

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central



Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 171 - January 1st 2022

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Founded Oct 18th 1909

Hand over to the new secretary



The new honourable secretary Stephen Bowley takes the reins for the FSG for the second time. Steve last had a turn as secretary for a 2 year period in the mid 1990's, he remembers the role well so I'm sure he will settle in quickly and be an asset to the Guild.

Editorial

This quarter has seen the return of some of the regular FSG events. The striking competition, AGM, monthly Saturday practices and ringing quarters for armistice, to name just a few, (please see following pages for reports). There has been mixed feelings expressed amongst members about gathering in large numbers for these

ringing events but generally rules have been obeyed with ventilation as necessary, mask wearing etc and so far no large spread of covid between ringers has been reported in this area.

Welcome to Steve the new Secretary voted in at the October AGM, other changes of officers can be found on page 2.

I'm surprised at the amount of new ringers around that are eager to learn the art, through various methods of advertising Badsey, Hinton and Childswickham are collectively teaching 8 new ringers! If any other towers need advertising flyers, please let me know, I still have a few left.

Alison Lee, editor.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

President

Mr John Nicholls

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr Chris Povey

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

Chaplain

Rev Dr Peter Newing

Accounts Examiner

Claire Penny

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

Mr Peter Quinn

Ringing Master

Mr Richard Lewis-Skeath

Hon Secretary

Mr Steve Bowley
S_bowley@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Michael Dane
landm.dane@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Christina Ireland

Mrs Jackie Hands

CCCBR Representative

Mr Chris Povey

BRF coordinator

Mr Chris Povey

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr John Carroll

Mr Stuart Cummings

Membership Secretary

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Chris Mew

Health and safety officer

Mr C Povey

Mr John Wheeler

Dr Nicholas Allsopp

Mid-week Tours

General Contact
Mrs Isobel Murphy

News letter editor

Alison Lee
alison.lee.bellringer@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

FSG subs are due on 1st January 2022. 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.

Chaplain's Thoughts

The Church of England has published a report suggesting that it anticipated closing 350 churches in the next five years. I was Rector of Brimpsfield for 26 years and the church is 185 yards over a grass field from the nearest road, the church has no East window for the East end is very exposed at nearly 800 feet above sea level. In the side chapel there is the original altar stone upon which the Catholic priests for several centuries celebrated Mass. At the Reformation this stone, French in origin, and bearing its original consecration crosses on each corner with one in the middle was buried in the churchyard by parishioners and found again some three or four centuries later and restored to the inside of the church. I have celebrated Holy Communion on this communion table in continuity with any former priests for centuries celebrating Mass.

Today there are two services a month for there are now seven churches in the Benefice. There are many churches in small parishes up and down the country that would tenaciously resist any directive that they should close. There is the strength of feeling of determined parishioners to grapple with as many in the smaller parishes are the most committed to keeping their church open for another century or two

In the future as parishioners find the money to keep their church in good repair so bell ringers are likely to have to play their part in finding money to keep rings of bells in good ringing order. Our hobby of ringing is likely to cost us more in the future. It is already happening.

Rev Peter Newing

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5TH OCT 2021 AT THE PARISH CENTRE, WELLESBOURNE

1 **Apologies for absence:** Richard, Stuart.

Alison Lee joined the meeting as the Newsletter Editor.

2 **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th August**

The Minutes were agreed and signed as correct

3 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

Reports

4.1 **Secretary:** said this meeting was mainly concerned with the forthcoming AGM (see item 7 below)

4.2 **Treasurer:** finance wasn't discussed at this meeting - would be at the November meeting

5 **Bells Repair Fund**

Finance: again not generally discussed (for November meeting), but Michael did confirm that £50 grant had been paid to Childswickham PCC recently (for ropes).

6 **'Learning to ring' flyer**

The printed flyers were available at the meeting. They were agreed to be of excellent quality. They will be available for distribution at the AGM. (On a related subject, Nick said the Moreton training bell would be available for general use: book through him.)

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

- it was reported that 4 or 5 teams for the striking comps were expected;
- Steve Bowley is to be the judge (and play the organ at the Service)
- the Vicar is booked
- Stuart reported food is in hand, plus Service sheets. Chris said he would produce hand-out sheets
- there was discussion about altering timings for AGMs in general, but no consensus of thoughts
- all positions are up for re-election
- Master's Report is done and appears in the October Newsletter

8 **Resumption of Guild activities.**

Saturday practices will resume on 1 tower per month until Spring. Those towers used will be ground floor to aid ventilation. Ilmington, Honington and Halford are for November, December and January respectively. [Other GF rings are Offenham and Bidford-on-Avon \(and there are others\)](#)

9 **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th November, at Church House, Evesham: 7pm Chris Povey Hon Sec

Signed as a true record:.....Date:

Quiz questions

1. Some methods are very closely related, to the extent that if you ring one you can probably ring the other. Can you pair them up?

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------------|
| a. | Cambridge | Antelope |
| b. | Grandsire | Erin |
| c. | Little Bob | Primrose |
| d. | Plain Bob | Reverse Canterbury |
| e. | St Martin | St Simon |
| f. | Stedman | Treble Bob Hunt |

2. what method name is scrambled below:

FDEROTIGMALFHENOMNIH

3. What is:

- An extent
- A touch
- A lead

by Claire Penny

Peals, Quarter peals and general ringing

[Ilmington, Warwickshire](#), St Mary, Thursday, 11 November 2021 (12-3-26 in E), **1260 Plain Bob Minor**, Tenor Cover, 1.Davis Clark, 2.Fran Chapman, 3.Bill Sabin, 4.George Osborn, 5.Jaqueline Hands, 6.Michael Dane,(c) 7.Bill Nash, Rung half muffled for Remembrance

[Offenham, Worcestershire](#) St Mary and St Milburgh, Thursday, 11 November 2021 in 45m (10-3-2 in F#), **1260 Grandsire Doubles**, 1.Chris Povey, 2.Robert Chadburn, 3.Neil Garner, 4.Alison Lee, 5.Claire Penny (c), 6.Bob Topp, Rung half muffled in remembrance as the sun set on Armistice Day

[Long Compton, Warwickshire](#) St. Peter & St. Paul, Tuesday, 14 December 2021 in 47 minutes (12-0-22) **1260 Grandsire Doubles**. 1.Caroline Makepeace, 2. Michael Cummins, 3. Sarah Elliott (C), 4. Len Morley, 5. Trevor Hobday (C), 6. Stuart Cummins. Rung before the Long Compton Bellringers' Christmas party. Jointly conducted.

[Adlestrop, Gloucestershire](#), St Mary Magdalene, Saturday, 4 December 2021 in 2h 34 (4-2-21 in C), **5040 Minor** (2m), 4 extents Plain Bob, 3 extents Cambridge S. 1.Christopher M Povey, 2.Roger H Hunt, 3.Richard Lewis-Skeath, 4.Nicholas K Allsopp, 5.Steve Bowley, 6.Michael Chester (c).



[Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire](#), St Peter, Wednesday, 29 December 2021 in 60m (10-1-8 in G), **Call Changes, Plain Hunt and Doubles**,

Ringers I to r (standing) Richard Lewis-Skeath, Graham Lee, Matthew Turvey, Alan Curry, Josh Fiander, Roger Hunt, (seated) Tim Watkin, Fiona Gibson, Clare Davies, Rob Newman, Thea Jenkins, (kneeling) Alison Lee,

Supporters Heidi and Xenia

The 'Xmas bells but no sleigh bells' gathering of 'Bretwickhamton' ringers (Bretforton, Childswickham & Hinton towers) to celebrate Fiona's birthday today

[Pebworth, Worcestershire](#) St Peter, Friday, 31 December 2021 in 45m (11-3-9 in F#) **1260 Grandsire Doubles**. 1.Clare Davies, 2.Claire Penny, 3.Graham Lee, 4.Tom Sandham, 5.Martin Penny(c), 6.Alison Lee. Rung at sunset on the last day of 2021 to celebrate the 16th Wedding Anniversary of Judith and Tom Sandham (4).

[Evesham, Worcestershire](#) The Bell Tower, Friday, 31 December 2021 in 3h 10 (14-2-26 in F#), **5088 Evesham Surprise Major, Composed by D F Morrison (565)**, 1.Robert Tregillus, 2.Neil J Garner, 3.Rosemary K Hemmings, 4. Nicholas K Allsopp, 5.Roger H Hunt, 6.Rachel D Page, 7.Roderic K Bickerton, 8.Michael Chester (c). Rung on the 91st birthday of Robin Garner, father of Neil.

Treasurer's Report November 2021

The following is at Sunday 6th November.

The Bell Fund currently stands at £5645.45 . This year we have recently paid grants to Honington, Moreton, Childswickham, Halford and Aston Cantlow; we have an outstanding offer of £800 to Didbrook, which leaves £4,845.45 of unallocated funds at this time. We have received a total of £2,332 in donations, £76 from the AGM teas, £0.46 interest and £120 in advertising.

The General Fund bank account currently stands at £1,180.48. Since the beginning of the year there has been income of £93 from subscriptions (those who did not pay in 2020), £25 for clothing and £337 in donations to the Bell Fund. Expenditure has been £66.87 for printing & postage, £28.50 for clothing, £80 for CCBR membership and £231 for Certificate printing. I am still waiting the invoice for the printing of the flyers.

There have been no donations to the Bell Fund since the last meeting. I put an article in the latest Newsletter saying again that as we decided to waive the membership for this year I am still hoping there will be more donations to the Bell Fund during the year as ringing gets back to normal and towers start meeting again.

As PB Safety Supplies have increased the price of their clothing and now have to charge P&P, we will have to increase the prices we charge. I have got the latest prices from PB Safety; in some cases the original items have been discontinued and been replaced. There are also some limits on some of the colours.

Michael Dane Hon Treasurer

Four Shires Guild of Bellringers

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Four Shires Guild of Bellringers was held on Saturday 16th October 2021 in St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne, following the Striking Competitions and the Guild Service. This was the first AGM since the 2019 event, due to Covid restrictions forcing the 2020 AGM to be cancelled. The President, John Nicholls, was in the Chair. Members attending numbered 30. Handouts of the agenda, Minutes of the 2019 AGM, Guild accounts and the Guild Master's report were available (all had appeared in various Guild Newsletters since the 2019 AGM).

1 Results of the Striking Competitions:

There were two teams competing for the Brazier Trophy and four teams (plus scratch band) competing for the Newing Shield. The judge was Steve Bowley from Elmley Castle.

The Brazier Trophy competition:

1 Badsey 9 faults (awarded Brazier Cup)
2 Willersey 32 faults



Some of the participants at the striking competition from Willersey

The Newing Shield competition:-

1 Ilmington (Doubles)	5 faults overall	awarded the Newing Shield.
2 Wellesbourne (Doubles)	11 faults	awarded the Spencer Jones Cup
3 Long Compton (Doubles)	16 faults	"
4 Pebworth (Doubles)	34 faults	"
'Scratch' (ineligible for placing)	6 faults	" (rang PB Minor)

The Ringing Master (Richard Lewis-Skeath) awarded The Merit Award to Willersey the team which, in his view, has made the most significant progress during the year. The awards will be presented at the Guild's Annual Dinner in 2022.

Apologies: were received from the Rev Dr Peter Newing Andrew Fleming, Nick Allsopp, Jane Gilbert, Stef Whittle, Roger Hunt and Claire Penny. Rev Peter had originally intended being at the meeting, but was prevented from doing so a short while beforehand

3 Minutes of the last Meeting (2019): These were published in the January 2020 Newsletter (nr 163) and were repeated in the hand-out given to all attending. The Minutes were proposed and seconded as a true record by the President and Stuart Cummings respectively and were signed as such by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising: There was none.

5 Guild Master's Report 2019-2021: published in Newsletter 170 (October 2021) and repeated in the hand-out, was noted and accepted. There was nothing arising.

6 Treasurer's Report: The Guild accounts to 31 December 2019 appeared in the April 2020 Newsletter (164) and those to 31 December 2020 appeared in the July 2021 Newsletter (no 169). The final accounts were repeated in the AGM hand-out, together with a written report on the finances by the Treasurer, Michael Dane. Nothing of note was discovered by the Accounts Examiner, Claire Penny, and she signed them off. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

7 Election of President and Vice-Presidents (to serve for 2 years):

The following were proposed, seconded and appointed:

President: John Nicholls prop Peter Quinn, sec Richard L-S accepted/appointed
Vice-President: Peter Newing prop Len Morley sec Trevor Hobday accepted/appointed

Due to the current V-P, Freda Cleaver, not wishing to stand again, the following election occurred:-

Vice-President Chris Povey prop Freda Cleaver sec John Nicholls accepted/appointed

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

Guild Master: Peter Quinn prop Richard L-S sec Christina Ireland. No other candidates: Peter was re-elected.
Ringing Master: Richard L-S prop Peter Quinn sec Freda Cleaver No other candidates, Richard was re-elected.

8 continued Chris Povey had given notice about resigning this post at this meeting.
Secretary: Steve Bowley prop Chris Povey sec Stuart Cummings No other candidates Steve was elected.
Treasurer: Michael Dane prop John Nicholls sec John Carroll. 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 Robert Chadburn, sec by Len Morley, that they be re-elected en bloc: carried.

Accounts Examiner: due to Robert Hall's death earlier this year, Claire Penny had undertaken the checking of the 2020 accounts. She said she would continue in this role if required. There being no other nominations, Claire was re-elected.

10 Election of two Central Council representatives (to serve for 2 years).

The Committee had already agreed to run with one CC rep, rather than the two allowed to the CCCBR. It was prop by John Nicholls and sec by Trevor Hobday that Chris Povey continue in this role: carried.

11 Confirmation of new Members during the year:

No new members had been elected.

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

None, although Stuart Cummings wished thanks on behalf of the Committee 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 array and quantity of food this time was described as truly a feast.

The Meeting closed at 5-45pm, Chris Povey, Hon. Secretary.

These Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2022 AGM.



Willersey members enjoying the day out



Striking competition held at Wellesbourne

CCCBR update 18/12/21

I received the email below from Simon Linford (CCCBR President) this morning. The website he highlights - <https://cccb.org.uk/2021/12/17/guidance-for-england-under-plan-b/> - gives some much-needed guidance about mask wearing for ringing in towers *at the moment* (this can of course change, but that's what it is now).

As I read it, ringing rooms that aren't connected to the body of a church can relax the mask-wearing rule if they wish (but it does rely on the incumbent, or the person responsible for H&S, agreeing that). So, for instance, a detached tower (eg, Evesham) could have ringing without masks - and also the likes of Moreton-in-Marsh, where access to the ringing room, and the ringing room itself, isn't connected to the main body of the church. However, ground-floor ringing rooms that are open to the main body, or indeed, ringing rooms that are on an open balcony (eg, Ilmington, or Hinton-on-the-Green) would require masks to be worn.

Regarding 1st floor ringing rooms that are accessed via an entrance within the body of the church (eg, Great Hampton) masks must be worn when walking through the church itself to the access (and probably up the access stairs), but mask wearing may be relaxed inside the ringing room.

I guess another reason for wearing or not wearing masks is the degree of ventilation available in the ringing room. Some have good ventilation with opening windows, but some don't. I guess if they don't, it would be sensible to wear masks.

All this advice relies on a sensible interpretation of ringing in a particular tower - and what the incumbent/H&S person requires (remember: they are in charge of the building - and take the rap if something goes wrong...). In doubt, mask up - and please respect those who wish to mask up regardless of there being (apparently) no need. Chris Povey CCCBR representative.

CCCBR safeguarding

I've had another communication from Simon Linford (CCCBR President) about the Church of England's safeguarding training: see the document Simon attaches on <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/SafeguardingLearningAndDevelopmentFramework2021.pdf>. It is another subject we need to consider, particularly how it impacts on our own Safeguarding document. To be discussed at the next committee meeting. Chris Povey CCCBR representative.

Pebworth's new sound collecting duct.

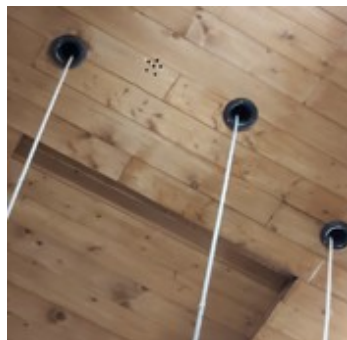
At long last Pebworth sees the installation of its long awaited sound collecting system. As most of you are aware when all 10 bells are ringing and you are standing in the ringing chamber, its sometimes hard to distinguish the sound of the lighter high pitched bells hung on the top tier.

After ringing one evening we were gathered at the local pub, where all good decisions are usually made! One of our own ringers, who is a sound guru, volunteered to try to cure this sound problem.

Long before lockdown the plans were designed and drawn up by Neil Garner for the creation of the duct and the tricky installation,



these had to be put to one side until after lock down and permission sought to go ahead



The duct is tall approx 10ft long with a wide collection area at the top which narrows as it funnels the sounds down through the lower tier of bells and out into the ringing chamber.

Positioned mainly below the 4th and secured firmly on the pulley box, sound is collected from the 3rd, 4th and 5th bells. Ensuring smooth running of all other moving parts and no snagging of the ropes, exciting trials so far have revealed the sound effect is quite impressive, amplifying these higher pitches just enough to be heard whilst all other bells are ringing.

Alison Lee, Steeple keeper of Pebworth bells.

From the archives 40yrs ago

From the Archives 40 years ago

Committee Meeting held at Shipston-on-Stour, on 3 February 1982

Present: Judith Fletcher, AJ Brazier, Alan Turner, Jackie Taylor, P Harmer, MF Fairfax, JW Nicholls

Apologies: David Hammond, Hazel Davies.

Minutes were read, adopted and signed by MFF.

Matters Arising

Annual Dinner: MFF reported he had approached The Three Ways Hotel and the Mickleton Restaurant, but found The Lygon Arms was still cheaper. He decided to book the Lygon again.

He reported he had engaged a concert party 'The Muddlers', but that they had had to cancel owing to ill health. He had engaged another entertainer.

Numbers will be similar to 1981.

Competition 24th April 1982:

P Linsdell has offered Guiting Power. Shipston and Willersey were offered as second choice.

The order of ringing was discussed but it was decided to leave the order as at present.

The rules were discussed. MFF agreed to supply a copy of up-to-date rules for the minutes. They are to be published in the April Newsletter.

Open afternoon:

The date to be 12th or 19th June at 2.00-4.00pm. Moreton-in-Marsh was suggested as a possible venue. AJB stressed the need to advertise well in advance and the date published in the April Newsletter. It was suggested P Linsdell be approached about organising the event.

Ringing tour:

The date to be 25 September. AJB proposed D Smith be approached to organise towers in the Rugby area

Todenham appeal:

MFF proposed the Committee should ring a sponsored peal on 8 bells in aid of this fund. Date proposed was 9th October, to be considered further at the next committee meeting.

Badges:

AT reported the Birmingham Badge and Medal Company can supply badges at 80p+VAT each in lots of 50. It was agreed to put off ordering for at least 6 months in view of the ost invo;ved.

Future meetings:

Dates agreed were: Wednesday April 21; Tuesday May 25; Tuesday Oct 26. Agenda to be available 14 days in advance.

AOB:

AJB suggested updated Guild rules be typed and circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm. (Signed) M Fairfax 22/4/82

From the archives. No entry in the record book for Dec-March 100yrs ago

Learning Methods

By Neil Garner

In our last article, we looked at how you can mix and match above and below work from different methods to create a lot more... For doubles, it is a relatively simple task to learn a handful of changes, but where this idea really creates benefits is with surprise methods, where the lines are a whole lot longer!

Following on from this, we will then look at how different lead ends can also create different methods....

Passing the Treble in Cambridge

Just like plain Bob doubles you will need to pass the treble in every lead... the only difference is that because it involves treble bob... the 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 position will be doubled up in the form of a dodge. Lets look at that once again...

- **2nds place bell** starts with a 1-2 dodge to go below the treble.
- At the end of the front work, hunt up to the back, passing the treble in 4-5, to go back above.... Double dodge and single dodge...
- Become **6th place bell** and hunt to the front, passing the treble in 2-3. Below again....
- Lead and dodge and move to the middle work... dodging with the treble in 3-4 half way through ...Above once more.
- Finish the middle work and become **3rds place bell**. Start the back work.
- Dodge with the treble in 5-6 at the half way point only to double back and dodge in 5-6 the other way.... effectively staying above the treble for the whole of this place bell, although notionally going below for the 2 blows in 5ths that link the 5-6 dodges.
- At the end of the back work, dodge 3-4 and become **4th place bell** and start the middle work places.
- Once again, meet the treble and dodge 3-4 to go back below before finishing the places.
- After dodging and leading, pass the treble in 2-3 to go back above and hunt to a 5-6 dodge....becoming **5th place bell**.
- Complete the final back work double dodge and pass the treble in 4-5 on the way to the front work.
- The last element is to dodge in 1-2 before making seconds and a notional 2 blows above before starting again....

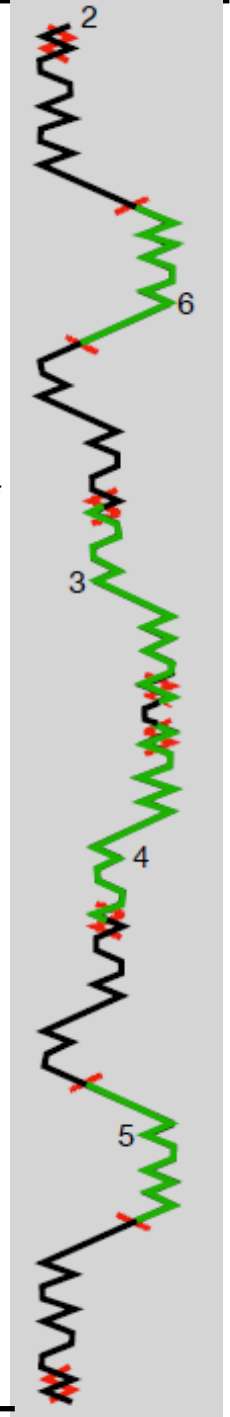
Effectively, there are 2 above work elements and two below work elements each of which is mirrored... plus the notional 2nds around the treble to add to the above work and the notional 5ths around the treble in the below work. In some other methods, this mid point symmetry below may become more extended.

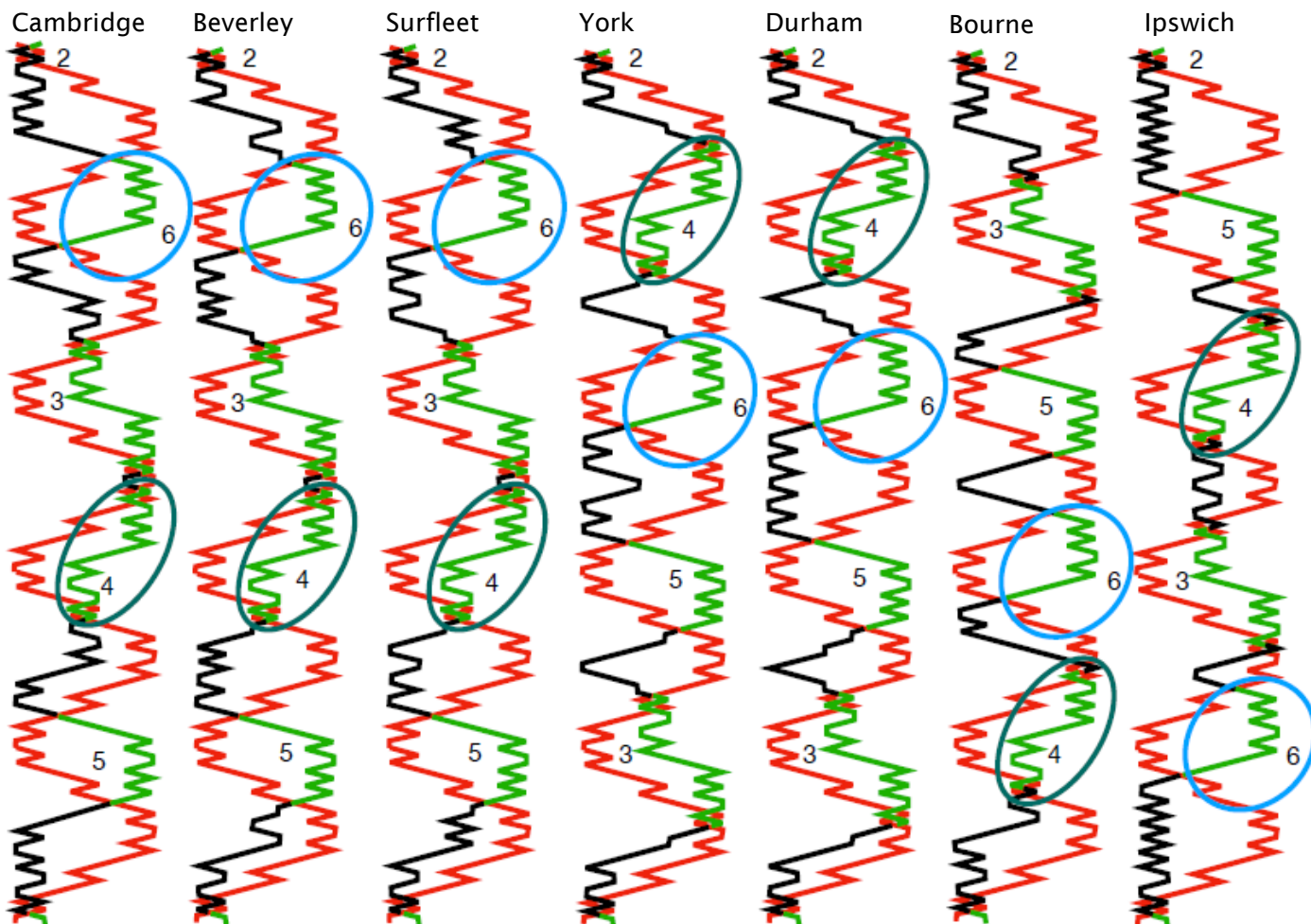
Changing the below work...

If you change the below work you can create new methods... In this case Beverly, Surfleet, York, Durham, Bourne and Ipswich. All are methods in the set of 41 regular Surprise Minor methods.

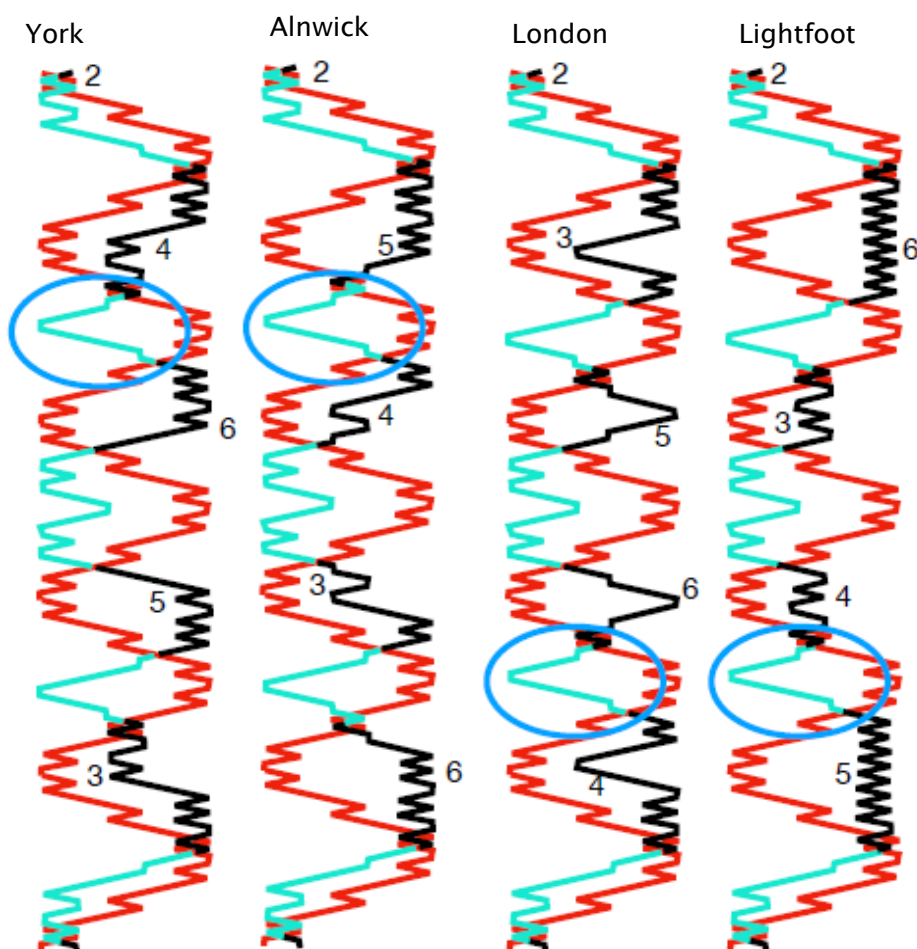
All have different below work, but retain the same above work... the are 50% Cambridge! They also have the same starts because all bells are above the treble at a lead end! However, that does not necessarily mean the place bells will be in the same order...

In the diagram, we have ringed two of the 'above' fragments, to highlight this, but if you look carefully, all 4 fragments are there in each line, along with the two blows in 2nds...





In the same way, it is also possible to change the above work whilst keeping the below work fixed... The example below, uses York as a base... the result being the addition of Alnwick, London and Lightfoot... When you look at the four lines,



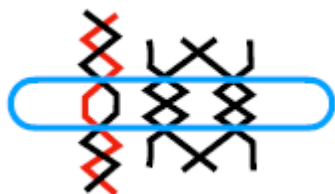
... you will see that once again the segments are not necessarily in the same order... as per the ringed examples. In addition each method has different starts because the above work is different in each case, and all methods always start with above work, because the treble is leading at that point.

Having looked at the methods with York below, the same above works can also be applied to all the other methods, although in some cases the results are either false, or not part of the regular 41 set.

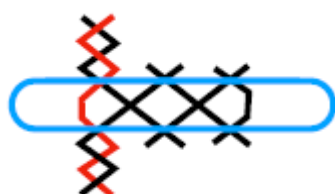
2nds and 6th place leads

The final twist in this story is the lead end... because with all these methods, you can put the place bells in a different order and create a whole set of new methods... As an example, Cambridge becomes Primrose...

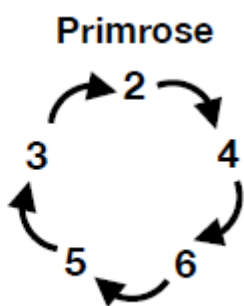
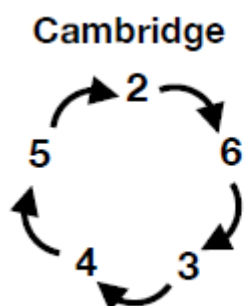
In a 2nds place method, a bell will make 2nds when the treble leads... and this is also a point of symmetry for the line. All the other bells cross. Most common methods (e.g. Plain Bob) are 2nds place.



In a 6th place method, it is the treble and 6th which make places... again all the others cross. It means the symmetry point for the method will be around that 6th place. The most common 6th place method is Kent Treble Bob.



In a 6th place method, bells will effectively plain hunt at the lead end - missing the dodge. This results in a different place bell order... but the rest of each lead can be exactly the same as in the 2nds place version...



Cambridge



Primrose



At this point, with 7 different below works and 4 different above works, coupled with 2nds and 6th place versions, you have just covered 29 of the 41 methods in the regular surprise minor set... which seems quite amazing!

In the next article, we will go back to first principles and explore how Grandsire works and look at how it is so different from most other methods we learn.

FSG Monthly midweek tour

photo, taken at The Black Pug in Warwick, the lunch venue on our December tour, organised by Joy Pluckrose.

We had an enjoyable day, ringing at Snitterfield, St Nicholas Warwick, Barford and Sherbourne.



GUILD-BADGED CLOTHING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE:-

Polo shirts:	£20.00	Full-zip ladies fleece:	£33.00
Sweatshirts:	£21.00	Half-zip fleece:	£37.00
Full-zip fleece:	£33.00	Lambswool V-necked sweater:	£48.00

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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ASSOCIATION OF RINGING TEACHERS MODULE 1 COURSE,

An Association of Ringing Teachers Module 1 course (Training the Trainer) is being held at Snitterfield (CV37 0LJ) on Saturday 19th February 2022. It is suitable for new teachers and those who wish to refresh their skills.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to attend the course, then please register as soon as possible as they are proving very popular and filling up quickly. For more general information on ART courses please go to:

www.ringingteachers.org/get-involved/courses

To register on the course you can navigate from the ART homepage (www.ringingteachers.org) or go directly to:

www.events.bellringing.org

The cost of the course is £20. There will be a further £10 to pay on the day for use of the room, bells and refreshments. Tea, coffee and drinks will be provided as will lunch.

If you have any further questions contact Claire Penny (clairepenny99@btinternet.com or 07903 963233)

Handbells used by the Johnson / Thomas family of Hinton on the Green -

Some handbells have recently been left at St Matthias Church, Malvern Link. They came with very little information other than a comment that they belonged to the church and had been part of the 'Hinton - Johnson' set. The Link ringers know nothing of these bells! After quite a lot of searching, we now understand that the handbells used by this family were sold by Tony Brazier. A note in the box with the bells suggests that they were restored in 1984, which could have been before or after the sale. Does anyone have any information, however irrelevant it may seem, about the bells particularly who may have bought them or where the rest of the set may be? If so, please contact Alison Hodge: hodgeam@btinternet.com or 01684 566470.

Quiz answers

1. Some methods are very closely related, to the extent that if you ring one you can probably ring the other. Can you pair them up?

a. Cambridge Primrose (same place bell work in a different order)

b. Grandshire Antelope (Grandshire with places at the back instead of dodges)

c. Little Bob Treble Bob Hunt (Little Bob is TB missing the 3-4 dodges every other time and making seconds instead)

d. Plain Bob Reverse Canterbury (Plain Bob with places in 3-4 instead of dodges)

e. St Martin St Simon (Dodges on the front instead of places)

Stedman Erin (Erin is Stedman with easter front work and no quick bell)

2. What method name is scrambled below:

Offenham Delight Minor

3. An extent is ringing all the possible changes without repeating any.

A touch includes bobs and singles (rather than a plain course)

A lead (noun) is the changes between the treble leading full and the treble leading full again.

History of bell ringing UK

A summary

The sound of bells ringing is a deeply rooted culture in UK. Almost everyone in Britain lives within hearing range of bells. They provide the grand soundtrack to our historic moments, call out for our celebrations and toll sadly in empathy with our grief. The bitter-sweet sound of just one bell or the sound of a whole peal, has become part of the English heritage and much of the country's history can be traced through the history of its bells. They used to call us to wake, to pray, to work, to feast and, in times of crisis, to come together. Above all, bells are the sound of freedom and peace as in World War II they hung silently until the day they could ring in the peace.

The early missionaries used small handbells to call people to worship, with bells being introduced into Christian churches around 400 AD by Paulinus the Bishop of Nola in Campania. Their adoption on a wide scale does not become apparent until about 550, when they were introduced into France and Italy before spreading to Great Britain by monks and friars coming to join religious orders.

By 750, they were sufficiently common for the Archbishop of York to order all priests to toll their bell at certain times. St Dunstan, the then Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury, hung bells in all churches under his care during the late 10th Century and gave rules for their use.

In the Middle Ages, bells were thought to have supernatural powers. During the 7th century it is said that the Bishop of Aurelia rang the bells to warn people of an attack. When the enemy heard them, they were said to have fled in fear. The people credited the bells with having saved them. In a world with little man made noise, the sound of bells was not only good, but could be deeply fearful. The hanging of bells in British churches spread quickly with the Abbeys of Wearmouth & Whitby both recorded as having bells in 680.

Popular superstition alleged that bells could ring themselves. It is said that those of Canterbury Cathedral tolled themselves when Thomas-a-Becket was murdered.

Before the reign of Henry VIII and the Protestant Reformation, most bells in churches and monasteries were hung on a simple spindle and chimed by Deacons pulling a rope.

Ringers began to experiment with new ways of hanging the bell to get greater control. The first improvement was mounting bell to quarter wheel with a spindle serving as the axle and the rope attached to the rim of the wheel. As this method grew popular, bells then began to be mounted on half wheels.

The desecration of monastic abbeys and buildings often included the removal of many church bells.

Following the Reformation, many churches began to rehang bells, with most using the new technology of bells mounted on a whole wheel. This gave much greater control using the rope, but the final refinement was a stay and slider to be able to 'set' the bell. The ringer could now rotate the bells 360 degrees and stop and start the ringing at will.

The cost of maintaining bells and payments to the ringers, who at the time were paid for their services, could be quite a high proportion of running the Parish.

St Margaret's, Westminster paid ringers one shilling each for ringing at the beheading of the Queen of Scots. Less than twenty years later, the same church paid ten times that for ringing 'at the time when the Parliament House should have been blown up'. There was a long development period during the decades when the whole wheels were appearing, up to the mid 17th century when orderly ringing involving changing note patterns began to take place.

The combination of the easier control using the whole wheel and the development of change ringing led to increased interest from the lay people, who took over the belfry from the clergy.

During the reign of James II (1685-1688) bell ringing became extremely fashionable amongst the aristocracy as it provided physical exercise and intellectual stimulation.

In the rural churches, however, bands of ordinary ringers strived to outdo one another. On days of competition the ringing was often preceded by a large meal at the local pub and followed by the presentation of a 'good hat' or a pair of gloves to each ringer in the band that had performed the best. Nowadays it's a shield & Cup

The recreation began to flourish in and around London during the late 17th Century. An important milestone in the development of change ringing was the 1668 publication by Richard Duckworth and Fabian Stedman of their book *Tintinnologia*, which promised in its subtitle to lay down plain and easy Rules for Ringing all sorts of Plain Changes. Stedman followed this in 1677 with another famous early guide, *Campanologia*. It revealed the technical improvements in change ringing in only nine years. *Tintinnologia* had mentioned a few of the methods; *Campanologia* mentions dozens of newer methods including introducing his Grandsire Method and his Stedman's Principle.

These books described the art of change ringing and drew up rules for long series of changes, without the need for calls, whereby bells must change place at each pull of the rope. Further rules soon evolved and changes could be worked out, written down and learned by heart to create patterns where the bells are never sounded in the same order twice. These compositions were named methods and soon hundreds were created, often named after the cities they were first rung in such as Norwich, London or Cam-

bridge. methods and soon hundreds were created, often named after the cities they were first rung in such as Norwich, London or Cambridge.

Stedman is called "The Father of Modern Bell ringing". The oldest system of change ringing is Grandsire Doubles (formerly Grandsire Bob), which is rung on five bells. From these two, Grandsire and Stedman, change ringing on five evolved. Later on, change ringing was extended to a greater number of bells.

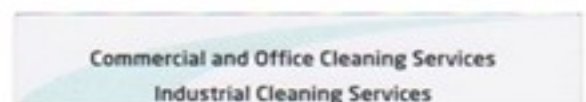
In the country areas, standards of behaviour deteriorated with bell ringers described as layabouts and drunks. Often locals saw an opportunity to earn a few shillings however this was often transferred quickly from the church tower to the village inn. Any and every opportunity taken to ring, for which the inn keepers were very grateful., that's why we still go to the pub afterwards.

Attendance at church services was considered no part of bell ringing. By Pat Bell for part of her 50 ringing things

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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 'BRF grant coordinator'

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2022

JAN 8 th HALFORD 6, 7-2-16 in A, CV36 5BT

FEB 5 th OFFENHAM 6, 10-3-2 in F#, WR11 8SF NOTE EARLIER TIMES (19:00 UNTIL 20:30),

MARCH 12 th BIDFORD ON AVON 8, 14-0-24 in F, B50 4DA

APRIL 2 nd SALFORD PRIORS 8, 15-0-14 in F#, WR11 8UP

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.)

