

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central



Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 170- October 1st 2021

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Founded Oct 18th 1909

Notice of 2021 annual general meeting And striking competition

On Saturday 16th October 2021, at the church of St Peter, Wellesbourne, warks

Order of the day

Bells: 6, 10-0-24 in G, (back six)

2:00pm Brazier Cup Striking Competition

3:00pm Newing Shield Striking Competition

5:00pm Service in the church

5:45pm Annual General Meeting (in the church)

The AGENDA for AGM is:-

Tower representatives can collect recruitment leaflets as required

1. Results of striking competitions.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM (in January Newsletter 159)
4. Matters Arising:- Guild Masters Report,
5. Treasurers Report for 2019 and 2020 included in April 2020 Newsletter.
6. Election of President and Vice –Presidents to serve for 2 years. (Note that Freda Cleaver wishes to stand down and a new Vice President is required).
7. Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer (Note the previous Hon Sec will not be standing again and that a new Hon Sec will need to be elected)
8. Election of Committee (6 members) and Honorary Accounts Examiner.
9. Election of two Central Council representatives (to serve for 2 years)
10. Confirmation of new members since the 2019 AGM
11. Any other business (at the chairman's discretion)

Entries to the striking competition are to be submitted to Richard Lewis-Skeath (Guild ringing Master)

Tea will be served in the church during the competition. Contributions of eats and drinks will be welcomed and the details of the requirements may be discussed with Jackie Hands and/or Michael and Stuart Cummings, as all three are well versed in this extremely important subject!

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

President

Mr John Nicholls

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Freda Cleaver

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

Chaplain

Rev Dr Peter Newing

Accounts Examiners

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

Mr Peter Quinn

Ringing Master

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

Hon Secretary

Mr Chris Povey

Hon Treasurer

Mr Michael Dane

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Christina Ireland

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Chris Povey

CCCBR Representatives

Mr Matthew Kemble

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Membership Secretary

Mr John Carroll

Mr Stuart Cummings

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Mew

Health and safety officer

Mr C Povey

Mr John Wheeler

Dr Nicholas Allsop

Mid-week Tours

General Contact

Mrs Isobel Murphy

News letter editor

Alison Lee

alison.lee.bellringer@gmail.com

Chaplains thoughts

It is great news that ringing in church towers has recommenced- in a somewhat limited way. This demonstrates our love of the 'exercise' and the commitment on the part of the ringers involved. Among our number we do have quite a few vulnerable people and we must ensure that they are safeguarded.

In late July we have the feast day of St James and I was preaching on the way in which James was called by Jesus to follow him. In response, James left everything that he had been doing and followed Jesus with great commitment. We may ask the question, 'Have we been called to be bell ringers?' If we have we must ensure that we are very committed. We also look for two qualities in our new recruits; that they are committed and also determined to make progress.

Almost anyone, of any age, can learn provided that they have these two attributes. May we soon return to totally normal ringing in the next few months.

Rev. Peter Newing.

Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers Guild Masters Report for the year 2020– 2021

I am sorry to report that your Guild in the year 2020 to 2021 has been inactive due to Covid-19 however your committee has been looking after certain Guild business by holding committee meetings mostly by email.

Our Treasurer Michael Dane will make his report for 2020 at this years AGM to be held on Saturday 16th October however the accounts will be published in the magazine.

The weekly practices have been suspended during the pandemic but will commence when it is felt safe to do so probably the later part of 2021 or the early part of 2022

The website under Roland Merrick is still projecting news of the Guild to all web users.

The Guild Magazine it is now distributed and read online but if anyone does want a paper copy they can request it.

People may have read a number of times that Chris Povey is tendering his resignation at the AGM we must thank him for all the work he has done during his time in that office.

Alison Lee is the new editor of "The Four Shires Magazine" and our thanks must go to her for producing such an excellent product after taking over from Chris Povey, the magazine has taken on a new dimension, in editorial content. The printing is still completed "in house" on home printers by a few loyal members producing a good quality magazine, this of course keeps our cost down significantly, but during the pandemic the magazine has been distributed online.

We were of course very sorry to have to cancel the 2021 Annual Dinner also the 2022 dinner has been cancelled, it is hoped the dinner will be revived in 2023 we also hope to have a Guild event during the summer of 2022 when we see things getting some way back to normal.

Published in the Magazine is always an abridged copy of the current minutes of each Guild Committee meeting so that all members are notified of any important business, and they can inform the secretary of any items they want discussed at committee meetings or need clarification.

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

To continue giving grants to worthy applications we must increase our funding other-wise our grants will be too small to make a useful contribution to a project, ways of doing this are being considered by the committee, we are also looking at the ways other Guilds operate their funding schemes, in the meantime thanks go to all members who have made extra donations to the fund this has made a real difference.

Finally thanks should go to all officers and members of the committee for their commitment and hard work, during the uncertain times

Peter Quinn – Guild Master

Bell Fund Appeal

Thanks to a very generous donation at the end of last year, the committee were able to increase the maximum grant that we are able to offer. This year so far we have given £1364 in grants to 5 churches and have another £800 allocated.

As we decided to waive the membership subs for this year because of lockdown and the pandemic, it was suggested that members may wish to donate the equivalent of their sub to the Bell Fund instead. Many members have done this and now that most towers are back up ringing and meeting, I would like to encourage other members to make a donation to this very worthy fund. Donations can be paid direct into the guild's bank account by BACS using the details at the back of this newsletter or by sending them to me.

Thanks, Michael (Hon Treasurer).

Editorial

Great to start having news from people doing different bell ringing activities around the Four Shires. Peals, quarters, ringing for weddings, hand bell ringing and just general practices all slowly getting back to normal. I'm looking forward to the FSG recommencing the weekly Saturday practice and visiting towers where there are not enough ringers to move on to methods without the help of this weekly event, this was one of the things I found impressive when I first joined a few years ago. These practices are making a

cautious come back starting with ground floor rings on a monthly basis, see the last page of this newsletter.

The recruitment leaflet has been given the go ahead from the FSG and they have been printed, I'm told they look stunning! They will be available for collection from Wellsbourne at the AGM on 16th October, for those that want a stock for advertising their next open day or ringing event or simply posting through letter boxes as a flyer.

Several positions within the FSG will be

re-elected at the AGM so please do attend, give some thought to the positions available and put yourself forward, just one hour or two per week is not much to ask and without these volunteers the FSG as we know it may not be able to continue. I was brave enough to try my hand at newsletter editing with no previous experience, it turns out it doesn't take up as much time as I imagined and even though I am an inexperienced ringer the newsletter appears to be adequate for the Guilds needs.

Alison Lee

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2021 IN PERSON AT CHURCH HOUSE, EVESHAM (THE FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING SINCE 18TH FEB 2020)

1 **Apologies for absence:** Christina, John W, John C.

The Newsletter Editor, Alison Lee, joined the meeting to discuss the 'Learning to ring' flyer.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11th May by email submission**

The Minutes were agreed and signed as such. Minutes of the meetings held in May, Aug and Nov 2020, and in Feb 2021, which had been agreed by email, were signed by the Master to formally confirm them.

3 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

Reports

4.1 **Secretary:** this mainly concerned updates from the lockdown period:-

- a) the Principal Officers made some decisions where speed was required: essentially grant matters;
- b) a letter from the CCCBR President asked for views on reducing the number of CC reps. This was sent to all for comment. There were two responses, both in agreement. Guild response was this;
- c) death of Robert Hall (Guild Independent Examiner) on 11th May reported at the time, but reported here formally. An Obituary was published in the July Newsletter.

4.2 **Treasurer:** Michael provided a note re finances prior to the meeting. As of 06/08/2021 the General Fund contains £1,252.25 (although there will be a cost of printing the 'Learn to ring' flyers: see later; and printing of Newsletters as previously will re-start).

4.3 **Other:** none

5 **Bells Repair Fund**

Finance: Michael reported grants to Honington and Moreton-in-Marsh have recently been paid (see below), plus allocated funds to Childswickham, Didbrook, Halford and Aston Cantlow are awaiting completion or inspection prior to payment. The unallocated total at 06/08/2021 was £4,689.30..

Update on grants:

Moreton-in-Marsh clock move: complete and grant paid

Aston Cantlow: work complete and grant to be paid

Didbrook: fundraising on-going, but additional funds for tower repairs have been required. An extension to the time limit has been requested, which was agreed. Work to start in November

Halford: work complete, but a reduction was made to cover a reduction in work content (ropes)

Honington: work complete and grant paid

Childswickham: payment of remainder of grant to cover recent arrival of set of new ropes

6 **'Learning to ring' flyer**

This is a venture master-minded by Alison Lee (Newsletter Editor). The Committee supported it, generally and financially. Some minor amendments were agreed. The Guild is willing to cover the cost of printing. The weight of paper to be 100gm/m². The intention is to target particular locations initially. Alison to 'sign-off' the final version after amendments. Michael to investigate printing costs, and if 'reasonable' to go ahead with printing: 3000 was suggested. **(Action: all re final amendments/Alison/MD)**

7 **AGM, 16th October Wellesbourne: includes Striking Comps.**

This is a change of venue, but the July Newsletter carried to change details

Peter reported that the location, Vicar and organist are all OK. Meeting to be in the church

There are a number of elections this time, including Hon Sec (Chris is resigning the post)

Master's Report required: to go in the October Newsletter **(Action: Peter)**

8 **Assessment of current membership**

Chris said we need to check who is still a member after the lockdown, as some have let their membership lapse, some have given up, or sadly have been lost through death.

9 **Subscriptions: to increase or stay the same**

Agreed to stay the same, although the cost of posting a Newsletter should rise to £4

10 **Resumption of Guild activities.**

Saturday practices: some were still hesitant about doing this. Agreed to have Saturday practices in GF towers on a one-per-month basis to start with: to start November. [Stuart said he was still cautious about covid and would prefer not to arrange towers until later on. Peter and Michael agreed to arrange a tower for one Saturday in November and similar in December](#) **(Action: Peter and Michael)**

Stuart said he was happy if somebody else wished to undertake the Saturday night arranging, as he had done this for 10 years now.

Xmas Party: Not this year.

Guild Dinner: yes, but to be wary of changes in covid restrictions **(Action: Peter)**

11 **AOB**

Is there a Plan B if nobody takes on the Hon Sec role? Unknown... (Nobody has come forward so far)

Chris suggested that an open invitation to attend these meetings should be extended to Alison as Newsletter Editor. This was

unanimously agreed.

12 **Date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that an extra committee meeting prior to the AGM should be held. This was agreed as Tuesday 5th October at Wellesbourne. There would be the normal post-AGM Committee meeting in November.

Chris Povey

Hon Sec

Quiz questions

! In which bell tower who's members are affiliated to the FSG within Gloucestershire has the first cast iron low sided bell frame by John Taylor and which year was it installed.

2. What is unusual about the bells of East Bergholt in Suffolk.

3. If a bell was dodging "DOWN" which way would they be heading. Towards the lead position or the back position?

Alison and Graham Lee



The Willersey team

This Sepia picture from Circa 1899 taken outside Rose Cottage in Willersey is of the then Willersey Hand Bell Ringers. One might say a happy looking bunch of campanologists, who probably weren't used to smiling in front of the camera!

Today, as we still have a very active group of church and handbell ringers - with a different gender balance - we decided to retake the scene outside the same cottage and as close to the same positioning as the original.

There is nothing nicer than listening to the tower bells pealing during the Thursday evenings and on Sunday mornings. It's part of what makes Willersey such a beautiful place to live and for the ringers to know that they are part of a long-standing village tradition.



" beards in a belfry"
guess which tower

Photograph
supplied by Frances
Chapman

From the archives 100 years ago

October 26th 1921, The half yearly meeting of the guild was held at Moreton on Wednesday Oct 26th. The proceedings commenced at 2pm, when Illmington opened the competition, followed by, Campden, Shipston and Blockley. Willersey having written to say that owing to the pinnacles of this tower being unsafe they were quite out of practice, and so were unable to take part in this meeting.

At 4:30 a special service was held in the church of St Davids, the preacher being the Rev G.E.Hitchcock, vicar of Campden. After the service the members adjourned to "The Rectory" where a splendid tea had been provided by Mrs Spencer Jones, and ably assisted at the tables by Mrs Richard Timms and other ladies.

At the business meeting the vicar of Campden was elected chairman. After the minutes had been duly read and passed, the chair-

Rising & Falling	Call changes	Method	Total
Shipston 79%	90%	86%	255
Campden 78%	93%	82%	253
Illmington 85%	88%	No competition	173
Blockley 76%	82%	No competition	158

man, read letters of apology for absence from the President, (Sir G.A.H.Wills). The Rev Spencer Jones, and Mr E.Harris, (Willersey). The judge (Mr E. Pardon) was then requested to disclose the results of the competitions which he gave as follows,

The average for the whole being 210, which number was allotted to Moreton as the non competitive tower. The totals for the two half-yearly competitions was as follows; Shipston, 531. Campden, 504, Moreton, 457. Illmington,330. Blockley, 314.

Shipston being the highest was then presented with the shield, to be held for the next 12 months. It was agreed to present certificates to Campden and Illmington as winners of call changes and rising & falling respectively.

The question of obtaining badges to be worn by members was left in the hands of the secretary. It was proposed by Mr C.Bird, seconded by Mr W.Harris that the spring meeting be held at Illmington, carried. Mr Richard Timms (Churchwarden) and the Rev W.L.Warne, who had accepted invitations to tea, both spoke of the pleasure they had derived from being present on this occasion, and they also rejoiced to see the good feeling shown, as everything had passed off very happily. Votes of thanks were proposed by the vicar of Campden to the Lady helpers at the tea, and to the Rev and Mrs Spencer Jones for the use of the room, and by the secretary to all those friends who had contributed in money or in kind towards the tea, these were duly seconded & carried with acclamation. This concluded another successful meeting.

Signed William J Guerrier

FROM THE ARCHIVES: 40 YEARS AGO

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at 3 Queens Road Shipston-on-Stour at 8.00pm 20 October 1981

Present MF Fairfax, AJ Brazier, J Nicholls, Jackie Taylor, A Turner, P Harmer

Apologies D Hammond

1 Minutes of the last meeting were read out, and signed by the Guild Master

2 Matters arising

Open afternoon: it was reported although only a few people attended some ringing was done and those who came enjoyed themselves. Mr Brazier suggested early advertising (up to 2 months in advance) is important to improve attendance. Mr Fairfax said the late press reporting of the event was very poor;

Outing: Mr Fairfax noted ringers tailed off towards the end of the day. Mr Brazier suggested one less tower be attempted next year

Todenham: the report in the Newsletter was noted;

AGM: date altered to 31st October. Offenham Village Hall would be available at a nominal fee;

Broadwell tower: the Secretary reported this tower would not be available for the 4th quarter of 1981. Discussion ensued.

3 Competition

Mr Fairfax reported arrangements were in hand but were still short of teams. He expressed concern for the future viability of the competitions. There was discussion on the number of towers capable of offering a team.. These were Mickleton, Offenham, Ebrington, Campden, Willersey, Blockley, Moreton, Childswickham. Mr Turner suggested if a tower could not raise enough ringers it should combine with another tower, eg Todenham and Shipston.

4 AGM

Mr Harmer was nominated as Secretary – prop J Nicholls, sec AJ Brazier;

Miss J Taylor was nominated as Ringing Master – prop AJ Brazier, sec MF Fairfax

Committed decided to recommend subscriptions increase to £1.00

5 Guild Activities

Mr Fairfax re-read the six points he made in his last report. It was noted no comments had been received;

Mr Brazier suggested practices be restricted to the centre of the Guild area. Mr Turner pointed out restricting the area would restrict members. Mr Fairfax suggested statistics be compiled of members attending each practice and particularly of local ringers present.

6 Annual Dinner

Mr Fairfax agreed to make enquiries about an alternative venue

7 Next meeting: AGM at Offenham.

Thanks were offered to Mr Turner for the use of his home.

Signed) MF Fairfax 3/2/82

Learning Methods - 'LOGOF'!

By Neil Garner

We are probably all familiar with the acronym 'BOGOF' - Buy One, Get One Free - it is a favourite which all the supermarkets regularly use to tempt us to spend. Amazingly, in ringing, we have a similar option, because it turns out that if you learn a method properly and know the starts for each place bell as well as knowing where you pass the treble.... and what follows, we can mix and match the snippets we create to effectively learn one method and then get not just one, but lots more..... absolutely free.

The key to this is splitting the line above and below the treble...

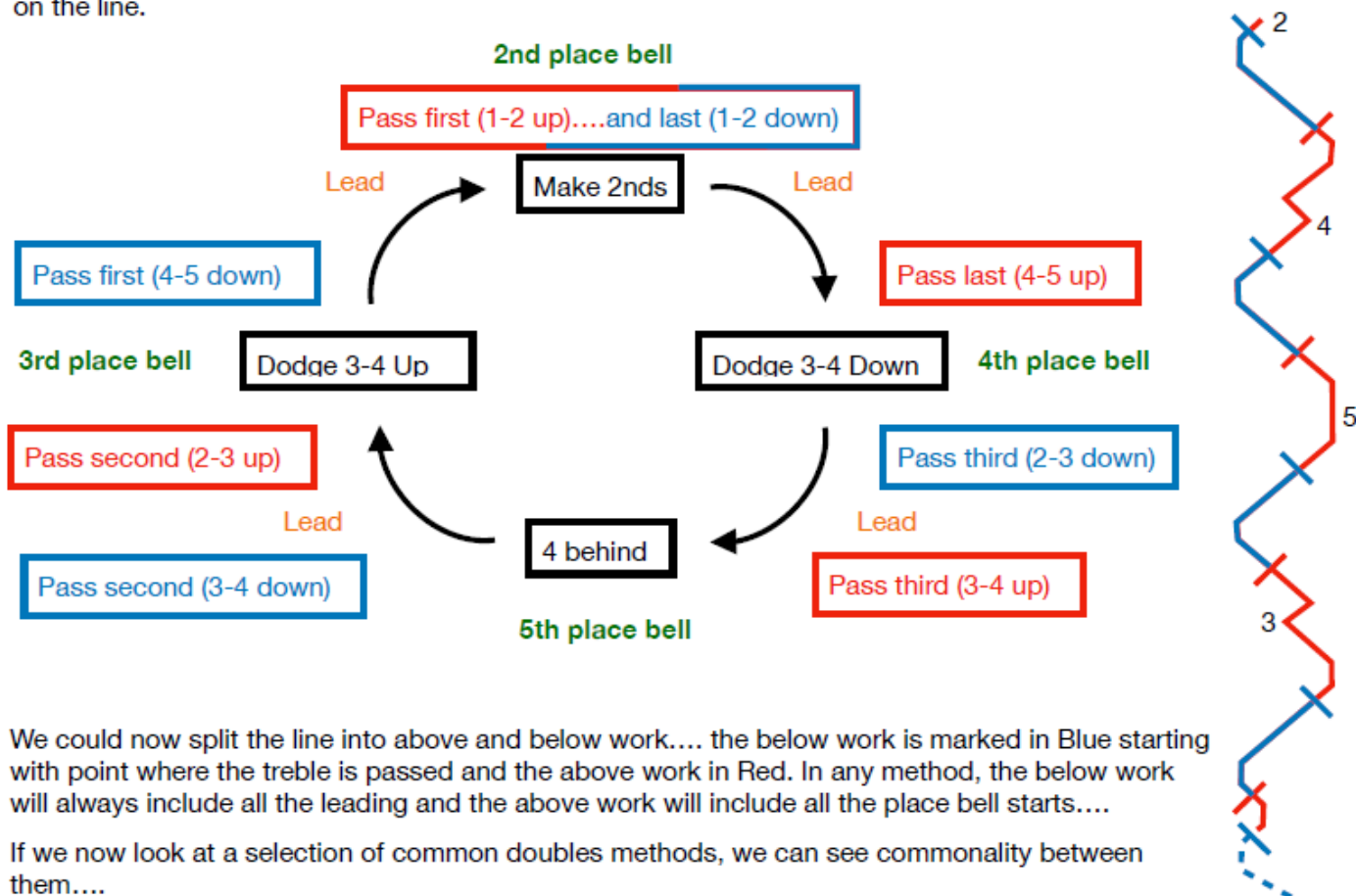
Above and a Below?

If you have learnt where you pass the treble, hopefully you will know what comes next... whether you are on the way up to the back or down to the front it can give you an indication as to where you are on a line. This has been a key element in everything we have looked at so far, from Plain Bob upwards and on any number of bells... It is always paramount that you know where you will pass the treble on the line, particularly if you intend ringing longer lengths, because it will allow you to re-affirm your position quickly and easily when your concentration is broken or something happens to distract you.... be it your mistake, someone else's mistake, you are concentrating on striking or something extraneous happens.... and of course, **No one can concentrate continuously for more a matter of minutes without a momentary lapse.**

Passing the Treble in Plain Bob Doubles

Let's just remind ourselves of something very simple... We all know the work in Plain Bob Doubles and for most, we will also ring by the treble.... We know that seconds place bell will pass the treble last (it is the bell before you lead at the start... and also the last when you hunt to the back). It will then move one place earlier after each dodge...

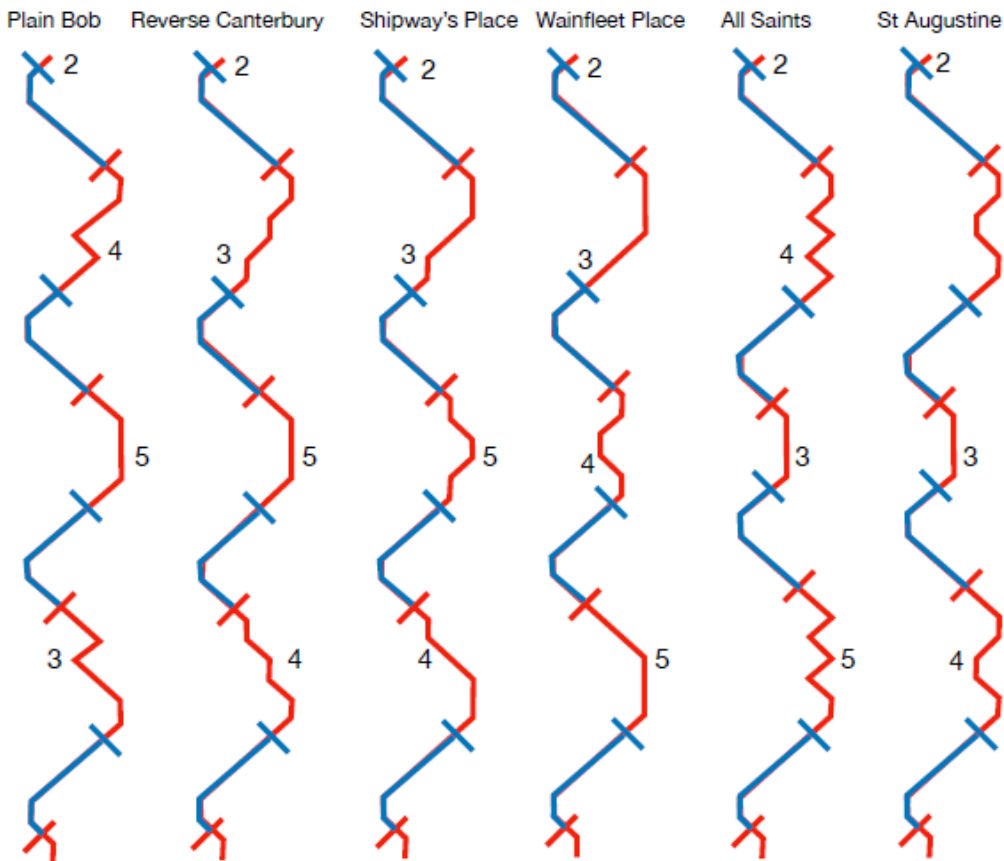
In the diagram we can see the circle of work with the leads, place bells and the treble passing places all colour coded - Red when you are going up and blue when coming down.... These are also marked in the same way on the line.



We could now split the line into above and below work.... the below work is marked in Blue starting with point where the treble is passed and the above work in Red. In any method, the below work will always include all the leading and the above work will include all the place bell starts....

If we now look at a selection of common doubles methods, we can see commonality between them....

Below Work



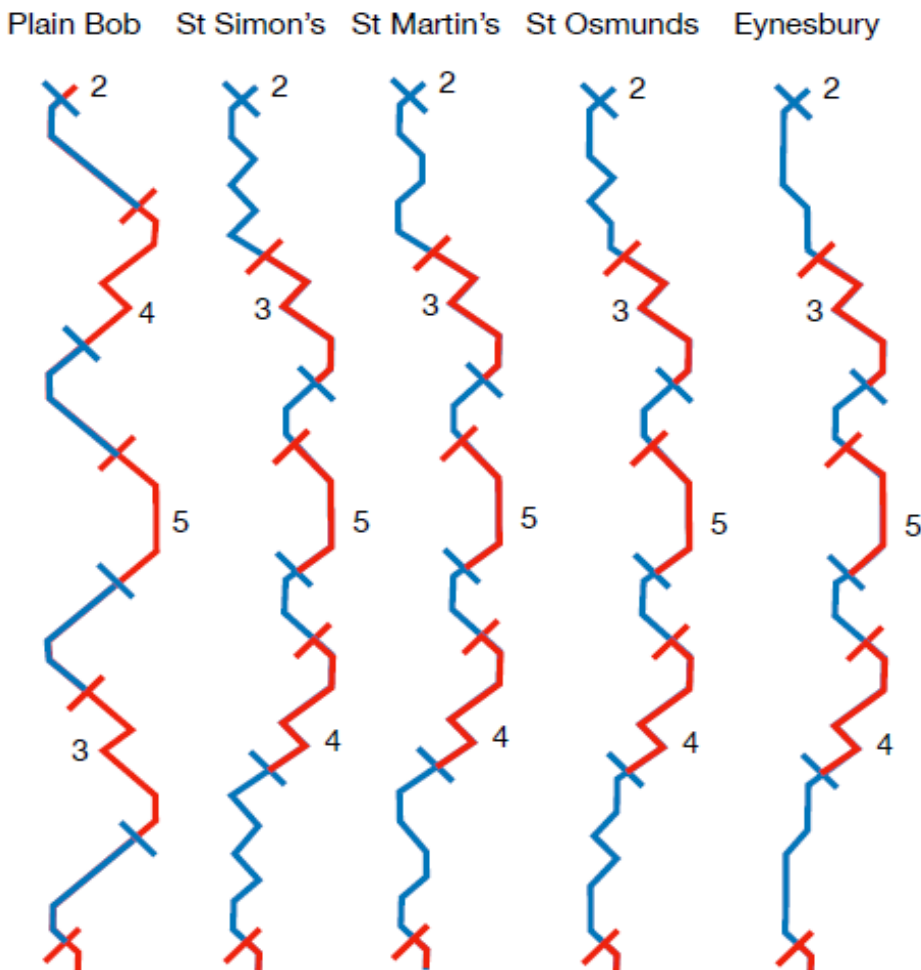
All these methods share the same **below work**...

The blue sections of the line are all the same, although All Saints and St Augustine's use those elements in a different order.

Because the above work is different, there are 5 different place bell orders.

These are not the only methods which share Plain Bob below the treble... I found at least 4 others without looking too hard, so there are probably several more!

Above Work



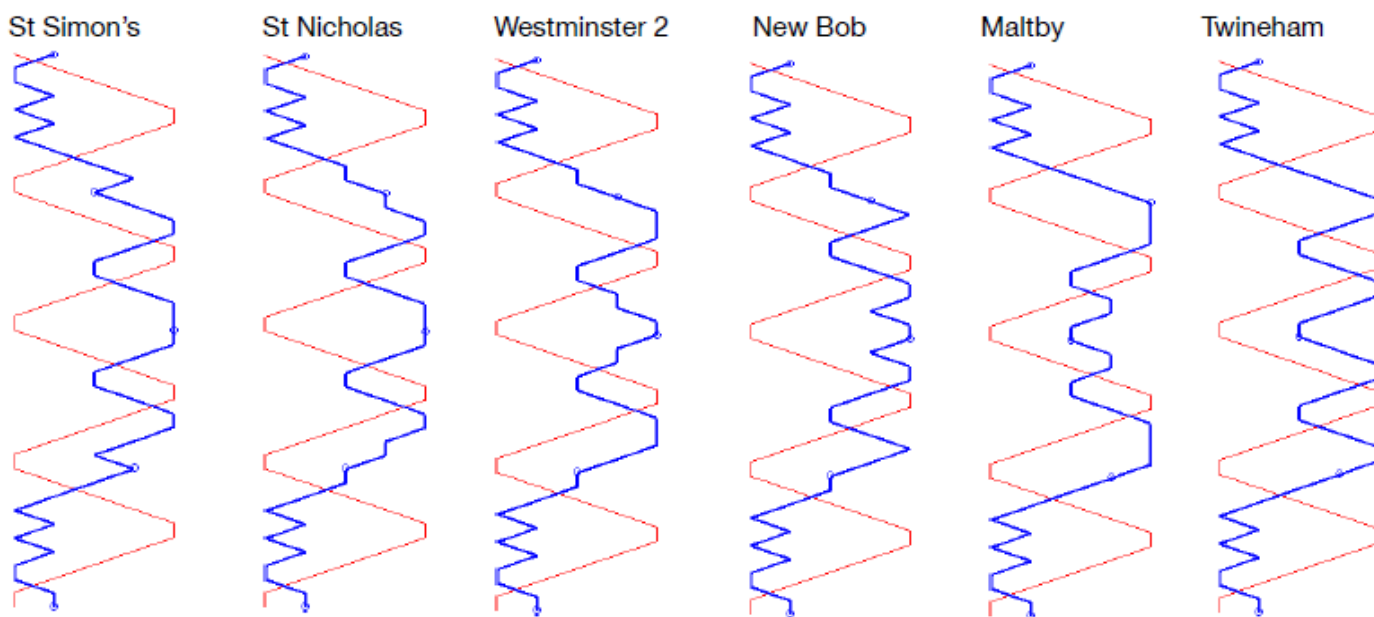
If you look carefully at these five methods, you will see that they all use the same **above work**. The same 4 red snippets of line appear, although not necessarily in the same order.

All except Plain Bob have a similar coursing order, and realistically the other 4 are very similar....just what happens in the 8 front work blows separates them.

These are the five 'standard' below works which can go with PB above.... there are at least 10 others, but, like Grandsire, they use bells which are not part of the main working pattern, so are a slightly different proposition, as they generally require more than just 'Bobs' to switch things around.

The Implications...

It probably does not take a rocket scientist to realise that if we have 5 below works and 6 different above works, we could combine them in different ways to make more methods... Actually, not all combinations work, but you will still get lots that do ...and we have only scratched the surface! St Simon's is often a common next step from Plain Bob... so then moving on to St Martin's, St Osmund's or Eynesbury is a simple and straightforward follow on. Learn Reverse Canterbury and you can then combine these four 'below works' to create St Nicholas, Winchendon Place, St Remigius and Huntley Place Learn Shipway's Place and you then get Westminster 2, Blackburn Place, St Hillary's and Strelley Place. Learn Wainfleet and you get Maltby, Chevasse Place, Callender and Merionethshire.... Each time an investment of learning no more than 20 changes (the 4 'above' snippets of line) and you get 5 more methods to add to the portfolio! You can even add above works which do not work with Plain Bob below - and get even more methods.... These 'above' examples all use the same St Simon's 'below' work... but New and Twineham have no straightforward Plain Bob relative.



It should now be becoming obvious how the 'advanced' bands manage to ring so many different methods in their peals and quarters... Realistically, for them it is probably more of an issue remembering the method names than the lines they label!

The learning investment for doubles is relatively small...just a few changes for each snippet, so next time, we will take this idea and see how it can be used with the more complex lines found in surprise....and with the long and complex lines and patterns they contain- the benefits will be so much more rewarding!

Quiz answers

1. Dumbleton, being first lowside Cl frame, by JT, historically important , 1892
 2. The bells are hung in a wooden cage type building in the church yard, there are 5 bells and they would be the heaviest 5 in the world if they were hung for traditional style ringing. These bells have no wheels or ropes and are rung full circle manually, ringing here is only done by the locals.
 3 The lead position, Down means "down towards the front"

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

South Northamptonshire Society, [Whilton, Northamptonshire](#), St Andrew, aturday, 7 August 2021 in 3h 10 (13-1-5 in F#), 5088 Higher Walton Surprise Major, [Composed by R D S Brown](#), 1Nicholas K Allsopp, 2Neil J Garner, 3Rosemary K Hemmings, 4lan N Robinson, 5Steve Bowley, 6Robert Tregillus, 7Roderic K Bickerton, 8Michael Chester (C)

Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers, [Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire](#), St David, Saturday, 4 September 2021 in 2h 51 (10-0-14 in G), 5088 Dunbar Surprise Major, [Composed by R D S Brown](#), 1Roger H Hunt, 2Neil J Garner, 3Henry J Stephenson, 4Steve Bowley, 5Robert Tregillus, 6Paul V W Feast, 7Nicholas K Allsopp, 8Michael Chester ©, Rung for the Moreton Show

[Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire](#), Holy Trinity, Friday, 3 September 2021 in 54m (19-0-2 in E), 1296 Grandsire Caters, composed by Mark B. Davies, 1Stuart Gibson, 2Nicola Piper, 3Roger Hunt, 4Gillian Loyd, 5Rachel Page, 6Richard Lewis-Skeath ©, 7Steve Bowley, 8Neil Garner, 9Stuart D Piper, 10Doug Bates

Rung following the wedding of Jeanette Davey and Tim Owen, friends of the band. Some of the ringers also rang handbells as they were taken by punt along the River Avon to the reception marquee.



South Northamptonshire Society, [Kempsey, Worcestershire](#), St Mary, Saturday, 25 September 2021 in 3h 10 (15-0-0 in E), 5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major, composed D F Morrison, 1Nicholas Allsopp, 2Raymon A Sheasby, 3Rachel D Page, 4Roger Hunt, %Neil Garner,6Robert Tregillus,7Roderic K Bickerton, 8Michael Chester ©.

Jeanette and Tim



Tim and I were married on 3rd September 2021 at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. We were blessed with beautiful weather for our reception, which was largely outdoors, and with the backdrop of splendid ringing by friends who are members of the Four Shires Guild and the Oxford Diocesan Guild. We were lucky to be able to have a friend of ours as the Minister taking the service.

I walked from our home in Stratford to the church, accompanied by my daughter as bridesmaid and my cousin as 'father of the bride'. The bells could be heard in advance, as we got ready at home and walked, as well as after the service, when we led all of our guests in a crocodile to the reception, via the chain ferry and along the river. I couldn't agree more with Simon Adams from Taylors of Loughborough, who has previously stated to me that Stratford's bells are some of the best in the country, both to ring and to listen to. Being accompanied by their glorious sound, in a QP of Grandsire Caters expertly called by the Guild's very own Richard Lewis-Skeath, was a delight.

It is fair to say that some were nervous of ringing a QP for the first time in rather a while and others of ringing Grandsire. They needn't have worried because their ringing was beautiful. Doug Bates, former Tower Captain at Stratford, provided reassurance by stating that the bells were weaned on Grandsire from their installation in 1948, so much so that they could almost ring it themselves. And, of course, I couldn't resist having a ring, for a quick session of rounds and

call changes after the service, having stress-tested potential wedding dresses for their ability to cope with my arms outstretched above my head. After the QP, the band were treated to a passage to the reception by punt. Some were too nervous of small boats on water to take advantage of it, but those who did rang handbells for us, just rounds and call changes as they travelled, punted by, you guessed it, a friend of ours. Tim and I used the same punt and friend to leave our reception.

A special shout-out should go to RL-S and to Steve Bowley, who not only rang but also sang in our home-made choir of family and friends. The choir of twelve sang two unaccompanied choral anthems. They brought tears of joy to my eyes when we first heard their singing and they have done so every time since that I've heard it. Most of the choir didn't know one another, and none knew their conductor (also a friend). They met for the first time the afternoon before the service for an hour or so, then for an additional few minutes on the morning of the service. Accolades came in thick and fast, from as soon as we were processing out of church, right through to the end of the month, when I'm writing this. One guest stated to me last night that she knew that the choir from Holy Trinity must be good, but she never thought that they'd be that good. She was amazed when I told her that they weren't the home choir and that they'd not previously met until the afternoon before. So, well done and thank you to the Guild's Steve (tenor) and Richard (bass). Jeanette Owen, was Davey



Individual performances in September affiliated to other guilds

Nicholas Allsopp scored 9 quarters in North Yorkshire from 13th to 17th September

Steve Bowley scored 11 quarters in Cornwall from 23rd to 25th September

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

In the first instance please email your order to **Kathy McCarthy**:-khmccarthy@fastmail.fm There are no extra carriage charges on the prices above. All profits from the sale of clothing go to the Guild 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 shirts	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
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A LONG-TIME DONOR OF BELLS

It's likely very few Guild members know that one of our Vice-Presidents is a long-term donor of bells to bell projects. It has been said he was the forerunner of the Keltek Trust. Realisation of this record of donations came recently when an exhibition of bells, bell hanging and bell ringing was being assembled at St Michael & AA's Church at Ledbury, where the bells have been overhauled and two trebles added to make 10. The person in question gave the new 2nd bell. So, who is this very remarkable and generous donor? It's Rev Dr Peter Newing.

For the Ledbury exhibition Peter was asked how many bells he had donated, which caused him to have a count up. The answer was 7 new-cast bells (including Ledbury's 2nd) and over 30 second-hand bells. It seems, too, that Peter has been at this game for a very long time. He has even contributed internationally, as the 6th bell of the new light ring of 10 at Vernet-les-Bains in France (the first and only English-style ring in that country) was given jointly by him and Angela. This, clearly, is an unusually large tally of usable bell metal and an enormous contribution to our Art.

There are two (to my knowledge) examples of Peter's generosity in the Guild's area: the treble at Temple Guiting to augment to 6, and the new-cast treble at Blockley to assist in augmenting to 10.

Peter told me a story of one venture to collect a 10cwt bell. At the time he had an old Morris Minor pickup, with a rated maximum load of 7cwt. He chanced the extra weight, which put the back end down on the springs with little movement to the bump stops. He'd come many miles to collect this bell and therefore faced a long journey home, but hoped for luck (or possibly in his case Divine assistance) to allow such to happen without incident. He went off carefully in the Morris Minor, mainly in deference to the rear springs, which hit the bump stops fairly regularly. To overcome this, Peter thought a trip up the motorway would be smoother, which it was; and it would ease the journey time, too. However, the motorway introduced a new problem: no steering! The little Morris had just about sufficient adhesion on the front tyres to give barely adequate steerage at 50mph on normal roads, but at 60mph on the motorway the front end started to lift and there was virtually nothing. The combination of little or no control, probably inadequate brakes (no fancy disc brakes on Morris Minors...) and a half-ton lump of bronze sitting just behind ready to shoot forward in an accident, caused 'a certain amount of anxiety' - and a maximum of 50mph for the rest of the motorway journey. He did manage to arrive home safely with everything intact.

The installation of Temple Guiting's 'new' treble, and Peter's contribution to this scheme, was covered in Newsletter 131 (January 2012). CMP

SUBSCRIPTIONS

FSG subs are due on 1st January 2022. This notice is an early reminder and will be repeated in the January Newsletter. The rates are £5 for adults and £2 for juniors. Please pay as soon after the due date as possible, [an annual subscription is required to retain membership.](#) If paying by cash please use the payment slip that will be attached to the January Newsletter. Payment may be made to Michael Dane, Hon Treasurer.

THE PREFERRED METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR SUBS AND DONATIONS IS BY INTERNET BANK TRANSFER.

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.

More from the archives:- 40 years ago

Minutes of AGM held at Offham Village Hall on Saturday 31 October 1981

1 Apologies for absence – none

2 Minutes of the last AGM were taken as read

3 There were no Matters Arising

4 Membership. Dealt with in Secretary's report

5 Guild Master's Report

The Guild Master referred to his six points in his 1980 report and added a seventh – Saturday practices are for the benefit of the home tower;

The Annual Dinner was only attended by 30 members and friends but was enjoyed by all;

The Open Afternoon was successful in spite of sparse attendance;

Competition. The April half was poorly attended probably because of very poor weather. The second half at Offham was much better attended – 6 teams took part. The Guild Master commended Willersey's Stedman effort;

Outing. This was very enjoyable in spite of the weather;

The Guild Master paid tribute to the work of the Committee.

6 Secretary's Report

1 Membership 1981: Paid-up members 56

Ditto, ex-territorial 10

Honorary members 11

New members J Rosser, K Roles

New ex-terr'l Members PJ Bodenham, FEV Barnes, P Quinn, A Thomas

2 Committee business.

The Secretary summarised the business of the five meetings held in 1981. The first dealt with a proposed bell restoration fund.

The second reviewed a report of a meeting held at Bourton-on-the-Hill concerning Todenham restoration fund. The third dealt with the open afternoon, the annual outing, the competition details and Saturday practices. The fourth discussed final arrangements for the open afternoon and the outing. The final meeting discussed the outcome of the open afternoon and the outing.

Arrangements for the competition and the AGM were considered. With regard to the competition the problem of towers who could not raise a full band was discussed and it was agreed a joint band from two towers would be acceptable.

3 Newsletter

The Secretary appealed to members to support the newsletter pointing out the difficulties of filling its pages. Details of peals, articles on members ringing experiences and histories of towers were requested.

4 Saturday practices

The Secretary noted these had been fairly well attended in 1981. The Secretary ended by noting Central Council publications were available for anyone who was interested.

7 Accounts

The accounts for 1980 were presented (as printed in Newsletter 11) They were proposed for adoption by AJ Brazier, seconded H Diston and adopted unopposed. The balance to date is £102.88.

9 Elections

Officers elected were: Guild Master MF Fairfax

Secretary PW Harmer]

Treasurer A Turner

Ringling Master Miss J Taylor

Committee Judith Fletcher prop P Linsdell sec AJ Brazier

AJ Brazier prop P Linsdell sec H Davies

H Davies prop J Taylor sec J Nicholls

J Nicholls prop P Linsdell sec H Davies

D Hammond prop AJ Brazier sec P Harmer

All were elected unanimously

9 Subscriptions 1982

Mr A Turner proposed an increase to £1.00 (50p juniors), seconded by AJ Brazier. Members questioned the need for an increase. Mr Fairfax pointed out that costs of paper and other materials were bound to increase. He claimed £1.00 is still good value. Mr Brazier pointed out the need to make new badges and hoped a subscription increase might allow these to be obtained out of Guild funds. Mr R Canning proposed subs be increased to £1.00 (50p juniors) on 1st June 1983. This was seconded by Mr E Canning,. This was d in challenged from the chair on a point of order. The resolution to increase subs to £1.00 (juniors 50p) was put to the meeting and passed 13 for 2 against. Mr E Canning suggested tower captains be asked through the newsletter to collect subscriptions.

10 Any Other Business

Competition ringing. Mr E Canning proposed bells should be started up. This should be followed by call changes; down; up; method ringing. The bells should be left up. Bands should be given 2-3 minutes warm -up. R Canning proposed that 1 false start should be allowed on all points. Mr Brazier supported these suggestions by asking that all four categories be kept. It was agreed the first proposal should be considered by committee. It was suggested a set of rules should be published in the newsletter
The meeting closed at 6.55pm(signed) MF Fairfax 30/10/82

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DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCT 16TH	AGM and striking competition at WELLESBOURNE WARWICKSHIRE, 8, 10-0-24 in G (GF) Back 6 only, CV35 9LT
NOV 6TH	ILMINGTON 8, 12-3-26 in E (GF), CV36 4LB
DEC 5TH	HONINGTON 6, 13 cwt in A b NOTE EARLIER TIMES (18:30 UNTIL 20:00) , CV36 5AB
2022	
JAN 8TH	HALFORD 6, 7-2-16 in A, CV36 5BT

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.)

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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.)
Chris Povey, Hon Sec