

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 159 - JAN 2019



Founded Oct 18th 1909

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.	Welford-on-Avon ringing tour
P.3	Editorial; Chaplain's Thoughts	P.9	From the archives
P.3	The answer to an age-old speculation	P.10	Peal at Blockley by the College Youths
P.4	The 2018 AGM & Striking Comps results	P.11	Tales (17)....Bell handling (Pt2)
P.5	CCCBR	P.11	The bells rang out, but.....
P.6	El Pres's X-word, Ringing at Lt. Comberton	P.11	Around the towers
P.7	Armistice Day ringing in the Vale	P.14	Ringing for the Centenary of the Armistice
P.7	Committee meeting notes	P.15	Notices
P.8	Guild Xmas Party	P.16	Saturday practices and Tag End

THE LOFTY SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS....



The Christmas tree on Blockley's church tower is a tradition that has existed for some years now. It's a big tree and requires a large gang of men to hoist it into position. This year the gang was organised and some personnel went to the top to place the ropes, but it was considered too gusty that day to undertake the operation. The BBC attended to record it happening, but left empty-handed.

SS Peter & Paul's Church has, of course, had an exciting year. The try-out of the augmented ring (now 10) was in January, and the training of new ringers has proceeded throughout the year. The North Cotswolds Branch of the G&B held its AGM and Striking Competitions there in October, giving bands the unusual choice of using either the front (light) 6 or the back (heavy) 6, both being genuine 6's. A visiting band rang the first quarter peal (of Grandsire Caters) in May, followed by two Q's of Surprise Royal by later visiting bands. The first peal was rung on the 8th December by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (Why the College Youths? See page 10 for the story).

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

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

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (April 2019) is March 13th 2019

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.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, FOLKS.....

SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 1ST JANUARY: SEE RATES ABOVE. ALSO, SEE BACK PAGE INFO.

AND PLEASE MAKE A DONATION (£5 MIN) TO THE GUILD'S BELLS RESTORATION FUND

EDITORIAL

Here we are in 2019: Happy New Year and happy ringing! I hope you all had a very good Christmas. January 1st is, of course, the date when FSG subscriptions become due. You will see the little reminders about renewing subs in this Newsletter; and I make no apology for those reminders. Subscriptions allow the Guild to continue in being. A lot – in fact, a huge amount – of voluntary labour and time goes into the Guild by the Committee members, but certain things need to be paid for. We try hard to ensure that money gets the best value for money and that there are no ‘frivolities’. I believe we are successful in that aim. So, the message here is clear: please pay your subs soon. In fact, do it now. The BACS system (if you have internet banking) is very simple and quick. I can recommend this from personal experience. Details of how to pay are on the back page.... and there’s been no subs increase either.

Armistice Day came and it is clear many towers responded to the national call for ringing, both half-muffled and open. See page 14.

There was a change in the Committee from the AGM in October. I am pleased to announce that Nick Allsopp agreed to become a Committee Member. I have no doubt Nick will contribute strongly to the running of the Guild. He replaces Matthew Kemble, whose family commitments need to take precedence at the moment. Matthew is to be thanked for his contributions during his time on the Committee.

Please note, too, there has been a change of personnel with the supply of Guild garments. Matthew Kemble has handed this over to Kathy McCarthy. Full details of the changes are in the advert on p.15.

Also, please read the two messages from the President of Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. The new-style CCCBR is beginning to emerge and I have a feeling that those in charge are now gripping the tiller and pointing it in a direction that looks as though it will fulfil the desires of those who wanted change.

Don’t forget the Guild’s Annual Dinner this year, which is on Saturday 2nd Feb at Evesham’s Northwick Hotel. Yes, a change of venue – nothing amiss with the Charlecote Pheasant, but it’s a policy of moving it around the area every so often. The Speaker this year is Martin Penny, Pebworth RM, who has done much to revitalise that tower in the last four years. Could be a ‘robust’ speech...

I’m on the downward run as editor now. I have two more issues to go now after this – those for April and July. I’ve had no queries from anyone about taking over. Please see the advert on p.16 – and note that something as I have done isn’t required. It’s an open book for the new editor. Please don’t let the Newsletter stop.

Lastly (once again), apologies for the lateness of the 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

It can be good for us to remember that when we read the Gospels in the New Testament that we are reading factual stories. Jesus was a real person who lived and died, for the facts are historical and were recorded by eye witnesses.

At the beginning of his Gospel John tells us that ‘We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth’ (John 1v14). This is one of the Gospels read on Christmas Day. Similarly, Luke begins his Gospel by referring to the words, actual facts, handed down from the first eye witnesses and handed on for others to know the truth about Jesus Christ (Luke 1v1-14).

We should therefore have confidence in the Gospels for they are a record of the facts concerning Jesus Christ in whom we should believe for the message is one of ‘Good News’.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

THE ANSWER TO AN AGE-OLD SPECULATION!

Speculation as to a certain fellow-ringer’s age has at last been revealed! Formal invitations circulated among fellow ringers and their partners that invited their presence to a celebratory luncheon to be held at the Howards Arms, Ilmington, on Saturday 18th August.

WOW! These invitations came from none other than (yes, you’ve guessed) BILL NASH. And what a treat it proved to be. Over twenty sat down to a fabulous lunch celebrate his

70th birthday.

Bill Sabin was at his best as an after-dinner speech maker, his revelations (some arguably questionable) provided a journey through Bill’s life – very well researched.

Bill, here’s to your 80th, unless of course you intend to make it an annual event?

The photo shows some of the ringers who rang a variety of touches on Ilmington bells prior to the lunch.

John Kinchin



L-R: Fran, John, David, Wendy, Chris and the Birthday Boy himself

THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & STRIKING COMPETITIONS RESULTS

We were certainly amongst beautiful surroundings for this year's events. All Saints' Church is not only a magnificent Victorian building, adorned with a (seriously) great deal of glorious and treasured pieces made from expensive materials, it is in the grounds of Sherbourne Park, an impressive Grade II listed Georgian house. We don't get anything quite like this normally. John Wheeler had done a wonderful job in arranging the day, with a band of ladies serving up refreshments throughout the competitions. Not only that, he had encouraged the home team to

compete, too – it was very good to see you all, particularly in your team sweatshirts. It was clearly popular with teams coming to compete, too. There were six teams in the Brazier Cup and five in the Newing Shield events. Luckily, the day was glorious, too, as there were a lot of people milling about. The AGM itself was held in the Church.

The Minutes below incorporate the Striking Competition results, which this year were given before the AGM business itself.

Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held on Saturday 20th October 2018 in All Saints' Church, Sherbourne, following the Striking Competitions and the Guild Service held at this Church. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair, accompanied by Vice-President Freda Cleaver. Members attending numbered 28. Handouts of the agenda, Minutes of the 2017 AGM, Guild accounts and the Guild Master's report were available (all had appeared in various Guild Newsletters during the year).

1 Results of the Striking Competitions:

There were six teams competing for the Brazier Trophy and five teams competing for the Newing Shield, which some thought a record. The judges, Tony and Kathryn Cocks from Eckington, Worcs, congratulated the Guild on having so many teams competing.

The Brazier Trophy competition:

1 st Moreton-in-Marsh	14½ faults (awarded Brazier Cup)
2 nd Offenham	16 faults (<i>it should be noted that 9yr old Chloe Honeywell rang in this</i>)
3 rd Willersey	18½ faults
4 th Pebworth	28½ faults
5 th Childswickham	46½ faults
6 th Sherbourne	50½ faults

The Newing Shield competition:-

1 st Moreton-in-Marsh	24 faults overall
awarded the Newing Shield	
2 nd Ilmington	32 faults overall
awarded the Spencer Jones Cup	
3 rd Wellesbourne	39 faults overall
4 th Offenham	43 faults overall
5 th Pebworth	58 faults overall

The Ringing Master (Richard Lewis-Skeath) will give The Merit Award to the team, which, in his view, has made the most significant progress during the year.

The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner in February 2019

2 Apologies: were received from the Rev Peter Newing (Vice-President), Peter Quinn (Guild Master), Sally, Mick and Dan Austin, Claire Penny, Jane Gilbert, Kathryn McCarthy, Keith & Isobel Murphy, Allen Turner, Stef Whittle, Cilla Watts, Fiona & Roger Tyrell, Elizabeth Spencer, Elizabeth Royle, Pat Bell, Hilary Bolton.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were published in the January 2017 Newsletter (nr 151) and were taken as read. One item of accuracy was raised. Nick Allsopp said it was not he that proposed one Examiner, but Martin Penny. Other than that, the Minutes were accepted as a true record and were signed as such by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5 Guild Master's Report 2016-2017: taken as read and accepted. There was nothing arising..

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

7 Election of Officers:

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

Ringing Master: Richard Lewis-Skeath was prop John Nicholls and sec Nick Allsopp. There being no other candidates, Richard was re-elected.

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

Treasurer: Michael Dane was prop Richard Lewis-Skeath and sec John Nicholls. There being no other candidates, Michael was re-elected.

8 Rule Change: proposal to have one Accounts Examiner instead of two, as proposed by the Committee via Notice in the Newsletter.

The requisite Notice had been given to the members in advance of the AGM. A number voted for the proposal, none against and no abstentions, and therefore was carried.

9 Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: Matthew Kemble resigned from the Committee earlier in the year for family reasons. The five remaining Committee members were asked if they were content to be re-elected. They were. It was proposed by Michael Dane, sec by Claire Allen, that they be re-elected en bloc. This was carried. Nick Allsopp agreed to be nominated for the remaining post and was prop by John Nicholls and sec by Chris Mew: carried

Accounts Examiner: Robert Hall said he would be happy to continue in this role. Robert was prop Chris Povey and sec by Christina Ireland. There being no other nominations, Robert was re-elected.

10 Confirmation of New Members:

New members whose elections were accepted by the Committee since the last AGM were read out by the Secretary:-

Cilla Watts, Pebworth	John Colebrook, Harvington
Jacqui Corstorphine, Pebworth	Roger Tyrell, Pebworth
Fiona Tyrrell, Pebworth	Beccie Williams, Willersey
Marion Mitchell & Rhod Mitchell, both from Stratford	
Stewart Heritage, Wellesbourne	Kathryn McCarthy, Tredington
Annabel Fry (Mrs), Bretforton	Gerald Smith, Shipston-on-Stour
Evie Fry (Miss) Bretforton	Elizabeth Royle, M-in-Marsh

Graham Caldwell, Harvington
Alison Hodge, Malvern

Imogen Murphy, M-in-Marsh
Rachel Page, Studley

12 Any other Business:
There was none.

All the above were accepted by the assembly nem con.

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

The Secretary said the Committee had agreed to propose Frank Spiers as an Honorary Life Member of the Guild. Frank's membership of the Guild extended back to its foundation, and he was a regular attender of the Mid-week Tours (he was on the first such tour) until advanced age took its toll to prevent him continuing. As the Committee was making this proposal, no seconder was required. All that was required was a large indication of support from the members present. This was given and Frank was duly accorded HLM status.

Stuart Cummings wished to thank David Hill, the All Saints Churchwarden, for all the arrangements he had made for the day; also thanks to John Wheeler and his band of ladies for all the wonderful refreshments that were available throughout the day.

The Meeting closed with the Chairman thanking the Church authorities and the judges, and those resigning members for their time in post.

Chris Povey
Hon. Secretary.

These Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2019 AGM.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS.

"We remembered" – a message from the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Dr Christopher O'Mahony.

Last Sunday – Remembrance Sunday – we were called to "look to" and take part in a most momentous commemoration. Being so intimately linked in to our local communities, it was no surprise that bellringers everywhere stepped forward to participate, collectively and individually, in such a solemn centenary. And it is entirely right and fitting that bells gave voice to the deep and lasting emotions felt so widely at this time. So many today owe so much to our forebears for the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy one hundred years on. As bellringers, we are the "external choir" that calls out across time and space, giving tribute on this day for those who have gone before. This is what we do, this is our calling, this is our service.

On behalf of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, I wish to thank all who participated in this historic event. The Ringing Remembers campaign, promoted by the Central Council, has claimed some inspiring headlines – towers silent for many years have rung out once more; hundreds of bands have been augmented with new learners; tens of thousands of ringers mobilised to ring in thousands of towers – not just in the UK, but across the world; ringing featured strongly in local, national and international media; and the BellBoard website went into meltdown!

Our campaign sought to recruit 1400 new ringers, to symbolically replace those ringers who fell in the First World War. At the most recent count, new ringer registrations for the recruitment campaign totalled 2792 – close to 200% of the original target. The Council's newly-stated mission is, among other things, "to promote an environment in which ringing can flourish". Last Sunday we witnessed what "flourish" looks like – more of that please.

Whilst it is impossible to thank all key individuals by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Vicki Chapman – Ringing Remembers Project Coordinator, Colin Chapman – Coordinator's "roadie", Alan Regin – Steward of the CCCBR Rolls of Honour, Andrew Hall – developer and administrator of the Ringing Remembers web platform, and Bruce & Eileen Butler – who linked thousands of enquirers to guilds, districts and towers. And there are so many others...

My thanks go also to all those who have come to ringing through this route – may you continue to develop in skill, and gain many happy years of fulfilment in your ringing. And to that widespread army of ringing teachers who have risen to the challenge of training so many enthusiastic learners – well done!

Last Sunday was a day of reflection, a day of commemoration, a day of participation. Bellringers everywhere were able to say – "I was there – I remembered".

Christopher O'Mahony

Additionally, Christopher gave an excellent Christmas message to all ringers. It might be considered slightly late, but that is due to date of issue of this Newsletter, not Christopher. I reproduce his message here:-

"Ding! Dong! Merrily on high, in heaven the bells are ringing..."

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, and the end of 2018, I take this opportunity to give tribute to all ringers, willing volunteers, who give your time and skill selflessly week on week throughout the year. And what a year it's been!

In December last year, I shared some "New Year's Resolutions" for 2018, thus:

- To recruit and develop new learners and new leaders
- To engage maturely with the Church and other relevant stakeholders
- To continue to raise positive public awareness of ringing

Looking back on the past 12 months, I feel confident in saying that we've embraced these aims wholeheartedly. Recruitment has experienced a massive boost, our "external relations" go from strength to strength, and we've had a bumper year of media attention – print, radio, TV and social. Thank you!

Further, I offer my thanks to all those involved in the work of Central Council at whatever level. The call for reform, begun at Portsmouth in 2016, came to a crescendo at Lancaster in May this year. A strong vote of approval ushered in new governance and new structures, aimed at creating a more agile central body more responsive to the needs of ringers and ringing today. A good start has been made, and this excellent work continues. I am grateful for the way in which so many involved in Council's activities have responded so positively to these efforts. If only the UK government could demonstrate such unity!

Still, it's important to deliver on one's commitments. For 2019, much is in the pipeline. Look out for the release of "Dove 11", version 1 of the Framework for Method Ringing, a refreshed CCCBR website, further work on "leadership studies", youth engagement, health & wellbeing, and more. My hope for the new year is to build on our recent successes, maintain focus on areas for improvement, and deliver tangible benefits and services across our widespread ringing community.

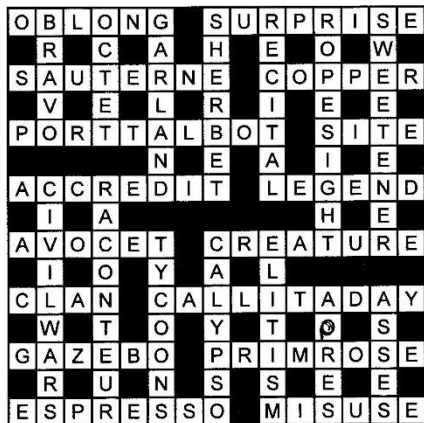
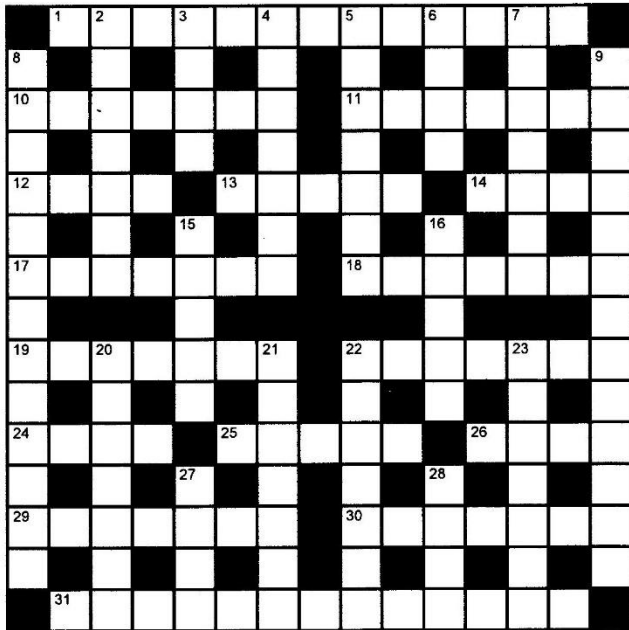
As Christmas bells call out across the land, may they bring us together in solidarity to share the pleasure of our art. Let's continue to ring with precision, passion and purpose:

"Pray you dutifully prime, your matin chime you ringers!"

Christopher O'Mahony

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

Our grateful thanks to El Pres for serving up yet another cross-word.



Answers to Oct 2018 X-word

Across

- 1 Get the better of. (5,5,3)
- 10 It contain 150 songs of praise. (7)
- 11 Great in Worcestershire, palatial in West London. (7)
- 12 The treble starts here. (4)
- 13 The sound of a bell at a death or funeral. (5)
- 14 A flat bell sounded by a hammer. (4)
- 17 This keeps the pot warm. (7)
- 18 If you can remember you won't have this. (7)
- 19 Get this all together. (7)
- 22 Put poison in. (7)
- 24 Scaleless, finless fish. (4)
- 25 The Staff of Life. (5)
- 26 Is it blue of perhaps Long-Tailed? (1,3)
- 29 Female goats could take care of children! (7)
- 30 Aiming for the top. (7)
- 31 Lead in the buses, manoeuvre and it will be invalidated. (13)

Down

- 2 Celebrated river between USA and Canada (7)
- 3 Land along the Western Mediterranean. (4)
- 4 New bell ropes are usually like this. (7)
- 5 Hamlet's suicidal friend. (7)
- 6 Totals. (4)
- 7 A silly clue! (7)
- 8 Give the game away. (5,3,5)
- 9 A letter-juggler! (13)
- 15 Plunge into water, it's divine. (5)
- 16 Jack is a villain. (5)
- 20 Dark pigment in the skin. (7)
- 21 Europe and Asia taken together. (7)
- 22 O come, O come -. (7)
- 23 Hazel is a fine example. (3,4)
- 27 Up before the slow bowler. (4)
- 28 The welcome Hooters! (4)

CAROL SERVICE RINGING AT LITTLE COMBERTON

On Sunday 16th December a group of willing ringers met on a very wet and windy evening to ring for the carol service at Little Comberton. This was the first such ringing for this event, and indeed any service here for a good many years! Thanks to everyone who was able to help us out, we understand it was greatly appreciated by the villagers. A photo of the band is included.

Just a reminder that we have a monthly practice at Little Comberton on the last Friday of every month 7.30pm-9pm, all are welcome.

Stef Whittle



L-R: Stef, Graham, Alison, Clare, Christina and Richard

ARMISTICE DAY RINGING IN THE VALE (AND SEE PAGE 14)

Badsey St. James, were hosts to the WD&CRA on Saturday Nov. 10th ringing a well struck half muffled Full Peal of Grandsire Triples, during which the Church was open for viewing of historical material displayed by The Badsey Society in recognition and commemoration of lives lost during the WW1 campaign.

Cpl Louis Henry Sparrow was a choir member and bell ringer here, having rung several full peals. Sadly he was lost on The Somme on 22nd October 1916 at the age of 33. (He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial near Albert, Northern France.)

Armistice Day: the Tenor Bell was raised by Gordon Hill and tolled by Paul Green prior to a packed Church for a very fitting Service of Remembrance. At 12.30 a selection of call changes were rung on the Clark & Bushell back six bells by the Sunday Service Band: by (treble) Hilary Bolton (C), Tony Hartwell, John Ellis, Tom Sandham (C), Gordon Hill & Andrew Stewart (Tenor).

Peal details on page 14
Hilary Bolton.

At **Evesham** we managed to ring half-muffled at both Hampton and the Bell Tower in the morning of the 11th, as events were usefully staggered. There was some from Hampton to the Bell Tower – but we made it - and it helped by having bells up ready. At the Bell tower end there were two major events to ring for. Firstly, half-muffled up to the 11am ceremony around the town's War Memorial, which is close to the Tower; and then secondly, open ringing in the evening for the switching-on of the new lighting system for the War Memorial itself. Robert Hall said his grand-daughter, 9 year-old Chloe Honeywell, would come with him to the morning ringing. Chloe has been learning to ring at Offenham with Claire Penny, and has made substantial progress in handling a bell (she rang in the Guild's Brazier Striking Competition in October and her band came 2nd, just a couple of points behind the winners). Robert thought it would be memorable for Chloe to ring for the first time half-muffled, and to ring for this very special occasion (as Christopher O'Mahoney says in his CCCBR address – to be able to say in future, 'I was there'). So, we used the little 6 (tenor 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt).

Chloe rang beautifully. Her bell control is excellent. If the bell gave even a hint of dropping, she compensated straightaway and up it went into place at the next stroke, which is so important with half-muffled ringing. It is a treat to watch her handling a bell. All credit to her tutor.



L-R: Robert, Chloe, Chris, Merry, John, Tom

We rang rounds and call changes for Chloe, but also two well-struck touches of 100 changes of Grandsire Doubles (for those interested it's PSBSPSBSPB). The bells were brought down as they needed to have the muffles removed for the evening open ringing.

The evening ringing was for 5-10 minutes to coincide with a specific part of the lighting-up ceremony. Chloe took part in this, too. Her father took the photo above. Unfortunately, a hitch in the timing occurred, but luckily the ringers had assembled early, so we were able to respond quickly to the hurriedly re-arranged timetable. Again, a couple of well-struck touches of 100 changes of Grandsire Doubles were rung. The ringers taking part in both instances were Barrie Wheeler, Tom Sandham, John Smith, Robert Hall, Chloe Honeywell, Merry Privett and myself. Sadly, Christina Ireland was unable to ring then due to a medical reason, but she listened (probably frustratingly) to it in the Park

Chris Povey

(Apart from ringing in the Brazier Striking Comp and then for the Armistice ringing, it seems Miss Chloe Honeywell is quite a star in the swimming world, too. She competed in six events over two days in the 2nd Pershore Swimming Club Invitational Meet on 24th & 25th November as part of Evesham Swimming Club, and was awarded:-

25m Backstroke – Silver Medal 21.97secs
Personal best of 1.71secs
25m Breaststroke – 4th Place – 22.31 sec PB of 4.38secs
25m Freestyle – Gold Medal – 17.98 secs PB of 1.33 secs
100 IM – Bronze Medal – 2:11.82 PB of 15.68 secs
50m Fly – Bronze medal – 53.63 secs
50m Freestyle – Silver Medal – 42.76secs PM of 8.02secs



Chloe is just 9. One to watch for in the future, both ringing-wise and swimming-wise! Ed)

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 27th NOVEMBER.

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

- 1) **Absent:** John W and John C. The Chairman welcomed Nick Allsopp to his first meeting.
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** all agreed as correct and signed as such.

3) **Matters Arising:-**

Handbell insurance: Richard still pursuing. The Safeguarding Officer (Chris Mew) believes a DBS-checked person needs to be at the Saturday practices, as they are regular events. Richard and Nick to formulate a policy.

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

Chairman: Peter has paid the deposit for the Annual Dinner at Evesham;

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

Nicola Kimber (Moreton)	p Nick Allsopp; s Jackie Roberts
Joshua Fiander (Bretforton)	p Roger Hunt; s John Cleveland
John Ellis (Badsey)	p Hilary Bolton, s Richard L-S
Antonia O'Connell (Badsey)	p Hilary Bolton, s Claire Penny
Kate Taylor (Childswickham)	p Graham Lee, s Alison Lee
David Hudson (Shipston)	p Len Morley, s Allen Turner
Karen Faithful (Shipston)	ditto in both cases
Ruth Travis (Tredington)	Ditto again

All the above were elected nem con. Additionally, Chloe Honeywell's membership was confirmed, having been granted membership to compete in the Brazier Trophy by Chris and Richard. The Committee confirmed this unanimously.

The Guild's Public Liability insurance renewal had risen by 16%. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to renew with EIG.

It was reported that Matthew Kemble wished to hand over Guild clothing sales to Kathy McCarthy. This was agreed and the relevant details in the Newsletter advert will be altered accordingly.

Treasurer: Michael provided a written report on the current situation: no questions.

Safeguarding Officer: see Matters Arising above.

Newsletter Editor: Chris said he hoped the Jan Newsletter would be out in the 1st week of Jan, with a subs renewal slip attached.

CCCB: Chris reported that more positive moves are emerging from the newly re-organised body, but there's still some way to go. He believes the new managers are 'getting themselves together' well now. However, Nick felt we ought to re-assess annually whether we believe it is useful to be affiliated.

5) **Bell Restoration Fund:**

Updates:

Unallocated money is now £3000.42 after Ebrington was granted £500.

New Grant applications:

An application from Childswickham had been received just before the meeting. The papers had been distributed and the application will be considered at the February meeting.

Other: Chris said he felt the maximum grant level should be raised and will make a proposal at the next meeting.

Further grant applications:

No other applications had been received.

6) **Items for discussion:-**

Recent events:

The Minimus competition at Pillerton Hersey went well. Very enjoyable event.

The Guild Walk and Ring was well attended and seen as a 'good day'.

AGM & Striking Comps was very busy with a record number of bands competing in both events. The Service had to be delayed by 30 minutes. May need to make modifications to avoid this in future. All arrangements by John Wheeler were excellent.

Future programme:

Annual Ringing Tour: 6th July: details in the July Newsletter.

Inter-Shire Competition: now Sat 14th Sept. Details in the July Newsletter.

Guild Walk & Ring: details to be announced 2019 Striking Comps & AGM: Sat 19th Oct.: location to be announced in the Notice in the July Newsletter

Xmas Party: probably Dec 14th, location to be announced.

Converting the Guild to a charity. Again deferred.

Box of old FSG files from 1970s/80s: Chris had had this passed to him from Phyllis. He was given permission to dispose of anything that is not now required, to reduce the storage space required.

Proposals for the Committee for discussion: there a number that may be made. These to be with the Secretary well before the meeting for inclusion in the agenda.

7) **AOB:**

There was none

- 8) **Next Meeting:** Tuesday 26th February at Wellesbourne.

Future Committee meeting dates: 2019, 26th Fe, May, August, November.

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

THE GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BADSEY ON 8TH DEC



(Photo,

The Christmas Party was an enjoyable event, with more members attending than last year. There was ringing beforehand. Handbells were put to good use later in the evening for tune-ringing, as the photo shows. The profit from the raffle was, once again, credited to the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund. Thanks are due to Hilary Bolton, for allowing the party to be held at Badsey again (it is a good venue), and to Michael and Stuart Cummings, who liaised closely with Hilary to make it such a success. Lastly, thanks from Hilary for all the help in clearing up afterwards.

WELFORD-ON-AVON RINGERS OUTING, NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

A good number of local ringers gathered at Somerton on Saturday 6 October for the start of the 2018 Welford tour, arranged by Ian Sturgess. The weather was sadly very poor and driving conditions difficult, but everyone arrived safely for the 10:00am start.

St James, Somerton (8 bells 11cwt): the village is situated in the Cherwell valley about 6 miles northwest of Bicester. The church stands just off the main street, and for a small village it is a very grand building. Much of its architecture is in the Decorated Gothic style. In the nave, there is a finely carved Norman doorway (11th.c), but there are also other features of interest from the 13th, 15th and 16th centuries. The 8 bells (GF) go well and are clear to listen to inside, although there is a long draught. The octave is made up of bells cast by several founders, ranging in date from 1 x Whitechapel 1994, 2 x John Taylor 1896, one by Henry Bagley III 1707 and the other four by Henry Bagley I of Chacombe dating variously between 1635 and 1670. A very good start for the first tower of the day, and greatly enjoyed by all those present.

The second tower was **Rousham, SS Leonard and James (GF) (6 bells 8cwt)**. The church is situated within the grounds of Rousham House, famous for its garden laid out by the architect, William Kent. Kent was a coach-painter's apprentice, sculptor and the architect who designed Horse Guards Parade in London. Parking for the church is within the stable yard, just a short walk from the church, which nestles behind a substantial yew hedge and overlooks the parkland. Five of the 6 bells were cast by Richard Keene of Woodstock in 1675, but the fourth was replaced later by Thomas Mears II in 1825.

Lunch was taken at the George Inn, Barford St Michael, where the food and beer were welcomed and the opportunity was taken to re-charge the batteries in convivial company and surroundings.

The first tower after lunch was **Bodicote, St John Baptist (8 bells 8.1.4)**, a small village just south of Banbury. Entry to the ringing room is from the West end, by way of a short ladder. The bells go well, five were cast by Thomas Mears II of Whitechapel in 1843, and the remaining three by Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1974.

The penultimate tower of the day was **Great Tew, St Michael AA (8 bells 22.0.10)**. Although the church is approached through an unusual gateway, along a path flanked by ha-ha's, the building is barely visible from the road. Despite some unsympathetic 19th C restoration, it still has many interesting features, including finely carved bench ends, a series of faded 14th century wall paintings uncovered in 1988, a superb marble figure of Mary Anne Boulton and some late medieval brasses (with a particularly fine one for Sir John Wylcotes and Alice de Cheyne dating to 1410). The bells are heavy, with a very long draught, and take some ringing. On the day of the visit, some of the ropes had been replaced which made the ringing all the more challenging!

The final tower of the day, just a short drive from Great Tew, was **Sandford St Martin, St Martin (6) 9cwts**. Amongst many interesting features within the church, a visitor should note that on the east side of the chancel arch there is a representation of the arms of Queen Elizabeth 1 painted on a panel of wood. A rare survival and well worth seeking out.

The upstairs ringing room, accessed from a spiral staircase, has a most unexpected sloping floor. The floor slopes from west to east, and takes a little getting used, particularly at the end of a busy day of ringing (*or perhaps a session at the pub...? Ed*). The 6 bells go well, and were cast by several different founders, including: Nathaniel. Bolter & Humphrey Keene, Mears & Stainbank and James Keene. The oldest 2 bells are 1629 and the youngest 2 are 1871.



Our sincere thanks go to Ian, for all his practical arrangements and for organising such a convivial tour which was greatly enjoyed. Many of the churches we visited were beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival, which, along with the lovely autumn colours, really brightened up a somewhat miserable day.

Charles Wilson

JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW, ETC...

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

Yes, time really does accelerate as we get older. It seems only a month or two ago that January was here last. The Guild finances rely on your sub, and the Bell Restoration Fund relies on your donation (£5 minimum annually) to continue giving grants that really do make a difference. See the box on page 18. It gives details of the subs and the details of paying. Please use the paying slip attached to the back of this Newsletter. It helps Michael Dane keep track of payments and who's a member, and who is due a Newsletter and who not. (An issue costs about 70p to print, so we try to ensure no more than required are printed).

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

100 YEARS AGO

There is no entry for this period in the old Minute Book. The next is for 25th April 1919, which will be included in the April issue.

40 YEARS AGO

3rd January 1979:

Committee Meeting held at Long Barn, Draycott, on 3rd January at 7.30. Present were: Miss L Bedford, A J Brazier, S Carter, Mrs H Davies, M F Fairfax, P Harmer and Mrs P Linsdell, J E White.

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

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a balance of:-

£6.18	cash
36.60	Current a/c
18.17	Building Society

One donation of £1 was received.

One payment was made of £2-50 for the hire of Ilmington Village Hall for the Annual General Meeting.

Annual Dinner

It was decided to settle for the roast beef menu.

Mrs Davies reported that the Folk Singers that she approached wanted a fee of £30. AJ Brazier proposed that there should be no entertainment this year. This was agreed.

Newing Shield

The Secretary reported that Mr Hart will have the Shield ready for the dinner.

Mr Fairfax agreed to let HO Hart have the names which are to be engraved on the Shield.

The Ringing World front page

MF Fairfax suggested that it would be best if he telephoned the Ringing World to ascertain what, if any, our commitments will be. Also to find out by what date they require the photographs and articles.

The history which L Dowdeswell is writing will be ready in two weeks.

It was suggested that a photograph of Walter Large, a founder member, might be included.

AJ Brazier suggested asking C Povey to write an article about the Guild from 1973 onwards, to follow on from L Dowdeswell's.

It was proposed that the front page should show the old shield and either a photograph or line drawing of a tower from each area. P Harmer offered to provide a composite print for front page, the offer was accepted. ICM Linsdell offered to do the line drawing, this offer was also accepted.

AJ Brazier suggested including the Guild motto.

A discussion followed as to which towers should appear on the front page.

It was decided to include two six-bell and two eight-bell towers. After consideration the following towers were selected.

Broadway, Worcestershire

Long Compton, Warwickshire

Blockley, Gloucestershire

Hook Norton, Oxfordshire

Newsletter

The cost of alternative printing was discussed briefly and it was decided to leave this matter until the next meeting

(Signed) M.F.Fairfax 26/15/79

PEAL AT BLOCKLEY BY THE COLLEGE YOUTHS

A peal was rung at Blockley on December 8th by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Nothing massively out of the ordinary normally, but this one was, as it included four Past Masters of the Society, and the present Master himself. Additionally, it was the first peal on the augmented ring (a last-minute snag caused the proposed first peal to be cancelled).

So, what was the reason for some of the Society's big guns to assemble in Blockley? It was to honour another Past Master of the Society, who has been a Blockley resident for a very long time. He is buried 'under the Chancel' (somewhere, as the precise location is unknown). His name is Samuel Scattergood DD. He was buried on 10th December, so the peal was, within a couple of days, the 322nd anniversary of that event. There was a photo-call afterwards with the band lined up in the Chancel.



Band clockwise from treble at front right.

The footnote to the peal sums up Scattergood's significant contribution to ringing in the late 17th century: *Rung to the memory of Samuel Scattergood, rector at Blockley from 1681 to 1696. He was one of the leading lights of 17th*

century ringing and contributed several new methods to the first known book on ringing, Fabian Stedman's Campanalogia, published in 1677. The 5th of the present ring was cast during his incumbency. Samuel joined the College Youths in 1672 and was master in 1685. He died in 1696 and was buried on 10th December under the chancel in this church. The band consists of 5 ringers who helped with the restoration and augmentation project plus five past and present masters of the Society.

The Ancient Society of College Youths. Blockley, Glos, SS Peter & Paul, Dec 8th 2018, 5080 Cambridge S Royal in 3hrs 16mins. 1 Christopher M Povey, 2 Stephanie J Warboys*, 3 Leigh D G Simpson**, 4 Neil M Thomas, 5 Graham M Bradshaw*, 6 Christopher J Venn, 7 Roy LeMareshal (C), 8 Christopher J Pickford*, 9 Robert C Kippin*, 10 Andrew C Ogden. ** Master; *Past Master; remainder (except treble) John Taylor employees who worked on the project; treble, advisor to the PCC. CMP

(Who are the College Youths some might ask? It's a valid question. The Society of College Youths was founded on November 5th 1637. The name was changed to include 'Ancient' a hundred or so more years later. It has been in existence continuously since its foundation. A Master is chosen by its members and most masters since 1637 are known. A toast to Past Masters of a 100, 200 and 300 years previously are made at each Society Dinner, which is held annually and which it is believed has been held each year since the Society started. The Society is responsible for ringing bells in the City of London: principally those of St Paul's Cathedral. It holds a Business Meeting every month and runs practices at mostly 12-bell towers each week, at which some very high-profile ringing is attained. If elected, membership is for life. While London-based, the Society accepts members from elsewhere. Ed)

Following on from Tales (16) I recall the predicament which arose at **Stanton (Glos)** when the ring of 6 bells there were rehung in a new metal frame in 2006 – the ringing room / vestry at the base of the tower had two (2) doorways serving direct access from either outside or, as usual, into the main body of the church. The bells had to be despatched to the bellfoundry but unfortunately the 11 cwt tenor diameter was some 2 or 3 inches greater than the internal (larger) doorway width. A practical solution was to carefully remove the supporting stonework at the foot of the doorway to allow the lip of the bell through but that in itself presented a further problem – how to move the bell through the doorway as to have placed the bell on a conventional wheeled trolley would have required most of the doorway stone to be removed!. Investment in a 1 tonne capacity folding workshop crane allowed the bell to be inched forward through the available gap. My accompanying photograph shows the apparatus employed on another project. **Roger de 'Flaedenburg'**



The single bell at **Little Witley (Worcs)** at 24 inches in diameter was comfortably transported into the church on the 31st March 2009. It was cast by Richard Sanders of Bromsgrove in 1733.

THE BELLS DID RING OUT, BUT...

A goodly number of years ago, when Phyllis Brazier was tower captain at Offenham, we went there to ring one Sunday morning. Nothing unusual about that. We pulled the bells up, rang a touch or two, after which Phyllis asked us if we'd enjoyed the ringing. We said yes. Then, with an apologetic tone she said, 'Oh, I'm pleased about that, because I'd forgotten there was no Service here this morning.' There was much laughter and we brought the bells down. Robert Hall wrote a poem about the event, which (I think) was published in the Newsletter.

One event of this type is probably unusual. Not unknown I'm sure, as it may have happened elsewhere. However, an amazing 'double' occurred at the self-same church recently – and to a different tower captain, too. Robert was there the first time and again the second time – and, as before, composed a similar poem: see the following. So, what is it about SS Mary & Milburgh, Offenham, that causes the tower captain to forget such details? Ideas on a postcard to.... Ed

Offenham's captain, name of Claire,
asked all us ringers to be there.
At Offenham Church of course she meant,
to ring at Morning Service was our intent.
On 13th January, we all met,
but no congregation had turned up yet.
We did not know what had gone wrong,
because no one else had come along.
Then, with a grimace, Claire said,
"I must be going off my head.
There is no Service here today,
that's why the congregation has gone astray."
I remember a few years ago,
when there was a similar 'no show'
So if you ring at Offenham,
make sure it's not 'off' but 'on' !!
Robert Hall

AROUND THE TOWERS PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are two deaths to report this time, and our sympathies go to surviving relatives. The first is Keith Maddams of Welford-on-Avon, whose funeral was on 11th December. A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted by FSG members the previous evening, but sadly that wasn't successful. Keith was a very long-time ringer at Welford and will be remembered with affection. He was a member of the Guild until 2015, when his very advanced age caused him to give up ringing.

The second death was Ron Payne, who was a member and Committee member in the 1970s. Long term members will remember him. He was originally from Great Wolford and Todenham, but eventually moved to Childswickham. His funeral was on January 4th at Great Wolford. It is not known when he ceased FSG membership.

Pebworth ringers received an honourable mention on the Radio 5 Show on Sunday 30th December. Congrats to them.

I am pleased to announce an increase in the Povey family, with the birth of Ida Maude Gladys Povey to Rose and Ian on Saturday December 15th. No, Ida didn't make her presence felt when they came to us for Christmas. She just slept contentedly throughout. A well-struck Q to welcome her to this world was rung at the Bell Tower on January 12th with her father, grandfather and great-uncle in the band. Details in the next Newsletter.

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

Worcestershire & Districts Association

Bretforton, Worcestershire, St Leonard

Saturday, 27 October 2018 in 3h 4 (8-3-11 in F#)

5600 Cambridge Surprise Major

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

A joint birthday compliment for yesterday to local ringers Roger Hunt (70) and William Boyce (80). (70x80 = 5600)

Worcestershire & Districts Association

Fladbury, Worcestershire, St John the Baptist

Saturday, 27 October 2018 in 2h 51 (12-3-3 in G#)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Christopher M Povey | 5 Christopher J Pickford |
| 2 Rachel D Page | 6 Steve Bowley |
| 3 Roger H Hunt | 7 Julie A Tarling |
| 4 Nicholas K Allsopp | 8 Michael Chester (C) |

Rung as a 70th birthday compliment to Roger Hunt and remembering his grandparents, Harold and Beatrice Hunt, who were married in this church 100 years ago; 5th November 1918.

Worcestershire & Districts Association

Evesham, Worcestershire, The Bell Tower

Monday, 31 December 2018 in 3h 40 (25-3-27 in D#)

5039 Grandsire Caters

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Michael Chester | 6 Peter G Holden (C) |
| 2 Rachel D Page | 7 Steve Bowley |
| 3 Christopher J Pickford | 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath |
| 4 Roger H Hunt | 9 Andrew F Alldrick |
| 5 Robert Tregillus | 10 Nicholas K Allsopp |

Rung half muffled on the Aeolian 10 to mark the end of 2018.

Vale of Evesham Society

Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, St Edward

Saturday, 24 November 2018 in 3h 20 (27-2-24 in D)

5088 Lessness Surprise Major

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Nicholas K Allsopp | 5 Robert Tregillus |
| 2 Roger H Hunt | 6 Steve Bowley |
| 3 Neil J Garner | 7 Michael Chester |
| 4 Julie A Tarling | 8 Gordon R Birks (C) |

Remembering Geoffrey J Hemming of Evesham (Gerald's father) who rang the tenor here to the first peal of Major on the bells, Plain Bob, on 26/11/1930. (*...and who rang it for 3½hrs then when it was still on a wooden headstock. He was only about 5'-6" tall at most, but he knew how to handle big bells. Nonetheless, he had to work very hard, as he told me his ribs ached for a week. We rang a peal of Cambridge SM on the actual day in 1983 to mark the event. GCH rang it to a peal of PB Major in 3-02 in Feb 1983 - and Geoff rang in the peal, too. The bell had its metal headstock fitted in 1954. Ed*)

Wellesbourne, Warks, 8 Oct, **1260 Stedman Triples**: 1 James Ingham, 2 Douglas Kempton, 3 Sarah Thomas, 4 John Keddie, 5 Karen French, 6 Simon Oram, 7 Christopher Mew (C), 8 Peter Quinn. 1st Stedman - 3. Rung in memory of John Davis of Aston

Salford Priors, Warks, 18 Oct, **1264 Plain Bob Major**: 1 Chris Mew (C), 2 Douglas Kempton, 3 Tracey Newbold, 4 Sandra Parker, 5 Albert Williams, 6 John Newbold, 7 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 8 James Trewin. 1st major inside - 5. Rung for the engagement of James Trewin and Nicola Jones

Great Wolford, Warks, 22 Oct, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Imogen Murphy, 2 Christina Ireland, 3 Nicola Kimber, 4 Jane Gilbert, 5 Alison Merryweather-Clarke (C), 6 Isobel Murphy. Celebrating the 60th anniversary yesterday of the first lady peer entering the House of Lords. Stella Isaacs, Marchioness of Reading, Baroness Swanborough, GBE, who founded the Women's Voluntary Service, took her oath in the House of Lords on 21st October 1958. Also wishing Jane a very happy birthday. 200th QP as C. First ladies band QP on the bells.



Offenham, Worcs, 27 Oct, **1260 Mixed Minimus** (480 Single Court; 600 Plain Bob; 120 Double Trouble Little Place; 60 Cheeky Little Place): 1 Graham Lee, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Martin Penny (C), 5 William Boyce. Rung to celebrate the 80th birthday of Bill Boyce (5). Rung on the front five using the simulator.

Offenham, Worcs, 27 Oct, **1269 Mixed Doubles** (480 Plain Bob; 320 April Day; 469 Grandsire): 1 Graham Lee, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Bob Topp. Rung to celebrate the significant Birthday today of a Pebworth Ringer - Fiona Tyrrell. Rung using the simulator

Saintbury, Glos, 3 Nov, **1344 Plain Bob Major**: 1 Roland Merrick, 2 Jackie Roberts, 3 Margaret Smith, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Neil Garner, 6 Roger Hunt, 7 Chris Povey, 8 Martin Penny (C).

Broadway, Worcs, 18 Nov, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Alison Merryweather-Clarke, 2 Isobel Murphy, 3 Sarah Barnes, 4 Alison Williams, 5 Rebecca Meyer (C), 6 Jacqueline Hands. Rung in honour of supercentenarian amazing Grace Jones of Broadway, Britain's oldest resident. (*and they made a good job of striking them, too, as the bells are a bit odd-struck, and the ropes had risen substantially due to the damp winter atmosphere. Congrats. Ed*)



Childswickham, Worcs, 22 Nov, **1260 Mixed Doubles** (360 Plain Bob; 360 April Day; 540 Grandsire): 1 Beccie Williams, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Roland Merrick, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung to celebrate the birthday of the 2nd.

Southam, Warks, 3 Dec, **1280 Cambridge Surprise Major**: 1 James Ingham, 2 Simon Oram, 3 Sarah Thomas, 4 John Keddie, 5 Lucy Gwynne, 6 Peter F Quinn, 7 Robert Reeves, 8 Christopher Mew (C).

Offenham, Worcs, 7 Dec, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Claire Penny, 2 Rod Carless, 3 Bob Topp, 4 Roland Merrick, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Beccie Williams. Rung for the opening of the Offenham Christmas Wonderland. First quarter covering

Pebworth, Worcs, 16 Dec, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Pat Bell, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Graham Lee, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Bob Topp. Rung before a Service of Christmas Readings and Carols. **First quarter - 1**

Bretforton, Worcs, 21 Dec, **Call Changes**: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Fiona Gibson, 4 Bill Boyce, 5 Alan Curry, 6 Josh Fiander, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs, 9 Christina Ireland, 10 Tony Shilham, 11 Nigel Smith. Rung early morning for The Feast of St Thomas and as a compliment to George who is celebrating his 70th birthday today.



Bretforton, Worcs, 21 Dec, **1260 Doubles** (300 Stedman, 600 Grandsire, 360 Plain Bob): 1 Rachel Page, 2 Neil Garner, 3 Steve Bowley, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 John Cleveland. A compliment to local ringer George Jelfs on his 70th birthday.

Bretforton, Worcs, 24 Dec, **Call Changes**: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 3 Fiona Gibson, 4 Bill Boyce, 5 Christina Ireland, 6 Alan Curry, 7 Rob Davis, 8 George Jelfs. Rung for the Crib Service.

South Littleton, Worcs, 24 Dec, **1260 Original Singles**: 1 Neil Garner, 2 Roger Hunt, 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath. Rung silent and non-conducted by local benefice ringers prior to the Carols by Candlelight Service.



Bishampton, Worcs, 29 Dec, **Doubles and Call Changes**: 1 Roger Hunt, 2 Fiona Gibson, 3 Bill Boyce, 4 John Cleveland, 5 George Jelfs, 6 Clare Davies, 7 Bill Wadsworth, 8 Stef Whittle, 9 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 10 Steve Bowley, 11 Martyn Palmer, 12 Richard Spray. Bretwickhamton Christmas 'Ringalong' - the 5th annual festive morning ring marking another successful year of joint monthly practices between Bretforton, Childswickham and Hinton ringers (and friends) and also wishing Fiona a 'Happy Birthday' for today.



MILITARY IN MEMORIA

Great Wolford, Warks, 2 Oct 2018, **1380 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 2 Isobel Murphy, 3 Christine Seers, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Clive Sparling. In memory of Little Wolford resident, Private Hubert Sharlott, 15th Btn Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed on 2 October 1918. Great Wolford Bells to Remember Project 8/8.

Pebworth, Worcs, 6 Oct, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**:

1 Graham Lee, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 William Boyce. Rung half-muffled in memory of those from Pebworth who lost their lives during WW1 in 1914 and 1915: Walter John Clarke: d 31st October 1914, William Foster: d 9th May 1915, Hubert Coldicott: d 9th August 1915.

Pebworth, Worcs, 13 Oct, **1296 Grandsire Caters**: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Michael Haynes, 5 Chris Povey, 6 Martin Penny (C), 7 Neil Garner, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 9 Nick Allsopp, 10 Keith Murphy. Rung half-muffled in memory of three brothers from Pebworth who lost their lives during WW1:-

Heneage Hemmings: d 7th December 1914

Albert Henry Hemmings: d 14th February 1917

Norman William Hemmings: d 12th November 1918

The brothers' parents were the landlords of The Masons Arms in Pebworth. Also their father (also Heneage) was Church Warden and Mother (Mabel) was church organist at St Peters.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 25 Oct, **1260 Doubles** (780 Grandsire + 480 Plain Bob, 468 behind): 1 Helen Burchell, 2 Rosalind French, 3 Sally Austin (C), 4 David Crump, 5 Michael Haynes, 6 Keith Abbott, 7 Mick Austin, 8 Daniel Austin. Rung half muffled in memory of Alfred J Gibbs on the 100th anniversary of his death WW1 31/33.

Pebworth, Worcs, 8 Nov, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Beccie Williams, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Roland Merrick, 4 Matthew Kemble, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung half-muffled in memory of those from Pebworth who lost their lives during WW1 in 1918: Verney Allard: d 23rd March 1918, Francis James Lawson Moseley: d 16th July 1918, Charles Gorman: d 6th November 1918, And especially Henry John Thomas Ferriman, who died on 8th November 1918 – exactly 100 years ago. First Quarter Half Muffled -1.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 10 Nov, **1260 Grandsire Triples**: 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Helen Burchell, 3 Keith Abbott, 4 Sally Austin, 5 Martin Saunders, 6 Mick Austin, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Michael Haynes. Rung Half muffled in memory of Walter Busby on the 100th anniversary of his death WW1.

Pebworth, Worcs, 12 Nov, **1272 Mixed Doubles** (72 Stedman and 240 each of St Martins; St Simons; Plain Bob; April Day and Grandsire): 1 Alison Lee, 2 Claire Penny, 3 Georgie Roberts, 4 Matthew Kemble, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung half-muffled in memory of those from Pebworth who lost their lives during WW1 in 1918 exactly 100 years ago today: Albert Edward Foster: d.12th November 1918, Norman William Hemmings: d. 12th November 1918.

RINGING FOR THE CENTENARY OF THE ARMISTICE (AND SEE P.7)

Worcestershire & Districts Association

Badsey, Worcestershire, St James

Saturday, 10 November 2018 in 3h 14 (15-0-4 in F)

5040 Grandsire Triples

1 Christopher J Pickford 5 Roger H Hunt
2 Ian N Robinson 6 Steve Bowley
3 Rachel D Page 7 Michael Chester (C)
4 Robert Tregillus 8 Nicholas K Allsopp

Rung, half-muffled, to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Remembering the 27 men of this parish, including Cpl Louis H Sparrow, a ringer at this church, who made the supreme sacrifice.

Oxford Diocesan Guild

Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, St Peter

Sunday, 11 November 2018 in 2h 55 (20-2-13 in E)

5040 Grandsire Triples

1 Selina J Harris 5 Jonathan E Muller
2 Sally A Austin 6 Graham J Clifton (C)
3 Daniel J Austin 7 Colin M Lee
4 David J Crump 8 Mick J Austin

To Commemorate the centenary of the end of The Great War

Swerford, Oxon, 10 Nov, **1260 Doubles** (780 Grandsire, 480 Plain Bob): 1 Mick J Austin, 2 Gayle Woods, 3 Sally Austin (C), 4 Michael Haynes, 5 Keith Abbott, 6 Tim Burchell. To the memory of the men of Swerford who gave their lives in the Great War:- Jack Cozier, Ellis W Barnett, Jesse Heritage, Hollis H Rose, Albert C Brooks, Alfred Barnett. We will remember them.

Todenham, Gos, 11 Nov, **240 Plain Bob Doubles**: 1 Margo Stansbury, 2 Isobel Murphy (C), 3 Imogen Murphy, 4 Jane Gilbert, 5 Keith Murphy, 6 Rob Stansbury. Rung to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice and to commemorate the fallen of this village.



Moreton in Marsh, Gos, 11 Nov, **1260 Grandsire Triples**: 1 Steve Bowley, 2 Paul Feast, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Robert Tregillus, 5 Julie Tarling, 6 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 7 Michael Chester (C), 8 Nicholas Allsopp. Rung, half-muffled, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended WWI.

Moreton in Marsh, Gos, 11 Nov. **Rounds Half Muffled**: 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 2 Steve Bowley, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Robert Tregillus, 5 Carol Feast, 6 Paul Feast, 7 Mike Chester, 8 Julie Tarling. Rounds rung half muffled prior to peal attempt. Ringer of 5 is part of the Ringing Remembers scheme to mark the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1. Carol started to ring on 30th July 2018.

Pebworth, Worcs, 11 Nov, **100 Call Changes**: 1 Martin Penny (C), 2 Georgie Roberts, 3 Neil Garner, 4 Pat Bell, 5 Cilla Watts, 6 Alison Lee, 7 Fiona Tyrrell, 8 Roger Tyrrell, 9 Claire Penny, 10 Graham Lee. 100 Call Changes rung at 7.05pm as part of 'Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute; Ringing out for Peace'.

Offenham, Worcs, 11 Nov, **1370 Grandsire Doubles**: 1 Martin Penny, 2 Neil Garner, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Roland Merrick, 5 Claire Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. Rung half-muffled at the setting of the sun to remember those from Offenham Village that gave their lives during the Great War.

Stow on the Wold, Gos, 11 Nov, **Rounds and Call Changes**: 1 Jane Gilbert, 2 Nicki Unwin, 3 Annie Holden, 4 Jenny Lewis, 5 Carol Feast, 6 Rob Stansbury, 7 Paul Feast (C), 8 Nicholas Allsopp. Rung at 7-05pm for the Lighting of the Beacons to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice on 11/11/1918. This was the longest continuous ring for Carol who started to learn on 30/7/2018 as part of the Ringing Remembers campaign.

Moreton in Marsh, Gos, 11 Nov, **1260 Plain Bob Doubles** with 7-6-8 covering: 1 Elizabeth Royle, 2 Keith Murphy, 3 Isobel Murphy, 4 Jane Gilbert, 5 Nicholas Allsopp (C), 6 Catherine McKernan, 7 Rob Stansbury, 8 Imogen Murphy. For 100 years since end of WWI. First quarter peal: 6. Rung 1/2 muffled by the Sunday Service Band.

Broadway, Worcs, 11 Nov, **tolling of the tenor bell** 100 times by members of the PCC and Friends of St Eadburgha's.

Great Wolford, Warks, 11 Nov, **Call Changes**: 1 Shirley Wrench, 2 Tom Baker, 3 Isobel Murphy, 4 Keith Murphy, 5 Imogen Murphy, 6 John Wrench (C). Ringing for Peace: part of the Battle's Over, a Nation's Tribute.

Great Wolford, Warks, 11 Nov, **Call Changes**: 1 Isobel Murphy, 2 John Wrench (C), 3 Keith Murphy, 4 James Van Helden, 5 Steve Duck, 6 Imogen Murphy. Rung open to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice and to commemorate the nine villagers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the two world wars of the 20th century.

Sherbourne, Warks, 10 Nov, **Call Changes and Methods**. Rung by members of the Coventry Guild ensuring villages heard their bells rung in memory of the fallen. 'We will remember them.'

Sherbourne, Warks, 11 Nov, **Rounds and Call Changes**: 1 John Wheeler (C), 2 Alyson Jackson, 3 Edward Alexander. Half Muffled on three bells to mark the Centenary of the Armistice.

Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks, 11 Nov, **Rounds**, rung to commemorate the 1918 Armistice. The following local churches rang bells at 12:30pm: Stratford, Holy Trinity, Stratford, Guild Chapel, Stratford, St Peter's Manor Road, Luddington, All Saints, Clifford Chambers, St Helen, Shottery, St Andrew, St Gregory RC Church and St James, Alveston. ALSO: **Stratford upon Avon**, Warks, Holy Trinity, 11 November 2018, **Rounds and Call Changes**. Open ringing at 12.30 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. 'We will Remember them.'

Bidford on Avon, Warks, 11 Nov, **Call Changes and Grandsire Doubles** 768 behind: 1 Brian Brasenell, 2 Tereza Cullum, 3 Pam Craney, 4 Mike Homans, 5 John Horseman, 6 Rob Gornall, 7 Richard Parker, 8 Sandra Parker, 9 Ingrid Rushton, 10 Hannah Rushton, 11 James Trewin. RINGING REMEMBERS Bells were rung at 9.00 am, 12.30 pm and again at 7.05pm, first Sunday Service ringing for Tereza and Hannah who are part of the 1400 recruits.

Chipping Norton, Oxon, 11 Nov, **Rounds** on the front 5. Rung half-muffled, prior to the Remembrance Sunday Service.

(I apologise now if I've missed some ringing for the Armistice. As might be seen, there was a huge amount of all types of ringing to report in this issue and I confess to getting a bit boss-eyed after a time. Ed)

NOTICES

FOUR SHIRES 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

GUILD-BADGED CLOTHING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE:-

Polo shirts:	£15.00	Full-zip ladies fleece	£25.00
Sweatshirts:	£17.50	Half-zip fleece:	£22.50
Full-zip fleece:	£25.00	Lambswool V-necked sweater:	£35.00

Kathy McCarthy has now taken over sales from Matthew Kemble, so all enquiries now to her. She may be contacted on:- email, khmccarthy@fastmail.fm; phone, 07734 205937

Payment still goes to Michael Dane, contact details on page 2 (cheques to be made payable to 'Four Shires Guild of Bellringers'. Payment via BACS may be possible: check with Michael first). There are no extra carriage charges on the prices above.

All profits from the sale of clothing go to the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund.

Colours: The range of colours can't be shown in this advert to any reasonable extent, but the range can be accessed via the Guild's website. Please see the advert on <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>.

Some idea of sizing can be gauged from the following:-

Chest size in inches:-

	Small	medium	large	X-large	xx-large
Polo shirts	36-38	40	42	44	46-48
Sweat shirt	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Men's full zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Half zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Dress size:					
Ladies' full zip fleece	10	12	14	16	18

MORE NOTICES AND ADVERTS



ART Conference 2019 comes to Worcester!

ART will be holding its annual Conference over the weekend of 2/3 March at The Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Worcester. The exciting agenda includes a great line up of speakers, with keynotes by the St Martin's Guild Ringing Master, Simon Linford, Mark Regan Master of the Cathedral Ringers, Matt Bulbeck a professional outdoor sports coach and bell ringing teacher and Ian & Louise Wilson from Warwick.

New additions to the line-up include presentations about safeguarding, insurance and risk assessments from representatives of the Church of England and Ecclesiastical Insurance. These talks will be followed by opportunities throughout the day to talk through any local issues with the experts. And of course, don't miss the chance to tour the Cathedral's Ringing Centre.

The ART Awards Ceremony is the final event of the Saturday when the winners of a host of awards, some group, some individual, will be announced. Come along and meet the ART team and celebrate with the award winners over a drink. You do not have to be an ART member to nominate a group or individual for an award you may find that a group or leader near you is someone you would like to put forward in which case nominate via the ART web site. The second day of the conference weekend concentrates on encouraging young ringers and is hosted by the Central Council.

The ART Conference is ART's leading national event and is open to anyone with an interest in ringing teaching and leadership. We would like to invite you to join us over the weekend for what will be two full and stimulating days.

Conference bookings will open in early in January via the ART website.

ART Conference Speakers

Mark Regan - Ringing in Worcester – The Future

Simon Linford & Claire McArdle – Learning the Ropes Plus & Pickled Eggs!

Matt Bulbeck – Why I refuse to be called an Instructor: the differences between instructing, teaching and coaching

Marcus Booth (Ecclesiastical Insurance) – Insurance & Bell Ringing: what you need to know

Andrea Watkins (Cof E) – Volunteers, Safeguarding & the CofE

Simon Rudd – The Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre

Roger Booth – Developing a regional support structure

Ian & Louise Wilson - Leadership – managing & motivating the team

Jennie Higson – Marketing or teaching? Behind the scenes of adult education

JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW, ETC...

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

Yes, time really does accelerate as we get older. It seems only a month or two ago that January was here last. The Guild finances rely on your sub, and the Bell Restoration Fund relies on your donation (£5 minimum annually) to continue giving grants that really do make a difference. See the box on page 18. It gives details of the subs and the details of paying. Please use the paying slip attached to the back of this Newsletter. It helps Michael Dane keep track of payments and who's a member, and who is due a Newsletter and who not. (An issue costs about 70p to print, so we try to ensure no more than required are printed).

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED!!

The present Editor is giving up this post later this year.

As announced in the April 2018 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.

MORE NOTICES AND ADVERTS

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.

BELLFOUNDERS BELLHANGERS
CARILLON BUILDERS

Tower Bells Chimes Handbells Bell ropes
Design service Building work Access systems
Profile matching Restoration Augmentations
Wrought iron clapper repairs

See our website: www.taylorbells.co.uk for specifications services and the latest information.



The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 1AR, England
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305
Email: office@taylorbells.co.uk

FOUR SHIRES GUILD BELL RESTORATION FUND

The Guild has a Bell Restoration Fund, from which the Committee is empowered to offer grants towards suitable aspects concerning rings of bells within the Guild's area of operation. Such aspects may include a range of needs, from maintenance to augmentations.

Rules and Constitution of the Fund are in the Guild Rule Book, and application forms are available from me. (These forms are emailable.)

Chris Povey (Hon Sec)

BEQUESTS TO THE GUILD'S BELL RESTORATION FUND

Have you made, or you about to make, your will? The Guild would be grateful if you would consider making a bequest from your estate to its Bell Restoration Fund. The Fund is now a significant part of the bell restoration scene, and we need money into it so that it can be distributed to the good causes that have arisen and will continue to arise. Speak to the undersigned if you need advice.

Chris Povey, Hon Sec

GUILD LAPEL BADGES



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

£4 each from the Hon Sec.

(The original badges cost £1 in 1976!)

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



Craig Ellis

Managing Director
Fusion Cleaning Services Ltd

Fusion Cleaning Services Ltd
17A Shrub Hill Industrial Estate
Shrub Hill Road
Worcester
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Free: **0800 6125608**
Mob: **07802 758159**

E: craig@fusioncleaning.uk
www.fusioncleaning.uk

Commercial and Office 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

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 *NOTE*	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) (*NOTE* 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.)
JAN 26 TH	TODENHAM, Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
FEB 2 ND	NO PRACTICE: GUILD ANNUAL DINNER (SEE NOTICES FOR DETAILS)	
FEB 9 TH	GREAT HAMPTON, Worcs	8, 12-2-04 in F#
FEB 16 TH	CHERINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE	6, 5-3-22 in F# (*DON'T GO TO THE GLOS ONE*)
FEB 23 RD	CLEEVE PRIOR, Worcs	6, 8-3-26 in G
MAR 2 ND	HALFORD, Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
MAR 9 TH	WINCHCOMBE, Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#
MAR 16 TH	CROPTHORNE, Worcs	6, 10 cwt in F#
MAR 23 RD	BARFORD, Warks	6, 4-3-22 in B
MAR 30 TH	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos	8, 27-2-24 in D
APR 6 TH	LONGBOROUGH, Glos	6, 11-0-02 in F#
APR 13 TH	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs	8, 10-1-08 in G
APR 20 TH	* NOTE * NO SATURDAY PRACTICE THIS WEEK * EASTER SATURDAY *	
APR 27 TH	T.B.A.	

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

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

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

TAG-END:

!! SUBSCRIPTIONS !!

Yes, folks, reminder time again: FSG subs were due on 1st January 2019. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). If you haven't paid yet, please do so soon – it benefits the Guild. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.) Also, please give a donation to the Guild's Bell Restoration at the same time - £5 minimum. It's a very good cause!!

Payment in cash can be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer or any Committee member. If paying cash it will assist the person to whom you are giving the money if you use the payment slip attached to this Newsletter. With the best will in the world it is sometimes difficult to remember who gave you money.....!!

YOU CAN PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BY INTERNET BANK TRANSFER, which is 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. (I have used this system and it works well. I suggest those who pay subs and donations for a group of ringers follow it up with an email to the Treasurer listing those names. Ed)

(Please note: those who haven't paid their subs by June 30th will cease to receive the Newsletter)

Events for 2019 – book the dates now:-

Guild Annual Dinner	Sat 2 nd Feb. Full details in Notice on page 15
Guild Ringing Tour	Sat 6 th July. Details tba