

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

## NEWSLETTER No 157 - JULY 2018



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

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### WEDDINGS, WEDDINGS.....

There have been two ringers' weddings in the last three months, when the brides rang in their wedding dresses. They are:-



Simon Adams and Julie Hooper finally tied the marital knot at Milton Abbey, near Blandford in Dorset, on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>. As can be seen the new Mr & Mrs Adams ascended the tower after the event and rang. Simon looks as though he was working a bit on his bell, but Julie – truly a goddess! What a magnificent style. Standing bolt upright with the rope coming down vertically, seemingly ringing without the slightest effort. If ever a photo was needed to show the perfect ringing style, this must be it.

Congratulations to them (many thought they were already married – which just goes to show how wrong one can be!).

Childswickham ringers Graham Lee and Alison Foster were married at Evesham Registry Office on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April. The Bell Tower bells rang out as they emerged from the Office and later a quarter peal was rung at Childswickham with Graham and Alison in it – their first as a married couple. And congratulations to them, too.



**Childswickham, Worcestershire**  
Monday, 9 April 2018

**1260 Mixed Doubles**

(240 each of St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain Bob, April Day and 300 Grandsire)

1 Alison Lee	4 Roger Hunt
2 Georgie Roberts	5 Martin Penny (C)
3 Claire Penny	6 Graham Lee

To celebrate the marriage today of Alison & Graham Lee.

Rung by the bride in her wedding dress.

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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## PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

## VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Freda Cleaver

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Chaplain**

Rev Dr Peter Newing

## **Accounts Examiners**

Mr Robert Hall

Ms Jane Gilbert

## GUILD OFFICERS

### **Guild Master**

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### **Hon Secretary**

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### **Hon Treasurer**

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Mr Matthew Kemble

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## **Guild Peal Recorder**

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## **Programme Secretary**

Mr Stuart Cummings

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Mr Chris Mew

## **Mid-week Tours**

### **General Contact**

Mrs Isobel Murphy

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## **Membership Secretary**

## **Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

## **Newsletter Editor**

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.com

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

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

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**The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (October 2018) is September 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chrismpovey@gmail.com)**

**It helps me hugely if you send articles to me by email, so I can cut-and-paste.** If sending articles in this way, please use MS Word format for written articles, jpg format for photos, and scanned items in pdf or jpg formats. (I have the facility to scan photo prints if you haven't.) Please let me know ownership of photos for acknowledgement where relevant. If you have a long article, you might consider breaking it into parts.

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

# NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

**ON SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, SHERBOURNE, WARKS  
BELLS: 11-1 17 in F#**



(Photo: John Wheeler)

## ORDER OF THE DAY

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

**!THERE WILL BE NO EVENING RINGING!**

The AGENDA for the AGM is:-

- 1 Results of the Striking Competitions.
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (*in January Newsletter*)
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Guild Master's Report (*to be included in the October Newsletter*)
- 6 Treasurer's Report (*included in the April Newsletter and on website\**)
- 7 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer)
- 8 Rule change: proposal to have one Account Examiner instead of two (see Notice p.9)
- 9 Election of Committee and Accounts Examiner(s).
- 10 Ratification of new members during the year
- 11 The proposal to confer Honorary Life Membership on a member (see Notice, p.9).
- 12 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)

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

Chris Povey, Honorary Secretary

Refreshments will be available in the Church from about 3.30pm.

As usual, donations of food will be gratefully received.

Stuart Cummings or Jackie Hands can advise on what to bring.

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

## EDITORIAL

**Firstly, apologies for the lateness of this Newsletter.** Helen and I went for a fortnight's holiday to Donegal and Northern Ireland at the end of June, so that put me out. We expected lots of rain and some sun, but received entirely the opposite: a small amount of rain and lots of magnificent sunshine; and at the time of writing the sunshine continues (which has been another reason for not producing the Newsletter...sitting inside in such glorious weather tapping a keyboard is tough).

**You will see there is an advert this time for a new Newsletter editor.** As mentioned last time, I shall be giving up this post after the July 2019 Newsletter. I hope very sincerely that someone will come forward to do this job, as it would be a shame if the Newsletter died. Please consider this.

**'From the Archives' continues to fascinate.** This time it's the scale of the finances from 1978. For example, insurance on the Cup was £20; and donations of £1 would be made to all towers that took part in the Ringing Festival. On this basis, with £67.71 in the Building Society, the Committee must have felt comfortable financially!

**This Newsletter is somewhat unusual in having lots of notices about events.** This is, of course, a good sign, as it shows things are happening in the Guild.

**A few members have failed to pay their subscription for 2018.** They will not receive a Newsletter now until payment is made. If you hear someone say they haven't received a Newsletter, please ask them whether they paid their sub. If not, you will be able to tell them why they haven't received a Newsletter.

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

Even when I began my science teaching career in Bedfordshire in the late 1950s there were many villages that were not well served by buses. Today there are no Sunday buses and no buses in so many places. In many parish benefices it is not possible for many worshippers to go to a service in another Church unless they have their own transport. Ringers are now peripatetic and willingly ring the bells in two or three churches. They are better at travelling between towers than parishioners are at travelling to churches for worship. Thank you, ringers, for all your efforts in achieving this.

Public transport is fast disappearing in all really rural areas of the country. This disadvantages both the elderly and the very young.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

*(Peter tells me he had 7 days in Hereford Hospital recently, as he suffered a haemorrhage. Nonetheless he still prepared his Chaplain's Thoughts, and we thank him very much for that. Happily, he has recovered sufficiently from this to be ringing again. Our thoughts are with him for a continuing recovery. CMP)*

### AN EXCELLENT FATHER'S DAY PRESENT!

Robert Hall received a delightful Father's Day present (June 17<sup>th</sup>), especially as it came so soon after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (see Q at Evesham, .p12)

His son, William (36), came up from Portsmouth and rang with him at Evesham Bell Tower on the day.

Afterwards, they took Robert's granddaughter Chloe to Offenham, where Chloe, who is 8, rang for her first Sunday Service. Chloe has been learning to ring there with Claire Penny. This was particularly significant, as William had rung his first quarter peal there when aged 8 years and 10 months. The board recording that performance is in the background.

As Robert says: 'Beat that for a Father's Day present!'



## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY.

The Committee met on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Wellesbourne Parish Centre.

1) **Apologies for absence:** Christina and Jackie.

2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** all agreed as correct and signed as such.

3) **Matters Arising:-**

Annual Dinner venue still to be investigated.

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

Hon Secretary: Chris had received proposals and secondings for the following:-

Annabel Fry (Mrs)	Bretforton
Evie Fry (Miss)	Bretforton
Graham Caldwell	Harvington

All were granted membership, nem con.

The handbells donated by Rev Peter Newing will be looked after by Richard. Insurance quotes had been received and will be purchased.

Treasurer: Moreton's grant may now be paid. There is £3203 of unallocated money in the Bell Fund.

Ringing Master: Saturday practices still popular: 24 at Blockley!

Newsletter Editor: Chris said the July issue would be late, due to a holiday at the end of June. He said he would put an advert in the Newsletter for a new Editor.

Mid-week tours: Isobel warned she is having difficulty recruiting people to write-up the tours.

CCCCBR: Chris reported that he had sent his apologies as being unable, for family reasons, to attend the CC meeting. This meant neither he nor Matthew could be there. The main business of the Meeting this time would be a vote to change the Rules and therefore the whole operation of the Council. He thought this would happen – for good or ill!

6) **Bell Restoration Fund:**

Updates:

Bidford: Peter and Michael agreed to visit and inspect.

Moreton-in-Marsh: see above

Grant applications for consideration:

None at that time.

Further grant applications:

An application had been received from Ebrington for a repair to the bell frame. Will be considered at the August meeting.

**Items for discussion:-**

2018 programme:

Annual Ringing Tour, Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July: Richard reported all in hand, except the first tower needed to change. He would ensure this is known.

Minimus Striking Comp: 8<sup>th</sup> Sept: details will be in the July Newsletter.

Walking & Ringing Tour: now Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Details will be in the July Newsletter.

2018 Striking Comps & AGM: Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Chris will send a copy of the Notice for this to John W for his approval before it is released via the Newsletter.

Xmas Party: will be at Badsey again, on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Converting the Guild to a charity. Due to other things happening at the moment, this was deferred.

Changes to the Data Protection Act (the General Data Protection Regulation): Chris's note in the April Newsletter was approved. The Facebook page was discussed and not considered a risk, so will continue.

Armistice Day ringing: it is clear there will be insufficient ringers to ring all bells, so John C suggested that, in such circumstances, the Guild recommends a bell be tolled 100 times. Chris will put a notice to this effect in the Newsletter.

Proposals from the Committee to the AGM: there will be two. The first will be that Frank Spiers becomes an HLM of the Guild; and the second will be the Guild has one Accounts Examiner instead of two as at present. Chris to provide the relevant Notice in the Newsletter.

7) **AOB:**

There was none

8) **Next Meeting:** Chris said the next meeting coincided with his holiday. It was resolved that Chris would suggest a suitable date in August so that he could be there.

Future Committee meeting dates: 2018, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov..

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

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

The Central Council Meeting at the end of May came and went, with the majority of delegates voting for the new Rules. This will cause the biggest change to the Council in many decades. The 'Workgroups' are now in operation officially, with, naturally, some disruption occurring. Reorganisations were a way of life in the past (and may still be). They take time to settle down, particularly if volunteers are involved, because nobody is forced to take part. Behind the reorganisation scenes much of the basic work of the Council continues, and thankfully.

The Workgroup leaders are working hard to assimilate the old Committees into the single units as required by the new structure, and inevitably there is some reluctance to this by people if the identity of a committee is being lost. It feels very much like the work reorganisations of old. Yes, they did settle down eventually, usually just in time for the next reorganisation, but hopefully re-reorganisations will not occur with the CC. It is necessary to have faith!!

**Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble**

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED!!

The present Editor is giving up this post next year.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, Chris Povey has decided to resign the post after the July 2019 Newsletter, which will complete 10 years in the job. The Guild has had a quarterly Newsletter from about 1979 and it will be a sad day if it is discontinued through nobody coming forward to produce more issues.

Chris's article in the last Newsletter outlines what the job is about. As he says, nobody need follow what he has done – it can be an open challenge! Chris will assist initially and guide if required. Please consider doing this job. Talk to Chris if interested: email/phone.

## PHOTO QUIZ FROM ROGER HUNT

One person correctly identified the place from where this photo was taken. It was through the louvres of the tower of New College, Oxford, which houses a ring of 10, 20cwt, with bells cast between 1655 and 1723, and an oak bellframe dating from before 1700



## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

### THE APRIL (the 342<sup>nd</sup>) THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup>: WEST OXON

The forecast for the day was to be warm and bright and as it turned out it was the warmest day of the year so far.

Our first tower of the day was North Leigh a 9cwt ring of 6. The Churchyard was ablaze with spring flowers, so nice to see after a gloomy winter. The Tower was sparkingly clean, Alison had obviously been very busy. These bells were soon put to good use once lunches had been sorted. St Mary's North Leigh is on the edge of the village and dates back to Anglo Saxon times. Inside there is a small chapel built in the Perpendicular Gothic style with excellent fan vaulting. There were also some very interesting wall paintings.

It was then on through the Oxfordshire country side to Coombe, a ground floor ring, 6 bells with a Tenor of just over 12cwt. There were problems here in keeping us in to ring since we wished to enjoy the tempting warm sunshine. Warmer outside than in. Again, this Church had lovely wall paintings which date back to the 1400s. Here we were able to show off our English style of ringing to two interested passing walkers. I am sure they were grateful to Andrea, Alison's friend, who had joined us all the way from Ottawa who was able to converse with them.

Lunch was then our next stop which was taken in a thatched pub in Long Hanborough.

Replenished, it was then on to Woodstock and a struggle to find car-

parking. The warm weather had brought people out. This was to be our only ring of 8 for the day, 12 cwt tenor. However, we did not really do justice to these bells. Our striking was not the best, the bells being a bit oddstruck and some of the methods we chose to ring were halted part way, most unusual for us. Our time soon went here and it was back to finding the cars.

The last tower of the day was the 10 cwt ring of 6 at Church Enstone and we were welcomed by Ken Wakefield who used to be a regular on these days out. This Church dates back to Norman times. Thanks were given to Alison, our organiser for the day. Alison, you found us some delightful Churches, some really good bells and the icing on the cake was the weather.

Ringling on the day ranged from various Surprise methods, to some Plain Bob, Stedman, St Clements to name just a few.

**Sandra Parker**

*Sadly, Isobel tell me she is having difficulty finding scribes to submit reports of these visits and this is why there is only one report this time. That is a shame. I have no doubt others enjoy reading about these visits - and surely it must encourage some to come along.*

*On the subject of 'coming along', Isobel tells me the dedicated website for these visits has had to be changed. The new site details can be reached on:- [www.4shiresmidweek.org.uk](http://www.4shiresmidweek.org.uk) CMP)*

## FSG MINIMUS STRIKING COMPETITION FOR THE 'MINI-MOUSE TROPHY'

### TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018, AT PILLERTON HERSEY, WARKS.

The 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition is to happen again this year. Remember, it's intended to be **FUN**, so come along to have some fun. Pillerton Hersey is a 5 (7cwt), so just the back 4 will be used (you can have a tenor behind if you wish, but it will be included in the judging. It's entirely up to you what you do).

It's an early evening event, with the competition just before the evening practice, so the programme is:-

**5.30-6.30pm:** Striking Competition

**6.30-7.00pm:** results in the church (or churchyard if nice), with cheers and groans as appropriate

**7.00-7.30pm:** evening practice ringing for those who haven't rung in the competition.

Teams can be associated with a tower, or any four (or five) FSG paid up members can form a team with a name. No ringer can ring for more than two teams. All teams get a warm-up practice of 3 minutes. A maximum of about 10 whole pulls of rounds before the test piece, which is to be of at least 96 changes in any Minimus method. Rounds before and after not marked. No rising and falling in this event. That's it for the Rules!

Names of teams with names to Peter Quinn by Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August if possible; otherwise turn up on the day and 'fit in'.

Organiser (*to whom all thanks, Ed*): Peter Quinn 01789-840827 ([peterquinn22@googlemail.com](mailto:peterquinn22@googlemail.com))

## RINGING AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL!

The April Newsletter carried an advert for a visit to ring at Liverpool Cathedral. It said:-

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.

The visit was being arranged by Nick Allsopp (who clearly had grown tired of ringing on Moreton's 10cwt ring of 8 and yearned for something properly meaty – in which case go to Liverpool!). And so, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and party from the mighty Four Shires Guild set forth to Liverpool.

Not only is Liverpool's ring massive, the cathedral itself is truly massive.

I remember going there and being told that the ceiling at the crossing (underneath the tower) is 180 feet above the ground. The whole of Evesham Bell Tower could go in there and still have about 70 feet clearance above it. Then there's what seems a little hole in the middle of it - obviously where the bells went through. But such a little hole? Not that little - the bourdon bell, Great George, the second largest bell in this country went through it. Great George weighs 14¾ tons and is 9ft 6ins in diameter.

It is good to report that the intrepid group did get there and survived the experience, with our very own Ringing Master, Richard L-S, managing the tenor on one occasion – see photo.

The ringing bells are arranged in a radial frame, with Great George hung dead in the middle. Yes, it has been said, many times, that the bells look like a mini-ring when viewed from above in the belfry. You could drive a couple of lanes of traffic around them! Everything about Liverpool Cathedral is massive.

Here are some photos of the day-

Top photo – the belfry. As can be seen this is a big belfry, with the bell frame made of reinforced concrete. Great George is hung in the concrete structure above. As might be imagined, the bells are left 'up' all the time and only brought down for maintenance needs.

Middle photo – our hero! Richard L-S ringing the 82cwt tenor in what appears to be fine style. Note the elevated ringing positions, necessary because of the long lengths of tail end. (It's said that anybody can get the tenor down to lead. The problem is getting her up to the back again!)

Bottom photo – the group. Although John now sports a stick, the tower has a lift to the various levels! (Ah, the delights....)



## FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

### 100 YEARS AGO

There was no entry in the Old Minute Book for this period 100 years ago.

### 40 YEARS AGO

14<sup>th</sup> August 1978:

Committee Meeting held at Long Barn, on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Members present were: Mrs H Davies, Miss L Bedford, M F Fairfax, Mrs P Linsdell, R Payne.

Apologies were received from A J Brazier, G Harper, and G Osborn.

The minutes were read and signed by the Chairman. Mrs Davies raised the question as to whether there should be reference to the Saydisc record in the Guild's minutes. She was under the impression that the making of the record was a private arrangement and nothing to do with the Guild. It was decided to clarify the position at the next Committee Meeting

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported a balance of:

67.71 in the Building Society

2.90 at the Bank

7.53 in cash

Income had been:

Books 4.20

Badge 1.00

Subscriptions 75

Outgoings

Insurance on Cup 2.00

School room hire 1.20

Admag printing 4.25

Stamps 2.22

Typewriter 20.00

Shield:

The design for the Shield was approved. The cost will be over the £100 offered by Mr Newing, so it was proposed by Mrs Davies that the extra be paid out of Guild funds; this was seconded by R Payne and carried. The order is to be given to Mr H O Hart. The Secretary was asked to find out the cost of replicas from Mr Hart and other sources.

Outing:

As the outing to South Gloucestershire did not take place because of lack of support, it was decided to ask members through the Newsletter whether they wanted another organised. This will also be raised at the AGM.

Ringling Festival:

The following arrangements were agreed for the Ringling Festival which

takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

A maximum of twenty towers to be open;

The maximum charge will be 10p per tower or £1 for all towers

The lunch break to take place at the Lygon Arms, Chipping Campden, from 12-2pm;

Notification of the Festival to appear in The Ringing World on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September;

A donation of £1 to be made to each tower;

A local person is to be asked to be in charge of a tower as far as possible.

Newsletter:

M F Fairfax proposed including the diary on the back of the Newsletter.

The accurate cost of printing the Newsletter to be sought by the Secretary.

Ringling World front page 1979:

The 20<sup>th</sup> April has been reserved for the Four Shires Guild of Bellringers.

Miss Bedford reported that Mr Dowdeswell has said he has started on the history of the Guild. He is to be asked to have this ready by the end of January.

Any Other Business:

Annual Dinner:

Miss Bedford proposed that 'The Family Band' from Cheddar be asked to provide the entertainment. The Secretary was asked to find out what the expenses would be and to book them if their travelling expenses were around £10.

Beginners' Practise (sic) at Moreton:

As there had been some feeling over the organisation of the first practise night at Moreton in Marsh on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July Miss Bedford explained the situation. She said confusion had arisen as to the form the practise was to take. Some thought it was a restricted Grandsire practise and others thought it was an open practise of anyone wishing to learn Grandsire. The form the evening was to take was discussed at length, but as no agreement was reached the following notion was put to the vote 'The practise now taking place on Wednesday at Moreton is for the Grandsire method. Anyone wishing to learn this method is welcome to attend and experienced ringers will be welcome to come and assist.' The vote was two for and two against the motion. Mr Fairfax commented that the number of ringers attending at present is usually enough. That during mid-week it is unlikely that there would be more than twelve – and therefore voted in favour of the motion. He added that the situation should be watched carefully and the organisation changed if it became necessary

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

## GUILD WALKING AND RINGING TOUR SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

IT WILL TAKE PLACE USING THE FOLLOWING ITINERARY

Meet at **ALVESTON CHURCH**

Ringling 10.00 - 10.45am

Walk to **STRATFORD (Holy Trinity)**

Ringling 11.45 - 12.30pm

Lunch at the New Inn, Clifford Chambers (1.15 - 2.30pm)

Ringling at **CLIFFORD CHAMBERS**

Ringling 2.45 – 3.30pm

Walk back to Alveston.

All ringers and their dogs very welcome to participate.

For further details contact the organiser:-

John Carroll ([j.carroll@homecall.co.uk](mailto:j.carroll@homecall.co.uk))  
(to whom all thanks)



## NOTICES

### **The FSG Committee will propose the following two motions at the AGM:-**

(1) After due consideration the Committee recommends that Frank Spiers of Bidford-on-Avon be elevated to Honorary Life Member of the Guild and will make that proposal to the meeting. The Guild Rules require at least 75% of those present at the AGM to vote in favour to make the change of status.

(2) Arising from a suggestion made at the 2017 AGM by Nicholas Allsopp, the Committee will propose that one Accounts Examiner is sufficient, rather than the two currently required. This is to be debated and voted on at the forthcoming AGM. A Rule change can only be agreed at an AGM or Special Meeting. A simple majority of votes is necessary in this case to make the change.

Chris Povey  
Hon Sec

### **ARMISTICE DAY SUNDAY 11<sup>Th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018: ringing for this day.**

Ringling for this day this year will be extremely special, as it will be exactly 100 years since the Great War officially ceased. This year, too, it coincides with Remembrance Sunday, so it is doubly poignant.

There is a general recommendation from various bodies that all church bells be rung that day, half-muffled or open. The FSG Committee recognises that there are insufficient ringers to allow all bells to be rung in the normal fashion, so instead it recommends that a bell be tolled 100 times churches where no ringing can take place at a suitable time during that day.

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Retro Ringing Rally**

Saturday 15th September 2018

‘Around the Severn’

<b>10.15 – 11.00</b>	<b>Ashchurch (St Nicholas)</b>	<b>8,</b>	<b>11-2-24</b>	<b>GL20 8JU</b>	<b>Map ref. SO927334</b>
<b>11.15 - 11.45</b>	<b>Ripple (St Mary)</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>12-0-0</b>	<b>GL20 6HA</b>	<b>Map ref. SO876377</b>
<b>12.00 -12.30</b>	<b>Twynning (St Mary Magd)</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>9-3-16</b>	<b>GL20 7EZ</b>	<b>Map ref. SO893360</b>

### **Lunch**

The Fleet Inn Twynning  
[www.thefleetattwyning.co.uk](http://www.thefleetattwyning.co.uk)

<b>2.30 – 3.00</b>	<b>Deerhurst (St Mary)</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>10-3-22</b>	<b>GL19 4BX</b>	<b>Map ref. SO870299</b>
<b>3.15– 3.45</b>	<b>Tirley (St Michael)</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>10-0-21</b>	<b>GL19 4HH</b>	<b>Map ref. SO840285</b>
<b>4.00- 4.30</b>	<b>Hasfield (St Mary)</b>	<b>6,</b>	<b>13 cwt</b>	<b>GL19 4LG</b>	<b>Map ref SO826275</b>

Tea and cakes at TBA

If you would like to join us, either with a car or in a spare seat, please contact

[Isobel.Murphy@btinternet.com](mailto:Isobel.Murphy@btinternet.com)

Tower donations dependent on numbers!

## TALES FROM A TOWER NEAR YOU (15) ... FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS ....

As ringers we all experience those moments when the unexpected happens, such as a stay or rope breaking to the occasion when a bell seems to have a mind of its own. For some this may be described as a 'near death' experience particularly when a ringer is learning to ring. While I have been present in many bell chambers with either single bells or a complete set ringing full circle there are one or two instances that I recall have been scary – one being locally at **Norton** where a recent Guild practice was held.

Some twelve years ago I was completing a refurbishment of the 8 bells instigated by the part destruction of a bell wheel by a clock hammer and the need for other remedial works. As usual I had clipped my 'Men at work' notice on the clock hammer release cables and notified the local contact of the days/times I would be on site with my car being noticeable in the spacious but empty churchyard car park. Around one lunchtime there was the sound of a car door shutting – nothing untoward as very often folk arrived to tend to graves at that time of the day

I busied myself with the paintbrush on the 5<sup>th</sup> headstock as more cars arrived and a glance through the louvres indicated that a funeral was about to take place.

A short while later I heard the ominous creak of

a bellrope taking the strain and the tenor bell start to 'dance excitedly' to the 'welly' being applied below. Not knowing if more bells were to be rung I hastily removed myself from the bell chamber and made my way downstairs.



The spacious tenor pit

By this time the bell was stood up and the culprit had taken his seat as the service commenced so I returned aloft and had my lunch.

Again, unannounced, the tenor bell was tolled and lowered as the deceased was carried from

the church with peace and a sense of normality returning!

During the work the opportunity was taken to turn the tenor bell through 180 degrees to present a fresh surface for the clock hammer to strike against as the bell casting had become severely exfoliated over some 90 years.



(The clock hammer indentation on the tenor bell)

**Roger de 'Flaedenburg'**

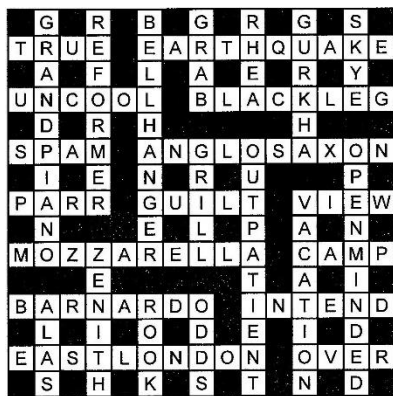
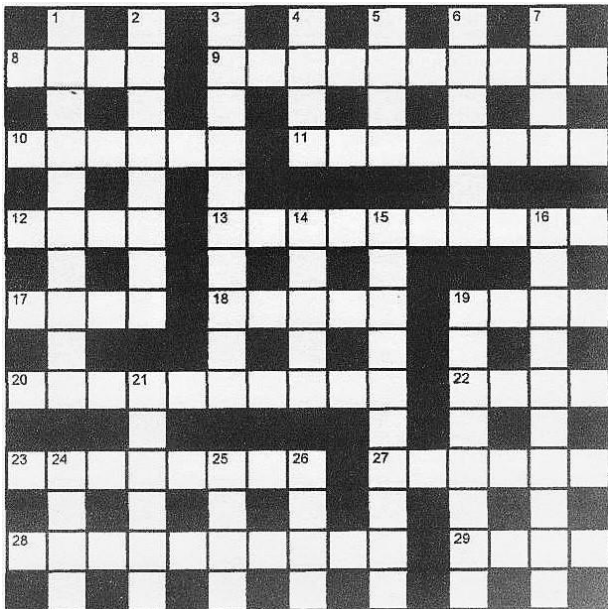
## HANDOVER OF FSG GRANT CHEQUE AT MORETON-IN-MARSH

Nick Allsopp sent these two photos in to show how appreciative the two Churchwardens at Moreton were at receiving a cheque from the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund towards the work to transfer the clock hammer from the tenor bell to the 'dead' bell. This bell has been hanging in the belfry doing nothing since the bells were recast and rehung in 1958 into the present delightful 8. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> from the old ring, and for some reason was retained. It now serves a very useful purpose.

The work was agreed by one churchwarden and was completed under the 'new' Churchwarden.



# EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to April 2018 X-word

## Across

- 8 The angler's expectation. (4)
- 9 You are certain to get this answer. (10)
- 10 A building where important articles are exhibited. (6)
- 11 It may be only half of the original abbey, but there is a very interesting cage inside! (8)
- 12 We couldn't manage without a few of these. (4)
- 13 After this you will still be in debt. (3-7)
- 17 A wacky clue! (4)
- 18 Block and tackle is used for this. (5)
- 19 Where has that badger gone? (4)
- 20 The man who cuts, prepares and builds. (10)
- 22 Wax lyrical about. (4)
- 23 You do this when you have just left the front in Stedman Doubles and a Single is called. (4,4)
- 27 Eg, Easter, Holy, Christmas and Devil's. (6)
- 28 Describing the special ringing 18 years ago. (10)
- 29 This could be neat but blows its top! (4)

## Down

- 1 This person acts as a deputy (10)
- 2 A Cambridge-type Minor method named after a beautiful market town in East Yorkshire. (8)
- 3 Where you would find St Martin's with 16 bells. (10)
- 4 Used for ropes. (4)
- 5 A seaside attraction. (4)
- 6 Six feet to work this out. (6)
- 7 A slanderous statement. (4)
- 14 Used to join things together. (5)
- 15 Another reason for visiting 3 down. (5,5)
- 16 Complete zero. (3,4,3)
- 19 A method very like 2 down. (8)
- 21 Snuggle up to this clue. (6)
- 24 Solo song. (4)
- 25 The last Stuart monarch. (4)
- 26 The front of the lower leg. (4)

## AROUND THE TOWERS

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

Claire Penny and helpers ran a very successful training day at Offenham on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The training ran from 10am to 4pm and there was about half helpers/tutors and half trainees. Comments generally afterwards judged it to be very useful. Lunch was provided, along with endless cups of tea or coffee, and of course biscuits and the like.

St George's Day came and went on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ringers at Evesham were treated to a breakfast afterwards by the Friends of the Parish Church and Bell Tower. I see Bretforton rang, too (see their Q in columns). Did other towers manage to ring for that Day? St George's Day has become the official start of the Vale of Evesham Asparagus Festival. The 'gras', or to give its full colloquial name, 'Asum Gras', may

have been a little late in coming this year, due to the extended winter temperatures (funny to be saying that now, as we are in the middle of prolonged sunshine and very warm temperatures).\* 'Vale of Evesham Asparagus' is now a legally protected title, in the same category as 'Champagne', ie it must be grown in the Vale of Evesham to carry that description.

### PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

#### MILITARY IN MEMORIAM

**Church Enstone**, Oxon, 2 April, **1260 Doubles** (480 Plain Bob 780 Grandsire): 1 Christine Harris, 2 Sally Austin, 3 Daniel Austin, 4 Mick Austin, 5 Kenneth Wakefield (C), 6 Nicholas Hill. Rung to mark the centenary of the death of Serjeant Alfred Hawtin, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, a ringer at this tower. Commemorated at Namps-Au-Val British Cemetery, France. Great-uncle of 1

**Badsey**, Worcs, 13 April, **1280 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Tom Sandham, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Steve Bowley, 4 Nick Allsopp, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Stef Whittle. Rung as an 80th birthday compliment to Hilary Bolton, Tower Captain at Badsey.

**Pebworth**, Worcs, 14 April, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Matthew Kemble, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Bob Topp, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. To welcome Molly Louise Kemble, daughter of Matthew and Georgina, born 26 March 2018. 1st in method - 3

**Evesham**, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 15 April, **1260 Plain Bob Triples**: 1 Robert Hall, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Sandra Parker, 4 Martin Penny, 5 Roger Hunt, 6 Ian Povey, 7 Chris Povey (C), 8 William Hall. Rung in celebration of the treble ringer's 80th birthday (9 April).

**Todenham**, Glos, 21 April, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Elizabeth Royle, 2 Martin Penny, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 Alison Merryweather-Clarke (C), 6 Keith Murphy. Celebrating Elizabeth and Nick Royle's Silver Wedding Anniversary, with birthday compliments to another Royal Elizabeth! 1st away from cover: Treble.

**Bretforton**, Worcs, 23 April, **1260 Plain Bob Minor (+1)**: 1 Jane Gilbert, 2 Christina Ireland, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Roger Hunt, 6 Nick Allsopp (C), 7 Sandra Parker (tenor cover). Arranged for St George's Day and the launch earlier today of the British Asparagus Festival at The Fleece Inn, Bretforton, when the Great Asparagus Run conveyed the 100 Round of Vale of Evesham Asparagus aboard the 'Asparagus Express', a non-stop steam hauled train from Broadway to Cheltenham, where the 100 Round was presented to Edward Gillespie MBE, Vice Chair of Riding for the Disabled and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, to be auctioned to raise funds for the charity. Also a birthday compliment to local resident Diane Autie (for tomorrow) and a welcome to the newly arrived son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. 1st quarter of Bob Minor for Christina (after meeting short for Grandsire Triples).



The Asparagus Express chuffs into Cheltenham non-stop from Broadway



The 100 Round of the real stuff – 'Asum Gras'.

**Todenham**, Glos, 21 April, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Elizabeth Royle, 2 Martin Penny, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, 5 Alison Merryweather-Clarke (C), 6 Keith Murphy. Celebrating Elizabeth and Nick Royle's Silver Wedding Anniversary, with birthday compliments to another Royal Elizabeth! 1st away from cover: Treble.

**Wellesbourne**, Warks, 27 April, **1260 Grandsire Triples**: 1 James Ingham, 2 Mark Sayers, 3 John Carroll, 4 Simon Oram, 5 Stewart Heritage, 6 Christopher Mew (C), 7 Michael Dane, 8 Peter Quinn. Rung to celebrate the birth on 23rd April of HRH Prince Louis Arthur Charles of Cambridge

**Pebworth**, Worcs, 29 April, **1260 Doubles (540 Plain Bob; 360 April Day; 360 Grandsire)**: 1 Bob Topp, 2 Roland Merrick, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung to celebrate the Christening of Olivia Bea McLeish; daughter of Holly & Stuart McLeish.

**Bletchington**, Oxon, 29 April, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Imogen Murphy, 2 Keith Murphy, 3 Elizabeth Mullett, 4 Steve Vickars, 5 Alison Merryweather-Clarke (C), 6 Neil Ephgrave. Rung with the band's best wishes to Margaret Clayton, a ringing friend from Moreton-in-Marsh.

**Saintbury**, Glos, 12 May, **1250 Original Major**: 1 Margaret Smith, 2 Jane Gilbert, 3 Julie Tarling, 4 Roger Hunt, 5 Neil Garner, 6 Nick Allsopp, 7 Steve Bowley, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C). 1st Original 1,2,3,4,5 & 7. 1st with 4th place bobs 6 & 8. First Original as (C). Rung to entertain the lambs next door...!!

**Harbury**, Warks, 14 May, **1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 James Ingham, 3 Peter Quinn, 4 John Bissell, 5 Lucy Gwynne, 6 Douglas Kempton, 7 Robert Reeves, 8 John Gwynne.

**Evesham**, Worcs, The Bell Tower, 16 May, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Robert Hall, 2 Christina Ireland, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Georgie Roberts, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Claire Penny.

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

**Blockley**, Glos

SS Peter and Paul

Friday, 18 May 2018 in 48m (17–0–6 in F)

**1260 Grandsire Caters**

1 Alison Grey	6 Reg Hitchings (C)
2 Madeline Reeder	7 Roger Hunt
3 Barbara Pettit	8 Nick Allsopp
4 Ben Gooch	9 Andrew Evans
5 Chris Pickford	10 John Gibson

1st Quarter peal on the bells since augmentation. Rung with the Parish's best wishes to HRH Prince Henry (Harry) Windsor and Megan Markle to be married tomorrow at Windsor.

**Offenham**, Worcs, 19 May, **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: 1 Graham Lee, 2 Jane Gilbert, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Georgie Roberts, 5 Nick Allsopp, 6 Martin Penny (C). Rung to celebrate the marriage of HRH Prince Henry of Wales and Ms Meghan Markle. First Minor – Treble.

**Hook Norton**, Oxon, 19 May, **1260 Grandsire Triples**: 1 Nicki Unwin, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 Mick Austin, 4 Sally Austin, 5 Keith Abbott, 6 Alan Griffin, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Graham Clifton. Rung to celebrate the weddings of HRH Prince Henry of Wales + Ms Meghan Markle, today at Windsor Castle and Lucy Unwin + Tom Hughes who are to marry next Sat 26th May. 1st on eight – treble.

**Offenham**, Worcs, 10 June, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Beccie Williams, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Neil J Garner, 5 Martin B Penny (C), 6 Alison Lee. Rung for Offenham Wake. 1st quarter peal - Treble

**Pebworth**, Worcs, 24 June, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Roland Merrick, 2 Graham Lee, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Nick Allsopp, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Bob Topp. First Quarter Inside - 2

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

## MORE NOTICES AND ADVERTS

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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.

## GUILD LAPEL BADGES



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

£4 each from the Hon Sec.

(The original badges cost £1 in 1976!)

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



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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

JULY 14 <sup>TH</sup>	BROADWAY, Worcs	6, 18-1-16 in F (GF)
JULY 21 <sup>ST</sup>	CHURCHILL, Oxon	8, 10-3-9 in G ( <b>*NOTE 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.*</b> )
JULY 28 <sup>TH</sup>	ASTON CANTLOW, Warks	6, 14-0-14 in F
AUG 4 <sup>TH</sup>	BRETFORTON, Worcs	8, 8-3-11 in F# (GF)
AUG 11 <sup>TH</sup>	LOWER QUINTON, Warks	6, 13-0-7 in F# (GF) ( <b>*NOTE 7-00PM.TILL 8-30PM.*</b> )
AUG 18 <sup>TH</sup>	GREAT RISSINGTON, Glos	6, 11-1-3 in F# (GF)
AUG 25 <sup>TH</sup>	SAINTBURY, Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
SEPT 1 <sup>ST</sup>	ODDINGTON, Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) ( <b>*NOTE 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.*</b> )
SEPT 8 <sup>TH</sup>	MINI-MOUSE COMP AT PILLERTON HERSEY	(SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)
SEPT 15 <sup>TH</sup>	WELFORD-ON-AVON, Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
SEPT 22 <sup>ND</sup>	BUCKLAND, Glos	6, 14 cwt in F# (GF)
SEPT 29 <sup>TH</sup>	WALKING & RINGING TOUR STRATFORD AREA	(SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)
OCT 6 <sup>TH</sup>	ADLESTROP, Glos	6, 4-2-21 in C ( <b>*NOTE 7-00PM.TILL 8-30PM.*</b> )
OCT 13 <sup>TH</sup>	FLADBURY, Worcs	8, 12-3-03 in G#
OCT 20 <sup>TH</sup>	AGM. & STRIKING COMPS AT SHERBOURNE	Warks (SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)
OCT 27 <sup>TH</sup>	T.B.A.	

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

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

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

## TAG-END:

### Yes, folks: FSG SUBS WERE due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

Yes, they were, but some members haven't paid their subs yet. This may be due to forgetting to do so, or (hopefully not) wishing to discontinue membership. If the former, then please pay asap, otherwise you will not receive this or subsequent Newsletters (subs rates are £5 per annum and £2 for juniors). Michael Dane will be very pleased to receive your money. Ways of paying are shown below. If anybody says they haven't had the Newsletter, it may be because they haven't paid!

### 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:-

'Mini-Mouse' Comp	Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept at Pillerton Hersey. See details on p.6
Retro ringing Rally	Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept – see notice advert on p.9
Walking & Ringing Tour	Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Route/towers see Notice re route – <u>and note date change.</u>
Striking comps & AGM	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct. at Sherbourne, Warks: see Notice on page 3.