

# FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

## NEWSLETTER No 122 - OCTOBER 2009

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1909



2009

The Four Shires Guild is not a 'territorial' society, but its activities take place in the general area shown on the map.

Map based on a version drawn by Pam Copson in about 2002.



# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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**President**

Mr John Nicholls

**Hon Treasurer**

Mr Mike Rees

**Membership Secretary**

Mr Peter Kenealy

**Vice Presidents**

Mrs Phyllis Brazier

**Guild Master**

Mr Peter Quinn

**Ringling Master**

Mr Steve Bowley

Rev Dr Peter Newing

**Hon Secretary**

Andrew Gunn

**Programme Secretary**

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

**Chaplain**

Rev Patrick Wooster

**Newsletter Editor**

Mr Steve Cadd

**Child Protection Officer**

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

**Accounts Examiner**

Mr Douglas Carr

**Health & Safety Officer**

Mr Chris Povey

**Elected members:**

Mrs Freda Cleaver

Mr Michael Haynes

Mr Ken Wakefield

Mr Chris Povey

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**The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (January 2010) is December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009**

This Newsletter survives only because of the contributions you make to it. Without them it will fail. Articles can be submitted to me via email or to the postal address shown above, or to any one of the committee members.

Please contribute something, however small (or large). You would be surprised the things people enjoy reading about. A few suggestions: an historical item; a funny story; a quarter peal report; poems; puzzles; tales, events past and forthcoming; a ringing tour, even! Send them in. They will all be welcome – photos, too.

Send to Chris Povey, or Sophia Lewis-Skeath, in the first instance

# NOTICE OF 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITION, 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2008

<u>Income</u>				<u>Expenditure</u>	
2007		2008		2007	2008
£ 378.00	Subs & donations	£ 310.00		£ 394.90	Newsletter (3nr) £ 342.00
£ 35.68	Interest	£ 48.45		£ 17.20	Expenses £ 54.54
<u>0.00</u>	President's Tours	<u>£ 200.00</u>		£ 32.32	Replica Shield 0.00
				£ 20.00	Annual Dinner £ 120.00
£ 413.68	Total receipts	£ 558.45		£ 0.00	Deposit for 2009 £ 100.00
<u>£2748.15</u>	Opening balance	<u>£2673.61</u>		<u>£ 23.80</u>	Engraving <u>£ 0.00</u>
£3161.83		£3232.06			
				£ 488.22	Total Expenditure £ 616.54
	<u>Assets</u>			<u>£2673.61</u>	Closing balance <u>£2615.52</u>
£2585.80	Bank	£2542.71			
£ 87.81	Cash	£ 73.81			<u>Liabilities</u>
<u>£ 35.00</u>	Badges	<u>£ 30.00</u>		£1225.25	President's Tours £1425.25
				<u>£1483.36</u>	Surplus <u>£1221.27</u>
£2708.61		£2646.52		£2708.61	<u>£2646.52</u>

Other assets: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer-Jones Cup, peal book & documents

M Rees, Hon Treasurer

### ORDER OF THE DAY

<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Brazier Cup Striking Competition</b> at St Andrew's Parish Centre
<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Newing Shield Striking Competition, ditto</b>
<b>4.45pm</b>	<b>Service</b> in Pershore Abbey
<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> in St Andrew's Parish Centre
<b>7.00-9.00pm</b>	General ringing at Pershore Abbey

The AGENDA for the AGM is:-

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters arising. Membership fees. Public Liability.
3. Confirmation of New Members.
4. President's Report.
5. Guild Master's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Election of President.
8. Election of Vice Presidents.
9. Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Secretary, Treasurer).
10. Election of Committee and Honorary Auditor.
11. Results of Striking Competition.
12. Any other Business.

Light refreshments will be available from 2.00pm and will be served round the corner from St Andrews in Church Street, at Glebe Cottage. Directions are turn into Church Street from St Andrews As you pass the Library on your left, Glebe Cottage is the second green gate on your right and has the name on the gate. Donations of light refreshments, or donations towards, would be welcomed.

Refreshments will also be available in the Abbey, after the striking competitions.

## EDITORIAL

I am the 'Guest Editor' for this particular Newsletter, because Steve Cadd's computer decided to 'blow up' prior to him settling down to do it. If you are of a certain age, you will remember when computers were essentially toys and their foibles were a way of life. A blow-up was accepted on the basis that the technology was new and unreliability was expected. Above all, computers rarely held sufficient data to be really useful, so if disaster struck, it was only a fairly minor inconvenience – but repairs were much more expensive relatively than a new computer today. Now, of course, the computer is an essential part of life, like the telly, radio or car, so when it goes wrong, it's a disaster – particularly if essential data disappears into the ether, which may have happened in Steve's case.

Being the Guild's centenary year, your Committee organised some extra activity this summer. The first of these was the Centenary Party at Todenham on 4<sup>th</sup> July. The report published here was the one that appeared in 'The Ringing World'. I remember this event as a really excellent one, helped on by some lovely, genuinely-barbecue weather. I remember, too, that the attendance at the tower tours leading to Todenham were low to start with, but they gradually eased upwards throughout the afternoon to produce some good attendances. Read all about it on page 5, along with Peter Quinn's evocative photos.

The second of these was the Guild's stand at the Moreton-in-Marsh Show. This was the brainchild of Andrew Gunn (Hon Sec), who conceived the idea some two years ago and put feelers out then. Being just two months after the Todenham 'bash', the organisation of this event lagged badly, to the point where some of the Committee wondered whether we should decline the stand. However, some true-grit showed through in pushing it forward, mainly from Peter Kenealy, and, with a bit of luck thrown in, it all came good on the day. In fact, it was more than good; it was a fantastically outstanding day. The star of the stand was the Willoughby Campanile, a ring of bells in miniature (tenor 63lbs in C), which was most generously loaned to the Guild. Read the report on page 9 and see the photos.

Talking of photos, I hope you've noticed – possibly for the first time – photos in colour! This may just be a one-off, so treasure this edition. Thanks to Sophia for organising the printing this time.

Another event took place in June. This was the ringing of a quarter peal for that 'Grand Old Man of Ringing'. I refer of course to Rob Harvey of Whichford. It was a quarter peal for his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday – and happily it was successful. As ever, Rob rang in it. The report here was the one written for 'The Ringing World'. You will notice from this report that this coming November marks Rob's 80 years as a ringer; and an active one, too. This is a very significant achievement. I'm sure you'll happily join me in wishing Rob the very best for the years ahead. Incidentally, Rob came along to the Moreton-in-Marsh Show and rang on the miniature bells.

Although there were 'only' two extra events, their organisation was substantial, and it required many more meetings than normal to get things sorted out. It is interesting to speculate on what might happen next year. Will the committee build on the momentum of this year and arrange further extra events, or just relax back to 'normal'? If you have any feelings on whether next year should include extra events, let the committee know.

While not about ringing as such, the article on the Four Shire Stone, to which the Guild must be linked, highlights the lack of history about it and how the four Shires met there. Hopefully the question as to how Worcestershire reached it has been answered now, but when the Stone was built and by whom or what body remains a mystery

Lastly, Ken Wakefield and Freda Cleaver have both indicated they wish to retire from the Committee from the AGM. I understand they are both long-termers, who have served the Guild well. Freda was, of course, Ringing Master for some time. I'm sure everyone will join with me in thanking them for all the work they have done for the Guild.

Chris Povey  
(Guest Editor just this once)

## THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS PARTY AT TODENHAM: 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

On Saturday 4th July the Four Shires Guild celebrated their 100 years of existence by holding a celebration Pig Roast at Todenham Village Hall in the late afternoon. A real ale, brewed by The North Cotswold Brewery at Ditchford near Moreton-in-Marsh and named Four Shires Centenary Ale (4.5% ABV), was also served.

Four afternoon ringing tours were run, one from each county, and all finished at Todenham, where ringing continued until 8 o'clock in the evening.

The weather was superb and the event, attended by about 80 people, was held in the grounds of the village hall, where the pig was carved and the ale consumed.

The day was enjoyed by all.

PJFQ

(Reproduced from 'The Ringing World')



John Kinchin enjoying the pig roast, with Michael Haynes, Sophia Lewis-Skeath and Andrew Gunn serving



Andrew Gunn, Steve Bowley, Peter Quinn and Freda Cleaver enjoy the sunshine, while John White oversees the pig roast.

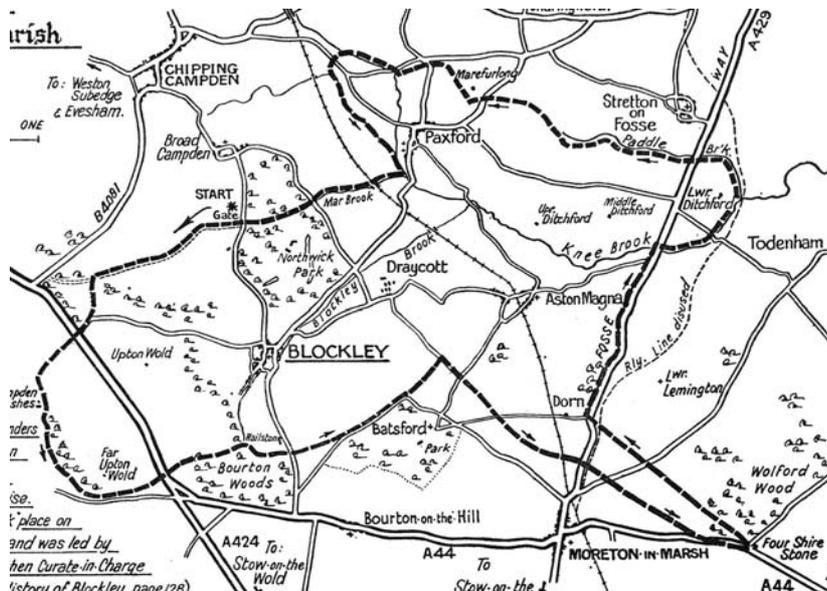
## THE FOUR SHIRE STONE

It must be assumed our Guild takes its name from the Four Shire Stone, which stands about 2 miles out of Moreton-in-Marsh at the junction of the A44 and the road that leads to Great Wolford. If so, perhaps we should take more than a passing (literally in the vast majority of cases: who stops?) interest in it. Please note, too, that it is the 'Four Shire Stone', not Four Shires Stone, as I suspect most locals refer to it (I did, until I took the accompanying photo). Perhaps 'Shires' is prevalent, because we are inclined to say 'Fourshirstone', ie quickly, with no gap between the words. As most of us know, the Stone stood at the meeting place of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire when the Guild was formed in 1909, but 100 years on, it is now looks out on only three shires, Worcs having departed. When did Worcs depart; and more to the point, how did it get there, as it is now so far away?

I have an old map on the wall at home that shows the extent and details of Gloucestershire in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the map isn't dated (it was obviously part of a set at one time by Henry Teesdale), it's possible to date it to sometime between 1811 and 1847 from the features it shows and those it doesn't. It does, of course, show the old county boundaries, upon which the meeting of Glos, Worcs, Oxon and Warks caused the Stone to have been erected.

What's of interest from this map is that it shows Worcestershire not quite getting to where the Stone stands today. The nearest it reaches is about a couple of miles to the west of the Stone, immediately north of Moreton. Glos, Oxon and Warks are shown to meet at the Stone, as they still do. The Worcs bit was the parish of Blockley, which was detached from the main body of the county. Some significant county changes occurred throughout the country in the 1930s to clean up the numerous detached bits of counties that existed in neighbouring counties and Blockley parish was transferred to Gloucestershire in 1931.

So how did the Stone become the Four Shires Stone if, in strict truth, only three counties met at that point? The answer was partly provided in a book I read recently: 'Blockley through twelve centuries' by Mr H E M Icely. I hope the Blockley Antiquarian Society (with which the copyright is vested) will excuse me if I reproduce a map from this book, which shows the parish boundary of Blockley as it existed prior to the county boundary change of 1931. It shows the parish included a 'finger' of land to the Stone, from Dorn across the north side of Moreton. The book records that Blockley parish included Dorn until 1935, when Dorn was transferred to Batsford parish.



You will note I said the answer was 'partly' provided by Mr Icely's book. So what was the other part? In preparing this article I looked up 'Four Shire Stone' on the internet, to discover when it was erected. I couldn't find a definitive article of the Stone's history, just bits here and there. There were photos, and I scoffed at the person who said Worcestershire was removed at the county boundary changes of the early 1970s. I noted some chap said Worcestershire's inclusion at the Stone was due to the parish of Evenlode, and I wondered whether he was wrong, too, because my Teesdale map doesn't show Evenlode as part of Worcestershire. It seems to show it in Oxfordshire at that time – but being a map of Gloucestershire, the non-Glos bits aren't too specific. Evenlode is now in Glos, of course.

Was this chap wrong about Evenlode being in Worcestershire? It seems not. I remembered I had a book that contained facsimile prints of county maps of England by Thomas Moule, who originally published the originals in about 1830, roughly about the same vintage as the Teesdale map. Now, Moule's Worcestershire map shows very clearly Evenlode parish being in Worcestershire at that time, and that it extended right the way up to the Four Shires Stone. Mr Icely's book records the Bishop of Worcester held the Manor of Blockley in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and attached to the manor were Evenlode, Daylesford and Icomb; so that's how these areas became Worcestershire originally (and are shown as such on Moule's map). Oddly, Blockley parish's finger isn't shown by Moule; it may have been too thin to show it at the scale of the map. It's possible the Bishop wanted to access Evenlode entirely within his own land and created the finger to do this. We may never know. I have no information about when Evenlode parish moved to Glos, but I'd guess it was at the same time as Blockley: 1931.

The 1930s boundary changes wrought large changes in other places, of course. The Moule maps show Shipston on Stour as being in Worcestershire, which is confirmed by its entry in Walters' Church Bells of Worcestershire, published 1925, whereas Hinton-on-the-Green was in Gloucestershire and has no entry in that book. (Blockley also appears in CBoW – and Evenlode, too.)

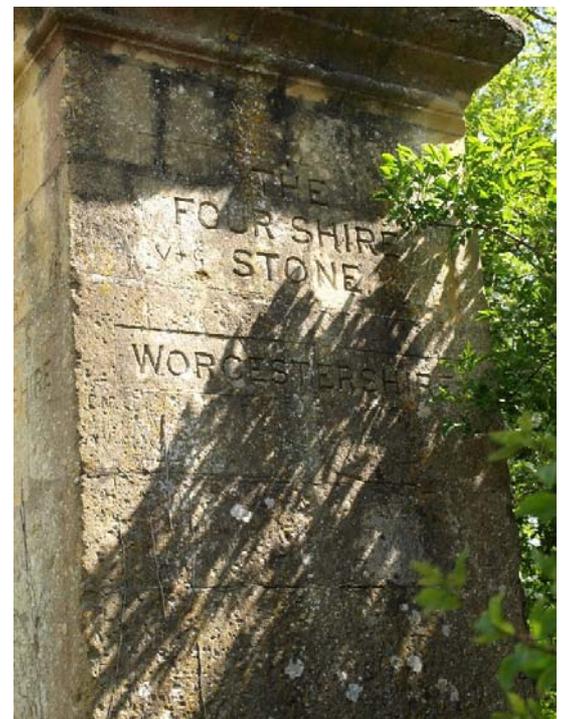
When I took the photos below, it was the first time for many, many years I'd stopped to look around the Stone. It now leans slightly towards the minor road. It was involved in a car accident some years back (it was reported the Stone was quite stationary at the time...) and significant damage occurred to it. I believe the Evesham Journal carried some photos of the accident. Clearly, repairs were undertaken. Perhaps this is the reason for the lean? The Stone looks in fairly good condition, but this might be due to the repair work (of which there are no obvious signs now). It would be interesting to know which county has the responsibility for its upkeep, as it is sited on part of the public highway. Perhaps all the three remaining counties do. It would be interesting to know whether Worcs still has some ancient responsibility. Answers on a postcard, please.....

The big mystery remains though – and I can find no information anywhere to solve it. Who built the Four Shire Stone? and when? Does anyone know? If somebody knows the answer to these two simple questions, could they pass it on to me, please?

CMP



Note slight lean towards the Wolford road



**THE  
FOUR SHIRE  
STONE**  
(The **WORCESTERSHIRE** face)

## THE FOUR SHIRES' 'GRAND OLD MAN OF RINGING': ROB HARVEY'S 91<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY QUARTER

Seven men and one lady met at Whichford, Warks, on June 19th to ring a celebratory quarter peal for Rob Harvey's 91st birthday. A ringer's 91st birthday is uncommon and certainly something to celebrate, particularly as Rob is well-known in the North Cotswolds as its 'Grand Old Man of Ringing'. What made the event especially newsworthy was that Rob himself was one of the band. Added to this, come November, Rob celebrates 80 years an active ringer.

Rob's birthday quarter peals at Whichford are becoming a significant feature of the North Cotswolds' ringing events. He arranges them and - of course - rings in them! Yes, last year's quarter for his 90th birthday was significant, but this year, being 91 and getting 80 ringing years in, was even more so. This must be a rare achievement.

Whichford's bells were rehung by Taylors in 1904, when some of the bells were recast and a new cast-iron bellframe was provided for the 6 bells. Rob had hankered after an octave for many years and the opportunity arose when arrangements to celebrate the Millennium were being made. Rob rang Taylors about his thought and was surprised to be told Taylors' records showed the 1904 rehanging included an option for an 8-bell frame and two trebles, but this was discarded due to cost. Taylors installed the 6-bell frame in such a way that the two extra pits could be installed easily at any time - and that time had obviously come. As nothing had changed in the intervening years, Taylors knew precisely what was required and what the measurements were! Rob organised the fund raising for the work and paid for the new treble himself. Everything was completed in 1998.

So, how did the quarter go? Rob decided to ring the treble, not because he couldn't manage an inside bell: far from it! He's quite happy ringing Grandsire Triples inside, as the previous quarters testify. He rang the treble because he'd not rung it to a quarter before, and because it has his name on it! The ringing went well, with only one minor trip - and that wasn't due to Rob (one of the 'younger lads' nodded off for a few seconds). Unfortunately, one of the band had to rush away at the end, which prevented a photograph being taken to record the occasion. Afterwards, Rob had arranged some drinks and eats at the local pub, 'The Norman Knight', where a very convivial conclusion to the event ensued!

**Whichford, Warks**, 20th June, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Rob Harvey 1, Ted Copson 2, Mick Austin 3, Chris Povey 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Sally Austin 6, John Nicholls (c) 7, Peter Kenealy 8. Rung to celebrate Rob Harvey's 91st birthday and, in November, his 80 years an active ringer.

(Reproduced from 'The Ringing World')

Rob performing on the mini-ring  
at the Moreton-in-Marsh Show

*'And he who rings in spur or hat,  
Shall likewise pay six pounds\* for that....'*

(\* inflation applied)



## THE MORETON-IN-MARSH SHOW, 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER: M/M SHOW 60, FSG 100!

This was the big one – a stand at the Moreton-in-Marsh Show to advertise the Art of Church Bell Ringing to the public at large! Was the Guild up to performing like this in public?

Andrew Gunn (Hon Sec) had this high-flying idea some two years ago that a stand at the Moreton Show would be an excellent way to celebrate our Centenary and to promote bell ringing at the same time. He explored the idea with the Show's hierarchy and they thought it had much merit. It was seen as something quite different for their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They kindly offered a greatly-discounted fee for a stand. Also, Andrew approached George Dawson, the owner of the Willoughby Campanile, a transportable and easily-erectable ring of bells in miniature (a mini-ring), who agreed to the Guild borrowing it for this occasion. The basic seeds were sown! As ever, of course, turning ideas into reality can take up huge amounts of time and resources. If the Todenham Centenary Party went awry through poor organisation, then only the FSG members would see it. If the Moreton Show stand went pear-shaped, the public would see it and the credibility of the Guild would plummet. It was essential this one was absolutely right. Unfortunately, it followed hard on the heels of the Centenary Party (just two months after), and to be fair, there was a near-fatal lull in the organising effort, probably due to a sigh of relief that the Party had happened largely as expected. Nobody twigged there were only 2 months in which to put much flesh on some bare bones. At the 5-weeks-to-go mark, a 'crunch' meeting was called to decide whether there was sufficient time and effort available to get the event up and running – or not. Opinion was equally divided between the 'go-aheads' and those that said we shouldn't; not because the latter didn't want to, but because they considered it could flop. A sub-committee was formed from the 'go-ahead' brigade and a meeting was arranged for a week ahead, to hear what was proposed. Happily, much was discussed in the interim and subsequently presented at that meeting, making the worriers less worried at the end of it, and with everyone agreeing to put their backs into making it all happen. Peter Kenealy, who had put much effort into the proposal, agreed to be the project manager for the stand. Please don't think your committee were deficient in not getting onto the project earlier. Never forget all committee members are volunteers, ie not paid, and everything is done out of the goodness of their hearts and spare time.

It had been agreed the mini-ring would be collected from Leicestershire on the Wednesday or Thursday before the Show, and be erected in Richard and Sophia Lewis-Skeath's lock-up shed for a dry-run, to avoid time delays on Show Day caused by wondering where the hell this bit goes, etc. This also allowed a little play with the bells by the dedicated band of erectors. Everything went together correctly; and yes, a little play was had by all!

Show Day arrived with some promise of a sunny day ahead. The mini-ring framework had been erected the day before, so this left just the bells and wheels to be fitted – which happened without fuss. Peter had arranged to borrow a large, unfoldable, gazebo thingy, to give some shelter to the display in case of rain. This went up perfectly and did just as hoped. Miraculously, everything came together in time for the start of the Show. And do you know? From a hazy idea of what it might look like, there emerged a stand that looked extremely professional! It really hit the eye. Three members of the Coventry Diocesan Guild came along to help, both with display material and man (and woman) power. Their assistance was greatly appreciated. Chris Povey brought along some Worcs & Districts Association display material. There was some from the Glos & Bristol DA and from the Oxford Guild. Arthur Berry of Berry & Co very kindly supplied some bell gear to display, including a bell wheel. We did well!

The star of the display was, of course, the mini-ring. There had been some concern from the organisers and our near neighbours that it would produce a lot of noise and that some control would be required. As it turned out, we used the mini-ring in some form or other continuously from start to finish. Our neighbours didn't find it as bad as they feared. The ring caused huge interest, and it was rare to have a lull in that interest. Many people, old and young, had a go at ringing. Some lapsed ringers emerged, as well as active ringers visiting the Show. All had a go. Occasionally, there was some proper ringing on the bells and up to Cambridge S Major was rung. Mention must be made of another ringing bell. This was Bourton-on-the-Water's model bell, which had been mounted on a wooden frame. So many little boys and girls pulled this to sound it. It was probably the most-used bell on the stand!

The stand was undoubtedly a great success. Everybody associated with it felt it had satisfied the original intentions; and probably exceeded them. Andrew Gunn, whose idea it was, and Peter Kenealy, stand project manager, are to be congratulated on achieving such a superb display. Thanks are due to the dedicated band of erectors, and of course to George Dawson for allowing the FSG the mini-ring.

The ring was subsequently erected in the lock-up again, where it was used to ring some quarters (see page 11)

# SCENES FROM THE MORETON SHOW STAND WEEKEND



Pre-Show mini-ring erection



Perplexed President



Seeking Divine guidance....?



The day dawned.



Butter wouldn't melt...



The Stand internally



Interest hots up...



... and continues all day



Lollipop, lollipop...



The fancy ringers



Real ringing



The Stand project manager



The look-after-everyone manager



Hon Treas: argh, we've spent money!



Final dismantling: note girl power

## NOTICES, AROUND THE TOWERS AND QUARTERS

QUARTER-PEALS:- (See also Rob Harvey's birthday Q on page 8)

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 14th June, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: John Nicholls 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Keith Murphy 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Chris Povey (C) 6.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 5th July, 1260 Stedman Triples: Sophia Lewis-Skeath 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, Mark Sayers 3, Bill Nash 4, Nick Allsopp 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Nicholls 7, Jackie Hands 8. 1<sup>st</sup> Stedman Triples: 1. Rung as part of the Guild's centenary celebrations.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Chris Povey 3, Annie Hall 4, Peter Quinn 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, John Nicholls 7, Andy Brown 8. 1<sup>st</sup> Cambridge S Major: 2.

**Lower Lemington, Moreton-in-Marsh** (Willoughby Campanile), 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Andrew Gunn 1, Jane Gilbert 2, Mick Allsopp 3, Nick Allsopp 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Chris Povey (C) 6.

**Lower Lemington, Moreton-in-Marsh** (Willoughby Campanile), 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1260 St Clement's Bob Minor: Jane Gilbert 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, Mick Allsopp 3, Nick Allsopp 4, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 5, Chris Povey (C) 6.

**Lower Lemington, Moreton-in-Marsh** (Willoughby Campanile), 16<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Isobel Murphy 1, Keith Murphy 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Joanna Murphy 4, Peter Kenealy 5, Nick Allsopp (C) 6. 1<sup>st</sup> Plain Bob Minor: 5.

If you would like to see a FSG quarter peal (or peal!) in print here, please submit the details. This applies to any special ringing, too; it can be recorded here for posterity.

EVENTS:

### **FSG Christmas Party at Cherington, Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> :**

Come to the FSG Christmas Party at Cherington Village Hall on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a fairly informal event, but there will be one or two specially-organised parts. (Rumour has it that Bill Nash is coming dressed as Father Christmas to do the 'Ho, ho, little girl: what would you like for Christmas' bit: watch out, ladies!)

The evening is expected to pan out along the lines of:-

6.30 – 8.00pm	Ringling at Cherington (6, 5-3-22 in B, GF)
8.00 - whenever	Village Hall, where all talk of ringling will cease and frivolity will commence...

Bring a plate of food and some drink to pool, plus there will be a charge of £1 per head to cover the Village Hall.

### **FSG Annual Dinner, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010: Advance Notice**

A booking has been made at The Falcon Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon, for the Guild's Annual Dinner to be held there again. Tickets will be £21. More details in the next Newsletter.

AROUND THE TOWERS:

There are rumblings at **Adlestrop** for a complete rehang of the 5 bells there. A bells sub-committee is due to be formed soon. The middle 3 bells were rung two years ago, during which a Structural Engineer pronounced the tower strong enough to withstand the bells ringing. The present bellframe is time expired, so this is likely to be replaced. The tenor is cracked, so the ring may use the 4<sup>th</sup> bell as the tenor. This, together with a better re-arrangement of the bells, should eliminate any worries about the crack in the tower's west wall. Recent work resulted in the treble becoming ringable, so the front 4 bells were rung for the Harvest Festival Service on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Future ringing will be very strictly controlled, due to the present condition.

At **Offenham**, Phyllis Brazier has handed over the tower captaincy reins to Claire Penny. The practice night there has now changed to Tuesdays, 7.00 to 8.30pm.

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## 2009

Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>TEMPLE GUITING</b> , Glos	5, 11-3-17 in F# (Low entrance to ringing room: mind your head – especially the Presidential head!!)
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AGM &amp; STRIKING COMPETITIONS, PERSHORE</b> (see Notice, Page 3)	
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WELLESBOURNE</b> , Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ILMINGTON</b> , Warks	8, 12-3-26 in E (GF)
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>LONGBOROUGH</b> , Glos	6, 11-0-2 in F#
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GUITING POWER</b> , Glos	6, 6-2-25 in B flat (GF)
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHIPPING CAMPDEN</b> , Glos	8, 22-1-8 in E flat (Beware large external step to get onto or from the tower steps)
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>CHASTLETON</b> , Oxon	6, 6-3-8 in G
Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BADSEY</b> , Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F (7.00-8.30pm)
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHURCH LENCH</b> , Worcs	6, 13-3-26 in G (GF)
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLEEVE PRIOR</b> , Worcs	6, 8-3-26 in G (GF)
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY, CHERINGTON</b> (see details, Page 11)	
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	Boxing Day – no FSG Saturday night ringing	

## 2010

Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>EVESHAM</b> , Worcs, The Bell Tower	12, 35-2-20 in C# & 10, 14-2-26 in F#
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHURCHILL</b> , Oxon	8, 10-3-9 in G
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LOWER QUINTON</b> , Warks	6, 13-0-27 in F# (GF)
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>STOW-ON-THE-WOLD</b> , Glos	8, 27-2-24 in D
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WINCHCOMBE</b> , Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#

For any alterations to this programme, check Campanophile (<http://www.campanophile.co.uk>) or on the new, embryonic FSG web-site (<http://www.fourshires.org.uk>), of which more in the next Newsletter.

**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.

There is apparently a feeling that the standard of these practices is too high and the support of local ringers has dwindled. This has been noted and the types of methods rung will, wherever possible, be adjusted to suit those present. Please don't let these practices pass into obscurity through lack of support.

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.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

**Yes, folks, it's almost that time again! I refer to subscriptions and the paying of such to the Membership Secretary (Peter Kenealy) or the Treasurer (Mike Rees). Bill Nash made a very good point at last year's AGM, that the subscription amount need not rise so much if everyone who purported to be a member actually paid up! Subs (£3) are due 1<sup>st</sup> January. What wonderful value. Let's do it, shall we?**