

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

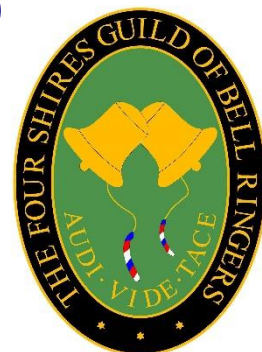
(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)



NEWSLETTER No 160 - APRIL 1ST 2019

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.10	From the Archives
P.3	Editorial, Chaplain's Thoughts,	P.11	Interesting old peal
P.3	<u>Urgent: Newsletter Editor or Hon Sec reqd!</u>	P.12	Tales (18) Bell handling (Pt 3)
P.4	Guild accounts to 31/12/2018	P.12	Around the towers: people & places
P.5	Guild Annual Dinner report	P.12	Quarters, peals and other ringing
P.6	El Pres's X-word	P.13	Notices and adverts
P.7	Committee meeting notes; wedding report	P.14	Notice re Guild Annual Ringing Tour
P.8	353 rd Mid-week tour report	P.14	Answers to the photo quiz
P.9	'How well do you know these churches?'	P.16	Saturday practices and Tag End



Founded Oct 18th 1909

ILMINGTON TO BECOME 12!!



(Copyright: Barbara Carr)

Simon Adams from John Taylor & Co tells me he's heard a whisper that a local benefactor has come forward to augment Ilmington to 12 bells. He doesn't know precisely who the benefactor is, but there's a suspicion by many that it's Bill Nash, whose recent 70th birthday party is thought to have started a feeling of happy financial generosity. It is also thought Bill has concluded he can't take his little nest-egg with him, so a significant and fitting memorial to his presence while he is here with us is an excellent idea. This memorial, more specifically the augmentation, will also allow him to take great pleasure in its use at a time when his recent health problems prevent him from climbing the steps at Gloucester Cathedral to ring on the 12 bells there. Ilmington's 12 will, after all, be a ground floor ring. The Editor asked him whether he was the benefactor behind this scheme. He said, 'No, of course not', but it's always very difficult to know when Bill is playing you along, as he hides behind that big beard. But he did say it was a shame they didn't consider going for 10 when the ring was augmented to 8, as the light 6 afforded by that arrangement would be very useful now. So, you never know! The rest of the Ilmington/Mickleton band are pretty much convinced it's Bill, as they were bowled over by the very generous birthday party bash. Another reason it's thought Bill is behind all this is that it's rumoured he's bought a computer to learn computer aided drawing (CAD), so he can measure up the belfry and plot exactly how the bellframe is to be re-arranged. (*Good for you, Bill! Proper engineering practice. You'll soon be a whizz with CAD. Ed*) Ilmington bells have the advantage of being low-toned for their weight, so the four new trebles won't be shrill, as are the trebles of some light twelves. This is something Bill will surely have taken into account.

Bill Sabin is believed to have said the idea is very exciting, particularly as it will allow the band to train towards competing in the National 12-bell Striking Competitions. Apparently he was heard to say, 'It's the natural progression from the long winning streak we've had with the FSG comps. Those Birmingham ringers had better watch out – we're coming. They don't know how to rise and fall properly!' Nicely put, Bill. John Nicholls (whose own augmentation announced last year has stalled) also commented. He said, 'Sense at last! I've told him more than once that the tax man will eventually take most of it. Better to use it before you lose it.' This view was echoed by John Kinchin.

This Newsletter will keep you updated about Ilmington's exciting project.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Freda Cleaver

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

Chaplain

Rev Dr Peter Newing

Accounts Examiner

Mr Robert Hall

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

Mr Peter Quinn

peterquinn22@gmail.com

Ringing Master

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

handbell.ringer@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Michael Dane

landm.dane@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Christina Ireland

christinaireland46@gmail.com

Mr John Carroll

Mr John Wheeler

wheelerjohn801@gmail.com

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Stuart Cummings

Dr Nicholas Allsopp

allsoppn@googlemail.com

CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

chrismpovey@gmail.com

Mr Matthew Kemble

mjkphoto1@gmail.com

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

bidfordparker@gmail.com

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Mew

Mid-week Tours

General Contact

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary

Health & Safety Officer

Mr Chris Povey

Newsletter Editor

chrismpovey@gmail.com

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

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

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (July 2019) is June 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.

DOES ANY RECIPIENT OF A PRINTED NEWSLETTER WISH TO HAVE THEIR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? IFSO, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW AND HE WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES. (EMAIL COPIES ARE MUCH CHEAPER THAN PRINTED COPIES, SO GOOD FOR GUILD FINANCES.)

EDITORIAL

Yet again I intended this Newsletter to be on time, but (yet again) it's late, for which I apologise.

This might, might, be my last-but-one Newsletter - but it might not be. I have offered a choice. The FSG could be looking for a new Hon Secretary instead. Could you be the Hon Sec? The Committee prefers I stay as Editor – which means someone needs to be the Hon Sec. As Peter Quinn says in the advert for one or the other (see below), my deadline for giving up one of these is the Guild's AGM in October. I'd like to continue as both, but there are new demands on my time and I must discontinue one of them. Yes, yes, I'm retired and all that, but there seems less time available now than when I was working. There are some members who may not feel they could be Editor, but have the ability to be the Honorary Secretary. They haven't sought out the job, because someone else is doing it, which is fair enough. Well, that 'someone else' is giving it up, so it's necessary for somebody to take on the mantle if the Guild is to continue operating as it has done now for many years. There are four Committee meetings per year. The basic job is to prepare the agenda, take and write up the Minutes and distribute, plus other bits and pieces in between. Additionally, the Sec receives applications for grants from the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund and presents them in suitable form for the Committee members to consider. There is some correspondence to receive and distribute, and to write replies. All in all, it's a typical secretary's role. Not horrendous for somebody who has acted in this role previously. I am quite sure there are such people among us.

Although strictly not within the timescale of this Newsletter, the recent request by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Prime Minister, to ring on Maunday Thursday in sympathy of the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris may have raised some eyebrows among ringers who believe no bells should be rung in Holy Week. An article in a previous FSG Newsletter explored whether no ringing in Holy Week is clergy-led or ringer-led, as some towers continue to ring in Holy Week (although not on Maunday Thursday or Good Friday) without objection from their incumbents. No firm conclusion was reached, but the recent call to ring on Maunday Thursday from the highest ecclesiastical level in the land (other than HM The Queen, whom I doubt would cancel such a request from her archbishops and her PM) is surely a substantial indication that it is, certainly now if not previously, a self-imposed ban by ringers. No-one should feel badly one way or the other, nor should anyone condemn another for ringing or not ringing during this period. The recent request has, perhaps, clarified the situation.

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 was good to learn that that so many new ringers were recruited during 2018, such that most towers with bells were able to ring on November 11th (Armistice Day). There is not the slightest doubt that the sound of bells brings hope to those who hear them. It is a sound that stands out against much of the noise and confusion that we all meet in our daily lives. Ringers require patience and the skill of co-operating with the rest of the band, which means they have to understand a common language that all our learners take time to acquire. We talk about 'leading', going up to the back', 'get closer at backstroke, get wide at handstroke'. There is a clear logic in these terms that means nothing to non-ringers, but once accepted and understood make us better ringers as part of a change-ringing band.

Bell ringing is such a good, mental exercise that maybe it ought to be prescribed by our local GP in order for us to maintain cognitive skill as we age!.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED OR GUILD HONORARY SECRETARY REQUIRED

The present Occupant of these two posts is giving up one of these later this year.

As announced in the April 2018 Newsletter, Chris Povey has decided to resign the post after the July 2019 Newsletter. Nobody has come forward to take over from him. However, he has agreed to continue being Newsletter Editor, **BUT** will only do this if he gives up the post of Honorary Secretary, which he has held since 2014. Chris has said he will give up one of these posts come the 2019 AGM. If no-one comes forward for either of these posts by that time, he will choose which one of these to discontinue.

Both of these posts are important to the overall running of the Guild. If you feel unable to be the Newsletter Editor, but believe you could be the Honorary Secretary, please consider taking over this post. Chris will continue through the AGM and write the Minutes, but the new Hon Sec needs to be in post to take over from there. If you wish to know more about the Secretary's post (or the Editor's), please contact Chris or me soon, as time is running out.

Peter Quinn, Guild Master

THE GUILD'S ANNUAL DINNER, SATURDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

The Annual Dinner took place in new surroundings: The Northwick Hotel on Evesham, 's Waterside. It's always worrying to take a large gathering to somewhere about which nobody has any direct experience. Christina Ireland did an initial visit and thought it had potential, Peter Q visited and spoke with the management: yes, it had a large, modern room; yes, it had a large car park; yes, the menu looked to be what was required and at the sort of price we wished; and yes, the management seemed enthusiastic about having us. All the right ingredients upfront then. Nonetheless, it was a step into the unknown. Why change from the Charlecote Pheasant, to which we had been previously and which had coped with our needs satisfactorily? Why indeed...? Simply because the Committee thought it a good idea to move the venue around the area, to balance out the convenience and inconvenience of how far to travel. So we took the decision to give The Northwick a try.

A new place isn't familiar, so it's how everything hits you as you enter. There was a cloakroom conveniently placed just inside the entrance door, and the function room itself was large, well-lit and wonderfully warm on one of the coldest nights so far in the year. The bar was inside the room (although it only had bottled beers and wines: draught could be obtained from across the courtyard in a separate bar. Personally I found the bottled fare entirely acceptable: not had Newcastle Brown for a long time!). The tables had been distributed well. Everything felt welcoming and OK.

The big test is, of course, the food and the service in getting it to you. This did not disappoint. There were many people serving, so we did not have to wait long. It was swift and slick. A good test is (a) whether the soup is hot, and (b) whether it's tasty. It was, on both counts – certainly according to my table. The main course followed and the first impression was 'that's a lot on the plate!' Yes it was: quite a lot. The veg came separately and that was more than ample. The roast potatoes were very good, not like some I remember in the past, when one's fangs were in danger of shattering upon eating them. Puds did the bizz too, although I prefer anything with custard on to be in a bowl rather than on a plate – easier to spoon up the last drops – but an extremely insignificant irritation.



Martin in full flow (note admiring spouse)

Our Speaker this year was Dr Martin Penny, RM at Pebworth, whom I believe is well-known to all. His was an interesting talk, and he drew upon the rather topical way in which women were drawn into undertaking men's roles in particularly WW1 and again in WW2, and also the way ringing has changed from effectively all-male to now, where Martin said his Pebworth band couldn't function without the large proportion of ladies there. His deputy RM is a lady and his steeplekeeper is a lady. Lots of ladies in the band, too. This isn't confined to Pebworth, as such is happening, or has happened, everywhere. And ringing is better off for it, too. He concluded his talk by describing a part of his army career in the first Gulf War (to which he had been ordered to go by a lady – Margaret Thatcher of course, PM at that time), when men had not seen home or their wives/fiancées/girlfriends for many months. Even at a Mess Dinner in a tent in the desert, tradition, that of the men rising at the end to toast the ladies, was satisfied. On this basis he asked the men at the Dinner to rise and toast the ladies – which we did (and I believe all concerned did that very happily, too).

There was a raffle with lots (yes, lots) of prizes – thank you to all the donors, ably organised by Hilary Bolton and Allen Turner. The total sum raised was £146, which will go to the Guild's Bells Restoration Fund.

The award giving followed, with four trophies to distribute to the winners. The Newing Shield went to Moreton-in-Marsh – and on this occasion the Shield was presented by the donor and Guild Vice-President Rev Peter Newing, as he and Angela were staying overnight in the hotel.



Jackie Roberts with the Newing Shield for Moreton

The Spencer Jones Cup was presented to Mickleton by Guild President John Nicholls.



Fran Chapman with the Spencer Jones Cup for Mickleton

The Brazier Trophy was presented to Moreton-in-Marsh by the Guild's other Vice President Freda Cleaver. The Merit Award, which is given by the Ringing Master to the tower that, in his opinion, has progressed most during the year, was awarded to Offenham, whose performance in this Striking Competition at Sherbourne with 9 year old Chloe Honeywell in it finished only 1½ points behind the winners. (Unfortunately, Chloe and her grandfather Robert Hall were unable to attend, as our Dinner was the same night as Evesham Swimming Club's, at which Chloe was to receive a number of awards for her performances in swimming competitions.)

So ended the 2019 Annual Dinner. I believe the general view of The Northwick Hotel was that it was entirely satisfactory. Somebody who is a very experienced Dinner-goer at most levels said to me at the end of it that the Guild ought to book the place for 2020 asap, as it could get booked up very quickly in the light of its performance with us. We shall discuss this very subject at the Committee meeting in February.

Chris Povey



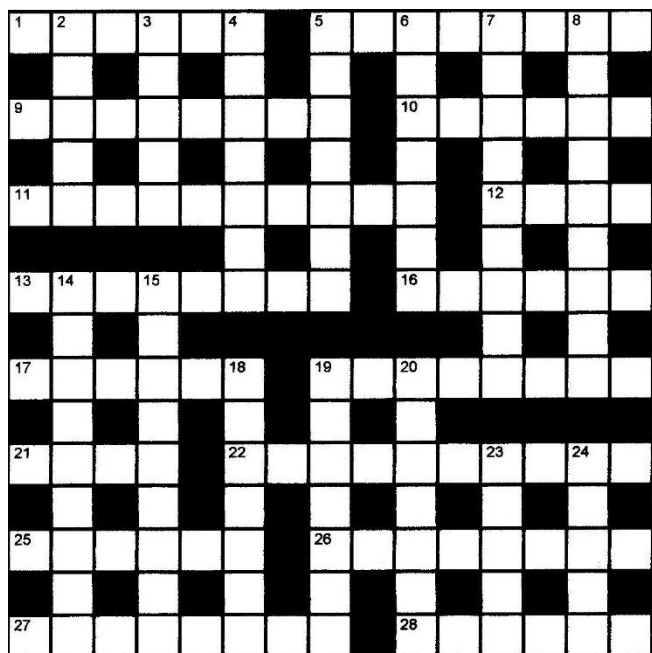
Elizabeth Royle receiving the Brazier Trophy for Moreton.



Claire Allen receiving the Merit Award for Offenham

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Pres keeps serving them up!

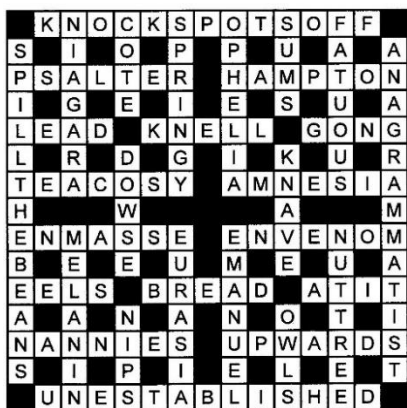


- 1 That demanding fellow from the Inland Revenue*. (6)
- 5 Where would one attach a missile to a car?. (8)
- 9 A Jester's headdress usually measuring 17ins by 13.5ins. (8)
- 10 Atmospheric disturbance wireless reception. (6)
- 11 It may sound like ringing in Northern Ireland but could be carried. (6-4)
- 12 You will soon be in the dark (4)
- 13 Advancing. (8)
- 16 Could be wide deliveries. (6)
- 17 Beefeaters find nothing in a middle eastern country. (6)
- 19 Underground workers take a litre of these drinks. (8)
- 21 Spoken part of the test. (4)
- 22 Ridiculous power of art could keep the rain out. (10)
- 25 You could easily grasp this clue. (6)
- 26 Any hitch diverted into a bluebell. (8)
- 27 Patron Saint of Scotland. (2,6)
- 28 Thumbnail? (6)

(* I think El Pres means HMRC. His last tax demand was clearly long ago! Ed)

Down

- 2 Mother is upset with our love of French (5)
- 3 Canteloupe? (5)
- 4 Power from fission or fusion. (7)
- 5 Push down. (7)
- 6 Decide to try this clue again. (7)
- 7 A swindling con-man. (9)
- 8 Accidentally sell train to put in place. (9)
- 14 Cover rate for exaggerated opposition. (9)
- 15 Impaired limbed won in S. London. (9)
- 18 The time for special ringing! (3,4)
- 19 The first book of the New Testament. (7)
- 20 Conquering church-builders. (7)
- 23 It starts with this. (5)
- 24 See the attachment to the bottle. (5)



Answers to Jan 2019 X-word

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 26th FEBRUARY.

The Committee met on Tuesday 26th Feb at Wellesbourne Parish Centre.

1) **Apologies for absence:** agreed correct and signed as such.

3) **Matters Arising:-**

Handbell insurance: assumed no change. Peter to assist Richard if required.

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

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

Annie Cunningham (Moreton) – prop

Jackie Roberts; sec Rob Stansbury

Alan Stephens (Harvington) – prop

Anthony Wheeler; sec Sheila Hemming

Neil Garner (Sth Littleton) – prop

Richard L-S; sec Chris P

They were unanimously elected

Treasurer: Michael gave a quarterly and yearly account. The accounts to be handed to Robert Hall for examination.

Safeguarding Officer: Chris Mew agreed with the note re DBS accreditation at Guild practices. To be incorporated in the Guild policy on Safeguarding

Newsletter Editor: Chris said nobody had come forward to be editor. He offered to

continue, but on condition that he resigned being Hon Sec. Newsletter notice to appear.

Mid-week tours: No reports re tours, but £100 had been received towards the funds.

CCCB: there was discussion re Guild affiliation continuing. Chris to ask Alison Hodge to attend the November meeting to answer any questions about this.

6) **Bell Restoration Fund:**

Updates:

Michael D said £3668 was unallocated

Grant applications for consideration:

The application from Childswickham was considered. A grant of £300 was agreed.

Further grant applications:

No other applications had been received

Proposal put forward by Chris: that the upper limit of grant be raised to £600. Carried.

7) **Items for discussion:-**

Recent events:

The Annual Dinner was judged a success.

Agreed to return there in 2020. Peter to book.

Future programme:

Ringling Tour: Sat 6th July (see this Newsletter)

Walking & Ringling tour: Sept: In preparation.

2019 Striking Comps & AGM: Sat 19th Oct.

Notice to be in the July Newsletter.

Inter-Shire Comp, 16th Nov. Guiting Power?

Xmas Party: probably at Badsey again

Proposals to the Committee: Nick tabled four:-

a) that the Minimus comp be restricted to 4 bells only. Majority in favour: carried

b) a peal may be attributed to the Guild with at least 50% members in it. All in favour: carried

c) that members elected during the year be present at the AGM and introduced by their proposers. They are to be given a membership certificate. All in favour: carried

d) that there should be competition for the design of this certificate. All in favour: carried.

Possibly a prize for the winner of this.

8) **AOB:**

Nick asked about engraving the Shield. Agreed he get done and recharge.

9) **Next Meeting:** the next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th May at Church House, Evesham.

Future Committee meeting dates in 2019: in August and November.

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

WEDDING OF IAN POVEY AND ROSE FISHER AT WINCHCOMBE

Last summer Ian and Rose announced they had arranged for their wedding for Saturday February 23rd at St Peter's Church, Winchcombe, and the reception would be at a wedding venue high up on the Cotswolds near Withington. Nice, but in February? Have you not lived around here long enough to know what February can bring, especially on top of the Wolds? One inch of snow in the Vale equals 5 inches up there. Think of February 2018, when the 'Beast from the East' descended and caused mayhem. It will need tractors to get to the reception, etc, etc!

The day came with absolutely brilliant, balmy sunshine, hardly any wind, and ladies changing their outfits to more summery ones. Was it 'the sun shines on the righteous', or 'the Devil looks after his own'? Certainly the former in Rose's case, but unsure about the other.

Being something of a Guild event (Ian is a member, although he appears on a rope infrequently) it seemed a good idea to get a Guild band together to do the bizz before and afterwards, and I'm very grateful to Clare Pritchard (RM at St Peter's) to allow me to arrange a band. I invited nine people to ring, assuming there would be some who couldn't, and nine replies came back all saying yes!

Ian did manage to ring for his own wedding, as the photo below proves. It was a quick ring beforehand.

The day went very well, except for a slight hitch at the start of the ceremony. Rose was a little late getting to

the Church (ah, it's usually the ones that are closest - she could almost have walked there...), but on arrival it was found the bouquets had been forgotten, so it was a quick dash back to get them. My thanks to the ringers for continuing to ring during this unscheduled delay. A well-struck quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung immediately after the ceremony, and a peal in the morning at Saintbury was dedicated to them. (Peal details on p.13)



Rose's family has a ringing connection, as her great-grandfather was the Captain of the Winchcombe ringers way back in the past.

Chris Povey

Winchcombe, Glos, 23 Feb, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Martin Penny, 2 Nicholas Allsop, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Jackie Roberts, 5 Roy Williams (C), 6 Roger Hunt, 7 Alison Williams, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath. Rung immediately after the wedding of Rose and Ian Povey.

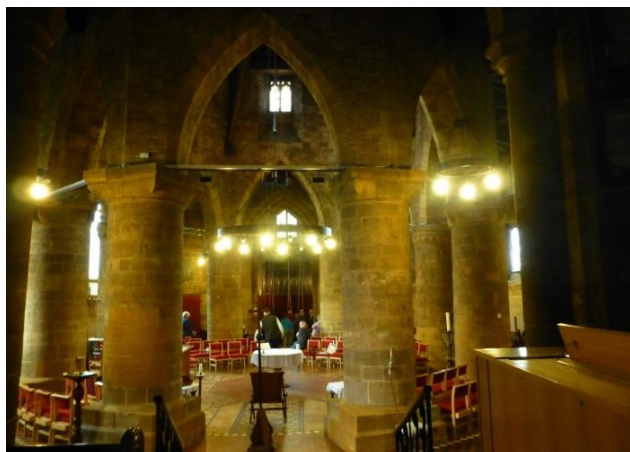
MID-WEEK TOURS: 353rd OUTING, 21ST MARCH 2019



William Butlin's grave at Duston, Northants

This picture above may give a hint to some as to where members of the Four Shires Guild headed for their March outing. It may however, lead some astray. Far from being close to the sea, we were in the very heart of England in land-locked Northamptonshire! So why an anchor and heavy chains there on a tombstone in one of the churchyards? Well, the "table-tennis bat" guide to the church explained that William Butlin (not Billy Butlin of holiday camp fame) was an engineer making agricultural machines and lived in Duston House. He went on to use iron ore found on his property to start iron foundries in the town. He was buried in Duston church yard in 1897, alongside other members of his family.

The outing included four towers, all very close to each other. We started near the town centre at Holy Sepulchre (14cwt 8, gf) – an amazing church that seemed to have the appearance on arrival of a big rectangular parish church with a tall spire, in typical Northamptonshire yellow ochre stone. However, on entering the church we immediately saw that its origins had been a large circular church (one of only four in the country) with substantial stone pillars. Dating from circa 1100, the round building has been extended by large aisles so that there is only a hint of the circular space from the exterior. This super ring, even with the relatively long ropes, set the tone for the day.



Circular interior at Holy Sepulchre, Northampton

Our next stop was Dallington only a mile or so way, with all the appearances of a small, pretty country village next to a substantial manor house, but now a suburb of Northampton. The church again has ancient origins and another good ring (7cwt 6, gf). Monumental cherubs had been placed around the font, just in front of the ringing room.

Lunch at a large modern pub provided a complete contrast, prior to our visit to Duston, just a mile or so beyond Dallington and again now a suburb of Northampton. Just outside the pub, we spotted another sign of the town's industrial past - a sculpture in the form of a roller bearing, marking the company that made ball bearings amongst other similar products. Perhaps appropriate for ringers who rely on such things, even though now probably imported!

Duston is another church with ancient origins from 1200s, with the bells rung from the chancel crossing (8cwt, 6, gf). Unlike some other chancel rings, these ropes were very well behaved and we enjoyed our ringing again. So much so that it was proposed that an impromptu mini-striking competition would be held! Two teams were surreptitiously picked, one all men, one all ladies it transpired, along with three judges (who were we missing?) The test piece was a plain course of London Surprise Minor, after just 1 minute of practice time for each team. The judges returned and declared the winners – we know who came first and who came second, but we won't say here! This short interlude gave non-ringers the opportunity to admire the church and colourful churchyard with its spring flowers. As well as the Butlin's grave, we were amused by the four colourful roof bosses depicting musicians.



Roof bosses in Duston

Our last stop of the day was at West Hunsbury, again just a mile or so away (3cwt, 6). Far from being an ancient church building, this was the opposite; a rather angular building constructed from concrete blocks without any disguise inside, even if faced with brown bricks externally, and dating from the 1980s. (So that's why I could not find it in my old paper copy of Dove!)



West Hunsbury church

Our thanks go to the incumbents for the use of their bells, the people who met us and made us welcome. As a new member of the Four Shires Guild, I pass on my thanks to fellow members who organise these monthly outings.

Alison Hodge

(This article also appeared in The Ringing World, 5 April 2019)

ANOTHER QUIZ, 'HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE FSG CHURCHES?'

Kathy McCarthy sent this to me very recently and it was intended for the July Newsletter. However, I needed to fill a page (must have an even number of sides). I think this is really good – and Kathy's photos are excellent. I managed to identify all but three towers. One of those is a tower that is just four miles from my home, so some embarrassment there. See how you get on. Answers are on p.14



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

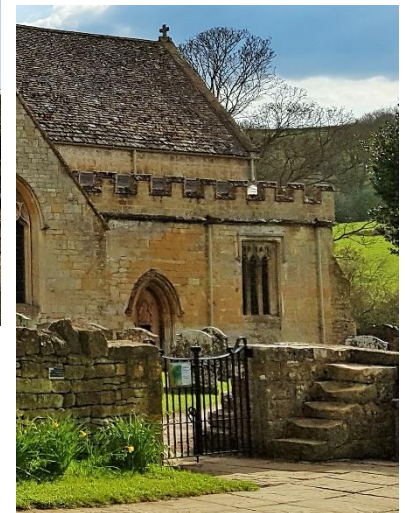


Photo 6



Photo 7

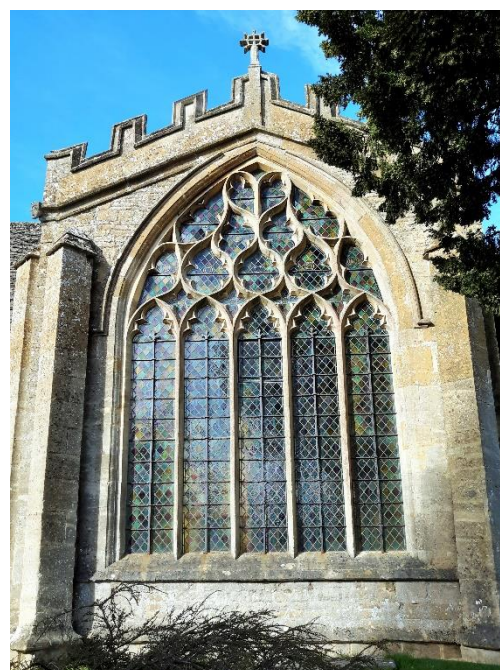


Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

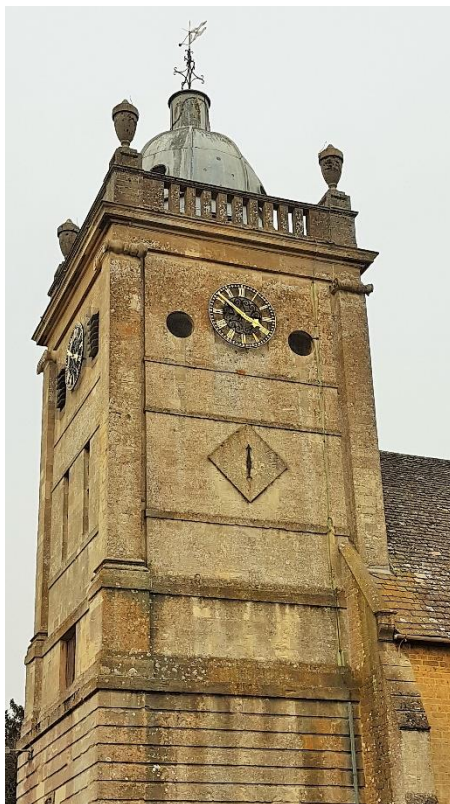


Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

FROM THE ARCHIVES:-

100 YEARS AGO

25th April 1919

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild was held at 'The Rectory' Moreton in Marsh on Friday 25th April, 1919, the President being in the chair. The minutes were duly read & passed, after which the Secretary produced the Balance Sheet, showing a Balance in hand of £5-1-9. This was considered satisfactory and on the Proposition of Mr Evans, seconded by the Rev Spencer Jones, was unanimously accepted. All the officers were re-elected.

It was decided that the competitions be re-started in October.

It was also resolved to write various Towers in the District inviting them to join the Guild.

Further resolved that the members be charged half-fees for the current half-year and the Sec was instructed to request each foreman to send in a list of names with the fees, prior to the Autumn meeting. The usual votes of thanks closed the meeting. The attendance was again quite small.

(Signed) Spencer Jones, Chairman

40 YEARS AGO

25th June 1979:

Committee Meeting held at Long Barn, Draycott, on 25rd June.

Present were: Miss L Bedford, A J Brazier, Mrs H Davies, M F Fairfax, P Harmer, Mrs P Linsdell and J E White.

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

Matters arising:

The Shield: Mrs Davies requested that the Shield be retrieved from H O Hart and sent to Ebrington immediately, as eight months had passed since the Striking Competition. Mr Fairfax offered to contact H O Hart.

Miss Bedford requested that the success of the Annual Dinner be recorded in the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Balance	21.81	Building Society
	28.27	Barclays Bank
	3.12	Cash

Incoming	44.70	Subscriptions
	1.42	Donations
	2.50	On Dinner
	4.65	Profit on Competition teas
	2.00	Handbooks
	3.00	Badges
Outgoings	4.00	Two Newsletters
	3.00	Postage
	14.58	Typewriter
	5.40	Handbooks
	5.00	Donation to Ringing World
	1.00	Hire of Hall
	1.00	Insurance on Shield

Boundaries:

The Secretary was asked to make a list of the number of members at each tower in the present area with a view to dropping some towers and including others, such as Clifford Chambers, Alderminster, Welford on Avon and Cleeve Prior.

Competition: This year's Striking Competition will take place on 27th October at Mickleton. The judge will again be Mr C Wratten. Mr Fairfax has offered to arrange a suitable room for the judge, teas and the AGM.

AGM: The AGM will take place after the Striking Competition on 27th October. It was proposed that the Meeting start at 5pm, to allow members enough time to air their views. There is to be an interval for the judge to make his remarks and announce the winning band. Teas are to be served from 4pm onwards. M F Fairfax will issue details.

(Signed) Anthony J Brazier 2 September 1979

Insurance: The value of the Cup is now estimated at about £350 and with the Shield at £100+ this brings the Guild's liabilities to £450. The Treasurer had enquired about insurance and had quotations of £12-£14. AJB suggested approaching the Church in which it is held to see if it can be included in the Church policy. Mrs Davies proposed that the Guild Master try and get it on to his house policy for the time being - M F Fairfax agreed.

Saturday Practices

It was generally felt that the standard of the Saturday practices had fallen recently. Basically there are not usually enough experienced ringers to help and encourage new learners. It was felt that the standard was poor and every effort should be made to raise it. The last practice at Bledington did not have enough people to ring. It was arranged that copies of practices should be sent to the towers, the Committee will take it in turns to go to the towers to help and assess the situation. Mrs Davies proposed that the Committee arrange the towers for the next quarter.

It is fascinating to read through the two archive records we have. The world of 100 years ago is further away than any of us know now, and the conditions are so massively different – the rich men in their big houses acting as non-ringing patrons to the working-class ringers. We know things are about to change culturally, but they didn't know that when the Minutes of their meetings were written. How lucky we are, though, to have a first-hand account of ringing in our area. In many ways the Minutes of 40 years ago are even more interesting, as many of us lived through those times. I look at the amounts of money they were dealing with. Compared with what we deal with now, they seem trifling amounts – but that's what it was: yes, just 40 years ago. Ed

OLD PEAL

The Bromley Youths ¹

The Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Bromley, Kent, possessed four bells in 1553, later increased to five, and to eight in 1773. It is perhaps fitting that the fourth and seventh bells are inscribed :—

" When from the earth our notes rebound
The Hills and Valleys echo round."

" The ringers art our grateful notes prolong
Apollo listens and approves the song,"

for to this day the same bells " wake the echoes around," and throughout the ages have prolonged the " ringers art."

A tablet in the belfry is thus inscribed :—

" Janry ye 7, 1773. The Peal of Bells in this Steeple was taken down, recast, and augmented from 5 to 8, and on May ye 29th they were finish'd. In which a sett of Youths of Bromley in Kent join'd in articles to learn to Ring, and ye 22nd of Septr. 1774 they rung a half-quarter Peal of Bob Major, which is 5000 & 40 changes. They compleated it in 3 hours and 4 minutes, and their Name, Age and Trade, is as follows :—

		Age.	
Jo. Cowdrey ..	Cordweaner ..	24	Rung ye 1st
Jo. Chapman ..	Carpenter ..	18	do. ye 2nd
Jo. Day ..	Breeches-maker ..	25	do ye 3rd
Jo. Heath ..	Bricklayer ..	26	do ye 4th
Hry. Sale ..	Carpenter ..	18	do ye 5th
Thos. Kelley ..	Gardener ..	21	do ye 6th
Wm. Chapman ..	Carpenter ..	23	do ye 7th
Wm. Cook ..	Cordweaner ..	25	do ye 8th

He call'd the Bobs. And on the 14th of Febry 1775 the abovesaid Youths rang a quarter peal of Bob Major which is 10,000 & 80 changes. They compleated it in 6 hours and 13 minutes."

¹ For this account we are indebted to Mr. Isaac Emery, the present leader and towerkeeper. He is a well-known ringer of the district, and has rung several hundred peals.

Robert Hall's eye was caught by this report of an early peal in a book on the history of ringing. He found it unusual (and it probably is) that the occupations of the ringers and their ages were recorded on the peal tablet. There were no gentry in the band - the occupations are very much 'trade'. A cordweaner (which I assume is a variation of the spelling of the normally-used 'cordwainer') was a shoemaker or a cobbler. It doesn't clearly specify the conductor, just a 'He call'd the Bobs.' I assume 'He' was the tenor ringer.

SS Peter & Paul, Bromley, currently has a Gillett & Johnston ring of 8 cast in 1950. I guess this 8 replaced the one upon which the 1773 peal was rung. The tablet records that the same Youths rang a 10,080 of Bob Major in 6hrs 13 mins. With a wooden bellframe and plain bearings, that required some stamina. Men of past generations seemed to be much more used to physical work that we are now.

It is also unusual that the peal, 5040 changes of Bob Major, was described as a 'half-quarter peal'. Some readers might be mystified by this, but it becomes clearer when it is explained that a 'peal' in the early days of change ringing described the full extent of ringing changes on a particular number, so a 'peal' of Doubles was 120 changes, of Minor was 720 changes, that of Triples was 5,040 (which eventually became the accepted peal length), and of Major 40,320 changes. It will therefore be seen that 5,040 changes is one-eighth of 40,320 – or a 'quarter-half peal'. There is a wall tablet at Stow-on-the-Wold that records a 'peal' of 720 changes of Bob Minor, when the bells were still a 6, with wooden headstocks and plain bearings.

Robert Hall/Chris Povey



Having previously related methods of moving bells from A to B this time we take a look at lifting a bell securely. Quite often in restoration projects bells have to be tipped on their sides to allow lowering or raising through trapdoors and the like – traditionally a fibre sling is employed being wrapped around the waist of the bell at the approximate balance position for the bell in that attitude. Whilst lifting the sling needs to remain tight against the bell but due to the curved profile any relaxation in tension from the lifting apparatus usually allows the sling to slip and control of the bell is lost. Tying the sling in position with rope (when possible) gave limited restraint.

After several instances in as many years bellhanger Arthur Berry, preparing to tackle the rehang of the heavy six at **Eldersfield, Glos** in 2008, took a moment to reflect on how to prevent such slippage and produced (in conjunction with Brian and Barry Swinbourne, his engineering trained blacksmith friends at Baughton near Upton-on-Severn) a simple S-hook to trial. Result – no slippage!

The inaugural lift involved turning the bell on its side onto a wheeled trolley after lowering the bell down the tower and then transferring the bell to the hydraulic lifting crane arm on the lorry waiting to transport the bells to Loughborough for attention.

The tenor bell weighed 18 cwt (cast by Abraham Rudhall I in 1705) and the lift is shown to good effect in my accompanying photograph.

[Whilst only the two Taylor bells dating 1891 of the ring were slightly tuned the other bells were left untouched – the tenor being originally heavily scratch tuned.]

Roger de 'Flaedenburg'

AROUND THE TOWERS PEOPLE AND PLACES

There were two Diamond Wedding celebrations at Badsey recently. Hilary Bolton, Badsey Tower Captain, provides the details:-

Malcolm Stewart (Honorary Life Member) and Hazel his wife celebrated 60 years of Marriage at the end of March. Both have put a lot of time into our church, Malcolm with ringing and other duties. Hazel is leader of our Flower Guild. Son Andrew is following in father's footsteps. His three sisters and a brother follow in Mum's shadow, working with flowers and plants.

Badsey, Worcs, 28 March, 300 Grandsire Doubles: 1 Hilary Bolton (C), 2 Tony Hartwell, 3 Andrew Stewart, 4 Christina Ireland, 5 Roger Hunt, 6 Gordon Hills. A Diamond Wedding Anniversary compliment to Malcolm Stewart (a retired Badsey ringer) and his wife Hazel - parents of Andrew. Rung on the front 6 and the longest length in a method for Andrew.

On the same day another couple Judy and Patrick Sparrow also celebrated their magic 60 years also having done many years of lesson reading and more for our church.

On each occasion we were able to manage 300 & 240 changes of Grandsire in celebration. We gratefully thank both couples who gave a generous donation towards the up-keep of the tower and bells. In this instance both donations will go towards the cleaning of the tower, which is being done this week by Fusion Industrial Cleaning Services Ltd. in readiness for the delivery of our new bell ropes. We look forward to a flush of visiting teams!

Robert and Sue Hall were blessed with another grandson on March 31st, which they think was a wonderful Mothering Sunday present for his parents and them. His name is Jack. He was born in the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and weighed 8lb-3oz.

The bellframe painting team at Moreton have finished the frame itself and are now starting on the fittings. It will be interesting to ask them when this job is complete whether they would take on another bellframe painting project in the future. Some people love such work, ... and some don't...

PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

Evesham, Worcs, 12 Jan, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: 1 David Povey, 2 Ian Povey, 3 Martin Penny, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Chris Povey (C), 6 Claire Penny. To welcome Ida Maude Gladys Povey to this world, born Saturday December 15th 2018. A daughter for Rose and Ian, a granddaughter for Helen and Chris, and a great-niece for Jane and David.

Pebworth, Worcs, 20 Jan, 1260 Mixed Doubles (Plain Bob; April Day; Grandsire): 1 Beccie Williams, 2 Alison Lee, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Claire Penny, 5 Martin Penny (C), 6 Graham Lee. To welcome Dexter Mark Lyons to this world; born Wednesday 28 November 2018. A first Grandchild for Liz & Rick Milton and a Great-Nephew for Claire & Martin (4 & 5).

Bletchington, Oxon, 30 Jan, 1260 Doubles (Stedman, PB, St Simon, Rev Cant, Grandsire): 1 Michael Probert, 2 Michael Haynes, 3 Benjamin Poole, 4 Steve Vickars, 5 Hugh Deam (C), 6 Alison Merryweather-Clarke. Rung in loving memory of Alistair Haynes, 8 years after his death on 22nd January.

Stratford upon Avon, Warks, 3 Feb, 1260 Grandsire Triples: 1 Nick Allsopp, 2 Ian Bryan, 3 Jane Gilbert, 4 Simon Adams, 5 John Newbold, 6 Charles Wilson, 7 Roger Hunt (C), 8 James Trewin. For the Feast of Candlemas and in memory of Ronnie Mulryne, a former bellringer at Stratford-upon-Avon

Chadlington, Oxon, 6 Feb, **1260 Doubles** (Plain Bob, Grandsire): 1 Diane Bunney, 2 Mick Austin, 3 Christine Harris, 4 Sally Austin, 5 Kenneth Wakefield (C), 6 Keith Mitchell. In celebration of the life of David Hopewell, local ringer and branch representative of the Chipping Norton Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, on the day of his Thanksgiving Service.

Tredington, Warks, 16 Feb, **1260 Doubles** (1p/10m): 1 Sue Marshall (C), 2 Becki Johnson, 3 Lucy Gwynne, 4 John Gwynne, 5 Graham Nabb, 6 Kathryn McCarthy. Very best wishes to Sue for her birthday yesterday

Pebworth, Worcs, 17 Feb. **1260 Plain Bob Minor**: 1 Graham Lee, 2 Roland Merrick, 3 Chris Povey, 4 Alison Lee, 5 Claire Penny, 6 Martin Penny (C). First Minor inside - 4

Stratford upon Avon, Warks, 24 Feb, **1259 Grandsire Caters**: 1 Nick Allsopp (C), 2 John Perry, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Rachel Page, 5 Sandra Parker, 6 Jane Gilbert, 7 Charles Wilson, 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 9 Simon Adams, 10 Peter Bridges. To remember Ronnie Mulryne, former churchwarden and bell ringer. May he rest in peace.

Bidford on Avon, Warks, 1 March, **1280 Grandsire Major**: 1 Jackie Roberts, 2 Margaret Smith, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Rachel Page, 5 Neil Garner, 6 Nick Allsopp, 7 Martin Penny (C), 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath. Rung as an 18th Birthday compliment to Kate Richards - Goddaughter of Claire (3). 1st in Stage: 3,4,5,6 & 7

Bretforton, Worcs, 28 March, **Call Changes and Queens**: 1 Roger Hunt (C), 2 Rob Davis, 3 Bill Boyce, 4 Alan Curry, 5 Kate Taylor, 6 Josh Fiander, 7 Clare Davies, 8 John Cleveland. Rung during practice night as a compliment to Alan on his birthday and for his wedding anniversary with Amanda also this day.

Badsey, Worcs, 28 March, **600 Grandsire Doubles**, 1 Hilary Bolton (C), 2 Tony Hartwell, 3 Christina Ireland, 4 Roger Hunt, 5 Paul Green, 6 Gordon Hills. Rung open on the front 6 immediately following the funeral of David Caswell (the 'Village Blacksmith').

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

MILITARY IN MEMORIAM

Hook Norton, Oxon, 26 Feb, **1260 Grandsire Triples**, 1 Gayle Woods, 2 Mick Austin, 3 Helen Burchell, 4 Keith Abbott, 5 Sally Austin, 6 Daniel Austin, 7 Jonathan Muller (C), 8 Michael Haynes. Rung Half Muffled in memory of Thomas Hiatt on the 100th Anniversary of his death - WW1 33/33

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

Vale of Evesham Society

Saintbury, Gloucestershire, St Nicholas

Saturday, 23 February 2019 in 2hr 59 (11-0-24 in F#)

5088 Belgrave Surprise Major

1 Richard Lewis-Skeath	5 Nicholas K Allsopp
2 Steve Bowley	6 Robert Tregillus
3 Roger H Hunt	7 Roderic K Bickerton
4 Julie A Tarling	8 Michael Chester (C)

Rung as a compliment to Ian Povey and Rose Fisher who are to be married at Winchcombe later today.

Winchester & Portsmouth Diocesan Guild

Evesham, Worcestershire, The Bell Tower

Saturday, 30 March 2019 in 3h 33 (35-2-20 in C#)

5018 Grandsire Sextuples

1 Roy LeMareshal (C)	7 Clare M Merivale
2 John P Colliss	8 Michael Chester
3 James A Hodkin	9 Nicholas K Allsopp
4 Clare J Griffiths	10 Malcolm S Turner
5 Timothy M Davis	11 Benjamin J Carey
6 Josh L Harris	12 Peter L Furniss
13 Andrew B Mills	

Rung on the 13 diatonic bells in the Tower, ie 0-12: no tenor behind. 1st Sextuples in the tower. 1st Sextuples for Nick Allsopp Included as it is a rare performance. It was very musical. Ed

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

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

Contact Kathy McCarthy on:- . email, khmccarthy@fastmail.fm; phone, **01608 661001**

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 be seen on the Guild's website, which is <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

FOUR SHIRES GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR SATURDAY, 6th JULY 2019

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY AND DETAILS

0930-1015 **STOKE MANDEVILLE (8, 8-1-10 in Ab).** HP22 5UW
(Parking in Swallow Lane.)

1030-1115 **WESTON TURVILLE (6, 14-2-22 in F#).** HP22 5SH

1130-1230 **ASTON CLINTON (10, 11-1-10 in F#).** HP22 5HJ

1300 - 1430 Lunch in Aylesbury

Parking: plenty of car parks in Aylesbury - Hampden House multi-storey (Railway Street, HP20 1QX) seems to offer the best value at £2.50 for up to 5 hours and is less than 10 mins walk from the church.

Lots of pubs for lunch: The King's Head (National Trust-owned C15th coaching inn) & The Queen's Head are both a short walk from the church & serve good food & beer.

1430-1530 **AYLESBURY (8, 21-2-12 in Eb).** HP20 2QZ

1615-1700 **HARDWICK (6, 12-0-0 in G).** HP22 4DH

1715-1800 **QUANTON (8, 17-1-26 in Eb).** HP22 4AP

Tower donations £6 per ringer

Tour Organiser: Richard Lewis-Skeath (07747) 802555

‘APRIL BRINGS THE PRIMROSE SWEET, ETC...’AND TIME TO PAY FSG SUBS AND MAKE A BRP DONATION!

Yes, time really does accelerate as we get older. It seems only a short time ago that 1st January (the date FSG subs became due) 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 16. It gives details of the subs and the details of paying. Please use the paying slip attached to the back of January's Newsletter. It helps Michael Dane track payments and who's a member, and who is due a Newsletter and who not. (An issue costs about 70p, so we try to ensure no more than required are printed).

Those who haven't paid their sub by the end of June will not receive further Newsletters.

**WE DO NOT WISH TO LOSE YOU.
GO ON, PAY NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY.**

Answers to the Photo Quiz:-

1. Sherbourne, 2. Adlestrop, 3. Shipston-on-Stour, 4. Didbrook, 5. Badsey, 6. Broadway (St Eadburgha's), 7. Bengeworth, 8. Longbrough, 9. Tysoe, 10. Chipping Campden, 11. Bourton-on-the-Water, 12., Halford, 13. Middle Littleton, 14. Long Compton.

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
WR4 9EL

Free: **0800 6125608**

Mob: **07802 758159**

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

Commercial and Office Cleaning Services

Industrial Cleaning Services

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

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APR 6 TH	LANGBOROUGH, 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	MORETON-IN-MARSH, Glos	8,10-0-14 in G
MAY 4 th	ASTON CANTLOW, Warks	6, 14-0-14 in F
MAY 11 th	MICKLETON, Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E (GF) (*NOTE 7-30PM.TILL 8-45PM*)
MAY 18 th	DUMBLETON, Glos	6, 11 cwt in G
MAY 25 th	TREDINGTON, Warks	6, 16-1-20 in E (GF) (*NOTE 7-00PM. TILL 8-30PM.*)
JUN 1 st	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E
JUN 8 th	NORTON, Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
JUN 15 th	BLEDDINGTON, Glos	6, 8-0-13 in G (*NOTE 7-30PM. TILL 8-45PM.*)
JUN 22 nd	HARVINGTON, Worcs	6, 8-1-14 in A
JUN 29 th	WHICHFORD, Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
JULY 6 th	GUILD RINGING TOUR	(* NOTE DETAILS IN NEWSLETTER p.? *)
JULY 13 th	BLOCKLEY, Glos	10, 17-0-6 in F (* NOTE: NOW A RING OF 10 BELLS*)
JULY 20 th	BROADWAY, Worcs	6, 18-1-16 in F (GF) (* TO BE CONFIRMED *)
JULY 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 yet 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 Ringing Tour	Sat 6 th July. See outline details on p.14
Guild Walking & Ringing tour	Saturday in September. Date and route tba
AGM & Striking Comps	Sat 19 th October. Notice to appear in July Newsletter
Inter-Shire Striking Comp	Sat 16 th November. <u>Helpers required for this.</u>