiona Tyrrell: all from Pebworth; Marion Mitchell, Rhod Mitchell: both from Stratford; Kathryn McCarthy, from Tredington; Gerald Smith, from Shipston-on-Stour; Elizabeth Royle, Imogen Murphy, both from Moreton-in-Marsh. Rachel Page, from Studley.

All were granted membership, nem con.

Chris reported that he written to Mrs Hilary Bolton and thanked her for the donation to the BRF that had arisen from John's funeral.

He reported that he had written to the Vicar of Temple Guiting for the use of the bells and the church for the AGM and striking competition, to Steve Bowley with thanks for playing the organ, and to Rev Peter Newing with thanks for taking the Service.

He also asked the question about whether non-FSG bands could compete in the Minimus competition, having been asked the question. The opinion was 'no'. Chris will inform the enquirer

Treasurer: Michael tabled his financial report He expects the General Account to end the year with a little profit. He suggests no need to

raise subs yet. The BRF has £2,486.90 uncommitted. Agreed that the donation scheme should continue as having more will allow bigger grants if possible.

Newsletter Editor: Chris reported the better completion time of October's Newsletter. He hasn't started January's issue yet, but will be soon. This issue needs a revamped subscriptions paying-slip that includes donations to the BRF.

CCCB: information on the new developments are still hazy. Matthew suggested putting reports from the CC on the Guild's Facebook page. Agreed: Matthew agreed to undertake.

6) **Bell Restoration Fund:** an application for a grant from Bidford-on-Avon (for next meeting)

Updates:

Pillerton Hersey: nearing completion as a 5-bell tower. Test ring in January

Blockley: there was a Hallowing Service for the 10 bells in November. Taylors due to start on the new bellframe in December.

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

Donation Scheme for BRF: working well.

Items for discussion:-

2017 programme:

Guild Walk, successful event. John C working on a route for 2018

AGM and Striking Competitions, well attended, with lots of teams competing. Our Vice-President, Freda Cleaver was made an Honorary Life Member

Inter-Shire Competition, again, successful: Oxon first (Shrivenham representing), with Glos second. (M/in/M representing)
Xmas Party, 9th Dec to occur at Badsey.

2018 programme:

Annual Dinner; 3rd Feb at The Charlecote Pheasant;

Annual Ringing Tour: Sat 7th July;
Minimus Striking Comp: 8th Sept possibly at Pillerton Priors.

Walking & Ringing Tour: provisionally Sat 22nd Sept. More details to follow.

2018 Striking comps & AGM: Sat 21st Oct. Location to be announced.

2018 Xmas Party: details to follow.

Converting the Guild to a charity. Chris reported that he had a good conversation about this with Steve Coleman, who is an acknowledged expert on this. This seems to be a simple process, as the Guild is acting like a charity now. There was enthusiasm for doing this, but further discussion is to take place at the next meeting.

Guild insurance: the committee agreed to accept the quotation from EIG. Michael to pay. Recent changes to the Data Protection Act: these might affect the data we keep. Agreed to monitor this when further info becomes available.

7) **AOB:**

Matthew had received a query re having Guild clothing with a method embroidered on the back. The Committee was 'not keen'. Matthew to inform the enquirer.

Michael proposed, sec by Richard, that we have one Accounts Examiner, rather than two as now. All agreed. A rule change will be required. The relevant paperwork to be drafted for perusal and then for agreement at the 2018 AGM

8) **Next Meeting: Tues 20th February 2018** at Wellesbourne, 7.00pm start.

Future Committee meeting dates: 2018, 15th May, 21st Aug, 20th Nov..

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

ST THOMAS'S DAY RINGING

At least two towers braved the cold and the dark to tell the inhabitants of their community that the shortest day had arrived, this being St Thomas's Day (21st December). I knew Ebrington would ring – it's a rock-hard tradition there – but happily Bretforton joined in again. Were there any others? Campden used to do this, but was there any ringing there this year?

Roger Hunt reports:-

Not so many years ago the Bret ringers circulated around their homes for breakfast after the ringing but that had died out when I joined in a while before Graham Hall passed away.

In keeping the tradition going we have for the past 4 years met for ringing at 07.30hrs (to respect the neighbours at what is for some an ungodly hour if any earlier!) and rung for 30 minutes - afterwards we adjourn to The Fleece, as Nigel has kindly provided the bacon sandwiches and hot

coffee (and 'spiritual' alternative if required) where we can all sit around one table!

I must say that the initial session of call changes (4 in all) that we rang was almost faultless in Queens (and I kept them in that change for quite a while as it sounded so good) - overall the ringing was very acceptable although as individuals started to wake up properly the edge was lost...

Bretforton, Worcs, 21 Dec, (pt1) 180 Call Changes: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Newman, 3 Bill Boyce, 4 Fiona Gibson, 5 Alan Curry, 6 Nigel Smith, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs. Rung early morning by the local band for the Feast of St Thomas on George's 69th birthday.

(Pt 2) 120 Call Changes: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Clare Davies, 4 Christina Ireland, 5 Alan Curry, 6 Wendy Ryder, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs. For the Feast of St Thomas before breakfast in the convivial atmosphere of The Fleece Inn



L-R: Roger, Fiona, Xenia, Heidi, Rob D, Christina, Alan, George Rob N, Clare, John, Bill, Nigel and Wendy (Photo: Roger Hunt)

I do not have a time for Ebrington's start, but I'll bet it was the traditional 6am. They also provided photos:-



Allen Turner, Fred Rothery, Stuart & Michael Cummings, Tim Woodgate, Peter Banton



The breakfast: Fred, Allen, Tim, Peter and Stuart.

(Good to see you are still fit enough to travel up and take part in this tradition, Fred. Helen and I celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary a fortnight ago. You clearly did a good job on us!. Chris)

MICKLETON'S MAN-AT-THE-HELM RETIRES

Another era at Mickleton has ended. John Kinchin, Ringing Master there for over 20 years, informed the PCC that he would be retiring from the post on 31st December. Another RM would be required from 1st January. John turned 81 recently and, while still an active person, had found getting around the belfry had become difficult. As he says, 'Unfortunately there comes a time when a sensible person realises that the time has come to 'slow down'. Certain responsibilities have to be shed. My time has come to 'slow down'.'

John, as Mike Fairfax before him, has become synonymous with Mickleton ringing. Through being combined with the Ilmington ringers, he in many ways became the face of that band in their striking competition successes – and what a string of successes! Good, classic ringing could be heard issuing from the louvres; and not just in changes, but in rising and falling, too. True, theirs was not

fancy Surprise or spliced ringing, but good basic stuff rung superbly (remember: the public don't know what we're ringing, but they do know whether it's rung well or not...). John was in the thick of it. Yes, Mickleton and Ilmington have benefitted from John's – and Bill Sabin's – inputs to ringing in those towers, but those benefits have spread much more widely to the rest of us in showing us what this ringing lark is really all about.

John has been ringing for 70 years at St Lawrence, Mickleton. A goodly time by any stretch. A quarter peal was rung to mark these two milestones and are reproduced below. When John informed the Rector and PCC the was giving up the post and somebody else would be needed to continue the tower work, they just shrugged, indicating they hadn't any idea what would happen. Luckily David Clark has agreed to take on the role, so all enquiries for Mickleton in future should be directed to him at his address: Cedar Road, Mickleton, Chipping Campdem, Glos. GL55 6SZ. Tel: 01386-438785

John says he will not be giving up ringing: as he says, 'I just want to walk into a tower, grab a rope and ring for Sunday services, weddings, anniversaries, etc. In other words to eliminate that which is required of a 'responsible' tower captain.' (As the editor of this august publication, I have to ask, John, that you don't give up your contributions to it. CP)

John also was accorded the thanks of his Church and its PCC, and here Peter Banton takes up the story:-

At the fifth Sunday joint service for Chipping Campden, Mickleton and Ebrington on December 31st 2017, held at St. Lawrence's Mickleton, the Rector, the Reverend Craig Bishop, invited John Kinchin, as retiring Tower Captain, to come forward, in acknowledgement of his many years in this role, and for having been a Mickleton Ringer for 70 years, starting at the age of 10. Craig praised John's commitment and dedication over this time and John responded, saying how much he had enjoyed it all.

John also keeps meticulous records of the number of times Mickleton's bells are rung in any year and for what reason (Sunday Services, practices, weddings, visitors, etc). He recently submitted figures for 1998 through to 2017. The least number of times the bells were rung was in 2001: 21 times. The most was in 2012, when he recorded 47 times. While this does not, on the face of it, amount to

once per week, it should be remembered ringing takes place at either Mickleton or Ilmington, so in effect the figures are roughly for half a year, ie at least once per week. Big tick, John!



(Photo: Peter Banton)

Mickleton, Glos, 4 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 David Clark, 2 Frances Chapman, 3 John Kinchin, 4 Chris Mew (C), 5 Mark Sayers, 6 Simon Oram, 7 Jackie Hands, 8 Peter Quinn. Rung as an 81st birthday compliment to John Kinchin and to mark his 70 years ringing at this church.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

We might agree that things are a bit hazy with the 'new' Central Council at the moment. The 'old' Committees are still operating in their normal way, but reorganisation is happening in the background. If anyone has been involved with reorganisations in the workplace, then they will understand

things are never clear until sometime later. It might be for the overall good – it probably will be – but things are changing at the moment... momentarily or otherwise....

Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble

'BRETWICKHAMTON' THE 'CHRISTMASHIME' BASH.



L to r: Roland Merrick, George Jelfs, John Colebrook, Bill Boyce, Fiona Gibson, Roger Hunt, Anthony Wheeler, Nana Hirayama, Alan Curry, Sheila Hemming, Pat Cleveland, Ray Waldron, John Cleveland and Rob Newman with Xenia and Heidi in front. (photo: Roger Hunt)

Since early January 2017 monthly joint practices have been held at Hinton-on-the-Green for the benefit of the **Bretforton, Childswickham and Hinton ringers** - this has yielded positive results with Plain Bob

Doubles now being rung (Graham and Alison also regularly attend the Pebworth and Guild practices whilst Clare comes along to Bretforton). Additionally this has helped keep Hinton bells ringing (Clare being the only ringer at that tower at present). To mark this co-operation the 'Bretwickhamton' name has now been adopted for our annual foray in the December festive week.

This year we returned to **Norton**, nr Evesham, where we started out in 2014. We rang the eight bells half-muffled as it was Holy Innocents (28th Dec) and by invitation some of the Norton and Harvington ringers joined us. Bereft of heating the ground floor ringing chamber was uncomfortably cold (on a par with the weather outside) but warmth returned in part with the mini BBQ which Nick Gibson had set up in the car park where we celebrated Fiona's birthday (a round numbered one on the 29th) with hot rolls and mulled wine. Overall it was an enjoyable morning together and thanks to the Norton ringers for the use of their bells.

Roger Hunt

GUILD XMAS PARTY.

It was a small but select group of members who attended the Christmas party at Badsey Church after the Saturday practice there on Saturday 9th December. There were plenty of eats and drinks available, and a raffle with the proceeds going to the Bell Restoration Fund. There was carol singing, too, accompanied – led, even - by Steve Bowley on the piano. A festive air to the proceedings prevailed; and outside, too, as it was cold!

Chris Povey brought along handbells and some tried plain hunting on them. Some – Georgie Roberts in particular – became quite good at it.

Badsey Church was warm and well-lit, and is well-appointed domestically now, with a kitchen and lavs. It proved to be an excellent venue.

The raffle made a wonderful total of £91, a sum that was boosted by Hilary selling tickets beyond the party itself. Thank you Hilary! The amount has gone to the BRF.

Chris Povey



(Photo: Roger Hunt)

FIRE!!

The conductor of any bellringing sequence gives very audible instructions to his team that to a non-ringer would be absolute gobblegook! There is of course one that to non-ringers may seem stranger; and to one householder not far from St Lawrence's Church in wedding days is not to his liking. Like Marmite I suppose: you love it or you hate it!

So, what is the sound he hates and from what instruction does it derive? It is 'FIRE'. Non ringers might consider it an alarm call, but of course it isn't. This is the instruction for every ringer to pull their bell to sound at exactly the same time as the others. Thus, you do not have a well-struck, even sequence between each bell sound. You have one almighty wallop: a thunderous, single noise!

Here I quote Funk & Wagnall New Practical Standard Dictionary, viz: FIRE: to ring all bells at once. My own (perhaps incorrect) assumption of the definition was: you're an army under attack. Guns are cocked ready to offset the enemy attack. The command is FIRE and all riflemen shoot together. Back to the aforementioned dictionary: SALVO – a simultaneous discharge of artillery, a salute by firing all guns – as an applause.

The bellringers' FIRE is congratulatory ringing to the bride and groom as they leave the church. My personal concern? How long before Health & Safety determine this to be.....

John Kinchin

FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

100 YEARS AGO

There was no meeting between the 31st October 1917 and 1st May 1918.

40 YEARS AGO

29th October 1977:

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29th October 1977 at Old Mill Farm, Oddington, at the invitation of Mr & Mrs Osborn. The Guild Master

in the Chair.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Messrs L.C.Dowdeswell and M.F.Fairfax.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 30th October 1976, were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: President – the Secretary reported that the Lord Dulverton had declined to accept the nomination for the office of

President due to other current commitments.

Confirmation of Election of Members: The Secretary reported twenty new members for 1976, and totals of fourteen extra-terrestrial members, and seventeen honorary members. Total membership at the end of the year numbered ninety-six.

Guild Master's Report: The Guild Master, Mr H.O.Hart, updated on the successful ringing activities during the year including the regular ringing practices and the first Guild Ringing Festival held in September.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Report: Mr A.J.Brazier, before presenting the report to the meeting, expressed his thanks to Mr Michael Fairfax for his efficient organisation of the Ringing Competitions, and Mr George Osborn for his assistance in arrangements for Saturday practices. Results of competitions held in 1976 placed the team representing Badsey first, and awarded certificates to Oddington, Mickleton, Ebrington, Great Wolford, Offenham, Chipping Campden and Bourton-on-the-Hill.

The quarterly diary continued to be distributed to all members, associated branch officers and local towers, providing details of weekly practices and other activities in which Guild members were interested. The assistance from members in distributing these notices, enabling postage costs to be minimal, is greatly appreciated. In February the third Annual Dinner, held again at the Lygon Arms, Chipping Campden, was attended by members, friends and guests. The Spencer Jones Cup was presented by Mr [blank] to the representatives of Mickleton ringers, certificates were also presented to the other participating teams. Members of the Guild Committee met on four occasions during the year; in addition, informal discussions on Guild matters were held at many other times. During the year, the Guild has sadly to record the death of four Honorary Members: Frank Edgington, George Hiatt, Great Wolford; [blank] Nicholls, Ebrington

and C.R.(Jim) Steed, Stratford-on-Avon. Mr Steed had judged the Competition at Ebrington in 1975. Mr Harry Wright arranged, on behalf of the Guild, two skittles matches with the North Cotswolds Branch; these were greatly enjoyed, and it is hoped to continue with the social side. The Report was adopted.

Credited accounts for the year were circulated prior to the meeting. Balance in hand at the end of the year was £45-67. The Treasurer thanked members who provided temporary loans to assist the Guild with the purchase of badges. A recent Committee meeting had authorised repayment of the loans. The committee considered a loss situation from the Guild's first Open Ringing Day, but agreed that the expenditure would be justified. Future similar events, however, will be self-financing, with donations to each tower concerned. The accounts and report were adopted.

Elections for the year to commence 1st January 1978:

- (i) Vice-Presidents: proposed by A.J.Brazier, seconded by P.S.Carter, that Mr H.O.Hart be elected in recognition of his service in the office of Master since the Guild's reformation in 1974. Carried
- (ii) Guild Master: proposed by H.O.Hart, seconded by Revd. R.F.Rothery, that Mr M.F.Fairfax be elected. Carried.
- (iii) Secretary & Treasurer: there being no nomination, Mr A.J.Brazier agreed to continue in these offices until a successor be found.
- (iv) Auditor: it was agreed that this should be the Guild Master.

Committee: Miss L.Bedford, G.Osborn, and Mr R.Payne, proposed by A.J.Brazier, seconded by P.S.Carter; G.R.Harper proposed by Mr R.Payne, seconded by W.Murray; declared elected by the Chairman, and the committee given authority to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy.

Subscriptions 1978: proposed by A.J.Brazier, seconded by P.S.Carter, that these should remain at 50p and 25p. Carried.

Votes of thanks: the Guild Master thanked Revd & Mrs P.Newing for judging the Competition and presenting their report with its constructive criticism. The appreciation of the Guild was recorded to Revd. C.McCarter for the use of Oddington bells, and conducting the ringers' Service. In addition, the thanks of members present were given to Mr & Mrs Osborn for their hospitality in providing teas and placing their home for the use of the Guild's meeting.

(Signed) M.F.Fairfax, 28/10/78

20th January 1978

Committee Meeting held of 20th January 1978 at Long Barn, Draycott. Members present were: The Chairman, Mr M.Fairfax, Mrs H.Davies, Miss L.Bedford, Mrs P.Linsdell, Mr A.J.Brazier and Mr R.Payne.

Apologies were received from Mr G.Osborn and Mr G.Harper.

The Minutes were read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the previous meeting held on 25th October 1977.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- (i) The Chairman accepted the written resignation of Mr A.J.Brazier from the post of Secretary of the Guild which he had held since its reformation in 1973. Mr Fairfax expressed his thanks and appreciation to Mr Brazier for all the hard work he had put in to ensure the smooth running of the Guild. The Chairman proposed that Mr Brazier be co-opted to the Committee. Miss L.Bedford suggested holding an extraordinary meeting to ratify the recent changes of Secretary and Treasurer. Mr Brazier replied that members at the recent AGM knew of his intention to resign as soon as a new Secretary and Treasurer could be found. He had agreed, at that meeting, to continue only in a temporary capacity. Mr Fairfax proposed that Mr Brazier be co-opted to the Committee, seconded by Miss Bedford, and carried. Mr Brazier proposed Mrs P.Linsdell for Secretary, seconded by Mrs H.Davies, and carried. Mr Brazier proposed Miss L.V.Bedford for Treasurer, seconded by Mrs H.Davies and carried. Mr M.Fairfax proposed co-opting Mrs H.Davies to the committee, seconded by Mr Brazier, and carried.
- (ii) The Annual Dinner: the menu supplied by the Lygon Arms, Chipping Campden, was accepted.
- (iii) The Competition Shield. Mr P.Newing has offered to give a shield to the Guild at a cost of £100. Mr H.O.Hart had been asked to confirm this figure and provide a sketch; this has not been done. Mrs Davies suggested that the Secretary write to Mr Hart asking him to submit a formal design for the Guild's approval.
- (iv) Change of signatures on cheques and at the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. Mr Brazier proposed that the signatures should be Mr M.F.Fairfax, Miss L.V.Bedford and (20th March 1978) Mrs P.Linsdell, any two of the three to sign. This was seconded by Mr R.Payne and carried. (Signed) M.F.Fairfax 20/3/78

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

THE OCTOBER TOUR (the 336th) THURSDAY 19th: SOUTH-WEST BRUM

October's tour was billed as an incursion into the leafy south-western suburbs of Birmingham. Sadly, in the preceding days, the best efforts of storms Ophelia and Brian meant that most of the leaves were to be found on the ground and were of the slippery rather than crunchy variety. Umbrellas were a must-have accessory.

In all 16 brave tourists enjoyed a day that included a novel lock in, courtesy of a security conscious local and a wide variety of methods from Plain Bob to Spliced Grandsire and Stedman and Surprise Major.

All the towers visited (Selly Oak, Harbourne, Edgbaston and Northfield) provided us with easy going bells.

Seeing the second city from the perspective of some of its historic villages was an interesting experience. Thank you, Paul, for arranging the towers and a good pub lunch.

Isobel Murphy

THE NOVEMBER TOUR (the 337th): THURSDAY 16th. NORTH WARKS

November's tour, organised by Gerald Trevor, provided us with an opportunity to experience the diverse nature of Warwickshire's bells, scenery, economy and pubs!

The day began at Bedworth where, passing The Miners' Welfare Park, we were reminded of the town's heritage, somewhat different from Shakespeare's Stratford. Accessing All Saints church was an interesting exercise but the easy-going eight, set in a modern ringing room with a

fantastic stained-glass window, made this more than worthwhile. In addition, the adjacent spacious balcony allowed waiting ringers to listen and socialise with ease.



The journey to Mancetter our second tower encompassed interesting post-industrial scenery and expansive lakes. Early comments

suggested that the five bells would be challenging: we were not disappointed. The issues surrounding rope length and the need for boxes led to a reining in of our ringing ambitions, but the simple methods attempted were successful and well struck.

Our lunch was at The Lord Nelson Inn at Anasley, a remarkable venue. There are no obvious connections between Nelson and north Warks other than a passing visit to the area, quoted on the pub's website. The theme was embellished with a life-sized model of the hero of Trafalgar and a virtual reconstruction of HMS Victory both inside and out with dozens of appropriate props. The pub also encompassed a small micro-brewery whose products were well received by the visiting connoisseurs.



Anasley, the first tower after lunch was a short distance away. The light six provided the opportunity to attempt more difficult methods than earlier.



Here we also encountered more beautiful stained glass, some of which was the work of

Karl Parsons (1884-1934). One window was remarkable for the fusion of biblical with modern images as seen by the small boy carrying a toy car.

The final tower of the day was Fillongley.

The tours usually take place on the third Thursday of each month. Ringing is arranged to suit all abilities and newcomers are always very welcome. If you would like further information, please see the contact details earlier in the newsletter of the website. It is not necessary to book in advance.

Isobel Murphy

THE DECEMBER TOUR: THURSDAY 14TH (the 338th). WEST OXON

As I drove up Fish Hill and onto the Cotswold plateau it was a white world with snow lying on the fields and pondered on how many would make this December outing. The temperatures were just above freezing. As I approached Burford there was a Red Kite flying low looking for food, it had been a hard few days for them.

Turning off the A40 it was another world as I drove into Asthall our first tower of the day: icy



roads. Chris had hoped she might have hitched a lift on a farm truck with hay bales. No, a young man helped her over the ice instead, for which she was grateful. Asthall was a real Christmas scene. The two oldest bells in the Tower date back to around 1500 and more recently in 2005 some of the bells were recast. The fire was soon on and the bells were raised on this easy going six. Once finished it was a case of negotiating the ice safely and getting back to the cars.

The second tower of the day was Shipton under Wychwood and again some of us had an icy walk to the Church along the path. This time we

did have a railing that we could hold onto, which was a great help in negotiating the ice. Fund raising is underway to rehang these bells with around two thirds of the cost having been raised. We look forward to returning once the rehang has been completed. Here again we made use of the heating provided. One embarrassing moment for me was when I was unable to pull the 3rd bell off. Apparently it is deep set and my wrist was not playing ball. Needless to say I did not attempt to ring that bell again during our time there. Upon leaving the Church we found that the pathway had been cleared by someone giving a safe walk way back to cars and lunch at The Wychwood Inn.

Back to the cars, after lunch, and a short drive to Kingham a ground floor ring of 8. The pathway up to the Church had been cleared for which we were all grateful. This is a 1924 ring cast by Taylors with plenty of daylight. The sun appears to have bleached some of the sallies giving them a pastel colouring. All too soon our time here came to an end and it was back to the cars.

Churchill was our final tower of the day and we were all getting weary and anxious about our return journeys home, so a decision was made that we would finish slightly early. This tower is a replica of Magdalen College, Oxford and John Betjeman wrote: *'it is a beautiful landmark and has [...] been an eye-catcher for miles around, and a delightful one. I am sure it was built with this object in view. Although the style is English Perpendicular Gothic, the Tower is in the great tradition of English landscape gardening. Its disappearance would be a grave loss to a rolling wooded landscape.'* Once again, we were in a warm and compact ringing room with this easy going ring of 8. However, if you were ringing the treble it was said that there was a problem in hearing this bell.

Finally, how many of us braved the elements – 13. Our numbers may have been small, which meant that there was very little Surprise ringing, but we had a very good day out ringing Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman etc in warm surroundings. Thank you, Clive, for organising the day and to those who stewarded the ringing, which was not easy given our reduced numbers.
Sandra Parker

OCTOBER'S PHOTO CAPTION COMPETITION

Sadly – and surprisingly - there were no suggestions for this. Bill Nash has expressed huge disappointment.

We should not let Bill's disappointment continue! Please take a look at the photo in the October issue. Suggestions will be published in the April 2018 issue.

Ed.



BLOCKLEY'S NEW BELLFRAME – FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS.... (Photo: Chris Povey)
 (Tenor in the middle, treble, 2nd & 3rd bottom right, 4th & 5th bottom left, 6th & 7th adjacent to tenor, 8th & 9th far right)

APPEAL FOR PHOTOS

Pam and Ted Copson of Sherbourne (Warks).

Unfortunately I haven't had any photos offered to me of Pam and Ted together that could be copied for our archive and display in Sherbourne tower, so I would like to ask again whether anybody has any. I would be very grateful to receive at least one. Please contact Tony Reece.01926 624608. -

Friends of Coleshill and Four Shires Guild mini-outing

Note from Nick Allsopp:-

I have received the following feedback from the days mini-outing we had on the 4th November.

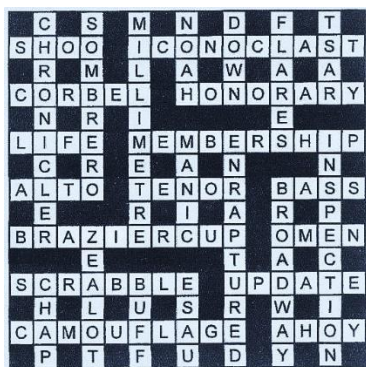
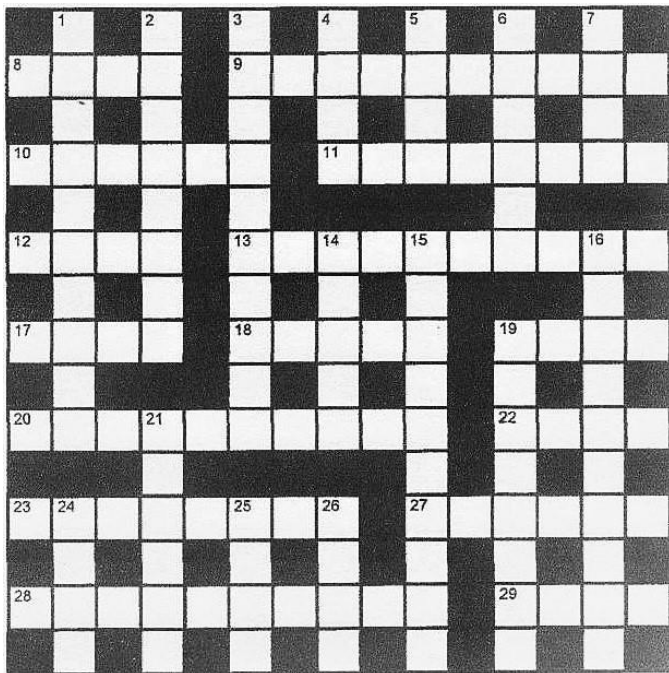
"Thank you to you and Nick for including us on the tour on Saturday. We loved every minute of it, and couldn't believe how fast the day passed. Please pass on our thanks again to Richard and Jackie. They were so good at encouraging us and pointing out how to improve!"

I would like to add my personal thanks of the FSG members who helped out during the day. It was enjoyed by all. I particularly enjoyed seeing the progress achieved by the ringers at the same time as enjoying themselves.

FOUND IN A CHRISTMAS CRACKER:-

'FAILURE IS NOT DEFEAT UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING'

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to Oct 2017 X-word

- Across
- 8 Ringers do this and may be charged on the way there. (4)
 - 9 Festivals of music, literature and horse-racing. (10)
 - 10 Stick to this clue. (6)
 - 11 Refreshments with action?. (8)
 - 12 You will soon get this one. (4)
 - 13 Pick up these for a sweet result. (5,5)
 - 17 Are Pershore ringers secretive? (4)
 - 18 Certain to jump. (5)
 - 19 Use bells for engagement. (4)
 - 20 Musical version of Taming of the Shrew. (4,2,4)
 - 22 The Bible tells us to consider this. (4)
 - 23 The day of the God of Thunder. (8)
 - 27 Latin Queen. (6)
 - 28 Obviously a car of the people. (10)
 - 29 Dried hops. (4)

- Down
- 1 A traditionally black Pick-me-up. (6,4)
 - 2 Organised Len ready for the Channel Island. (8)
 - 3 A user-friendly clue. (10)
 - 4 Here one finds evidence of houses for 29 ac. (4)
 - 5 A hot-headed Sicilian. (4)
 - 6 Between blue and violet in the spectrum. (6)
 - 7 Swear you will get this right. (4)
 - 14 Dutch cheese. (5)
 - 15 This is meant to divert your reasoning. (3,7)
 - 16 Treat this clue with compassion. (10)
 - 19 Have belief in this. (8)
 - 21 Could be hand or back. (6)
 - 24 An admiral, and outlaw, or could be just a cover. (4)
 - 25 It will occur to you especially in early morning. (4)
 - 26 This will require mental discipline. (4)

THE 2017 INTER-SHIRE COMPETITION

The bi-annual Inter-Shire Competition (it alternates with the Minimus/'Mini-Mouse' competition) took place at Todenham on Saturday November 18th. It is a competition that aims to bring together the best of the teams from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire in a battle to determine which county contains the very best team. It was originally intended that the winners of each county's striking competitions should take part, but it has been more difficult in recent years to obtain each of these in one place at one time. There has had to be substitutions from within counties to allow the competition to go ahead. And so it was this year, with Ilmington carrying the Warwickshire flag and Moreton-in-Marsh carrying the Gloucestershire flag. It should not be thought these local bands were insufficient for the battle, as will be seen from the results!

The format follows FSG Striking Competition format, that is, rising, method and falling. At least one team was a little bit taken aback by the rising and falling requirement...!

The meeting place was the Village Hall, which is of course only a short walk from the Church. It was a cold day, so the Church was cold. The judges (inside the church) were verging on cold despite a heater. Todenham bells are a lovely 6. Ground floor of course, but that doesn't seem to give problems. However, the Village Hall provided excellent accommodation that was warm – and the eats and drinks available were something to see. Never let it be said the FSG doesn't look after its guests well.

CP

The other two teams were Shrivenham representing Oxon, and Inkberrow representing Worcs.

With the ringing over, the judges gave their results, which placed Shrivenham (for Oxon) first, with Moreton-in-Marsh (for Glos) second. No other placings are given. John Nicholls, the organiser of the event and the MC, presented the Inter-Shires Competition trophy to Shrivenham before thanking all who had taken part in any way, and declaring the event over.



Chris Povey



nothing now (anybody want a nice clock?). The hammers are a standard design and fail-safe, but the hour hammer on the tenor was a different design and, to be honest, was a lash-up by Joyce's due to its position in the frame. A second, smaller, hammer was provided on the tenor for the carillon. Sadly the lash-up hammer did not fail-safe by returning correctly, but stayed down - it 'overbalanced' as it needed the bell down to stop it swinging too far. This would have just about been ok, as the hammer would have risen over the soundbow and down again, but the longer-than-necessary screwed rod above the top of the hammer caught the spokes and took out a few of them. Joyce's took this hammer out of service by disconnecting its supply and tying the hammer back. The hour striking function was transferred to the other hammer. The disconnected hammer stayed in-situ until the frame was painted last year, at which time it was removed entirely by the frame painters. It's up in the clock room at the moment and facing the scrap man.

Musing over the Christmas festive period and hearing a comment 'why weren't the bells ringing on Christmas morning?' reminded me of the lot that unfortunately befell the Evesham ringers back in November 2007. It was actually following the dedication service for the re-hanging of Stanton bells that a well-known campanologist disclosed that the tenor bell wheel at Evesham had been 'destroyed' by a clock hammer earlier that morning at the commencement of service ringing. As usual various viewpoints circulated as to 'how come?' but the upshot was that ringing there on 12 bells was curtailed for several months whilst repair was negotiated and then carried out.

In time-served fashion the broken wheel was expertly dismantled and new spokes and cross-rails manufactured and incorporated by **Berry & Co of Malvern**. I recall it was the largest diameter wheel I had worked on and that it only just fitted on the circular workshop table for assembly and finishing. The completed wheel was rolled out for a photoshoot (see my photo with Arthur Berry) prior to paint treatment on 3 February 2009 and refitted the next day.

..... 'Roger de Flaedenburg'

Oooh, I remember it well. To say the least it was a bit of a shock. I never want to hear that noise again. On Saturday 17th Nov I had the FSG in the evening and left the bells up overnight, but inadvertently put the clock and carillon hammers back on. Luckily I remembered this before ringing next morning and turned the hammers off. The hammers will have operated overnight, but would have worked in fresh air - and, critically, would (should) have failed-safe by returning to the at-rest position. A new clock and carillon system was installed in 2002 by Joyce's of Whitchurch. It operates everything electrically and electronically. The old mechanical clock sits there doing

Arthur rebuilt the wheel using as much of the original wheel as possible (the new pieces are just about distinguishable in the photo), and as usual his workmanship was second to none. A truly excellent job, for which I will always be grateful. After the wheel had been refitted, Arthur tied up the clapper and then pulled the bell up on the wheel, which he managed without assistance. Arthur was a truly lovely man: a great loss to ringing in all ways.

Twelve-bell ringing did cease on the major-scale bells (1-12) while repair work was organised, but the 12 in the minor-scale (0-11 using the flat 6th) was used instead and was offered to visitors, who did use them. The Oxford Society came to practise on two occasions and on one of these rang some excellent Lincolnshire S Max. The delight of having lots of bells to mix and match.....

A truly impressive photo Roger. CMP.

PS: who didn't ring on Christmas morning? We did...

AROUND THE TOWERS PEOPLE AND PLACES

Pillerton Hersey bells are due a test ring before the end of January. This 3-bell ring had been chimed only due to the installation being in a poor state. A project to rehang them had been formed, but was progressing only slowly. The idea was to rehang in the existing, strengthened bellframe and add a bell. The redundant 2nd bell from Adlestrop was purchased as a treble of 4. The project progressed, due in no small part to grants from the Coventry Diocesan Guild and the FSG. When the old bellframe was examined more closely, it was evident that faults were more extensive than originally thought and a new, metal bellframe to contain 5 bells was the solution. A bell for the treble was donated, so

now they are a ring of 5! (Late update: bells have been rung and inspected, and the FSG grant passed for payment. Ed)

Blockley's rehang and augmentation project is nearing completion. The 10 bells were blessed in a Service on the 10th November and the bellframe was started just before Christmas. As events have raced ahead since the end of December, ending in a very successful test-ring of all 10 bells on Thursday 11th January, there is too much to write about here. There will be a special feature about this augmentation in the April edition. The project has been incredibly successful. The finished

result is a delight. Blockley has leapt from being a very poor hard-going 8 to an excellent, easy-going ring of 10 in one huge jump.

Middle Littleton's bells are unlikely to ring again for the foreseeable future. Barrie Wheeler tells me nothing has been done about the loose pinnacle and, at the moment, nothing is likely to happen for various reasons. It is sad that a perfectly ringable 6 in excellent order cannot be rung for fairly minor structural reasons, but many churches are likely to encounter the reasons of cost (dwindling reserves) and nobody to manage a project to restore the fabric.

AROUND THE TOWERS

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.

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Bishopstoke, Hampshire, St Mary

Saturday, 25 November 2017 in 2:47 (11-1-1 in G)

5039 Grandsire Caters

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Roy LeMarechal (C) | 6 John A Dodd |
| 2 John P Colliss | 7 Roger H Hunt |
| 3 Michael Chester | 8 Nicholas K Allsopp |
| 4 Janet L Morris | 9 James A Hodkin |
| 5 Steve Bowley | 10 Graham J Wright |

50th birthday compliment to Nick's wife, Jane Gilbert. Sorry it wasn't Stedman, Jane.

Worcestershire & Districts Association

Little Comberton, Worcestershire, St Peter

Saturday, 21 October 2017 in 2h 50m (13-1-18 in G)

5040 Minor

(4m: Double Oxford B., St Clement's CB, Plain Bob, Cambridge S)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Roger H Hunt | 4 Nicholas K Allsopp |
| 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath | 5 Steve Bowley |
| 3 Rachel D Page | 6 Michael Chester (C) |

50th peal together: 2 & 4

Vale of Evesham Society

Evesham, Worcestershire, The Bell Tower

Saturday, 2 December 2017 in 3hrs 42mins (35-2-20 in C#)

5015 Grandsire Cinques

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Christopher M Povey | 7 Simon E Adams |
| 2 Roger H Hunt | 8 Steve Bowley |
| 3 David T G Jones | 9 Andrew F Alldrick |
| 4 Rachel D Page | 10 Paul V W Feast |
| 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath | 11 Peter G Holden (C) |
| 6 Nicholas K Allsopp | 12 John W G Gwynne |

1st on twelve: 8. 1st peal of Grandsire Cinques: 6, 7, 10.

Vale of Evesham Society

Evesham, Worcestershire, The Bell Tower

Sunday, 31 December 2017 in 3hrs 14mins (9-0-1 in A#)

5040 Plain Bob Triples

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Roger H Hunt | 5 Simon E Adams |
| 2 Nicholas K Allsopp | 6 Robert Tregillus |
| 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath | 7 Michael Chester |
| 4 Julie A Tarling | 8 Steve Bowley |

Rung half-muffled to mark the passing of 2017.

Also remembering Harry A Plumb, long-serving ringer at this tower, on the 20th anniversary of his death. A wheelwright & coachbuilder by trade, he fashioned the model demonstration bell on the ringing chamber walls.

Has rung a peal on all 14 bells: 1.

Rung on the lightweight Aeolian 8



Worcestershire & Districts Association

Bretforton, Worcestershire, St Leonard

Saturday, 30 December 2017 in 2hrs 53mins (8-3-11 in F#)

5069 IKB Surprise Major

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Neil J Garner | 5 Roger H Hunt |
| 2 Nicholas K Allsopp | 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath |
| 3 Rachel D Page | 7 Christopher J Pickford |
| 4 Steve Bowley | 8 Michael Chester |

Belated birthday compliment (both October 26th) to local ringers, and steam railway enthusiasts, Roger Hunt (age related to number of changes) & William Boyce (79). Also to local ringer Fiona Gibson, who turned 40 yesterday.

Completes the surprise major alphabet: 5.

Remembering Isambard Kingdom Brunel & GWR Castle Class Loco No. 5069.

1st peal in the method.

MILITARY IN MEMORIA

Evesham, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 4 Oct (15cwt), 1320 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Martin Penny, 2 Tom Sandham, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Roger Hunt, 5 Matthew Kemble (C), 6 Chris Povey. Rung in memory of William John Kemble, serving with the 118th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Belgium, who died this day in 1917 and is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Great Grandfather of the conductor.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 2 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 Mick Austin, 4 Sally Austin, 5 David Crump, 6 Colin Lee, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Tim Burchell. Rung half muffled in memory of Stanley Claude Allen, on the 100th anniversary of his death, WW1.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 8 Oct, 1260 Doubles (Plain Bob & St Martins) on front 6: 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Keith Abbott, 3 Sally Austin, 4 Mick Austin, 5 Jonathan Muller (C), 6 Tim Burchell. Rung Half Muffled in memory of William Thomas Bloxham on the 100th anniversary of his death - killed at Broodseinde near Passchendaele WW1.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 9 Oct, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 David Crump, 4 Sally Austin, 5 Mick Austin. 6 Keith Abbott, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Michael Haynes. Rung half muffled in memory of George Beavington on the 100th anniversary of his death Killed at the Battle of Poelcappelle, just north of Passchendaele.

Wigginton, Oxon, 26 Oct, 1260 Doubles (Plain Bob, Grandsire): 1 Sue Checkley, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 Sally Austin (C), 4 Keith Abbott, 5 Mick Austin, 6 Tim Burchell. Rung Half Muffled in memory of Richard Thomas White, on the 100th anniversary of his death, remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium WW1. Great Uncle of Mick. Dan Austin would like to be associated with this quarter peal

Wigginton, Oxon, 6 Dec, 1260 Doubles (Plain Bob & Grandsire): 1 Helen Burchell, 2 Daniel Austin, 3 Sally Austin (C), 4 Mick Austin, 5 Jonathan Muller, 6 Tim Burchell. Rung Half Muffled in memory of George Howse on the 100th anniversary of his death. 900th Quarter Peal - 3

Evesham, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 11 Oct (7.5cwt), 1260 Doubles (Plain Bob & Grandsire): 1 Merry Privett, 2 Tom Sandham, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Barrie Wheeler. Rung for Tom's imminent and long-awaited retirement! 1st Q for 12 years: 1. 1st Q for very many years: 6.

Great Rissington, Glos, 22 Oct, 1320 Kent Treble Bob Minor: 1 Rob Kilbey, 2 Steve Coleman (C), 3 Sue Coleman, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 John Nicholls, 6 Keith Murphy. First Treble Bob: 1

Great Rissington, Glos, 27 Oct, 1260 Single Court Minor: 1 Isobel Murphy, 2 Steve Coleman (C), 3 Sue Coleman, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 John Nicholls, 6 Keith Murphy. First in method:6

Wellesbourne, Warks, 30 Oct, 1280 Cambridge Surprise Major: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 Peter Quinn, 3 John Keddie, 4 Simon Oram, 5 James Ingham, 6 Robert Reeves, 7 John Nicholls, 8 Mark Sayers. Rung in memory of Richard Casserley of Berkhamsted and St Giles-in-the Fields.

Middleton Stoney, Oxon, 6 Nov, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Keith Abbott, 2 Colin Taylor, 3 Alison Merryweather-Clarke, 4 Michael Probert, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Hugh Deam (C). Rung in continuing hopeful expectation of the forthcoming licensing of Michael Haynes to administer Holy Communion by extension at Godswell Park, Bloxham.

Offenham, Worcs, 11 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Claire Allen, 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Matthew Kemble, 4 Martin Penny (C), 5 Claire Penny, 6 Graham Lee. Rung half muffled as the sun set on Armistice Day.

Evesham, Worcs, Bell Tower, 12 Nov, 1296 Plain Bob Caters half muffled on the light ten: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Jeanette Davey, 3 Nicola Piper, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Georgie Roberts, 6 Kath Cocks (C), 7 Madeleine Johnson, 8 Rachel Coates, 9 Zoe Lee, 10 Rachel Page. To recognise the sacrifice made by women in the First World War. Rung by an all ladies band representing every decade from their teens to their 60's

Crothorne, Worcs, 13 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Rob Newman, 2 Steve Bowley, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4 John Alexander, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Anthony Wheeler. Rung open in fond memory of Ron Stephens, lifelong ringer at this tower, following his funeral earlier today by some of his ringing friends over the past 50 years. (The band wish to associate Thelma James, Ian Benjamin and Steve Thomas with this quarter.)

Wellesbourne, Warks, 13 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 James Ingham, 3 Sue Bacon, 4 John Keddie, 5 Stewart Heritage, 6 Simon Oram, 7 Peter Quinn, 8 Michael Dane. Rung in anticipation of Her Majesty's 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks, 19 Nov, 1296 Grandsire Caters:1 Nick Allsopp (C), 2 Roger Hunt, 3 Jennifer Winslow, 4 Rachel Page, 5 Steve Bowley, 6 Jane Gilbert, 7 Simon Adams, 8 Paul Evans, 9 Charles Wilson, 10 Peter Bridges. Rung to celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, married on 20th November, 1947.

Fladbury, Worcs, 20 Nov, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Peter Gordon, 2 Jenny Roberts, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Rachel Page, 6 Steve Bowley, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Richard Spray. Rung in memory of Ron Stephens of Crothorne, who passed away 1 November. Ron had been an active supporter of ringing and training at both this tower and his home tower.

Ilmington, Warks, 20 Nov, 1260 Plain Bob Minor (tenor Cover): 1 David Clark, 2 Fran Chapman, 3 John Kinchin, 4 Bill Sabin, 5 Jackie Hands, 6 Michael Dane (C), 7 Stuart Cummings. Rung to celebrate the 70th wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.



Pebworth, Worcs, 26 Nov, 1296 Grandsire Caters: 1 John A C Richards, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Alison Sanderson, 5 Chris Povey, 6 Martin Penny (C), 7 Robert D C Richards, 8 Carole Wood, 9 Andrew Wood, 10 Matthew Kemble. Rung on the conductors 60th birthday

Shipston on Stour, Warks, 27 Nov, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Gerald Phillips, 2 Jane Gilbert, 3 Jackie Roberts, 4 Len Morley, 5 Nicholas Allsopp (C), 6 Gerald Smith. For the induction of Rev. Sarah Edmonds

Badsey, Worcs, 1 Dec, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Rob Newman, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Jackie Hands, 6 Michael Haynes, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Tom Sandham. In memory of John Bolton who had been a stalwart ringer, tutor and steeplekeeper at this tower. (The band wish to associate his widow Hilary and the other local Sunday service ringers with this quarter).

Evesham, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 9 Dec (7.5cwt), 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Povey, 2 Freda Cleaver, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Ian Povey. To welcome to this world Evelyn (Evie) Rose Helen Povey, daughter for Matthew and Natalie and grand-daughter for Helen and Chris. The band included her Great-Uncle (treble) and Uncle (tenor).

Pebworth, Worcs, 22 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Freda Cleaver, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Alison Foster, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. First Quarter inside (4)

Evesham, Worcs, Bell Tower, 27 Dec (7.5cwt), 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Tom Sandham, 2 Matthew Kemble, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Alison Sanderson, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Anna Sanderson. First Quarter - 6

Pebworth, Worcs, 30 Dec, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Anna Sanderson, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Alison Sanderson. First Quarter on Treble – 1. First Quarter Covering - 6

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

JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW, ETC...

....AND TIME TO PAY FSG SUBS AND MAKE A BRF DONATION!

Yes, time really does accelerate as we get older. It seems only a month or two ago that January was last here. The Guild finances rely on your sub, and the Bell Restoration Fund relies on your donation (£5 minimum annually) to continue giving grants that really do make a difference. See the box on page 20. It gives details of the subs and the details of paying.

Please use the paying slip attached to the back of this Newsletter. It helps Michael Dane keep track of payments and who's a member, and who is due a Newsletter and who not. (An issue costs about 70p to print, so we try to ensure no more than required are printed).

GO ON, PAY NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY.

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, 3rd 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 20TH JAN 2018 AT THE LATEST.

Peter Quinn: 01789-840827; peterquinn22@gmail.com,

Michael Dane: 01789-470491; landm.dane@btinternet.com,

Stuart Cummings: 01608-685576; stuartcummings@madasafish.com

John Nicholls: 01386-841084; john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

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

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 Bell 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

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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

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!)

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Fusion has cleaned out Hampton, Hinton-on-the-Green and Evesham Bell Tower belfries; and recently at Mickleton.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JAN 6 TH	GREAT HAMPTON, Worcs,	8, 12-2-4 in F#
JAN 13 TH	LONG COMPTON, Warks,	6, 12-0-22 in F
JAN 20 TH	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks,	8, 15-0-22 in F# (GF)
JAN 27 TH	OFFENHAM, Worcs,	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) (*NOTE* 7-00PM.TILL 8-30PM.)
FEB 3 RD	* GUILD ANNUAL DINNER * AT CHARLECOTE PHEASANT HOTEL (7-00PM. FOR 7-30PM.)	
FEB 10 TH	MORETON-IN-MARSH, Glos,	8, 10-0-14 in G
FEB 17 TH	CLEEVE PRIOR, Worcs,	6, 8-3-26 in G
FEB 24 TH	PEBWORTH, Worcs,	10, 11-3-09 in F#
MAR 3 RD	SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR, Warks,	6, 9-2-1 in G *NOTE T.B.C.*
MAR 10 TH	WINCHCOMBE, Glos,	8, 11-2-11 in F#
MAR 17 TH	CROPTHORNE, Worcs,	6, 10 cwt in F#
MAR 24 TH	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos,	8, 27-2-24 in D
MAR 31 ST	* NOTE * NO SATURDAY PRACTICE THIS WEEK * EASTER SATURDAY *	
APR 7 TH	BARFORD, Warks,	6, 4-3-22 in B
APR 14 TH	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs,	8, 10-1-8 in G
APR 21 ST	T.B.A.	
APR 28 TH	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 (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:

Yes, folks, it's that time again: FSG SUBS were due on 1st 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, consider donating money to the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund again.

This is an annual donation scheme. £5 per member is the minimum 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 2018 – book the dates now:-

Guild Annual Dinner	Sat 3 rd Feb; The Charlecote Pheasant (see Notice p.18)
Guild Ringing Tour	Sat 7 th July. Route/towers tba in the April Newsletter
'Mini-Mouse' Comp	Sat 8 th Sept, probably at Pillerton Hersey
Walking & Ringing Tour	Provisionally 22 nd Sept. Route/towers tba
Striking comps & AGM	Sat 21 st Oct. Location tba.
Guild Christmas Party	Sat in December. Date and location tba