

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 163 - JAN 2020

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Founded Oct 18th 1909

MALCOLM STEWART 1939 - 2019: RIP



Hilary Bolton passed on news about the death of Honorary Life Member Malcolm Stewart of Badsey on 22 November. Malcolm had been unwell for some time and the last few years may have been seen as a trial for him and his family. Thankfully he is now at peace. Continued pg 3



Childswickham clapper refurbishments now complete see page 11

Editorial comment

During the AGM in October, the stark reality of no editor and a reduced newsletter was felt among members. It has been known for one year now that this key role for editor has been up for grabs

but no-one has felt able to take on the role so I find myself in the position of guest editor for this edition of the newsletter. If members approve of my ability then I will continue as editor. I am relatively new to the group

and lack the experience of some so will rely on others to send in their 'newsy' items to be added as has happened before. I look forward to your views and the next few editions of the newsletter. Alison Lee.

MALCOLM STEWART 1939 - 2019: RIP

Malcolm was a founder member of the Guild. He attended the preliminary meeting in March 1973 organised by Tony Brazier at the Church Rooms in Chipping Campden. This meeting was to gauge support for re-founding the FSG. A proposal was made to re-found it and there was plenty of support. Malcolm was one of the first members. On the 40th anniversary of this meeting in 2013 the Committee decided to confer HLF status on those founding members who were left. With Malcolm's passing, only four remain.

Malcolm assisted Tony with various practical things FSG-wise, most notably the clear-out of Saintbury belfry prior to a test ring to determine whether the bells at that time could be rung. The belfry was in an horrendous state, with twigs brought in by birds over very many years up to half-way up the waists of the bells (another helping was Clint Evans, who was also a founder member and HLF). The test ring didn't progress, as the bell frame was in a very poor state and things were left. Luckily, of course, Saintbury bells entered a new chapter a few years later, being rehung in modern style and then augmented to 8. The photo on the front page shows Malcolm and Tony together in Saintbury at the clear-out.

Hilary mentions that Malcolm used to be part of the regular team at Badsey, especially for Service ringing as well as looking after the churchyard with Clint Evans and John Bolton. He was always a willing handy man.

WALK & RING, September 21st 2019

We were welcomed at Tredington by a wonderful array of refreshments, tea, coffee and lovely home-made cakes. Please may I pass on my warm congratulations to the volunteers who provided this spread. It made a wonderful start to our tour.

The event was very well attended with a dozen or so ringers and one or two non-ringers; and of course we must not forget the dogs, who seemed to enjoy their change of routine.

The ringing at Tredington was at times of a high standard, but the beauty of this type of outing is that everyone rings what they are capable of, then strives to tax themselves to ring a little more. We left Tredington on such a glorious September day with temperatures in the mid-20s to walk to Honington, to be greeted there by Graham Nabb, who was just finishing off lubrication of the bells for us. Considering they are bells mounted on plain bearings, everybody handled them very well. The highlight was ringing some Stedman Doubles.



Tredington



Honington

On leaving Honington we all headed for Shipston, being led by Len, who guided us across wonderful countryside with the splendid weather, this was a real treat. On arriving at Shipston ringers went to several different venues for lunch, most sitting outside enjoying a well-earned pint.

The ringing at Shipston was very well enjoyed by all. But the highlight was to see the wonderful expressions of Steph's face as she tackled Bob Doubles.

Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to making it such a splendid outing. **John Carroll.**



Shipston

THE CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS (for Jan 2020 Newsletter)

I was recently in Lichfield Cathedral and remember ringing there when stationed in the RAF at Hednesford on Cannoke Chase while engaged in so-called 'squarebashing'. One of the Rugeley ringers, Mr Joyner (?), ferried me to one or two towers for which I was very grateful. Bell ringers tend to be very welcoming, which means that whenever we go to a tower we are made welcome. This means that we have friends all over the country who are universally encouraging, accommodating and helpful. While stationed at RAF West Drayton I hitch-hiked to ring at many towers, some quite long distances away such as Bath and Wells, and many in the Oxford area.

Certainly there is some disconnection between what may be called advanced method ringing and everyday ringing, for ringing does span a whole range of levels. Quite often, soon after mastering the handling of a bell and ringing rounds, we find ourselves helping others reaching that standard. Maybe only a few moments later other more experienced ringers are standing behind us as we make further progress.

Young ringers going at 18 to College or University find that from not knowing anyone in a strange town that they have immediate friends in the local tower. It has been said that Admission tutors when interviewing prospective students are favourable to applicants who state bell ringing as one of their interests or hobbies. This may be because ringers are known for their friendliness and for their intellectual skill in mastering change ringing and for their dedication.

Rev Dr Peter Newing

AROUND THE TOWERS, PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers

[Saintbury, Gloucestershire](#) St Nicholas, Saturday, 28 September 2019 in 51m (11-0-24) **1260 Spliced Triples** (1m/1p) 756 Changes of Grandsire, 504 changes of Stedman. 12 COM , 1 Nicholas K Allsopp ©, 2 Neil J Garner, 3 Rachel D Page, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Roger H Hunt, 6 Steve Bowley, 7 Harry Stephenson, 8 Christopher Tennant
1st spliced Stedman and Grandsire for the Guild, Rung as a Saturday @6 1/4 peal.

[Overbury, Worcestershire](#) St Faith, Friday, 4th October, 2019, **1440 Original Minor**, 1.Nick Allsopp, 2.Neil Garner, 3.Harry Stephenson, 4.Roger Hunt, 5.Steve Bowley, 6.Richard Lewis-Skeath©

Birthday wishes to ringers Paul Stephenson and Derek Bascombe, father and grandfather of Harry

[Offenham, Worcs](#), S Mary & S Milburgh, Monday, 11 November, 2019, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**, 1.Beccie Williams, 2.Neil Garner, 3.Clare Penny, 4.Alison Lee, 5.Martin Penny©, 6.Bob Topp

Rung half muffled as the sun set to honour all those who gave their life for their country

[Willersey, Glos](#) S Peter's, On Sunday, 17 November 2019, **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1.Stefanie Whittle, 2.Richard Lewis-Skeath©, 3.Claire Penny, 4.Robert Chadburn, 5.Martin Penny, 6.Bob Topp

[Badsey, Worcs](#), St James, Monday, 2 December 2019 in 45m (15-0-4 in F) **1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1 Stefanie Whittle, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Christina Ireland, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Roger Hunt (C), 6 Tom Sandham

[Offenham, Worcs](#), S Mary & S Milburgh 6 December 2019 in 51m (10-3-2 in F#) **1320 Plain Bob Doubles** 1 Alison Lee, 2 Beccie Williams, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Neil Garner, 5 Martin Penny ©, 6 Bob Topp, First Quarter inside - 2 Rung before Christmas Wonderland

[Pebworth, Worcs](#), St Peter, Wednesday, 18 December 2019 in 43m (11-3-9 in F#) **1260 Plain Bob Doubles** 1 Claire Penny, 2 Beccie Williams, 3 Alison Lee, 4 Tom Sandham, 5 Martin Penny ©, 6 Graham Lee

[South Littleton, Worcestershire](#), St Michael Archangel Tuesday, 24 December 2019 in 41m (8-1-1 in A) **1260 Stedman Singles** 1 Roger Hunt, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Neil J Garner ©, For Christmas Carol Service.

[Evesham, Worcestershire](#), The Bell Tower, Friday, 27 December 2019 in 40m (7-2-22 in C#) **1260 Grandsire Doubles** 1 David Povey, 2 Ian Povey, 3 Claire Penny, 4 Robert Chadburn, 5 Chris Povey ©, 6 Martin Penny. Rung to welcome to this world new additions to the Povey family in 2019; Ralph Arthur Hancox born 7th April, son of Megan & Rob and grandson for Robin & Carolyn Povey; Joseph Palmer Povey born 3 October, son of Anna & Ed and grandson for Jane & David Povey; and Willow Helena Povey born 6th November, son of Kathryn & Dominic, niece for Rose & Ian and grand-daughter for Helen & Chris Povey

[Imber, Wiltshire](#) St Giles, Saturday, 28 December 2019 in 2h 41 (2-2-15 in E) **5040 Cambridge Surprise Minor** 1 Henry J Stephenson, 2 Nicholas K Allsopp, 3 Rachel D Page, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Michael Chester, 6 Neil J Garner ©,

[Great Rissington, Gloucestershire](#) St John the Baptist Saturday, 28 December 2019 in 2h 50 (11-1-3 in F#) **5040 Minor** 4M: 2 extents Double Oxford, St Clement's CB, Plain. 1 extent Cambridge S.1 Nicholas K Allsopp, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Rachel D Page, 4 Neil J Garner, 5 Henry J Stephenson, 6 Michael Chester ©, 1st peal on the bells since 1962

Large proportion of band members from the four shires guild

[Great Hampton, Worcestershire](#), St Andrew, Saturday, 12 October 2019 in 2h 56 (12-2-4 in F#) **5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major** , 1 Michael Chester ©, 2 Roger H Hunt , 3 Rachel D Page, 4 Nicholas K Allsopp

5 Harry Stephenson, 6 Neil J Garner , 7 Steve Bowley, 8 Alison R Williams, First on 8 and of surprise: 5. Circled the tower: 1. Rung for the 50th anniversary of Roger's first peal, Grandsire Triples rung on these bells, 11/10/69. Also remembering Gerald Hemming 70 years on from his first peal, also Grandsire Triples rung on these bells, 16/7/49. Both ringers were taught to ring in this tower.

[Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire](#), Holy Trinity, Sunday, 20 October 2019 in 54m (19-0-2 in E) **1260 Grandsire Caters**, 1 Nick Allsop ©, 2 Rachel Page, 3 Roger Hunt, 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 5 Jane Gilbert, 6 Ian Bryan, 7 John Newbold, 8 Mark Sayers, 9 Charles Wilson, 10 Peter Bridges For Evensong

[Bretforton, Worcestershire](#), St Leonard, Saturday, 26 October 2019 in 2h 52 (8-3-11) **5152 Kent Treble Bob Major**

1 Michael Chester, 2 Rachel D Page, 3 Darran Ricks, 4 Neil J Garner, 5 Nicholas K Allsopp, 6 Alison R Williams, 7 Richard B Pullin ©, 8 Roger H Hunt, A Birthday Compliment today to local ringers Bill Boyce (81) and Roger Hunt (71).

[Salford Priors, Warwickshire](#), St Matthew, Saturday, 9 November 2019 in 2h 52 (15-0-14 in F#) **5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**, Composed by D F Morrison (No. 565), 1 Michael Probert, 2 Neil J Garner, 3 Rachel D Page, 4 Roger H Hunt, 5 Steve Bowley, 6 Robert Tregillus, 7 Roderic K Bickerton, 8 Michael Chester (C)

Vale of Evesham Society

[Blockley, Gloucestershire](#) St Peter and St Paul, Saturday, 5 October 2019 in 3h 14 (17-0-6 in F), **5039 Grandsire Caters** Composed by A M Tyler, 1 Michael Chester, 2 Raymon A Sheasby, 3 Neil J Garner, 4 Simon E Adams, 5 Rosemary K Hemmings, 6 Robert Tregillus, 7 Roger H Hunt, 8 Roderic K Bickerton, 9 Peter G Holden ©, 10 Nicholas K Allsopp, 100th peal for the Society: 2



One FSG members needs a mention for this reason to ring a peal, St Nicholas's Society

Islip, Oxfordshire, St Nicholas, Friday, 6 December 2019 in 2h 48 (8-1-7 in G), **5088 St Nicholas's Day Surprise Major**, Composed by Nathan J Pitstow

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Nicholas K Allsopp | 5 Nicholas J Clarke |
| 2 Nicholas A Elks | 6 Nicholas T Smith |
| 3 Nicholas A Churchman | 7 Nicholas J Green © |
| 4 Nicholas R Wilson | 8 Nicholas Wilkins |

First peal in the method. Rung on St Nicholas's Day.

Evesham, Worcestershire The Bell Tower Tuesday, 31 December 2019 in 3h 11 (14-2-23 in F#) **5040 Cambridge Surprise Royal** Composed by C K Lewis 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath ,2 Roger H Hunt, 3 Nicholas K Allsopp, 4 Rachel D Page, 5 Robert Tregillus, 6 Jonathon R Chester, 7 Paul V W Feast, 8 Simon E Adams, 9 Ian N Robinson, 10 Michael Chester ©, First peal of Surprise Royal: 6. Rung to mark the end of 2019

FSG Christmas Party



Held at Badsey, on December 14th, a very enjoyable evening, plenty of good ringing to start, followed by a wonderful spread of food, drink and raffle prizes donated by members. Raucous carol singing ensued with Steve Bowley on the organ accompanied by Sue Bacon on the guitar, a healthy profit from the raffle goes towards the bell restoration fund. Thanks to the Badsey team for allowing us to use this venue and thank you to Stuart and Michael Cummings for organising and running the event.



40 YEARS AGO

[2nd January 1980:](#)

Committee Meeting held at Badsey Fields Road on 22nd January 1980 at 7.30

All members present

The Minutes were read and signed by the Guild Master as a correct record of the previous meeting

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Donation to Whichford. Mr Carter reported offering the Tower Captain £1 for the stay which was broken at a Saturday practice. The offer was refused, so a donation to the Church was suggested

Campaign/Open Afternoon:

A J Brazier suggested a Journal write-up and Mr Fairfax offered to contact a reporter. The following items are to be on display at the Tower: Newsletters, Ringing Worlds, Cup and Shield, Scrap book. The following Committee members have offered to be at the Tower: Mr Fairfax, AJ Brazier, J Nicholls, J White, and Mrs P Linsdell. It was stressed that the Committee work hard to bring a good number of interested people.

Bell Fund (Bell maintenance, repairing, replacing overhauling):

AJ Brazier explained the reason for considering a Bell Fund. He said it would be completely separate from the Guild with the possibility of its own Committee: The Fund would rely on donations. He ended by offering to compile a report

Annual Dinner:

Mr Fairfax said that Mr & Mrs Wratten would be unable to come due to a prior engagement. He proposed asking Mr Wratten to come next year instead, seconded by AJ Brazier and carried.

The replica Shield has been ordered, but may be slightly different from last year's. The cost is about £5.

Peals:

AJ Brazier proposed encouraging members to credit peals to the Guild. Seconded by J Nicholls and carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported having settled the Ringing World's account for the Guild for 1978 but not 1979. AJ Brazier proposed accepting the Treasurer's figures as correct, and carried.

Signatures for Cheques and Building Society:

AJ Brazier proposed that the Guild Master and Treasurer complete the forms for change of signatures as forms require. Seconded by P Harmer and carried.

Amendment to the Rules:

AJ Brazier felt that any member paid up for the previous five years should, on reaching 60 years, become an honorary member. He suggested that under Membership iii should now read: 'i, Persons, who have reached the age of 65 years and have taken part in the activities of the Guild prior to 1940, ii been a paid-up ringing member for the previous five years are entitled to become an Honorary Life Member upon application to the Secretary'. This proposal will go forward to the AGM.

Any Other Business:

P Harmer reported that Cleeve Prior Tower are very keen to be included in the FSG area. This produced a long discussion about 'The Area', which was then postponed until the next meeting called to deal with the question.

Next Committee Meeting: 11th March, 7.30 Colebrook Courtyard.

(Signed) M.F.Fairfax 11/3/80

11th March 1980:

Committee Meeting held at 2 Colebrook Courtyard, Blockley on the 11th March 1980.

Apologies: P Harmer.

Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Bell Fund: AJ Brazier asked the Committee to read the 'Bell Restoration Fund' leaflet obtained from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, to consider the feasibility and implications of beginning such a Fund.

Open Afternoon: The Open Afternoon organisation is as follows: S Carter to be in charge of ringing; MF Fairfax and AJ Brazier will explain bellringing; Mrs P Linsdell in charge of tea and coffee. A small display of articles connected with bellringing will be on show.

may enter the Competitions subject to the approval of the Committee on a formal application and also subject to Competition rules.

(Signed) MF Fairfax 5/8/80

The Guild Boundary: after a lengthy discussion as to where our boundary is, the extra-territorial boundary and the possibility of including new towers in 'our area' the Committee decided to keep the Area as defined on the map published in the Newsletter from time to time. As to the question of towers participating in the Striking Competitions from outside 'the Area' the Committee decided that: towers from outside the Area may enter the Competitions subject to the approval of the Committee on a formal application and also subject to Competition rules.

(Signed) MF Fairfax 5/8/80

FROM THE ARCHIVES:- 100 YEARS AGO

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

Striking competition

Due to the reduction of the newsletter the Autumn archives for 100 years ago were not researched, interestingly after a lapse of 5 1/2 years the striking competitions were recommenced at 2pm at Saintbury, on October the 29th, 1919 the weather was unfavourable but there was a fair number of members present and 4 towers took part in the events, namely Blockley, Campden, Shipston and Willersey. Mr J Williams of Longborough was appointed judge and the results were as follows:-

<u>Rising and falling</u>	<u>Rounds</u>	<u>Call changes</u>	
Campden 89%	Campden 95%	Shipston 94%	There was no competition in method ringing.
Willersey 84%	Shipston 91%	Campden 93%	
Shipston 73%	Willersey 82%	Willersey 91%	
Blockley 40%	Blockley 77%	Blockley 69%	

GUILD AGM AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS 2019, Saturday, 19th October 2pm

This year the competition was held at St Michael's and All Angels church, Guiting Power with Norman doorways dating from the 12th century in a beautiful rural setting. It was well represented, 4 Bands took Part in the Brazier trophy and 2 bands plus a scratch band in the Newing shield, the judge was Martin Mellor all the way from Burbage, Leicestershire. We had lovely sunshine during an afternoon of ringing with refreshments in the village hall, and a wonderful spread of food provided by many including an impressive cream cake from Pat Bell and delicious sandwiches by Jackie Hands, the catering and hot drinks were organised by Stuart and Michael Cummings and helpers including Jackie Roberts, Jackie Hands and several others. The service was conducted by Peter Banton a ringer from the Ebrington team and the organ played by Steve Bowley and afterwards again to the village hall for the AGM.



Long draft ropes which proved a challenge at times.

GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2020 To be held at The Northwick Hotel, Waterside, Evesham

At 7.00 for 7.30pm.

(The Hotel has an extensive car park at the rear)

MENU

Starters

Cream of carrot and parsnip soup with crisp croutons
Duck paté with a redcurrant and cranberry coulis with
Grand Marnier and Seville orange chutney served with Melba toast

Main Courses

Slow Roasted Silverside of Beef, Yorkshire pudding and roasted shallot and red wine sauce
Baked fillet of haddock, parsley and chive white wine sauce served with a wholegrain mustard mash
Roasted vegetable and Halloumi tart with cherry tomato sauce
(All accompanied with baby Chantenay carrots sliced runner beans, cauliflower cheese and potatoes)

Desserts

Desserts

Chocolate torte and white chocolate ice cream with Maltesers
Apple and blackberry crumble with Crème Anglaise
Tea or coffee and mints to Follow

Cost per person £26.50

In cash or cheque please on the night

ORDERS TO THE FOLLOWING BY 15TH JAN 2020 AT THE LATEST.

Peter Quinn: 01789-840827; peter-quinn22@gmail.com,

Michael Dane: 01789-470491; landm.dane@btinternet.com,

Stuart Cummings: 01608-685576; stuartcummings@madasafish.com

There will be a Speaker and the Striking Competition trophies will be presented
Please note that dinners can only be cancelled at least 72 hours before the event: otherwise must be paid for in full

Four Shires Guild of Bellringers

Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held on Saturday 19th October 2019 in Guiting Power Village Hall, following the Striking Competitions and the Guild Service held in St Michael's Church, Guiting Power. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair, accompanied by Vice-President Freda Cleaver. Members attending numbered 24. Handouts of the agenda, Minutes of the 2018 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 two teams competing for the Newing Shield (plus one 'scratch' team) and four teams competing for the Brazier Trophy. The judge was Martin Mellor from Burbage, near Hinkley, Leics.

The Brazier Trophy competition:

1 st Willersey (B)	33 faults (awarded Brazier Cup)
2 nd Pebworth	50 faults
3 rd Childswickham	55 faults
4 th Willersey (A)	(incomplete test piece)

The Newing Shield competition:-

1 st Ilmington ((PB Doubles)	6 faults overall	awarded the Newing Shield.	Judged as 'enjoyable throughout'.
2 nd Pebworth/Offenham (PB Doubles)	8 faults overall	awarded the Spencer Jones Cup	
'Scratch' (ineligible for placing)	9 faults overall	(rang Cambridge S Minor)	

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. (To be announced)

The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner in February 2018

Apologies: were received from the Peter Quinn, Isobel and Keith Murphy, John Wheeler, Robert Hall, Chloe Honeywell, Michael Dane, Hilary Bolton, Paul and Sylvia Smith, Bill Nash, Annie Cunningham, Michael Haynes, Hazel Davies, Mike Rees, Ruth Travis and Stef Whittle.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting: These were published in the January 2018 Newsletter (nr 155) and were taken as read. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and were signed as such by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising: There was none.

5 Guild Master's Report 2017-2018: taken as read and accepted. There was nothing arising.

6 Treasurer's Report: The draft Guild accounts to 31st December 2017 appeared in the April 2018 Newsletter (no 156). 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 Examiner has already signed them off. It was proposed by Andrew Fleming, seconded by Nick Allsopp, that the accounts be adopted: carried.

7 Election of President and Vice-Presidents (to serve for 3 years):

It was proposed by Richard Lewis-Skeath and seconded by Nick Allsopp that the present incumbents of

these positions be re-elected en bloc. There were no other candidates proposed, these members were re-elected

8 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer)

Guild Master: Peter Quinn was prop Chris Povey and sec John Nicholls. There being no other candidates, Peter was re-elected.

Ringing Master: Richard Lewis-Skeath was prop John Carroll and sec Jackie Hands. There being no other candidates, Richard was re-elected.

Secretary: Chris Povey was prop Andrew Fleming 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.

9 Election of the Committee and Accounts Examiners: The existing six Committee members were asked if they were content to be re-elected. They were. It was prop by Andrew Fleming, sec by Jackie Roberts, that they be re-elected en bloc: 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 Election of two Central Council representatives (to serve for 3 years).

It was prop by Jackie Roberts and sec by Georgie Roberts that Chris Povey and Matthew Kemble continue: carried

11 Proposal from the Committee:

It is proposed that the attribution of a peal to the Guild shall require at least half (50%) of those having rung the peal to be fully paid-up Guild members.

This was supported by the majority and was therefore carried.

12 Confirmation of new Members during the year:

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

Chloe Honeywell (Offenham)

Joshua Fiander (Bretforton)

Antonia O'Connell (Badsey)

David Hudson (Shipston)

Ruth Travis (Tredington)

Alan Stephens (Harvington)

Henry Stephenson (Ashton-u-Hill)

Clive Bater (Sherbourne)

David Hancocks (Welford-on-Avon)

Nicola Kimber (Moreton)

John Ellis (Badsey)

Kate Taylor (Childswickham)

Karen Faithful (Shipston)

Annie Cunningham (Moreton)

Neil Garner (Sth Littleton)

Andrew Fleming (Great Rissington) – rejoining.

Bob Horsnell (Sherbourne)

All the above were accepted by the assembly nem con.

13 Notifications from the Committee:-.

(a) new rule change concerning accounts examiners

Following the change agreed at the 2018 AGM, that the Guild will have one Accounts Examiner instead of two, the relevant rule in the Guild Handbook (Ringers' Rules; Independent Examiners, p.3) will change to: There shall be **one** Independent Examiner, elected annually at the AGM on the recommendation of the Committee. **He or she** will examine all the accounts of the Guild and report on the same to the Committee. **He or she** need not be **a member** of the Guild. (*Changed wording shown in bold.*) Future editions of the Guild Handbook will be amended to include this wording

(b) notification of the Standing Procedure concerning new members and their proposers as agreed by the Committee at the February 2019 meeting

That:- Members elected during the year be present at the AGM and introduced by their proposers.

They are to be given a membership certificate. *(This procedure will commence with the 2020 AGM, when membership certificates are ready for use. See back page of this issue for information about a competition for designing the membership certificate.)*

(c) That the Minimus Competition be restricted to 4 bells only.

12 Any other Business (at the Chairman's discretion):

Four items were raised:-

The Hon Secretary reminded members that the Guild now has a revised Safeguarding Policy, as agreed by the Committee. This has been mentioned in the Newsletter. Copies are available to any member who wishes to have one. Contact the Hon Sec.

Membership certificate competition – only one entry so far. Please consider this and submit a design

John Carroll raised the future of the Newsletter now that the present editor is finishing in this post. It was recognised that dissemination of information is very important. The Committee was asked to consider how this can be achieved if a new editor for the Newsletter cannot be found.

Stuart Cummings thanked those who had brought food for the event and those who had helped prepare teas and coffee – and those who washed-up, etc, afterwards

The Meeting closed at 6-50pm

Chris Povey

Hon. Secretary.

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

AROUND THE TOWERS PEOPLE AND PLACES

(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.)

Willersey

Robert Chadburn and various helpers had a very successful training day at Willersey on Saturday November 10th, It was well represented by several of their team members who attended at 30 minute intervals for individual tuition, food was even provided and enjoyed by all.



On Sunday, 17 November 2019, Willersey, [Glos](#), 1260 Grandsire Doubles

1. Stefanie Whittle, 2. Richard Lewis-Skeath ©, 3. Claire Penny, 4. Robert Chadburn, 5. Martin Penny, 6. Bob Topp

Rung to celebrate the 90th birthday of Phyllis Brazier, former ringer and much-valued regular supporter of this tower. The band were pleased to join Phyllis and her daughters after the ringing for cake in the church.

The band with Phyllis, clockwise from front left, Stefanie Whittle, Richard Lewis-Skeath, Martin Penny, Bob Topp & Claire Penny (missing-Robert Chadburn).

[Badsey, Worcestershire](#), St

James Monday, 2 December

2019 in 45m (15-0-4 in F)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Stefanie Whittle, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath, 3 Christina Ireland, 4 Steve Bowley, 5 Roger Hunt ©, 6 Tom Sandham

With the band's congratulations and best wishes to local resident Phyllis Brazier, retired ringer and past Guild Vice-President, celebrating her 90th birthday today.



Bretforton, worcestershire



Rung on the Feast of St Thomas before breakfast, in The Fleece Inn and wishing George a Happy Birthday on his 71st today

Bretforton, Worcestershire, St Leonard, Saturday, 21 December 2019 in 20m (8-3 -11 in F#) **Call Changes** 1 Fiona Gibson, 2 Christina Ireland, 3 Roger Hunt ©, 4 Alan Curry, 5 Josh Fiander, 6 John Cleveland, 7 George Jelfs

Bretforton, Worcestershire St Leonard, Tuesday, 24 December 2019 in 10m (8-3-11 in F#)

Rung prior to the Crib Service. First rounds unassisted for Thea, **Call Changes** 1 Roger Hunt ©, 2 Rob Newman, 3 Thea Jenkins, 4 Bill Boyce, 5 Tony Shilham, 6 Alan Curry, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs

Bretwickhamton's 'Xmas Clanger' - the annual festive ring with refreshments and wishing Fiona a Happy Birthday for yesterday

Church Lench, Worcestershire All Saints Monday, 30 December 2019 (13-3-26 in G) **Call Changes** 1 Fiona Gibson, 2 Thea Jenkins, 3 Clare Davies, 4 Christina Ireland, 5 Nikki Goffage, 6 Roger Hunt ©, 7 John Cleveland, 8 George Jelfs, 9 Rob Davis, 10 David Chambers



L-R: Nikki, Fiona, John, Christina, George, Clare, Roger, Thea, David & Rob with Xenia and Heidi in front.

Childswickham clapper refurbishment

The ringers at St Mary the Virgin **Childswickham Worcs**, have been busy over the past few weeks. Whilst having their Clappers re-bushed, pulley boxes overhauled and the treble rope moved away from the wall by Taylors bell founders they have repainted the bell frame and head stocks spruced



up the ringing chamber with a much needed new carpet and a general de-clutter.

Don't miss the the FSG practice here on the March 14th



Sunday 15 December for the carol service, First ring on the bells and first service ringing for 10 year old Freddie Barwise. L-R back row, Graham Lee, Rob Moon, Bill Wadsworth, Colin Sagar, Philip Milward, Front row Freddie Barwise, Alison Lee, Kate, Taylor,

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, 19th NOVEMBER

The Committee met on Tuesday 19th November at the Church House, Evesham.

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** Richard, Stuart.
- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting:** agreed as correct and signed as such.
- 3) **Matters Arising:-** None
- 4) **Discussion re continuing affiliation to the Central Council.**

Alison Hodge (FSG member) attended to answer questions about continuing to affiliate to the Central Council. She is a CC Work Group Leader and thus somebody at high level in the organisation. Her answers encouraged a proposal and seconding to continue affiliation, to which there was agreement.

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

Guild Master: the Guild Annual Dinner is booked and the deposit paid

Hon Secretary: Chris had received no proposals and secondings for new members. It was agreed to renew the Guild's insurance cover for 2020. It seems possible our insurance cost is high due to the Guild's valuable silverware is on 'all risks'. This aspect will be discussed at the next meeting.

Treasurer: Michael provided a written report about finances.

Newsletter Editor: The recent 'cut-down' Newsletter was discussed, ie 'how do we continue from here?' There is a need still to get information to members; and also to take advantage of income from advertisers. Could we disseminate information without a Newsletter, eg digitally. Will discuss at the next meeting, but all to give this some thought beforehand

CCCBR: discussed earlier in meeting.

6) **Bell Restoration Fund:**

Michael confirmed there was £3701 of unallocated money available for grants

Grant applications for consideration:

The application from Didbrook was considered. It was proposed by Peter, sec by Nick, that £600 be offered. Agreed. Chris to inform the applicants of the grant.

A new grant application from Hinton-on-the-Green had been received and distributed. This will be considered at the February meeting.

7) **Items for discussion:-**

Recent events:

Walking & Ringing Tour, Sat 21st September: John C reported that this was very successful.

AGM & Striking Comps, Sat 19th Oct. Chris reported that this went very well: a good event.

Inter-Shire Comp, Sat 16th Nov. By universal Committee agreement this was cancelled. There may be a better time in the year to run this. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Future events:

Xmas Party: to be at Badsey again, on Sat Dec 14th.

Annual Dinner: Saturday 1st February 2020 at the Northwick Hotel, Evesham.

8) **Proposals for a competition for**

designing a membership certificate.

Chris reported that six entries had been received. They were displayed. It was a close-run thing between two entries and by a narrow margin that from John Martin of Aston Cantlow was judged the winner.

9) **AOB:**

There were two items:-

Kathy McCarthy enquired whether all colours available for the Guild clothing were able to be sold. The Committee agreed that they could be: ie, no restriction.

Converting to a charity: Michael asked whether he may continue investigating this aspect. Agreed. Will discuss at the next meeting ..

10) **Next meeting:**

the next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th February 2020 at Wellesbourne.

Future Committee meeting dates: May, Aug & Nov in 2020, *NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes)*

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/>

!! SUBSCRIPTIONS !!

Yes, folks, it's that time again: FSG subs are due on 1st January 2020. The rates are £5 for members and £2 for Juniors (under 18). Please pay as soon after this date as possible, as it benefits the Guild. (Please note: there is no Non-Resident Life Membership category. An annual subscription is required to retain membership.)

Payment may be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer. It would assist greatly if, when paying by cash, you use the payment slip attached to this Newsletter.

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 deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (April 2020) is March 13th 2020

I will need your help so send me your news, please contribute something, however small (or large)! all items welcome. It will be easier if articles are sent by e-mail but hand written ones will equally be used.

Newsletter Editor: Alison Lee Postal and email addresses page 2.

Please let me know ownership of photos for acknowledgement where relevant. If you have a long article, you might consider breaking it into parts.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENT

2020

JAN 4 TH	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks	8, 15-0-22 in F# (GF)
JAN 11 TH	TODENHAM, Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
JAN 18 TH	WELLESBOURNE, Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
JAN 25 TH	OFFENHAM, Worcs	6, 10-3-2 in F# (GF) *NOTE* 7-00PM.TILL 8-30PM

FEB 1ST* ANNUAL DINNER AT THE NORTHWICK HOTEL EVESHAM *

FEB 8THSTOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos 8, 27-2-24 in D

FEB 15 TH	CLEEVE PRIOR, Worcs	6, 8-3-26 in G
FEB 22 ND	GREAT HAMPTON, Worcs	8, 12-2-10 in F#
FEB 29 TH	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F

MAR 7 TH	WINCHCOMBE, Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#
MAR 14 TH	CHILDSWICKHAM, Worcs	6, 11-3-26 in F#
MAR 21 ST	ILMINGTON, Warks	8, 12-3-26 in E (GF)
MAR 28 TH	CROPTHORNE, Worcs	6, 10 cwt in F#
APR 4 TH	BARFORD, Warks	6, 4-3-22 in B (T.B.C)
APR 11 TH	*NOTE* NO SATURDAY PRACTICE THIS WEEK * EASTER SATURDAY *	
APR 18 TH	CHERINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE	6, 5-3-22 in F# (*DON'T GO TO GLOS ONE*)
APR 25 TH	T.B.A.	

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 email-able.)

Events for 2020: book the dates now:

GUILD ANNUAL DINNER SAT 1ST FEB SEE DETAILS IN NEWSLETTER PAGE 7

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.)

MORE NOTICES AND ADVERTS

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