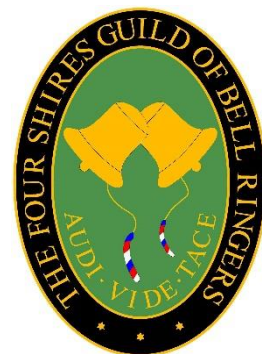


THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 158 - OCT 2018



Founded Oct 18th 1909

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.8	The 2018 Guild ringing tour
P.3	Notice of AGM & Striking Comps (reminder)	P.9	Notice: Guild Newsletter editor required!
P.4	Editorial; Chaplain's Thoughts	P.10	From the archives
P.4	Guild Master's Report 2017-2018	P.11	Tales (16) Bell handling (Pt1)
P.5	El Presidente's X-word	P.11	New stay is the oldest in the tower!?
P.6	Guild Walk & Ring report	P.11	A visit across the Channel to ring
P.7	Committee meeting notes	P.11	Around the towers
P.7	CCCBR; Recent Mid-week tour report	P.15	Notices
P.8	Minimus Striking Comp report	P.16	Saturday practices and Tag End

THE MINIMUS STRIKING COMPETITION WINNERS.....

'THE FAB 5'



(photo taken with Roger Hunt's camera, but clearly not by him!)

The winners of the Guild's Minimus (Minnie Mouse) Striking Competition held at Pillerton Hersey on September 8th. L-R: John Carroll (judge), Roger Hunt, Michael Haynes, Richard Lewis Sheath, Chris Povey and Sue Bacon. The band had to find a name before the results were given. Somebody laughingly suggested 'The Fab Five' and it caught on.....

Why five people ringing Minimus? Read the report on page 8

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 (January 2019) is December 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 HAS CHANGED 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!!

NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

ON SATURDAY 20th 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	Brazier Cup Striking Competition
3.00pm	Newing Shield Striking Competition
4.30pm	Service in the Church
5.15pm	Annual General Meeting in the village hall (nearby) (Chairman: the Guild President)

FULL DETAILS OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ITEMS ARE IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER

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

There will be an election for Officers and Committee members, in particular due to the resignation of one present Committee member for family reasons.

!THERE WILL BE NO EVENING RINGING!

EDITORIAL

This is the first of my last four issues. My 'contract' terminates after the July 2019 Newsletter. I am not aware of anybody enquiring about the possibility of taking over from me. I hope very sincerely that someone will come forward to do this job, as it would be a shame if the Newsletter died, particularly as 2019 is the 40th anniversary of the Newsletter starting for real (see 'From the Archives'). Please consider doing this job – see the advert on page 9. It is an important part of the Guild's activities.

Continuing with the Archives, the finances of the Guild 40 years ago are always fascinating, as they indicate the inflation since then. I see the Committee sent £1 to 18 towers – the ones presumably that had allowed their bells to be used for the Ringing Festival. Offenham received 80p and Broadway nothing. If we sent a £1 donation to a PCC now, they might wonder whether we lived in a past age, or were very short of money. It is usually £1 per bell now, or sometimes £2. Hopefully, of course, such donations go into a dedicated bell account, but sadly it's more likely that it's paid into a general PCC fund, where it disappears into the ether and is probably used for something entirely different. When such a PCC is asked to pay for bell work, there may well be a reply that funds are unavailable and the work may have to wait. I do not suggest PCCs become rich on donations from visiting ringers or suchlike – ringers are not generally known for their over-generosity – but

it would be nice if the money given for the bells actually ended up being used for the bells. Some towers have tower funds, which are used to buy ropes and similar items. Such funds avoid the frustration of going cap in hand to the PCC, particularly a cash-strapped one, when it is clear the request for money is unwelcome. The frustration mounts when a rope is seen to be heading towards its last strand and no replacement is likely for some time, so it's either begging or borrowing one from somewhere else, or continuing until it breaks. Not a good way to operate.

Finally, hearty congratulations to Veronica and Peter Quinn on their Golden Wedding Anniversary! See details of the peal rung for occasion – with the method named after them - on p.13.

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

When news broke in 1918 that the war was finally over, the sense of elation was almost uncontrollable. In London the church bells burst into confident ringing despite the shortage of ringers, for many were serving in the armed forces and a number had died on military service.

This year on the morning of the 11th November half-muffled bells will ring out, hopefully from about 3000 towers in memory of those who had lost their lives. Then, after mid-day, the muffles will be removed and the full sound of the bells will be heard. Bells will be rung throughout the world as a mark of peace and friendship. Almost every family has a link back to someone serving in the forces during the First World War. My grandfather, a ringer, was in the army 1916-18.

May we in our Four Shires Guild area play our part by ringing bells 'open' or 'muffled' in as many towers as we can manage. A bell could be rung at 1-bell towers at 11am for 100 strokes

Rev Dr Peter Newing

(And see the Notice on page 14 about sounding bells on 11th November at towers that have no ringers and to which no band of ringers can be arranged to come. Hon Sec)

GUILD MASTERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017– 2018

I am pleased to report that yet again your Guild in the year 2017 to 2018 has again been very active and your committee that was elected at the last Annual General Meeting has again been working very hard on your behalf. Our Treasurer, Michael Dane, will make his report at this AGM, although the accounts have been published in the Newsletter.

The weekly practices have again been very well attended, The Ringing Master, Richard Lewis-Skeath, has either run them or appointed a deputy. Most of the towers at which we have rung during the year have welcomed us. Stuart Cummings has done a sterling job in arranging

all the towers. Richard has occasionally been able to arrange a quarter peal on some Saturdays before the main practice.

Thanks go Richard, too, for organising the Annual Ringing Tour, to Cannock Chase District this time. Everyone who joined the tour said it was an excellent day. The striking competition and AGM were held at Temple Guiting, which was a great success with a lot of new members entering the competition. The tea and the meeting were held in the church.

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 3rd February 2018, again at The Charlecote

Pheasant Hotel. It was attended by 73 members and guests (nearly a record). Our Speaker this year was Bob Taylor from Stoneleigh. The prize giving followed the speech, with the trophies presented by our President. A special photographic award went to Chris Povey. It is of Chris next to 'his' new gargoyle on Evesham Bell Tower, which was carved in Chris's likeness without him knowing by the stonemasons completing the repairs to the masonry.

The website under Roland Meyrick is still projecting an active Guild to the web world and the Guild Magazine is now read online. It also displays the Guild clothing and it can be ordered

in far smaller quantities as we are now using a local firm company, even one garment, so please place your orders with Matthew Kemble. Matthew wants to ease back from clothing orders (and from the Committee) due to the pressures of a, and recently-expanded, young family, so we are looking for a volunteer to take on this work. In the meantime he will continue. The Guild's Facebook group is very active which is administered by Richard Lewis Skeath. Just let him know if you are interested in joining.

Chris Povey is still editor of The Four Shires Guild Newsletter and our thanks must go to him for producing each year an excellent product. As I have said many times before, the magazine has taken on a new dimension in editorial content. The printing is still completed "in house" on home printers by a few loyal members producing a good quality magazine this keeps our cost down significantly. As was agreed 40 years ago when the Newsletters first appeared, we publish notes

of the Committee Meetings, to keep members up-to-date with what is happening, so they can inform the Secretary of any items they want discussed or of the need for clarification. It should be known by now that Chris will be giving up being editor of the Newsletter after the July 2019 issue, which is three more after the Newsletter in which this Report is published. Notices regarding a plea for somebody to continue being the editor are being displayed.

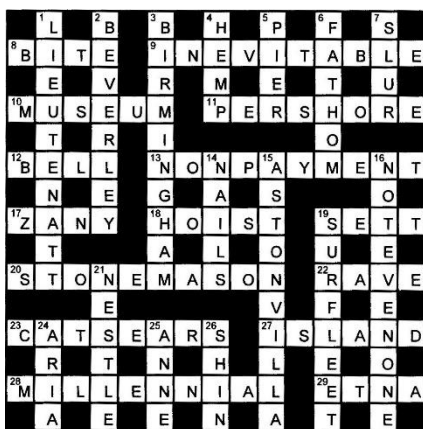
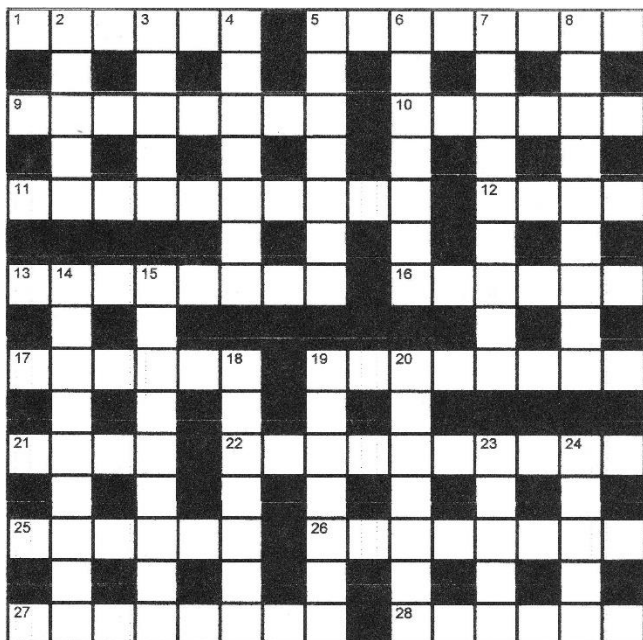
Our Bell Restoration Fund, which was set up in 2010 has made a number of grants during the year and these have been reported in the Newsletter. The Committee are empowered to offer grants towards any suitable projects concerning rings of bells within the Guild's area of operation. If you have a project where a grant from the Guild will help, please do not hesitate to enquire and obtain the necessary application forms.

To continue giving grants to worthy applications we must increase our funding, otherwise our grants will be too small to make a useful contribution to a project. Ways of doing this are always being considered by the committee. One such way was the system of donations by members, and this has been successful. Our thanks to all members who have made, and have continued to make, donations to the fund. It has made a real difference.

Finally thanks should go all members of the committee for their commitment and hard work, and for the time they have given to attending the committee meetings held during this year. Thanks, too, to Isobel Murphy for the work she does in co-ordinating the FSG monthly tours, and to Roland Meyrick for the Guild website services.

Peter Quinn,
Guild Master

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD



Answers to July 2018 X-word

Across

- 1 Old Boys yearn for parallel sides. (6)
- 5 Amaze – learn to ring it. (8)
- 9 Tunes are a constituent of French wine. (8)
- 10 An old coin for the policeman (6)
- 11 Industrial town in South Wales. (4,6)
- 12 Location reportedly in view. (4)
- 13 This clue is approved (8)
- 16 In modern parlance it's a 'Big Name'. (6)
- 17 A wading bird with webbed feet and curved bill. (6)
- 19 Every living thing. (8)
- 21 A tribe. (4)
- 22 24 hours and finish. (4,2,1,3)
- 25 A small building open for the view. (6)
- 26 A yellow woodland flower. (8)
- 27 Machine-made strong black coffee. (8)
- 28 Maltreat. (6)

Down

- 2 The thug shouts approval (5)
- 3 Eight working together. (5)
- 4 A flower crown. (7)
- 5 That man with the fizzy drink confection – he's Bert. (7)
- 6 You have heard it said that every ring is this. (7)
- 7 When the ringer gets this, he or she is on the way. (9)
- 8 A bribe to make thing taste better. (9)
- 14 1660s in Britain and 1860s in USA. (5,4)
- 15 Storyteller complicates a rare count. (9)
- 18 Yon Scot could make big noises. (7)
- 19 Usually made up as you go along. (7)
- 20 The belief that a society should be ruled by the best. (7)
- 23 There are celebrations afterwards. (5)
- 24 A silly lot! (5)

Seen outside a coffee shop in Yate Shopping Centre:

'Time is precious. Waste it wisely'

GUILD WALKING AND RINGING TOUR, SATURDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

The tour visited Alveston, Stratford-on-Avon and Clifford Chambers. We had 11 ringers on the tour and several non-ringers.

We kicked off at Alveston, where we had some very nice ringing, a jolly good blend of advanced and less-advanced ringing, so everyone had a chance to sample the bells, whatever they were capable of. We left Alveston and walked to Holy Trinity, Stratford. Some caught the small passenger boat that runs between Riverside Camp Site and Stratford Boat House. At Holy Trinity we rang some very nice Triples and afterwards managed to ring all 10 bells.

We moved on from there and walked across country heading towards Clifford Chambers on what was a really remarkable, fine and sunny Saturday, with temperatures of 18°, which made for very pleasant walking conditions. We arrived at the local pub, The New Inn, where we were all ready for a drink. An extremely pleasant lunch was served, which was enjoyed by all.

Afterwards we moved on to St Helen's Church and proceeded to ring. Not the easiest of bells, but everyone had a go and was well-pleased with their endeavours.

To sum up, a jolly good day was had by all on quite a remarkable day. Thanks to all involved.

John Carroll



(And thanks to you, John, for organising it. Ed)

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 7th AUGUST.

The Committee met on Tuesday 7th Aug at Wellesbourne Parish Centre.

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** Matthew.
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** except for the inclusion of Matthew as attending, all agreed as correct and signed as such.
- 3) **Matters Arising:-**
Handbell insurance: Richard agreed to pursue.
- 5) **Reports:** the following are highlights:-
Hon Secretary: Chris had received proposals and secondings for the following:-
Alison Hodge (Malvern) prop Chris, sec Richard
Alison was granted membership, nem con.
A letter of resignation from the Committee had been received from Matthew, due to family reasons. He will continue with FSG garments.
Treasurer: the operating account is covering costs, so a subs increase is not required. The BRF has £3358 of unallocated money in it.
Ringling Master: the practice at Aston Cantlow had to be cancelled due to a bell fault. Otherwise good attendances.
Safeguarding Officer: a report had been received from Chris Mew (* see the footnote to these Notes).
Newsletter Editor: Chris apologised for the lateness of the July issue. Some delivery problems were being overcome. Nobody had come forward to enquire about taking over as editor.
Mid-week tours: Isobel is still having difficulty recruiting people to write-up the tours.
- 6) **Bell Restoration Fund:**
Updates:
Nothing now that Bidford had received its grant

cheque.

Grant applications for consideration:

The application from Ebrington for bellframe repairs was considered. Although there was only one quotation, the percentage normally given would have exceeded the maximum grant significantly, so the maximum grant (£500) was offered.

Further grant applications:

No other applications had been received.

7) **Items for discussion:-**

Recent events:

The Ringing Tour went well, with about 25 people attending. The weather was good, too.

Future programme:

Minimus Striking Comp: 8th Sept: details in the July Newsletter.

Walking & Ringing Tour: now Sat 29th Sept. Details in the July Newsletter.

2018 Striking Comps & AGM: Sat 20th Oct. The Notice is in the Newsletter.

Xmas Party: will be at Badsey again, on December 8th. Notice in the Newsletter

Guild Annual Dinner, Sat 2nd Feb 2019: venue being considered and a Notice giving details will appear in the October Newsletter.

Converting the Guild to a charity. Again deferred.

Changes to the Data Protection Act (the General Data Protection Regulation): present arrangements are thought to be sufficient.

Armistice Day ringing: a Notice about tolling a bell 100 times in churches unlikely to have ringing on this day appears in the Newsletter.

Proposals from the Committee to the AGM: the Notice required for the proposals agreed at the May Committee meeting appeared in the Newsletter.

8) **AOB:**

There was none

- 9) **Next Meeting:** due to an expected clash of dates, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th November at Church House, Evesham.

Future Committee meeting dates: 2018, 27th Nov..

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

* **The Report from the Safeguarding Officer reads as follows:-**

Coincidentally I am about to do a short update for the Ringing World. At the end of June there was issued in on-line form only, a new 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook', which brings together in one concise document (39 pages) what was previously in several booklets totalling 300+ pages.

The key thing is that, at last it has been recognised that volunteers in peripheral jobs (flower arranging, coffee servers, etc) do NOT have to undergo safeguarding training, although still encouraged. Tower captains ARE expected to undergo Safeguarding training courses C0 basic awareness, C1 Foundation and C2 Leadership and, thereafter, C5 refresher every 3 years.

DBS requirements remain unchanged and applies to those teaching young people or managing trainers if tower captains themselves do not themselves teach.

Chris Mew

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

Things are moving with the new Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. There is evidence that the Work Groups are organising and beginning to move forward. As mentioned last time one of the biggest hurdles has been to encourage members of the old Committees to start thinking that they are now part of a new, integrated Group that has a much wider remit within a specific area of church bell ringing. To quote an example: the new Stewardship and Management Work Group includes the responsibilities of the old Towers & Belfries Committee, the Bell Restoration Committee, the Redundant Bells Committee and the Towers Stewardship Committee. Not all members of these committees wished to continue, but many did. A further, quite significant change is to include people who are not Central Council representatives. As can be imagined this is posing something of a problem regarding integration and moving

forward to pick up and continue with the 'everyday, shop-counter' business of the old committees. Loyalties to the previous committees is gradually disappearing. However, as has been identified by one very long-standing worthy, saying you are from (eg) the Stewardship & Management Group conveys little to a PCC or other ringers about one's speciality and therefore one's reason for being involved with a project or whatever. It is known that at least one Work Group Leader is not only working very hard indeed to assimilate people into the Group, but trying to move forwards, too. It is of course likely the other Leaders are. Remember, too, they aren't being paid for this time and effort, so they are to be applauded for their efforts.

Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

THE JULY TOUR (the 345th), THURSDAY 19th:

NORTHANTS

After a really scorching month of continuous sunshine and lack of rain, the day began at a slightly more comfortable temperature. It was eerily calm as we travelled into Northamptonshire along the A14, particularly noticeable as all the wind turbines were at a standstill.

Turning off the main road we soon became immersed in the beautiful countryside with cottages made of Northamptonshire stone, and many sporting thatched roofs. Our first port of call was at St Andrew's Cotterstock (6:8.1.21) The Church seemed very large for such a small village, but we were given a warm welcome – and tea and coffee was provided for those who had travelled a long way. This easy-going six were newly augmented in 2017 and, being a ground-floor ring, gave a cohesive feel to all that was going on. A screen showing a CCTV image of the bells was placed at the front of the side aisle, and it was fascinating watching the bells being rung. Initially an enigma – 6 bells ringing, only 5 on the screen until Keith spotted what looked like a slider and then we realized the 2nd was set above the main frame. From the position of the 3rd in the Ringing Chamber you could watch what your bell was doing in relation to the rest of the peal – a slightly 'pat your head and rub your tummy' sensation. We rang Plain Bob, Cambridge SM, Stedman Doubles, Norwich SM, St Clements and London SM. (Ironically when Brenda last visited the Church she had had to make a detour as the river had caused flooding and they couldn't get across it!)

En route to our next tower we passed Ashton, famous for its 'Chequered Skipper' pub named after the thought-to-be extinct butterfly. Disappearing in 1976 the butterfly has now made an unexpected return – and back to Northamptonshire. (You may be also interested to know also that the Annual Conker Festival held each year in Northamptonshire started at Ashton in 1965 and is still going strong.)

All Saint's Polebrook (5: 11.1.7) was the next tower on our list, and a very fascinating Church it turned out to be. The original building is Norman but has been added to over the following few centuries until today you have a cruciform church, with a splendid wooden roof. The steeple was added in 1844 and the present organ was bought from Peterborough Choir School. Creative use has been made of the various areas in the Church for services, sympathetically merging the old with the new.

The 5 bells are rung from one corner of the Church. Two are 16th century, whilst the other three are 18th century. The 'Gleaning Bell' was rung between 7.00am and again at 6.00pm during Harvest time. The bells were very noisy and conducting quite a challenge. However All Saints, Stedman Doubles, St Simons, Plain Bob and Grandsire were achieved.

Lunch was taken in Oundle before the long, challenging climb up to the belfry. Considering the amount of money which must have been spent on

the Church itself, the bells and belfry seemed to pale into insignificance. However, there was a lesson to be learned here: we were let in by a non-ringer and a note had been left to say that the clock chimes had been taken off. Raising the front six highlighted a problem – one chime had not been taken off. In the usual fashion the 'men who know best' gathered round the clock case and with a huff and a puff decided they knew what was wrong, but didn't seem to know the solution!! Finally they realized the chain to the chime had got caught up and by releasing that, the problem was solved! The 8 bells – 25.1.11 – are not the easiest to ring, and the 2nd and 3rd are separated by the large clock case and cannot see each other. The ringer of the 3rd also has to stand at the top of a flight of three steps – quite unnerving hovering above everyone else. We tried to ring Grandsire Triples, half a course of Cambridge, some Stedman and some Plain Hunt 7. I think we all agreed that we did not ring at our best here, particularly as we all contended with long ropes.

The last tower of the day was St Mary the Virgin at Benefield. The Church is described in the '100 Best Kept Secrets' as 'a tractarian church erected in 1848, designed by John Macduff Derick and further enhanced by Sir Ninian Comper, c. 1900 – reredos 1897, rood screen 1904. The latter is topped by three coats of arms, those of the Bishop of Peterborough, the Royal Family in London and the Watts Russell Family at Biggin Hall. Derick seems to have incorporated some misericords which were formerly at Fotheringhay'. It is a beautifully maintained Church, all credit to those who look after it.

The bell tower contains 6 bells – 7.3.6 – and the ringing room is relatively small – not too big a problem as numbers always begin to dwindle at the end of the day. There is a strange 'viewing' gallery' set above the ringing chamber, but it was not obvious whether this was used by overflowing visiting ringers. Alan Marks had helped to install these bells so we careful what we said about them! We rang Plain Bob Minor, Cambridge, York and St Clements.

It had been a lovely day out in delightful English countryside, thanks to Andrew Usbourne who had organised it.

Joy Pluckrose.

Sadly, Isobel tells me she is having difficulty finding scribes to submit reports of these visits and this is why there is, again, 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 CMP)

THE MINIMUS (MINNIE MOUSE) STRIKING COMPETITION, SEPT 8th

The bi-annual Minimus Striking Competition was this year held at Pillerton Hersey, the recently re-hung unringable 3 that gradually turned into a ringable 4 and then into a ringable 5. The event was advertised in the last Newsletter, along with the Rules of the game, which were few and perhaps better described as 'nicely comfortable'. As the advert said, the object was to have FUN. And fun we had.

Pillerton Hersey is a delightful little Warwickshire village, with a charming church. We were allowed the use of the bells for the event, despite having, probably, many visiting ringers coming to it to 'grab' the new bells. We thank the PCC for this. Our Judge was John Carroll, who did this job in fine style.

There were six teams, although one was a scratch band with some non-members in it, so was ineligible to collect the winning laurels. The teams drew for positions to ring. Childswickham picked the first slot, with The Ladies Band, Pebworth, Bretforton/Welford, Scratch and the eventually-named 'The Fab 5' following. The Rules said the test piece could be rung on 4 bells (either front 4 or back 4), or on the 5 with a tenor cover, but with the extra bell being included in the marking. All the band except one chose 4 bells. The last band decided to give John a dose of confusion – if possible, that is – by using 5 bells (it clearly didn't confuse, as John was quite unruffled).

John gave the results afterwards. There were some helpful comments on each piece in general: out of politeness nothing that criticised individual ringers. The ranking was as follows:-

1	'The Fab 5'	5½ faults
2	Bretforton/Welford	16 faults
3	The Ladies band	21 faults
4	Childswickham	21½ faults
5	Pebworth	27 faults

This may have showed up one thing at least. The winning team used a tenor behind (which, as said above, was included in the marking). Does

this show that tenor-behind ringing is much easier to strike well than tenor-in ringing? Possibly.

It was a lovely event in a lovely little church on very-easy-to-ring bells. Thanks are due to John for sitting on a gravestone throughout the event: see photo below. CMP



John Carroll undertaking his duties (pose inspired by 'The Thinker')_ (photo Roger Hunt)

THE 2018 GUILD RINGING TOUR – THE CHASE WAS ON....!!

A bright morning and sunny day welcomed the 25 ringers who ventured northwards to the **Cannock Chase environs** with **Ingestre** (6, 12-3-14 in F) being one of those towers that was at the end of the main road, then keep going (seemingly nowhere) till familiar faces were spotted and the sound of bells could be heard. Cambridge, Plain and Little Bob accompanied the Plain Hunt.



St Mary the Virgin, Ingestre

Retracing our steps a short distance brought us back to **Colwich** (6, 7-2-10 in A), another tower with an interesting clockface and spiral staircase. A similar choice of methods was rung here.



St Michael & AA, Colwich

Rugeley (6, 7-2-26 in G) were a little more demanding as the 3rd bell was out of action! - Grandsire, Stedman and Reverse Canterbury Doubles being the favoured methods. Lunch was taken here with the recommendation of The Merchant proving very acceptable.



St Augustine, Rugeley



Ringling at Rugeley: note 3rd rope pulled to one side, as unringable.

Grandsire Caters and Little Bob Royal were accomplished along with call changes at **Cannock** (10, 14-0-10 in F).



St Luke, Cannock

We then moved on to **Norton Canes** (8, 8-1-14 in Bflat) to demonstrate our skills at Grandsire and Single Oxford Bob Triples together with Plain Bob Major and call changes.



St James, Norton Canes

Our final tower was **Shareshill** (6, 9-0-0 in A), a church with an interesting architectural mix and a dedicated exterior spiral stone staircase accessing the ringing chamber, where the usual Doubles and Minor featured.



St Luke & St Mary, Shareshill

Our customary thanks go to Richard Lewis-Skeath for his organisation and early notice of the day and also to the nominated persons in charge at each tower.

Roger Hunt (to whom go all the photo credits)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED!!

The present Editor is giving up this post next year.

As announced in the April 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 1979 and it will be a sad day if it is discontinued through nobody coming forward to produce more issues.

Chris's article in that 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 or phone him.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

100 YEARS AGO

October 30th 1918:

The Great War not having concluded, no meeting was held on this date.
(Signed) Hubert D'Easte East, President

40 YEARS AGO

16th October 1978:

Committee Meeting held at Long Barn, Draycott, on 16th October 1978.
Members present were: Miss L Bedford, A J Brazier, Mrs H Davies, M F Fairfax, Mrs P Linsdell, R Payne.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

Saydisc

Mr Brazier confirmed the position as regards the Saydisc record. He said it had been a private arrangement.

Shield

The Secretary reported that the design had been submitted to H O Hart who promised to have it ready by January.

Replica Shield

Replicas shield (sic) cost from H O Hart would be £10 each; from a commercial firm about £1.50. It was decided to make further enquiries with the commercial firm. Mrs Davies proposed that each winning team should receive a replica from 1974 This was seconded by Miss Bedford and carried.

Ringing Festival

It was decided to make a donation to eighteen towers of £1 each, Offenham 80p and no donation to Broadway.

Newsletter

The cost of Gestetner duplicating of the Newsletter had been £1-70 for 130 copies, therefore Mr Fairfax proposed continuing with this type of duplicating. A skeleton map showing the Four Shires area is to be included in future newsletters. It was proposed that a brief account of Committee business should be included in the newsletter.

Beginners' Practise (sic) at Moreton

It was felt that the beginners' practises at Moreton in Marsh this summer had fulfilled a need. As there had been no further requests, it was decided that practices should cease for the time being.

Annual Dinner

The Secretary was asked to find out what the cost of this year's dinner would be.

As the 'Family Band' will cost approximately £30 for providing the entertainment it was decided to leave making a decision until it is known what the total cost will be.

Mr Fairfax offered to make enquiries about alternate entertainment.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash in hand	7.15
	42.90 at the Bank
	38.71 Building Society
Income	4.20 subscriptions
	1.00 donation
Expenses	2.00 Ringing World advertisement
	1.70 Newsletter printing
	5.58 stamps and stationery

Typewriter

As there is still £5 still owing on the purchase of the typewriter Mr Brazier proposed settling the account. This was seconded by Mr Fairfax and carried.

1979 Subscription

The Treasurer was asked to raise the question as to whether the subscription should be raised. Mr Brazier proposed an increase to 75p full membership and 30p for junior membership. Seconded by Mr Payne. The vote in favour of recommending an increase was five with one abstention.

Striking Competition

The Striking Competition will take place at Ilmington on Saturday 28th October. Mr Fairfax is in charge of the organisation. Mr Brazier offered to make the tea and coffee.

. (Signed) M.F.Fairfax 27/11/78

There follows in the Minute Book a copy of what is presumably the newsletter referred to in the Committee minutes above. It is clearly Gestetner-duplicated, and is effectively the first Guild Newsletter (despite a later, fuller, version being numbered '1'). This newsletter fronts three duplicated sheets containing the 1978 AGM minutes. (These sheets are not reproduced here, as the content is extensive and more than my one-fingered typing can manage. Ed)

27th November 1978

Committee Meeting held at The Lygon Arms Hotel, Chipping Campden on the 27th November.

Members present were Miss L Bedford, A J Brazier, Mrs H Davies, and Mrs P Linsdell.

Apologies for absence were received from M F Fairfax.

In the absence of the Guild Master A J Brazier took the chair.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

i The Newing Shield

The Secretary was asked to see H O Hart and ensure that the Shield would be ready for the Annual Dinner on 3rd February.

ii Newsletter

The possibility of including a map of the Four Shires area was discussed. Mr Brazier offered to draw out the map which will show the six and eight bell towers and the main roads. The map will be included in all Newsletters from January. A J Brazier suggested sending the Newsletter to the four secondary schools in the area: Chipping Norton, Chipping Campden, Shipston on Stour and Evesham. The suggestion was approved.

iii Annual Dinner

It was decided to leave the final arrangements for the dinner to the new committee in early January. The question of entertainment was discussed. It was reluctantly agreed that we could not afford to have the Family Band from (Somerset this) year as we are committed to four or five guests already and the Family Band would bring the total to ten and the cost to £35. Other types of entertainment were suggested – a record of bells, handbells, a folk singer. It was decided a folk singer would be the most appreciated and Mrs Davies offered to make enquiries. The guests will be the Rev and Mrs P Newing, Mr & Mrs Thorne and Mr & (?) Mrs Charles.

iv Ringing World front cover

The first suggestions as to what should be on the front page and inside were made. Mr Brazier suggested pen and ink sketches of four towers; possibly the badge or shield. Mr Brazier also suggested that the Guild hold a quarter peal week

v Committee Meetings 1978

The Committee asked that their thanks to the Secretary for holding Committee Meetings in her home be recorded in the Minutes

. (Signed) M.F.Fairfax 3 January 1979

Some 20 years ago an unringable ring of 6 (Mears c1780's) was brought back to life at Michaelston-y-Fedw, just north of the M4 twixt Cardiff and Caerphilly. The bells were completely refurbished at Taylors of Loughborough (but not tuned at the behest of the powers that be. . .) and hung in a new cast iron framework on a steel grillage – the old frame being hoisted higher in the tower and supported on a steel grillage with meshed walkway for all to see. Within a couple of years local interest yielded donors for two treble bells with additional framework to complete the octave with the necessity to remove the bells once again to Loughborough for tuning! The church stands in a hollow away from the village road but features a wide pathway running down a steepish incline to the porch. Thankfully the bellhanger's vehicle could be employed to pull the bell trolley up to the road to the waiting lorry as my photo shows. (*Hands-free bell handling!!*).



Roger de 'Flaedenburg'

NEW STAY IS THE OLDEST IN THE TOWER...(!?)

A cracked stay at Evesham Bell Tower required replacement. There were only a few days between that happening and Helen and I departing for a 3-week holiday. But visitors were coming to the Tower within my period away, so it was a case of making a new one asap. I keep a small stock of ash for making new stays, but the pieces I had were either too small or much too large. Apart from the time it takes to cut or plane a large piece down to size, it's a waste of lovely wood. Then I remembered I had two of Blockley's old stays here, purely to 'recycle' them into new ones if possible. Both were uncracked, so there was a clear length of sound wood between the top of the stay and the upper fixing bolt hole. One of the delights of Hastings stays (some say there are many, but detractors - aka Philistines - say there aren't any....) is that they are shorter than ordinary stays, so can fit into this clear length. Luckily the stay I had to make fitted easily, and the breadth and width of the donor stay was a fraction over-size: just right

The stays of Blockley's old-8 are likely to have been provided by Taylors in 1937, when they undertook some minor rehangng work. The stays I had were originals, as both have '279' imprinted on them (probably Taylors' job number) and the number of the bell to which they were attached: either the numeral 6 (6th bell) or eight centre-pop pips (the tenor). I wondered what wood of that age would be like to machine – would it be old and gnarly? – but it was beautiful: a real treat to plane, with wonderfully straight grain. The finished stay is shown in the photo

attached. For those not familiar with Hastings stays, the metal cap is called the dingler, which is a toggle that engages with a stationary, 'S' shaped slider rail underneath the bell as the bell comes up to the balance at each stroke.



The finished article, ready to fit in the bell.

So, how is the heading to this article explained? If as is likely the wood dates back to 1937, then it is older than the original stays that still exist on the 5, 6, 10 & 11 at the Tower, as those only date back to 1951. CMP

A VISIT ACROSS THE CHANNEL TO RING

Readers may remember the article by Jeanette Davey in Newsletter 154, when she and partner Tim, and Helen and I visited Ypres in Belgium in August last year to see the new ring of 8 bells for St George's Church (known as the English Church) be delivered by two ex-Army lorries made in 1915, and their Dedication on the floor of the Church. Sadly, neither Jeanette nor I could be at the subsequent Dedication Service after installation when the ring was officially opened. I had the chance to ring on them this year, when Helen and I decided to go through Ypres on our way to Germany for a campervan holiday. I had liaised with Liz Millward,

who is a ringer and a long-time resident of Ypres, but also she is the daughter of FSG member John Collett of Burford. I was invited to join the locally-taught ringers at their practice on Saturday morning. We had six including me. When one realises the locals have had less than a year on the end of a rope, they were doing quite well. After the installation last year, there was a large input by ART (the Association of Ringing Teachers) to stay at Ypres for long periods to teach new ringers. This seems to have been successful, as the bells are being rung. No, change-ringing isn't quite on the menu yet, but I have little doubt this will come eventually. There is

a steady stream of ringers from these shores to visit and ring either quarters or peals.

Helen and I joined the local ringers for coffee afterwards (the conversation was in English!) and learnt that they went on a ringing tour a few months back. With no other real rings of bells in Europe (the Dordrecht ring is basically a mini-ring), this is more difficult to arrange than over here, where there are rings of bells all over the place. Where did they go? They had a day trip to Dover and rang there. It is interesting to compare the conditions over there with here. If we want help, we just find a local ringer, or two, or perhaps three or four, all largely on the doorstep. If we want to visit another tower, there are lots to choose from. Over there, some help, er, where from? Ring at another tower? The closest is a sea trip away. All quite alien to us. So, putting all of this into the pot, it is good to see that they have progressed as far as they have.

The bells themselves are fairly light – tenor is 6½cwt – so they go and ring well. They sound well too. A lovely little ring, with an absolutely superb, oak-panelled ringing room as part of the installation project. It is fair to say there have been broken stays along the way, but a local learner (Martin, another long-time ex-pat from London) has graduated to making stays, and those he'd made ready for use showed he'd got the hang of the job: excellent quality. One thing did come out of discussing stays (as you do), baulks of ash are very difficult to obtain in Belgium, so he's had to rely on visitors bringing some lengths with them. I did not know this, otherwise I would have been very happy to take some. So, if you intend visiting St George's for a ring in a future, take some ash with you to donate!

There was ringing for Evensong on the Sunday evening, so we extended our stay in Ypres for that. By chance a peal had been rung earlier in the afternoon by a band from Oxfordshire and two of the peal band came along for the Service ringing. Additionally, too, Andrew Hartley (from Worcestershire) and his wife Bridget and two young sons (all ringers) came along, too, so we had all 8 going to some Grandsire. Should anyone be thinking of visiting (and the Church itself is well-worth a visit, too), I have

no doubt you will be given a very warm welcome by Liz and her ringers.



Liz, with Benjamin and Christopher Hartley, and local ringer Frank in the beautiful oak panelled ringing room.

We continued on from Belgium into and around various parts of Germany. What struck me, yet again (as mentioned previously in accounts of our travels around Europe) is the accuracy of church and other public clocks there. They are usually smack-on accurate, or if not only a minute at most out. It does not seem to matter whether they are in cities, towns or little rural villages. Compare with our public clocks here. They are usually out by minutes, or have stopped (I noticed the clock on the Redesdale Hall in Moreton had stopped at 3.15 when I went through there late one evening recently). The continentals appear to look after their clocks better than we. Chris Povey

AROUND THE TOWERS

PEOPLE AND PLACES

I understand (because I haven't seen it yet) that the access into the Ringing Room at Adlestrop has been improved hugely. There is now an internal porch. The roof of this structure acts as an intermediate stage in getting in through the floor trap. The long ladder, which some refused to climb, is no longer there (it is, but it's now much shorter, as it only rises from the porch roof to the R/Room. Access to the porch roof is via steps on the opposite side, then a walk across to the now much-shortened-short ladder on the opposite side. Not only that, but the Ringing Room has been repainted using Keim paint, which allows the stonework to breathe. More than that, though, it doesn't come off on your clothes, so the days of visiting Adlestrop and returning to the ground looking like a snowman are over.

It isn't just Adlestrop that has had a makeover. Pebworth Ringing Room has been repainted, too. The ringers did all this, again using Keim paint, but went a big step further: they re-carpeted it. Not just a bit of cheap carpet,

but luxurious deep-pile stuff. How did this happen? Pat Bell's house suffered a flood and the lounge carpet had to go. However, there was sufficient of the undamaged part to fit Pebworth, so that's what happened. Even the trapdoor lid is covered. One now needs to be very careful that one's shoes are very clean, otherwise shoes may have to be removed.

I understand Moreton ringers are gradually repainting the bellframe and metal fittings. It's unlikely it's been repainted since installation in 1958. The really difficult part is removing the corrosion and old paint, as without doing that thoroughly, the new paintwork doesn't last. I take my hat off to Nick and Co, as this is a long, hard slog, with lots of hard-to-get-to places. However, there will be lots of joy in looking at the finished result. (It is recommended that metal bellframes be repainted every 30 years or so, or more regularly in aggressive atmospheres, to prevent corrosion taking an excessive hold.) If your ring of bells has a metal frame, does it need re-

painting? Bellhanging companies undertake such work, but of course charge for the service, or it can be a DIY job (but make sure the paint you intend using is acceptable to the Diocese: 'Hammerite' paint is usually not recommended). Also, remember, paint emits noxious fumes, so there needs to be sufficient airflow to prevent asphyxiation.

Steve Bowley and Stef Whittle have organised practices at Little Comberton on the last Friday of each month. Steve has undertaken various bits of work to make the bells easier to ring.

Veronica and Peter Quinn's wedding anniversary is not the only wedding celebration in the columns. The 25th anniversaries of Jane and Nick Allsopp, Margo and Rob Stansbury, and Anne and David Jackson were celebrated in a Q at Moreton-in-Marsh on 21st July

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

Coventry Diocesan Guild

Wellesbourne, Warks, St David

Monday, 24 September 2018 in 2h 52 (10–0–24 in G)

5100 Quinn's Alliance Major

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

Rung, with the congratulations of the band, to celebrate Peter and Veronica Quinn's Golden Wedding.

First peal in the method - Quinn's Alliance Major:
b -38-1456-1256-18-14-18.34-78

(I'm sure all Guild members offer their congratulations to Peter and Veronica. Ed)

MILITARY IN MEMORIA

Bishampton, Worcs, 3 Aug, 1260 Doubles ((780 Grandsire & 480 Plain Bob), 1 Andy Harris, 2 John Alexander, 3 Neil Garner, 4 Sandra Parker, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Anthony Wheeler. Rung on and for the 100th Anniversary of the death of Private William Levi HARRIS, 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, wounded and captured 21st March 1918 who sadly died of his wounds - he is buried at the Cologne Southern Cemetery in Germany. Also remembering Private Albert Thomas ALDRIDGE, 4th Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Marines Artillery, who died in an explosion off the Kent coast rehearsing for the Zeebrugge Raid and whose 100th anniversary was on Easter Sunday 2018. The band wish to associate local ringer Martyn Palmer with this quarter.

Childswickham, Worcs, 19 Aug, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Clare Davies, 2 Graham Lee, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Rob Moon. Rung to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Lance Corporal Walter E Jones, who died on 19th August 1918. Walter was a bell ringer at Childswickham before joining the War. Rung as part of this years 'Ringing Remembers'. First Quarter Peal – 6 (Congratulations Rob. Ed)

Great Wolford, Warks, 26 Aug, 1296 Plain Bob Minor: 1 Isobel Murphy, 2 Christine Seers, 3 Keith Murphy, 4 Daniel Glyde, 5 Martin Penny, 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath (C). Rung in memory of Little Wolford resident, Lieut John Mott MC, who died in France on 26th August 1918. Prior to the war he had emigrated to Canada. The band was pleased that members of Lieut Mott's family from both Canada and Australia were present at the church during the ringing. Great Wolford War Memorial Bells to Remember Project 6/8

Great Wolford, Warks, 26 Sept, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Imogen Murphy, 2 Isobel Murphy, 3 Christine Seers, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath. In memory of Great Wolford resident, Private Norman Rouse, killed on 26 September 1918. Great Wolford Bells to Remember Project 7/8

Cherington, Warks, 3 May 2018, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 John Gwynne, 2 Lucy Gwynne, 3 Karen French, 4 Sue Marshall (C), 5 Graham Nabb, 6 Kathryn McCarthy. First Quarter Peal: 6. (Congratulations. Ed).

Hinton-on-the-Green, Worcs, 8 July, 1320 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Clare Davies, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Graham Lee. To open the annual church fete. First quarter for Clare at her home tower and rung by regular attendees of the monthly 'Bretwickhamton' practices held at this tower.

Pebworth, Worcs, 15 July, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Roland Merrick, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Chris Povey, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. First in method – 3.

Bretforton, Worcs, 16 July, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Rachel Page, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4 Jane Gilbert, 5 Steve Bowley, 6 Nick Allsopp, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 Trevor J Sheppard. Performed as part of the weeklong BretFest Music Festival. Remembering Harry (Chips) Middleton of Evesham who died 70 years ago [Harry rang in the 11,111 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham] and with best wishes to his grandson, John Thornton OBE, QPM, who recently retired as churchwarden at Bretforton and is recovering from a replacement hip procedure.

Moreton in Marsh, Glos, 21 July, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: 1 Margo Stansbury, 2 Anne Jackson, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 David Jackson, 5 Nicholas Allsopp (C), 6 Rob Stansbury, All three couples celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary year.

Pebworth, Worcs, 5 Aug, 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: 1 Graham Lee, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Martin Penny (C), 5 William Boyce. First Quarter: 5. First Minimus: 3. Rung to celebrate the 54th Wedding Anniversary of the 5th on August 8th 2018. (Congratulations on your 1st Q Bill! Ed)

Offenham, Worcs, 25 Aug, 1380 Doubles (May Day; Plain Bob; April Day; Grandsire): 1 Alison Lee, 2 John A C Richards, 3 Robert D C Richards, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee.

Cherington, Warks 30th August, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Kathryn McCarthy, 2 Graham Nabb, 3 Sue Marshall (C), 4 John Gwynne, 5 Lucy Gwynne, 6 Karen French. First away from Cover: 1.

Kineton, Warks, 20 Sept, 1260 Doubles (2m Plain Bob and Reverse Canterbury): 1 Kathryn McCarthy, 2 Sue Marshall (C), 3 David Bell, 4 David Rake, 5 Simon Rogers, 6 Mike Rigby. Birthday Compliment to Simon Rogers.

Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos, 27 Sept, 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major: 1 Steve Coleman (C), 2 Sue Coleman, 3 Chris Seers, 4 Jeremy Meyrick, Keith Murphy, 6 Andrew Clarke, 7 Chris Povey, Nick Allsopp. 1st Q of Kent TB Major, 4.

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

Heard in a ringing room recently:-

“If you want to be a better ringer, ring with better ringers....”

NOTICES

ARMISTICE DAY SUNDAY 11TH 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 in churches where no ringing can take place at a suitable time during that day.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER

To be held at Badsey Church immediately after the Saturday practice (which will run 7.00-8.15pm).

Bring food and something to drink, and a good voice to sing carols!

ADVANCE NOTICE - GUILD ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2019

To be held at The Northwick Hotel, Waterside, Evesham: 7.00 for 7.30pm.
(The Hotel has an extensive car park at the rear)

MENU

Starters

Seasonal Vegetable Soup with Crisp Crouton
Duo of Melon, ginger syrup and Berry Compote

Main Courses

Slow Roasted Silverside of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding and Roast Gravy
Half Roast Chicken with Bread Sauce
Roasted Vegetable and Halloumi Tarte
(All served with seasonal vegetables and Potatoes)

Desserts

Apple Tarte Tatin with Crème Anglaise
White Chocolate and Marshmallow Cheesecake

Tea and Coffee to Follow

Cost per person £25.00

ORDERS TO THE FOLLOWING BY 20TH JAN 2018 AT THE LATEST.

Peter Quinn: 01789-840827; peterquinn22@gmail.com,
Michael Dane: 01789-470491; landm.dane@btinternet.com,
Stuart Cummings: 01608-685576; stuartcummings@madasafish.com

The Speaker will be Dr Martin Penny, Ringing Master at Pebworth;
and the Striking Competition trophies will be presented

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.

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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DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCT 6 TH	ADLESTROP, Glos	6, 4-2-21 in C	(*NOTE 7-00PM.TILL 8-30PM.*)
OCT 13 TH	FLADBURY, Worcs	8, 12-3-03 in G#	
OCT 20 TH	AGM. & STRIKING COMPS AT SHERBOURNE	Warks	(SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)
OCT 27 TH	LITTLE COMBERTON, Worcs	6, 13-1-18 in G	
NOV 3 rd	CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Glos	8, 22-1-18 in Eb	
NOV 10 TH	CHILDSWICKHAM, Worcs	6, 11-3-26 in F#	
NOV 17 TH	ILMINGTON, Warks	8, 12-3-26 in E (GF)	
NOV 24 TH	WILLERSEY, Glos	6, 12cwt in G	
DEC 1 ST	WELLESBOURNE, Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)	
DEC 8 TH	BADSEY, Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F	*NOTE* 7-00PM. TILL 8-15PM.
			<u>FOLLOWED BY GUILD XMAS PARTY</u>
DEC 15 TH	PEBWORTH, Worcs	10, 11-3-09 in F#	
DEC 22 ND	* NOTE * NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK *		
DEC 29 TH	* NOTE * NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK *		
2019			
JAN 5 TH	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F	
JAN 12 TH	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks	8, 15-0-22 in F# (GF)	
JAN 19 TH	OFFENHAM, Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF)	*NOTE* 7-00PM TILL 8-30PM
JAN 26 TH	T.B.A.		

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

member and we are especially pleased if members of the local band wish to come along and ring.

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

TAG-END:

ELECTIONS REQUIRED AT THE 2018 AGM AT SHEREBOURNE

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

Yes, folks, and it's that time again: FSG SUBS are due on 1st January 2019. The rates are unchanged: £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). Please pay as soon after this date as possible, as it benefits the Guild. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.) Payment may be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer. It would assist greatly if, when paying by cash, you use the payment slip attached to this Newsletter.

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

YOU CAN PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY INTERNET BANK TRANSFER. It's a very convenient service if you are internet-connected and have internet banking. THE GUILD'S BANKING DETAILS ARE: Bank, HSBC; Acct No, 71118668; Account name, FOUR SHIRES GUILD; Sort Code, 40-41-26. **For 'Reference', please insert your name and tower (or unattached), otherwise you and your payment will be untraceable!!** You will not need a receipt, as the bank transfer process allows a copy of the transfer document to be printed off. An email to the Treasurer saying you have paid in this way is always a good idea, as it really does help.

Events for 2018 – book the dates now:-

Striking comps & AGM	Sat 21 st Oct. at Sherbourne, Warks: see Notice on page 3.
Guild Xmas Party	Sat 8 th Dec at BADSEY (see Notice on page 14)
Guild Annual Dinner	Sat 2 nd Feb. Full details in Notice on page 14