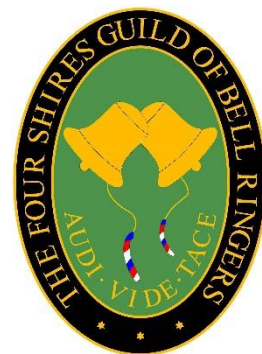


THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 156 - APRIL 2018



Founded Oct 18th 1909

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IT REALLY WAS A HUGE SURPRISE!!



(Photo: Colin Allen)

I'm sorry to put my mug on the front of the Newsletter this time, but, as those attending the Guild's Annual Dinner will know, I experienced a huge surprise at the end of the award giving. Peter Quinn announced there was an award for Evesham. I knew this couldn't be the case, because the tower hadn't competed in any event, so was bewildered. Peter then pulled the framed photo shown above from a black bag, which had been hidden underneath the table. There was a card, too, which had been signed by many FSG members. I knew absolutely nothing about it, so I must thank, firstly, Christina Ireland, whose idea the whole thing was and who arranged everything; and secondly, to all who knew about it – and it appears lots of people did as I discovered later – for giving me not the slightest hint about it beforehand.

What does the photo show? I was photographed next to 'my' gargoyle on Evesham Bell Tower. One of the originals had to go, because it was attached to a block that needed replacing. The Project Manager for the work suggested it should be me. Again, without my knowledge, the Vicar and PCC agreed, and my family provided some photos. I was lucky enough to meet the mason who carved it, and I have his pencil sketches. Officially the carving is a grotesque, as it doesn't convey rainwater. In the South West grotesques are known as 'Hunky Punks'. I did of course have the usual 'better looking than you, etc...'; yes, fully expected! Where is it? It's on the West face just underneath the parapet, in the middle of the right hand (south) side of the centre. It is an incredible privilege to be, literally, part of that beautiful building.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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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 (July 2018) is June 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!!

As you will see (p.5) I am handing in my notice of resignation as Newsletter Editor. It's not immediate – although if somebody beats a path to my door asking to take over at any time between now and July 2019 I will welcome their request. I hope somebody does come forward, as it would be a shame for many reasons to lose the Newsletter.

You will see below that Peter Newing has, once again, been exceedingly generous to the Guild in donating a set of handbells. We are incredibly lucky. Thank you, Peter! Richard L-S is very excited about this, as he says he's wanted to form a handbell band for some years now, but has not had bells with which to do this. He has now.

'From the Archives' makes interesting reading sometimes. The extract this time for 100 years ago mentions that the Secretary 'returned £1-0-0 of his yearly salary'. Firstly, it is surprising that the Secretary was paid a salary (but it might have been the way things worked then); and secondly, if he returned £1 (the equivalent of about £50 today), what was his full salary? Twice as much as that returned would have given him the equivalent of £100pa – and from what I can see it was only a small version of the job today. Where did the money come from to support such a sum? One can only assume the Honorary members, those who did not necessarily ring, but who were prepared to donate sums to good causes that benefitted the working

classes, particularly such causes associated with the Church. Perhaps we could seek out similar present-day charitable gentlemen (and ladies, too) and encourage more donations?! A salary would certainly make the job of finding a new secretary easier.

The Data Protection Act is being updated and it will affect the Guild. Please read my take on what the General Data Protection Regulation will mean to the running of the Guild when it comes into force next month (p.7).

Lastly – and it's literally just come to my attention – is 'Tower Talk' produced by ART (the Association of Ringing Teachers). The most recent one, just out, has some interesting articles in it. See it on:- http://ringingteachers.org/application/files/5115/2338/4585/Tower_Talk_7.pdf. Worth reading!

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

This year there will be two Royal weddings for us to ring for, and later on in the year many will ring for the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War. Our world is in a fragile state and parts are far from peaceful. There is no guarantee that it will remain as peaceful as it is.

On most Sundays I take one Service and if there are bells at the Church Angela and I arrive half an hour early and take the opportunity to ring with the local band. I make it a point of thanking the ringers for their regular Sunday by Sunday Service ringing, which today can be in more than one Church. Ringers frequently do not get the thanks they deserve for calling the faithful to Sunday worships.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

THE GUILD HAS BEEN GIVEN A SET OF HANDBELLS

The Guild has been given a set of handbells. This extremely generous gift is from the Rev Peter Newing. The set consists of a diatonic 12, size 12 in F to size 1 in C, with the intermediate sharps included to give a chromatic scale (20 bells), plus a size 15 in C: 21 bells in all. Not only that, they are housed in an excellent carrying case to protect them. The case has provision for the missing bells between the size 15 and the size 12, so those bells could be added if they become available at some time in the future.



The substantial carrying case.

The bells are in excellent condition. They were

made by Petit & Fritsen of Holland in (I'm guessing) the 1960s. At present they are with Richard Lewis-Skeath. A letter of thanks has been sent to Peter. The Guild Committee will decide the arrangements for looking after them, and how and for what they may be borrowed by Guild members.



The top layer of bells in the case.

I note Richard has already rung the four smallest bells to a quarter peal of Bob Minimus (two bells in each hand). Good to see the bells are already in use. Details of the Q are:-

Badsey, Worcs (3 Silk Mill Cottages) 17 Mar, (4 in G), 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: 1–2–3–4 Richard Lewis-Skeath (rung silent & non-conducted). First in a former silk mill.

(Petit & Fritsen are now part of the Dutch bellfounder Eijsbouts, which is based at Asten. While P&F produced handbells, Eijsbouts never did, so any additions to the set can only happen if (a) such bells become available on the second-hand market, and (b) there is agreement by the Committee to purchase.)



The bottom layer - note spaces for extra bells.

2017 GUILD ACCOUNTS

| Four Shires Guild of Bellringers - Accounts 2017 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | 2016 | Income | 2017 | 2016 | Expenditure | 2017 |
| | | General Fund | | | | |
| | £695.01 | Opening Balance | £603.76 | 1 | | |
| | £979.00 | Subscriptions | £1,029.00 | 2 | £393.51 | Printing & Postage |
| | | | | | £317.56 | Insurance |
| | £169.25 | Garments | £15.00 | | £245.93 | Garments |
| | | Annual Dinner | £176.00 | 3 | £167.50 | Annual Dinner |
| | | | | | £60.00 | CCCBR |
| | | Donations towards Tea | £33.25 | | | Room Hire |
| | | | | | | Website Domain |
| | £13.00 | Badges | £32.00 | | £38.00 | Engraving Shields |
| | £444.75 | Bell Fund Donations | £2,016.51 | | £444.75 | Transferred to Bell Fund |
| | | | | | £30.00 | Funeral Flowers |
| | £1,225.00 | Trans from Bell Fund (grants) | £0.00 | | £1,225.00 | Grants Paid |
| | £2,831.00 | Total receipts | £3,301.76 | | £2,922.25 | Total expenditure |
| | | | | | | Closing Bank balance |
| | | | | | | Cash in hand |
| | | | | | £603.76 | Closing Balance |
| | | | | | | £856.21 |
| | | Restricted Funds - Bell Fund | | 5 | | |
| | £2,544.20 | Opening balance | £1,765.45 | 1 | £150.00 | Sherbourne |
| | £100.00 | Mid Week Tours | £300.00 | | £500.00 | Adlestrop |
| | £112.00 | Donations | £1,333.31 | | £75.00 | Great Hampton |
| | £1.50 | Interest | £1.05 | | £500.00 | Bourton-on-the-Water |
| | £80.00 | Newsletter Advertising | £120.00 | | | |
| | £122.00 | Raffles, outing, teas etc | £140.20 | | | |
| | £30.75 | Clothing Profit | £2.23 | | | |
| | | From General Fund | | | | |
| | £446.25 | Total receipts | £1,896.79 | | £1,225.00 | Total expenditure |
| | | | | | £1,765.45 | Closing balance |
| | | | | | | £3,662.24 |
| | Creditors at year end | | | Debtors at year end | | |
| | £45.00 | Subs paid in advance | £38.00 | £ 100.00 | Dinner deposit | £200.00 |
| | £523.00 | Badges & Shields | £491.00 | | | |
| Other assets of the Guild include: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer Jones Cup, Mini-Mouse Merit Award, Inter-Shires Trophy, peal books and documents. The Award, Shield, Cup, Trophy and President's Chain have been valued professionally and are currently insured by the Guild for £4153. | | | | | | |
| Notes | | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening balances | | | 4 | Printing | |
| | The Guild operates 2 bank accounts, one for the General Fund and the other (which incurs interest) for the Bell Fund. | | | | This covers the cost of all the Guild printing & posting, including the Newsletters. | |
| 2 | Subscriptions | | | 5 | Bell Fund | |
| | The total membership for 2017 was 208. This includes 9 Life members & 3 who paid in 2016. | | | | The Committee decided that all the nett profit from Teas, Raffles, Clothing sales etc would go into the Bell Fund. The outstanding grants are Pillerton Hersey (£500), Blockley (£500) and Moreton-in-Marsh (£175); to be paid in 2018. | |
| 3 | Dinner figure; This includes a deposit of £200 for the 2018 dinner. | | | | | |

The Guild operates 2 bank accounts with HSBC; a Community Account which is our day to day account for General Funds and a Business Money Manager Account (which generates a small amount of interest) which holds the Bell Fund.

The General Fund started the year with £603.76 and finished with £856.21 which shows an increase of £252.45. However, we paid an increased dinner deposit last year for the 2018 dinner (£200), we had subs paid in advance (in 2016 & 2017) and there was £123 which had not been transferred to the Bell Fund at the end of the year, for 2017 we actually made a profit of £136.

The principal income was subscriptions of £1,029 and expenditure of £392 on printing and postage, £326 for the guild insurance and £60 for CCCBR. The total membership for 2016 was 208 which includes 9 Life members.

The Bell Fund started the year with £1,765.45 and ended with £3,662.24. There is also £123 in the General Fund which had not been transferred over at the end of the year. The income was £1,896.79; the increase mainly due to a large number of donations. We paid no grants in 2017 but there are outstanding grants agreed of £1,175.00 for 3 towers. At the end of 2017 this left £2,610 of unallocated funds which can be used for grants.

Michael Dane, Honorary Treasurer

OBITUARY: EDWARD JAMES 'TED' COPSON; 13th JAN 1934 – 26th DEC 2017

Ted was born and brought up in Warwick, the family lived in Theatre Street Warwick. He was educated at Warwick School and left at 16 years of age to join Warwickshire County Council. His career took him to a number of departments, finishing as the purchasing officer for the county. In 1991 the department was closed as purchasing was combined with Leicestershire CC so Ted took early retirement.

He was a keen member of The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and it was at one of their meetings Ted met Pam Sturdy, who was to be his future wife. They married at St Mary's Church, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham in 1971

After marrying they bought their first house in Barford. It was from there they joined All Saints Church at Sherbourne, where they both took charge of the bellringing and established a weekly practice late on Friday afternoons. They also organised ringing for the Sunday services and special occasions.

They lived in Barford until 1977 when they moved to a new house in Wellesbourne, but still continued to organise the ringing at Sherbourne. However, Ted was also big supporter of Saint Peter's Church Wellesbourne, where he and Pam rang for practice and Sunday services. He

was also Tower Captain at St Peter's for a short spell. When he was unable to ring anymore he would still come along to practices so that he could enjoy a pint and a chat afterwards.

Ted also supported the church at Wellesbourne in other ways. He was at one time a member of the PCC, chairman of the fabric committee for a number of years and a loyal sidesman. He was also very willing to do any small DIY jobs for the churches both at Wellesbourne and Sherbourne.

He also supported ringing at Stratford upon Avon on Tuesdays and The Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers Saturday evening meetings, as that was also another good excuse for him to go for a pint and a chat afterwards. He was not a prolific peal ringer; he rang three peals, all for the Coventry Guild. However he and Pam rang many quarter peals and during Pam's time as the President of the Coventry Guild they attempted to ring a quarter peal in all ringable towers in the diocese.

Ted was also a proficient German linguist and spent many hours at Stratford College on Wednesday evenings learning the language, he and Pam had numerous holidays in Austria and Germany so could perfect his skills.

Sherbourne Teaching Aids was the inspiration of Pam written by hand in 1982, and after Pam died in 2007 Ted continued to distribute these until he went into a nursing home almost 2 years ago. It is a legacy that some 4,000 items including 2,500 "One Per Learner" books were purchased in 2017 and they are still going strong.

Ted's funeral took place at All Saints' Church, Sherbourne on Friday 26th January 2018. There was a total congregation of about 70, with ringers in the congregation representing three counties. The bells were rung half muffled before and after the service. A Peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major was rung at St Peter's Wellesbourne* on Monday 15th January 2018 in his memory by members of the Coventry Guild, also a half-muffled quarter peal of 1260 Grandsire and Plain Bob Doubles was rung at All Saints' Sherbourne* on Monday 28th January by ringers from Wellesbourne and Sherbourne in thanksgiving for Ted's life.

Peter Quinn

(* see reports of the peal and the quarter peal on p.14)

(This Obituary appeared in the Ringing World)

YOUR NEWSLETTER.....

This issue is the 35th I have edited. The first of those was the October 2009 issue. I said then I would only be a temporary editor. Unfortunately for me, no one stepped forward to become a permanent editor.

Lots of things have happened since my first issue – becoming retired is one, so there's little time for many things (people ask me if I still work and I say 'yes, it's just that I don't get paid for it anymore...'); three grandchildren have appeared in the last 18 months (Robert Hall agreed with me when I said they are expensive, but, he said 'they are the cheapest and greatest form of pleasure you'll have': how true); and I have another big/significant birthday coming up next year, so the time to do things (we want to use our campervan more) is rapidly reducing.

I have therefore decided that the July 2019 Newsletter will be my final issue – and that will make 40 I shall have edited over a 10 year period: 25% of all those produced. A goodly number, I think; and over a goodly time, too. I have informed the Committee of my intention to stand down. I am well aware that I sent out

similar messages some years back, but this time it is for real: July 2019 will be my last issue.

I am informing early (5 more issues after this one) so the message will have sufficient time to sink in. Hopefully, very hopefully, someone will put their head above the parapet and say, 'I'll give it a go'.

The Guild is well noted for its Newsletter – not just for the ones I've edited, but the previous issues, too: particularly those edited by Pam Copson. Apart from that, it is an extremely efficient management tool, as organisers of events in particular know they must have details of their event by a particular date, otherwise, if missed, there is no advertising and the event is as good as dead in the water.

For those who might be interested, don't think you have to emulate 'my' Newsletters. I developed a style that suited me. It might be good to have a restyle: who knows... Yes, some of my style might stay, but all the issues I've produced are still on my computer and can be transferred to a new editor easily, thereby providing templates if required. All are in

Microsoft Word (sorry, no fancy publishing packages). I would be prepared to help and advise initially, but to be honest it's not dreadfully hard. Yes, it demands some time, but there's a certain degree of pride in holding up the finished article and thinking, 'Hmm, that's a tidy one'. I have little doubt there will be some mistakes to begin with, but you can always counter any form of criticism by 'Somebody else can do this if they wish...'. That's a great shutter-upper!

It might be useful all-round if the new editor were to offer to take over this seat before I produce my last issue, so we could work together, rather than occupy the seat a few days before the October issue is due out.

In fact, an aspiring editor has no need to wait until next October, as someone may take over from me at any time between now and then. I shall not be unhappy if that happens!

I believe I've done my bit for the Guild in this way. It's now time for somebody else to offer to do their bit.

Chris. Editor (but getting on the slope to retiring as such).

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 21st NOVEMBER.

The Committee met on Tuesday 27th February at Church House, Evesham.

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** Matthew.
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** one correction: Michael Dane chaired. Otherwise agreed as correct and signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising:-**
All actions not on the agenda had been undertaken
- 5) **Reports:** the following are highlights:-
Guild Master: only the Annual Dinner Report
Hon Secretary: Chris had received proposals and secondings for the following:-

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| John Colebrook | Harvington |
| Roger Tyrell | Pebworth |
| Beccie Williams | Willersey |
| Stewart Heritage | Wellesbourne |

All were granted membership, nem con.

Treasurer: Michael's financial report showed the accounts are correct. The Bell Fund has £3,032 unallocated at present.

Newsletter Editor: Chris said he hoped to get the April issue out on time, but as there were no April Fools this time, it might be late (*it is: apologies*). He told the Committee that he has decided to resign from the post after the July 2019 issue, which will be 40 issues edited. This will be announced in the Newsletter, so that there is sufficient time for someone else to take it on.

CCCB: the new Rules to govern the revamped Central Council are still hazy. This

is a result of trying to run an 'old' and a 'new' Council in parallel at the moment.

- 6) **Bell Restoration Fund:**
Updates:
Pillerton Hersey: inspected and grant paid (£500)
Blockley: also inspected and grant paid (£500).
Moreton-in-Marsh: the work is still outstanding, so grant cannot be paid yet.
Grant applications for consideration:
Bidford-on-Avon: clapper work. Agreed to grant £120
Further grant applications:
None received at this time.

Items for discussion:-

Update on recent events:

Xmas Party, 9th Dec, Badsey:, small numbers, but enjoyed by all. The raffle was remarkable in netting £91 for the Bell Fund, thanks to Hilary Bolton selling tickets around the village before the event.

Annual Dinner, 3rd Feb, Charlecote Pheasant: judged an excellent event with 73 people attending: a near record. Again the raffle was remarkable: £191 netted for the Bell Fund.

2018 programme:

Annual Ringing Tour, Sat 7th July: details to be in the April Newsletter (*they are: see p.11*).

Minimus Striking Comp: 8th Sept. confirmed venue is Pillerton Priors. Details to follow.

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

2018 Striking comps & AGM: Sat 21st Oct. Location will be Sherbourne: details to follow
2018 Xmas Party: details to follow.
Xmas Party: venue likely to be Badsey again. Date to be announced.

Converting the Guild to a charity. This was discussed and there was unanimous agreement to converting formally via the Charity Commission. It was agreed that Michael and Chris would progress this
Changes to the Data Protection Act (the General Data Protection Regulation): this change affects the Guild and the way it protects members' personal data. The requirements are not fully clear, but it is hoped this will become clearer. Chris to produce a document for the April Newsletter that outlines what data is kept by the Guild, how it is stored, and the measures proposed to keep it secure.

7) **AOB:**

John N proposed that a member be made an Honorary Life Member; Richard seconded this. All agreed with this. However, this can only take place at an AGM. Chris was asked to place this on the agenda for that meeting

8) **Next Meeting:** Tues 15th May at Wellesbourne, 7.00pm start.

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

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

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

Things are still hazy with the Central Council at the moment. This is because the Committees of the 'old' CC are still operating under the existing Rules of the Council, but great efforts are being made to finalise Rules of what will become the 'new' Council if delegates vote to accept them at the Council meeting at the end of May.

The Workgroup leaders, who will lead the new workgroups (the committees will disappear by being grouped into like-minded disciplines)

have been in place for some time now, and they are trying to have things in place for when the green light glows signifying that the new regime has started. Perhaps a bell will be rung when this happens, Liberty Bell style)

Anybody who's been through a major reorganisation at their workplace will know this is a confusing time, with most hoping that the promised 'jam tomorrow' will eventually be 'jam today'.

Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble

OK BOYS AND GIRLS, HERE IS THE BIG(GEST) ONE!!

Four Shires Guild visit to Liverpool Cathedral Bells. Sunday 3rd June.

This is an opportunity to ring on the heaviest ringing peal of bells in the world. The tenor weighs 82-0-11, just over 4 tons. We shall be joining the Liverpool Cathedral ringers for the Sunday afternoon service ringing from 1:30 - 3:00pm.

I have a 15 seat minibus booked for the day, leaving the Cotswolds around 09:00am. Each seat will cost £15. Seats allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact me at: allsoppn@gmail.com

THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

As some of you may be aware, the Data Protection Act is being updated. The update is termed the General Data Protection Regulation and is coming into force on 28th May. It affects the Guild (and many other organisations, too).

The implementation of this update is causing some head-scratching. This is due in many ways to trying to sift out from the wording what we really must do to comply. The update is written to cover all sorts of organisations, large or small, commercial or voluntary, so there's lots of it. Even the mighty Gloucester & Bristol DA is having trouble in deciding what they need to do.

From what I understand, the requirement is to put in place measures to protect your personal information from being collected and used by unconnected parties. This is of course very sensible – I'm sure many of us receive unsolicited emails (Spam) at various times and wish we didn't.

The Committee have discussed this and we are in the same boat as the G&B. However, to progress this towards compliance, the following points can be made:-

1. The Guild stores very little data about you. The largest category is the email addresses for those receiving their Newsletters in this way. There are about 70 such addresses in the database. Nothing is stored in paper file form. No telephone numbers are stored. (The Guild used to produce a list of telephone numbers for Guild members, but the last of these appeared in 2002. It has not been updated in any form since then);
2. We store addresses for those who receive their Newsletters by post. At present there are 10 such addresses stored;
3. We do not produce an Annual Report, so no personal details are published in that way;
4. Addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of certain people appear in the Newsletter (Guild Officers, Committee members and selected others).

The security measures the Guild employs at the moment are these:-

1. The email addresses are confined to those people who print and distribute the Newsletter;
2. The email addresses are stored on my computer and solely on my computer. Nothing (to my knowledge) is stored 'in the Cloud', so nothing can be hacked into to obtain these addresses; similarly the home addresses for the posted copies;
3. All emailed Newsletters are sent out under 'Bcc', so no details of the list of people within the group being emailed can be seen.

The additional measures the Guild will take to improve security are these:-

1. Only the person sending out the emailed Newsletters and the Editor will have access to the email addresses; similarly the home addresses for this purpose;
2. Those people with contact details displayed in the Newsletter will be asked to confirm whether they are happy for this information to continue being displayed;
3. The organisation keeping the data must (it is believed at this stage) keep a log of any data breaches that occur, and the Hon Sec of the Guild (currently me) will keep such a log;
4. The Guild will endeavour to keep up to date with requirements of the Regulation as its implementation progresses.

Additionally, all those members who have email address details stored by the Guild are required to agree that those details are stored in this way. Consequently, those people will receive a request from me to agree (or disagree) in writing. This will also apply to those who have their Newsletter by post.

The Guild hopes that we can keep the requirements of the Regulation to a simple and sensible level, given that the amount of data held is small.

The Guild will continue to monitor the situation. If anyone has a better and more practical understanding of the requirements, please step forward.

Chris Povey, Hon Sec)

PHOTO QUIZ FROM ROGER HUNT



You will probably recognise the cityscape but from where was this photo taken?

Answers (Place name or OS map ref accepted) to the Ed by June 30th please.

THE 2018 GUILD ANNUAL DINNER.

The Guild Annual Dinner was, as last year, held at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel. The large room there was advantageous, as we had 73 attending, a near record number.

The hotel had laid tables with fewer people to each table, so we filled the room very nicely. This overcame the criticism of last year, that we seemed huddled up one end with lots of unused space. The only criticism this year was the single barman at the bar, who had difficulty serving the long queue that had built up before the meal began, which meant that we started late. However, that problem gradually dissipated.

The Dinner followed the traditional format of meal, Speaker during coffee and the award-giving. We were delighted to have with us not only the President, John Nicholls, but our two Vice-Presidents, Freda Cleaver and the Rev Peter Newing, whose wife, Angela, accompanied him. Stuart and Michael Cummings once again ran a raffle, for which a huge array of prizes had been donated. The raffle made an amazing £191 for the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund.

Our Speaker this year was Bob Taylor from Stoneleigh, who regaled us with memories of what ringing was like when he started ringing some 50 years ago. Yes, there were a few things that were familiar to a fair proportion of the assembled company. Thank you, Bob.

The awards went to:-

Newing Shield Moreton-in-Marsh

(winners of the Striking Comp)

Spencer Jones Cup Mickleton/Ilmington

(2nd place in the Striking Comp)

Brazier Trophy Moreton-in-Marsh

(winners of the Brazier Comp)

Merit Award Pebworth

(awarded by the Ringing Master to the team, which, in his opinion, is most deserving of merit in the comps)

It was good to have a variety of people giving the awards, including Vice-President Freda Cleaver this year. We would also have had Vice-President Peter Newing doing the same with the Newing Shield, but Peter and Angela had to depart before the award giving.

Was it a good one this year? Yes, I think it was. If the number attending is an indication, then this, the largest number for many years and a near record, could be the case. Perhaps, too, the Guild is, genuinely, a 'vigorous little Guild', as it was described in the Central Council Meeting of 2010 when the Guild applied for affiliation to that body. Whatever, it all seems positive

All photos are by Colin Allen, to whom my thanks, as I didn't have to take any!

I'm told we have a volunteer for Speaker at the 2019 Annual Dinner: Martin Penny, RM at Pebworth. I'm sure there will be some interesting hints and tips about bringing back an inactive tower to much life. Stand by for a raucous one....

Chris Povey



A panoramic view of the guests attending



Nick Allsopp receiving the Newing Shield.



Bill Sabin receiving the Spencer Jones Cup.



Elizabeth Royle and Imogen Murphy with the Brazier Trophy.



Alison Foster receiving the Merit Award.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

100 YEARS AGO

1st May 1918

The annual General Meeting of the Guild was held at 'The Rectory', Moreton-in-Marsh, on Wednesday May 1st, 1918, the chair being occupied by the President, H.D'Este'East, Esq. After the minutes been duly read and accepted, letters of apology for non-attendance was (sic) read from Revs G.E.Hitchcock & D. Lloyd. It was again resolved that this should be regarded as the annual meeting, so the Sec produced the Balance Sheet, which showed a balance of £6-6-2. The Sec returned £1-0-0 of his yearly salary. The Balance Sheet was passed. It was pro by the Rev Spencer Jones, sec by Mr H.Evans, that Rules 6&7, be again suspended, which was unanimously agreed to.

All 3 officers of the Guild were re-elected.

On the proposition of Mr H.Evans and seconded by the President, the Sec was instructed to write and invite the Reverend – (sic) Holbrook to become an Honorary Member of the Guild.

The President gave a short address on the Great War and other topics, after which the usual complimentary Votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman for presiding & to the Rev Spencer Jones for the use of the Room. This closed the meeting. There was a small attendance.

(Signed) Hubert D'Este'East, President

40 YEARS AGO

20th March 1978:

Committee Meeting held on 20th March 1978 at Long Barn, Draycott.

Members present: M F Fairfax, Miss L Bedford, Mrs H Davies, Mrs P Linsdell, A J Brazier, G Harper,, R Payne.

Apologies were received from G Osborne.

The minutes were read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the previous meeting held on 20th January 1978.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported a balance at the bank of £39.49; Building Society £54.71; Petty Cash £2.18. Subscriptions to date £36.25; Donations £8.70; profit on dinner £4.55; Badges £10. Expenditure to date: Postage £5.00; Comp certs £9.72; Choc for raffle [no figure given]. Subscriptions outstanding are 31 members and 4 extra-territorial.

Business arising:

(i) Competition Shield: Mr Hart has not replied to the Secretary's letter requesting a design for approval. Mr Fairfax to see Mr Hart and the Secretary was asked to contact him;

(ii) Half-year Ringing Competition: Mr Fairfax reported that the competition will be held at Bretforton on 29th April at 3pm. There will not be a Service afterwards. Mr Fairfax suggested that entry forms be sent to towers, completed and returned to him by 19th April, and he would make the draw and notify the teams of their time to compete. This method, it is hoped, would eliminate the necessity of all teams arriving at the tower at the beginning. The judge is to be Mr R Thorne of Bodicote and one other. Mr Brazier suggested getting the judges to sign the certificates at the competition, this was approved. A discussion followed on whether a team from outside the area could compete. It was decided that one could compete, be judged and marked but that they would not be eligible for the shield or the cup. It was proposed that this question be raised at the AGM to see if the FSG boundary should be enlarged;

(iii) Newsletter: it was agreed to start a quarterly Newsletter. The first would be distributed with the diary in June. The Committee would be mainly responsible for the first issue but it is hoped that members will send in any items. News for the first issue to include Half-Yearly Ringing Competition; Obituary to C Sabin; news from the towers;

quarter peals; births marriages and deaths;

(iv) Typewriter: The Secretary has been authorised to spend up to £20 on a typewriter;

(v) Saydisc: The commercial record company Saydisc contacted Mr Brazier as they want to make a record of the North Cotswold bells. They want 6 & 8-bell towers including Chipping Campden and Stow on the Wold. The record will be make (sic) up of rounds and methods. One record will be of North Cotswold bells with a possibility of another of South Cotswold bells. A discussion followed as to whether it should be a Four Shires record or whether to include the other counties. No decision was reached

Any Other Business

Mrs Davies reported that Charlie Sabin of Ilmington died in February. It was proposed that a muffled peel (sic) be rung in his memory.

Summer Outing: The Secretary was asked to arrange an outing to Oxford on the 2nd or 8th July. To visit four towers: one Ten and three 6 or 8-bell towers. It was agreed to find out if those interested would like to travel by train from Moreton-in-Marsh or go in one's own car.

(Signed) M.F.Fairfax 8/5/78

8th May 1978

Committee Meeting held at The Long Barn, Draycott, on 8th May 1978.

Members present were: Miss L Bedford, A J Brazier, Mrs H Davies, M F Fairfax, G Harper, Mrs P Linsdell, G Osbourne and R Payne.

The Minutes were read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the previous meeting.

Half-Yearly Ringing Competition held at Bretforton on 29th April 1978.

Mr Fairfax began his report by requesting that it be recorded in the minutes his thanks to all concerned who contributed to making the afternoon so successful. He felt the new method of application was entirely satisfactory and of the eight competing teams only one failed to return the application form; the other teams expressed their appreciation of this method. The judges, Mr R Thorne, Bodicote, Mr T Charles were in full approval of the various ways of ringing which were included and said most competitions did not have such variety. They particularly mentioned the raising and falling in rounds. The Secretary was asked to submit a full report to The Ringing World.

Mr Fairfax volunteered to arrange a quarter peel (sic) before a service for Mr Sabin of Ilmington.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported a balance of £88.71 in Building Society; £3.10 in Bank; £8.12 Petty Cash. Expenditure: 6 Ringers' Handbooks £5.40; 12 handbooks £1.80; stamps £4.40; 2 Receipt books £0.60; 1 Film for Competition £1.90.

It was suggested and accepted that the Ringers' Handbook be sold at £1 and the Handbooks at 20p.

Newsletter:

Items for the Newsletter are being sent in slowly. It was decided that the format should be A4 size:

Shield:

The Newing Competition Shield designs from Mr Hart were shown and a discussion followed as to which design was to be used but no agreement was reached. Mr Brazier proposed that the Rev Newing's name be affixed to the back and a small replica be presented to all winning teams from 1973. This was agreed.

Saydisc:

Mr Brazier reported that a team had been round the North Cotswolds that day and reasonable recordings had been made. They are to visit six bell towers, to complete the record, in two weeks time.

Outing:

The Secretary had been unable to arrange an outing to Oxford as the towers get so many requests at this time of the year. An alternative

suggestion was to South Gloucestershire.

Ringling World:

Mrs Davies asked the Secretary to clarify the date of the front page. Mr Fairfax wanted to know if there was enough information for Len Dowdeswell to write a history of the Guild for the Ringling World. Mr Brazier will let Mr Dowdeswell have all information.

Any Other Business:

The Secretary read a letter from Mr Radley of the North Cotswold

Branch of the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association asking if we would join with them for joint practices in particular methods. The general feeling was that there should not be joint practices; that our Saturday practices are satisfactory; and that there was no need for another as there is one on Friday night at Moreton in Marsh and Chipping Campden. The Secretary was asked to reply to this effect, (Signed) M F Fairfax 14 Aug 1978

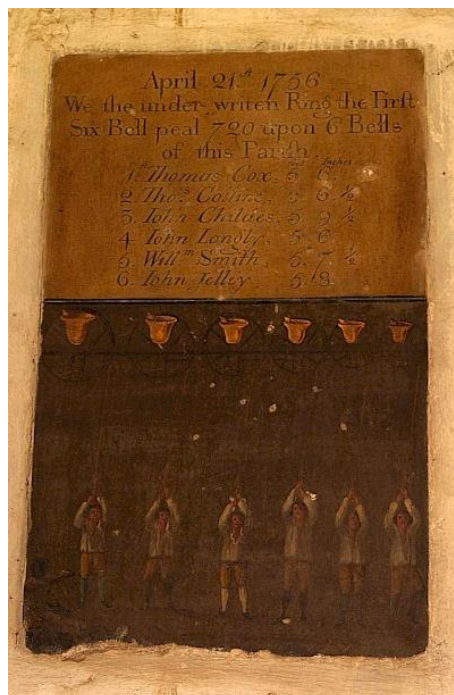
RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

THE JANUARY TOUR (the 339th) THURSDAY 19th: NORTHANTS

So what's with number 18? Eighteen ringers on the 18th of the month in 2018. As Albert Einstein said, *coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous* so perhaps we best leave this thought hanging!

As fits the time of year, it was a cold morning, but some January sunshine tried to fool us it was warmer than it was. Our first tower at Ecton provided us with a warm, resonant set of bells with a delicious hum on the ring down. These bells preferred to be rung slow and we rung, Cambridge Minor, Changes, Bob Minor and unusually for us, Grandsire Minor.

Ecton ringing room is a little treasure house of ringing delights. The peal board commemorating a 720 touch on 21st April 1756 focuses not so much on the ringing, but devoted a great deal of detail to the height of the individual ringers. The tallest being five foot nine and a half inches and the shortest, five foot six inches. So, despite being shorter than your average 21st Century ringers, the band shared our 21st Century liking of 'midweek'. The touch looks like it was a Wednesday night affair.



In addition, a lovely stone tablet of 1727 contains a rhyme set below five named ringers;

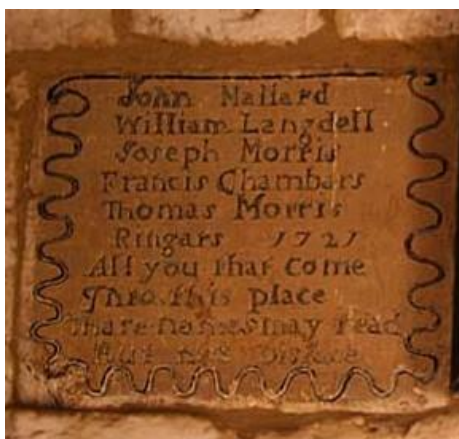
All you that come

Into This place

Thare names may read

But not Disgace

Still wise words today.



So, despite warming up at Ecton, the January cold persisted as we arrived in Grendon. I was given great hope by the sign on the church door at Grendon advising us to keep the heat in by keeping the door shut. My hopes were soon to be dashed. In common with most other small country churches, it was warmer outside than in, so keeping the door open may have been a good idea, but as you can see, we were made welcome.

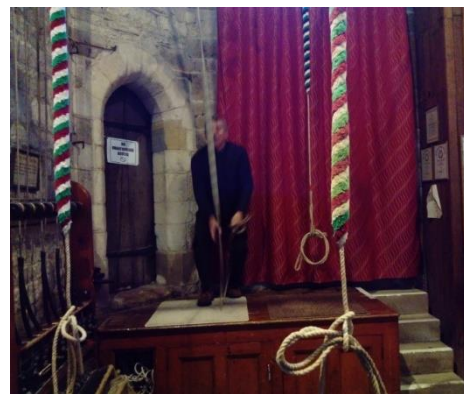


We soon warmed up with some Plain Hunt, Single Oxford Minor, Stedman Doubles, London and St. Clements. A great view is to be had from the ringing chamber down the nave of this well kept Northamptonshire church.

A lunch break in Irchester at the Carpenters Arms followed. The pub was conveniently placed opposite Irchester church. Great

planning and thanks must go to our January Tour organiser Jenny Ball.

Irchester's claim to ringing fame is that it has an elevated platform where the seventh and tenor can stare imperiously down on the rest of the band. This caused one or two of our number to comment on the difficulty of placing the smaller bells over the larger when ringing on different levels. Perhaps height is an issue here, as well as in Ecton! On this first eight of the day we rang Grandsire Triples, Yorkshire, Stedman Triples and Rounds and Changes.



The last tower of the day provided me with a memory test as I had rang at Irthlingborough before. It has a pretty unusual name so it should really stick in the memory. I can't find any information on the name itself, but its one time claim to fame was that it was the smallest town in England to have a Football League team (Rushden and Diamonds FC). This title has now been lost to Forest Green with the promotion of Forest Green Rovers to the EFL in May 2017. See all the things you can learn on a 'Midweek Tour'!

I had remembered that Irthlingborough tower was warm and cosy and it was in fact a reconstructed school tower, restructured to form a 'lantern tower' in 1888. (There's that number eight again!). The bells were the most easy-going of the day and the warm ringing chamber a real bonus.

We rang Rounds and Changes and perhaps we should have made more of a point of ringing Whittington's with the Lord Mayor of London connection (see plaque detail). In addition we rang Stedman, Lincolnshire and Grandsire Triples.



Many thanks go to all who braved the cold for an enjoyable days ringing. A particular welcome to first time visitor Cathy McCarthy from Tredington and once again thanks to our January Organiser, Jenny Ball.

Keith Murphy

THE FEBRUARY & MARCH TOURS (the 340th & 341st): THURSDAY 16TH. SE GLOS & LOCAL AREA

Due to the difficulties in obtaining volunteers to write up monthly reports, it falls to me to give a summary of our activities in the last two months. These will be brief reflections written at some distance and with little specific details. For those of you who have access to Facebook, you may find some lovely pictorial accounts of the tours that she attends, posted by Alison Merryweather-Clarke, to the Four Shires or Bellringers' Pages. She has an amazing knack of seeking out and capturing beautifully detailed pictures of interesting features in the churches that we visit.

February's tour day seemed like the first day of Spring, little did we know that the Beast from the East was waiting around the corner to bring us back to reality. That special sunlight found in the Cotswolds was at its finest as we started at Watermoor in Cirencester and remained with us for the whole of the day. A warm village welcome awaited us in Barnsley from both the ringing Churchwarden who allowed us to park in her extensive driveway, and other villagers who called in and were genuinely pleased to hear their bells being rung. After lunch, we had fun locating the tower at Hatherop and were treated to an unexpected walk through a meadow to the church, reminiscent of a scene from a Jane Austen dramatization. The décor in the ringing room was interesting and immediately confirmed to me that this wasn't a new grab after all! Our final tower was Lechlade. Thanks to Chris Seers for stepping in, at a particularly busy time, to arrange February's day out.

March's tour details were kept under wraps in a bid to restrict its delights to regular tourists. This worked relatively well but it was a useful exercise in discovering that the optimum numbers for a tour should be approximately 20! In all 32 ringers arrived at Pillerton Hersey eager to sample this recent augmentation from 3 to 5. We were its first tourists and the villagers were somewhat bemused by the number of cars attempting to park and negotiate an unexpected road closure. We enjoyed our ringing in Halford and Ebrington and squeezed into our small lunch venue, whose landlord did a valiant job

with the additional numbers and an unexpectedly absent chef. The finale of the day was the superb augmentation at Blockley where an unforgiving 8 has been transformed into a beautiful 10 – high praise indeed from someone who has difficulty seeing the point of anything beyond an octave! Our visit coincided deliberately with one by BBC Radio Gloucestershire to interview donors and church personnel about the recent work on the bells. Our ringing was recorded to provide a backing track to these and some of the early arrivals were also interviewed about ringing technicalities and traditions, sadly these did not make it to the broadcast. Again, our ringing attracted the attention of the locals, many of whom stood outside to listen and were treated to some Cambridge Royal and Stedman Caters.

Following March's tour, during which generous donations were made to the individual towers, I was also able to donate money from our surplus funds to the Four Shires Bell Fund. During the course of 2017/8 a total of £425 has been transferred in this way.

If you would like any information about the monthly tours, please get in touch with me. However, the best way to find out is to come to one – details usually via Bellboard or the Four Shires website.

Isobel Murphy

GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR SATURDAY, 7th JULY 2018

CANNOCK CHASE AREA

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 0930 - 1015 | Penkridge, St. Michael & All Angels, (8) 16-1-21 in E, ST19 5AW. |
| 1045 - 1130 | Colwich, St. Michael & All Angels, (6) 7-2-10 in A, ST17 OXT. |
| 1145 - 1230 | Rugeley, St. Augustine, (6) 7-2-26 in G, WS15 2HG. |

Lunch - suggestion The Merchant, Market Place, Cannock, WS11 1BS (opp. the church)

N.B. there are plenty of other pubs/eateries in the town.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1430 - 1530 | Cannock, St. Luke, (10) 14-0-10 in F, WS11 ODP. |
| 1545 - 1630 | Norton Canes, St. James, (8) 8-1-14 in Bb, WS11 9PQ. |
| 1700 - 1730 | Shareshill, Ss Luke & Mary the Virgin, (6) 9-0-0 in A, WV10 7LB. |

All towers are to be confirmed.

Tower donations £6 per ringer.

There may be one or two slight changes before the day, so check with the organiser before the event.

ORGANISER: Richard Lewis-Skeath (to whom our thanks): handbell.ringer@btinternet.com, or 07747-802555



1951 and more recently at Blockley) then why not the same for traditional carillons?

My photograph (left) shows the carillon machine being lowered down the tower on the 3rd October 2011 under the watchful eye of Arthur Berry, Chris Povey and myself (along with the ringers who were probably around when it was installed - their names being recorded on the ringing room walls).

Destined for the Swan Tower, Perth, Australia it travelled in a consignment from John Taylor (Bellfounders) of Loughborough in company with a set of tubular bells (also no longer required) from a church in Oswestry. I recall Arthur Berry amusingly telling folk (in a pseudo Aussie accent) that Taylors of Laffburra were shipping it to Oostralia together with some tubular bells from Oostree.....

Roger de 'Flaedenburg'

Here is a photo the machine on arrival in Perth, with the purchaser, Laith Reynolds, inspecting it. He purchased it on behalf of the Swan Tower there, to which he has made many donations, some of them very large. It is intended to make the machine operable again, to play on either a set of small normal bells or tubular bells.



The 'Achilles heel' of this type of carillon is the wooden facings of the tune barrels, into which the thin metal sprigs are tapped in at the required intervals to give a tune. These sprigs are like very small nails. The barrel structure is metal. The machine itself is all metal and beautifully constructed. It is a very sympathetic mechanism, with the metal fingers triggered by the sprigs requiring only a slight touch. Once triggered the finger releases the hammer to strike the bell. The hammers are reset on the fingers by a 'gathering wheel' at the rear. There are two hammers per bell, to cope with a double strike required by the music being played.

Sadly, the wood (oak if I remember correctly) dries out slightly and the sprigs can then become

loose in their holes, causing either the note to be late or not to play at all. The music can then go awry. The late Harry Plumb told me he spent many days in past years removing the loose sprigs and filling the hole in the wood with matchsticks before tapping the sprigs back in again.

Evesham PCC did have the original makers, Gillett & Johnston (the successors to Gillett & Bland), in to undertake various overhauls, including re-rodging the hammers, but to be honest they did a below-par job and by the late 1990s, after spending more than £10k and getting little if any musical return, the machine was turned off. The present electronic/electric system replaced it in 2002.

There are similar G&B carillons machines of that date in Pershore Abbey and Worcester Cathedral, the latter playing on all 15 bells, but I believe Worcester's machine has similar problems to the Bell Tower's and is (or perhaps was) used very sparingly because the cost of overhaul is massive - with little likelihood (as things are at present) of a decent musical return.

The Madresfield machine is slightly older (1868) and was provided with (I believe) a fully metal barrel into which the triggering sprigs were bolted into place. Although that machine operated on 6 bells, it is much larger (see Tales in Newsletter 144).

It should be said that while these machines are known as 'carillons', they really aren't true carillons at all. Yes, they do play tunes, as true carillons do, but true carillons consist of a chromatic range of bells hung dead, played via a clavier, which is a keyboard laid out similarly to an organ, including foot pedals. They are played by carillonneurs and the music produced is glorious, with notes played in harmony. There are many true carillons in the Low Countries and elsewhere, but only a few in the UK. As ever, the USA has the biggest and heaviest, ranging up to 72 bells, with the bass or largest bell weighing up to 17 tons.

I think we should have more true carillons. If anyone has a spare quarter-million or so burning a hole in their pocket and wishes to provide a useful lasting memorial, I can help them spend it.

My predecessor at the Bell Tower, Geoff Hemming, always used to refer to the carillon machine as 'the juke box'! CMP

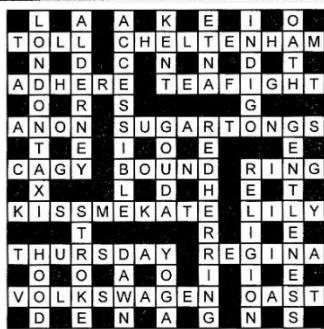
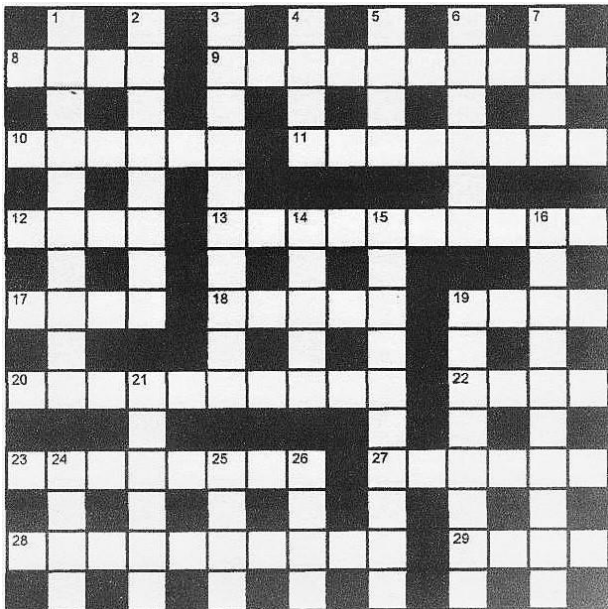
Following on from the previous recollection of activity at Evesham another visit in 2011 saw the removal of the disused mechanical carillon apparatus (made defunct with the installation of the present day electronic version). The Bell Tower possessed a **Gillett & Bland carillon machine** which, like many other grand parish churches, dated from 1878 when the Croydon factory was in its heyday and clocks and carillons were 'must have' items of church furniture. Despite being well constructed of durable metals and precision-made parts these goliaths of their time became notorious for reliability and durability with many in more recent years standing idle in their wooden cabinets [see Tales (3) re Madresfield]. This was mainly due to the flimsier connections and barrels which relayed the required strike or tune to the appropriate bells, often breaking or wearing out causing untold exasperation and frustration to many a steeplekeeper.

Perhaps one of the greatest sadnesses of this situation is that despite so many people (ringers and parishioners) voicing how much they miss their local church bells playing tunes, all too often churches across the land do not reach out to those same people as a community project to refurbish these largely unseen examples of a once golden age. If bell installation refurbishments, remodelling and augmentations can succeed in doing so (as Evesham did in

!ADVANCE NOTICE – SAVE THE DATE!

THE 3RD RETRO RINGING RALLY WILL TAKE PLACE ON 15TH SEPTEMBER.
DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to Jan 2018 X-word

Across

- 8 An authentic peel must be this. (4)
- 9 The largest shock of all!! (10)
- 10 Not up to the minute. (6)
- 11 A scab. (8)
- 12 Unrequested email. (4)
- 13 An English person is frequently called this. (5,5)
- 17 Young salmon. (4)
- 18 If it sounds like gold you only have yourself to blame. (5)
- 19 Look at this. (4)
- 20 Italian cheese. (10)
- 22 Deliberately exaggerated the temporary accommodation (4)
- 23 He found homes for destitute children. (8)
- 27 You aim to get this. (6)
- 28 Capital Dockland. (4,6)
- 29 Appropriate answer for the final clue. (4)

Down

- 1 Fully toned, horizontal soundboard and supported by three legs (5,5)
- 2 Eg, Martin Luther. (8)
- 3 Ringers appreciate his skill. (10)
- 4 So ringers do, with towers and ropes. (4)
- 5 Adapted hare found on the S. American grasslands. (4)
- 6 Military man from Nepal. (6)
- 7 Island reportedly in the heavens. (4)
- 14 Question someone in a relentless way. (5)
- 15 Goes for treatment without staying the night. (10)
- 16 Impartial, unbiased. (4-6)
- 19 The holiday period. (8)
- 21 The highest point. (6)
- 24 An expression of regret. (4)
- 25 It can move in any direction along rank or file. (4)
- 26 Likelihood of success. (4)

* AROUND THE TOWERS

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Matthew Kemble and his wife Georgina have produced another little one. Molly Louise Kemble was born on 26th March. All are doing fine. Our congratulations to them

Moreton-in-Marsh is using its 'dead' bell (William Bagley 1693: the 3rd bell of the old, pre-1958 ring) for the clock strike now, thereby taking the single clock hammer off the tenor and therefore removing any chance of it being forgotten before ringing starts. What joy; how I envy them. Yes, we've all been there in forgetting to pull off the clock hammers if we are honest. Swinging bells and clock hammers don't mix! There should be a law against it....

Blockley's augmentation to 10 is complete. Although I promised a feature on this in the last Newsletter, many ringers have been there to try them. The installation has, I believe, been given much praise. The general view is that Blockley has an excellent 10, with the new bells and the old bells fitting together tonally very well indeed. Taylors clearly came up with the goods! The Mid-week tours went there in March, see the report by Isobel, whose comments on the bells are very telling. New ringers are being trained there, and the existing ringers are getting used to not pulling so hard! They are also enjoying the light 6, tenor

7½cwt. (The front 6 of a 10 are a genuine ring of 6, but of course much lighter than the back 6.)

The weights of the bells are now:-

| | | |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| Treble | 4-3-5 | John Taylor 2017 |
| 2 | 5-0-10 | John Taylor 2017 |
| 3 | 5-2-15 | John Taylor 1892 |
| 4 | 5-3-15 | John Taylor 1892 |
| 5 | 6-3-27 | Matthew I Bagley 1683 |
| 6 | 7-2-9 | Matthew Bagley I 1679 |
| 7 | 8-1-13 | Abraham II Rudhall 1729 |
| 8 | 8-3-8 | Henry I Bagley 1638 |
| 9 | 11-2-8 | Henry I Bagley 1638 |
| Tenor | 17-0-6 | John Taylor, 2017 |

As may be seen, the weight distribution is excellent. Also, as shown by the photo in the last Newsletter, the bellframe follows Taylors' traditional practice of big steel beams and big lumps of cast-iron: failure unlikely, as shown by the very first of this type of frame, which is now 126 years old and showing no signs of failing (at Dumbleton). Also that at Badsey, a mere 121.

The 5th, 6th, 8th & 9th weren't tuned due to age and being listed. They aren't far from the datum tuning line. As the new tenor follows four Bagley bells, I'm told it has a Bagley/Taylor-esque profile. It is certainly an excellent bell. The ring

would be nowhere near as good if the old tenor had been used.

How fortunate a donor came forward after the two trebles had been donated, insisting that he must give a bell. This caused Dana Delap, the Vicar, to ring Taylors and ask how this could be resolved. Simon Adams replied saying they could get 12 in but to be sensible: how about having the tenor recast, because it was a poor bell and would be light after the tuning it required? Thankfully, very thankfully, this was accepted and that's how the new tenor came into being.

While not chronologically within the coverage of this Newsletter, I am pleased to announce that Alison Foster and Graham Lee tied the marital knot on Monday 9th April at Evesham's Registry Office. The Bell Tower bells were rung when the couple emerged from the building. Our best wishes to them.

Similarly, I am pleased to announce that Simon Adams from John Taylor & Co married his (very) long-term partner Julie Hooper at Milton Abbey, Dorset, on Saturday April 7th. Many thought Simon and Julie were already married. Well, they are now! Our best wishes to them, too.

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

Coventry Diocesan Guild

Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, St Peter

Monday, 15 January 2018 in 2h 39m (10–0–24 in G)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (No. 565)

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Peter J F Quinn | 5 Raymon A Sheasby |
| 2 Geoffrey W Randall | 6 Mark W Sayers |
| 3 Julie A Tarling | 7 Simon P Rogers |
| 4 Michael Chester (C) | 8 Andrew F Alldrick |

In memory of Ted Copson, who died on 26th December 2017.

South Northamptonshire Society

Mickleton, Gloucestershire, St Lawrence

Saturday, 3 February 2018 in 2h 57m (15–3–16 in E)

5056 Mickleton Delight Major

Composed by P M Mason (no. 81)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Nicholas K Allsopp | 5 Robert Tregillus |
| 2 Julie A Tarling | 6 Ian N Robinson |
| 3 Raymon A Sheasby | 7 Roderic K Bickerton |
| 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath | 8 Michael Chester (C) |

Rung as a compliment to Penny Criswick, sister of Rod Bickerton, on the day of her 70th birthday.

First peal in the method

Mickleton D Major: -38-1456-1256-18-14-18.56-56.78 le 12

Worcestershire & Districts Change Ringing Association

Pershore, Worcs. Abbey Church of the Holy Cross

Saturday, 24 February 2018 in 3h 17m (25½ in D)

5088 Pershore Surprise Major

Composed by D F Morrison (No. 3463)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath | 5 Steve Bowley |
| 2 Nicholas K Allsopp | 6 Roger H Hunt |
| 3 Rachel D Page | 7 Michael Chester (C) |
| 4 Neil J Garner | 8 Gordon R Birks |

Remembering Arthur C Berry (bellhanger and former Ringing Master at this tower) who died 5 years ago (30 January 2013) and Martin G (Chap) Powell of Droitwich and Hanbury (died 25th January 2018). Both were stalwart W&DCRA members.

Circled the tower to peals: 6.

MILITARY IN MEMORIA

Hook Norton, Oxon, 31 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 Keith Abbott, 4 Rosalind French, 5 Keith Mitchell, 6 Mick Austin, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Sally Austin. Rung Half Muffled in memory of Fred Busby on the 100th anniversary of his death, killed in the trenches east of Amiens during the Battle of the Somme WW1

Pebworth, Worcs, 7 Jan, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Alison Foster, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung half-muffled in memory of friends and relatives who died in 2017. Particularly Susie Pyle, Sandra Mitchell and Jack Whittle, and those from our local bellringing community especially John Bolton, Margaret Pratt, Chris Roberts, Ron Gilks, Michael Gray, Viv Barnes, David Hammond, John Smith & Ted Copson.

Evesham, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 24 Jan (11cwt), 1280 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Freda Cleaver, 2 Tom Sandham, 3 Judy Wallington, 4 Georgie Roberts, 5 Martin Penny (C). 6 Chris Povey.

Sherbourne, Warks, 29 Jan, 1260 Doubles (2m): 1 John Wheeler, 2 Simon Oram, 3 Stewart Heritage, 4 Sue Bacon, 5 Michael Dane (C), 6 Peter Quinn. Rung half muffled to celebrate the life of Ted Copson who was buried here on 26th January. Ted was tower captain here for many years and also a regular ringer at Wellesbourne. 1100th Q 5

Childswickham, Worcs, 3 Feb, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Clare Davies, 2 Roger Hunt, 3 Alison Foster, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Philip Milward. First Quarter Peal – Treble (**congrats, Clare!**). Rung to celebrate the engagement of Alison Foster (ringer of the third) and Graham Lee (who was an interested spectator due to injury).

Offenham, Worcs, 10 Feb, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Graham Lee, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Alison Foster, 4 Bob Topp, 5 Martin Penny (C). Rung to celebrate a century since women first won the right to vote in the UK #100Years

Offenham, Worcs, 10 Feb, 1296 Plain and Little Minor (96 Spliced Plain & Little Bob Minor; 480 LB Minor; 720 PB Minor): 1 Claire Allen, 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Matthew Kemble, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 6 Martin Penny (C). First Spliced Minor - 1,2,3.

Broadway, Worcs, 17 Feb, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Isobel Murphy, 2 Christina Ireland, 3 Alison T Merryweather-Clarke, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Rob Newman. To celebrate the marriage of Jayne Homer and Philip Insley, Broadway residents, married today at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Broadway.

Pebworth, Worcs, 25 Feb, 1296 Grandsire Caters: 1 Rob Newman, 2 Michael Haynes, 3 Margaret Smith, 4 Georgie Roberts., 5 Claire Penny, 6 Neil Garner, 7 Steve Bowley, 8 Roger Hunt, 9 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C), 10 Martin Penny. Rung before Parish Evensong. 50th Quarter Peal - 4

Lillington, Warks, 26 Feb, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 John Nutt, 2 Sue Bacon, 3 Barbara Howes, 4 Roger Howes, 5 Simon Oram, 6 Michael Dane, 7 Chris Mew (C), 8 Peter Spencer. In memoriam. Rung in gratitude for the life of Kaethe Roedde of Forchheim, Germany, lifelong friend of 3 and 4.

Pebworth, Worcs, 8 Mar, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Graham Lee, 2 Freda Cleaver, 3 Alison Foster, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Stefanie Whittle. Rung for International Women's Day.

Bretforton, Worcs, 9 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Peter Gordon, 2 Rachel Page, 3 Nick Allsopp, 4 Jackie Roberts, 5 Rob Newman, 6 Roger Hunt (C), 7 Steve Bowley, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath. A Golden Wedding Anniversary (2 Mar) compliment to local churchwarden Spencer Mitchell and his wife Hazel. Also a 70th birthday compliment to Rob Newman (4 Mar) and a welcome to Harry (b.3 Mar), grandson of Roger & Val Hunt.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 9 Mar, 1260 Doubles (780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob Doubles - Front Six): 1 Helen Burchell, 2 Gayle Woods, 3 Sally Austin (C), 4 Daniel Austin, 5 Mick Austin, 6 Tim R Burchell, Rung to celebrate the Golden Wedding anniversary of Verity & Bob Calderan - 9th March; the Silver Wedding anniversary of Sally & Mick Austin - 27th Feb; the 60th Birthday of Gayle Woods - 22nd Feb; and the 70th Birthday of Philip Brown - 2nd March

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 24 Mar, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Michael Chester, 2 Rachel Page, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Len Morley, 6 Nick Allsopp, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath. An FSG S@S Quarter Peal (not the original method intended...).

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

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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

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----|--|
| 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 | LANGBOROUGH, Glos | 6, | 11-0-2 in F# |
| APR 28 TH | MICKLETON, Glos | 8, | 15-3-16 in E (GF) (*NOTE 7-30PM.TILL 8-45PM*) |
| MAY 5 TH | DUMBLETON, Glos | 6, | 11 cwt in G |
| MAY 12 TH | BLOCKLEY, Glos | 10, | 17-0-6 in F (*NOTE *NEW RING OF 10 BELLS*) |
| MAY 19 TH | GREAT WOLFORD, Warks | 6, | 11-3-7 in F# |
| MAY 26 TH | NORTON, Worcs | 8, | 12-3-26 in F# (GF) |
| JUN 2 ND | ALDERMINSTER, Warks | 6, | 12-0-26 in F |
| JUN 9 TH | EVESHAM, Worcs | 12, | 35-2-20 in C# (& 10, 14-2-26 in F#) |
| JUN 16 TH | HARVINGTON, Worcs | 6, | 8-1-14 in A |
| JUN 23 RD | BIDFORD-ON-AVON, Warks | 8, | 14-0-24 in F (GF) |
| JUN 30 TH | BLINGTON, Glos, | 6, | 8-0-13 IN G (*NOTE 7-30PM.TILL 8-45PM*) |
| JULY 7 TH | *NO PRACTICE * ANNUAL RINGING TOUR (* SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS*) | | |
| JULY 14 TH | BROADWAY, Worcs | 6, | 18-1-16 in F (GF) |
| JULY 21 ST | CHURCHILL, Oxon | 8, | 10-3-9 in G (* NOTE 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.*) |

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: FSG SUBS were due on 1st January 2018.

The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). Please pay as soon 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 the last Newsletter (January). No Newsletter if subs aren't paid by 30th June!

Also, please donate 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:-

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Visit to Liverpool Cath | Sun 3 rd June. See advert on p.6 |
| Guild Ringing Tour | Sat 7 th July. Cannock Chase area (see Notice, p.11) |
| 'Mini-Mouse' Comp | Sat 8 th Sept at Pillerton Hersey (details to follow) |
| Retro ringing Rally | Sat 15 th Sept – see advance notice advert on p.12 |
| Walking & Ringing Tour | Sat 22 nd Sept. Route/towers tba |
| Striking comps & AGM | Sat 21 st Oct. at Sherbourne, Warks (details to follow) |