

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 125 - July 2010

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Founded 1909

TOWER OF THE QUARTER



(Photo: Chris Povey)

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, COLD ASTON, GLOS

Cold Aston is a pretty little village high up on the Cotswolds. St Andrew's Church is the venue for the 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition on Saturday August 14th (see notice on p.13), after which there will be general ringing (but earlier than normal: see Diary, back page). The bells are booked for 3 hours in all, so there will be time to have a good look round the church itself, which is interesting and unusual.

It is believed the church dates from about 904AD, when the Bishop of Worcester gave land to his local thegn. Fragments of Saxon work still exist, some of which have been incorporated into the west wall of the porch. The church is fairly unusual in having no aisles, just a nave and chancel, but it is very unusual in having no East Window, a characteristic it shares with only 5 others in Gloucestershire. The Nave walls are chiefly Norman, and there is a decorated Norman South Door. A very fine, elaborate monument to a Lord of the Manor, Giles Carter, who died in 1664, is set into the north wall. The Chancel has a high-pitched roof that rises above the shallow-slope roof of the Nave. The Chancel East wall has the remains of a 14thC reredos, with the carvings above the niches displaying fine workmanship. The churchyard contains an ancient yew estimated to be at least 600 years old. Its girth measures over 16 feet (nearly 5m).

The 15thC Perpendicular tower contains a stone vaulted ceiling above the ground floor. It was the reluctance of the diocesan authorities to have further holes drilled into this ceiling to allow the ropes through in a more convenient position for ringing that caused the ropes to drop initially rather too close to the walls. This was remedied later by having the affected ropes drawn through a rope guide.

The bells are slightly unusual, too, in that the 4th is heavier than the tenor. They were unringable for very many years until a rehang in 2002. Details of the bells are:- treble, Abraham Rudhall I 1717, about 4cwt; 2, J Taylor 1880, 4-1-18; 3, Abraham Rudhall I 1717, about 5cwt; 4, Abraham Rudhall I 1717, 6-0-10; tenor, John Rudhall 1796, 5-3-16 in B. (The 'about' indicates these bells were apparently never weighed by the bellhanger.) There is another bell, and, unlike the others, is visible. However, it is unlikely to be used for an augmentation.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

President
Mr John Nicholls

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Vice Presidents
Mrs Phyllis Brazier

Rev Dr Peter Newing

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Membership Secretary
Mr Peter Kenealy

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Elected members:-
Mr Michael Haynes

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Chris Povey

Child Protection Officer
Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

Health & Safety Officer
Mr Chris Povey

Newsletter Team
Mr Chris Povey
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THE FSG WEB-SITE IS: <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (October 2010) is SEPT 13th 2010

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

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 to come; a ringing tour, even! Send them in. They will all be welcome – and photos, too, you'll notice.

.... and don't worry if you think your handwriting is unintelligible. We can normally translate! Just get it to us.

The Newsletter Team: Chris Povey & Sophia Lewis-Skeath

If sending articles by email, please use MS Word (not the dreaded Works*) format for written articles, JPG format for photos, and scanned items in PDF or JPG formats. (We have the facility to scan photo prints if you haven't.) Please let us know ownership of photos for acknowledgement where relevant. If you have a long article, you might consider breaking it into parts. (* If you've only got Microsoft Works, then 'Save As' your article into Rich Text Format – ie, suffix .rtf – and send in this form.)

NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS, BROADWELL, GLOS, 16th OCTOBER 2010

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2009

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
£310.00	subs+donations	£432.50	£342.00	Newsletters (3 issues)
£48.50	interest	£9.34	£0.00	Insurance
	donation	£100.00	£54.54	Expenses
	badge	£2.50		Moreton Show
	garments	£458.50		BBO
	BBQ,beer,tour etc	£244.04		garments
<u>£200.00</u>	Mid-week tours	<u>0.00</u>	£120.00	Annual Dinner
£558.45	total receipts	£1246.88	£100.00 (2009)	Dinner deposit
<u>£2673.61</u>	opening balance	<u>£2615.52</u>		Hampton PCC
£3232.06		£3862.40		donation Dawson Mini-ring
			<u>£616.54</u>	total payments
			£2615.52	closing balance
			<u>£3232.06</u>	
	<u>Assets</u>			<u>Liabilities</u>
£2542.71	Bank	£2413.00		Mid-week tours
£73.81	Cash	£14.52	£1425.25	surplus
<u>£30.00</u>	Badges	<u>£27.50</u>	<u>£1221.27</u>	
£2646.52		£2455.02	£2646.52	

Other assets: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer Jones Cup, peal books & documents. The Shield, Cup, Trophy and President's Chain have been valued professionally and are currently insured by the Guild for £3650.

Mike Rees, Hon Treasurer

ORDER OF THE DAY

<p>2.15pm 3.00pm 4.45pm 5.30pm</p>	<p>Brazier Cup Striking Competition Newing Shield Striking Competition Service in St Paul's Church Annual General Meeting in St Paul's Church (Chairman: the Guild Master) Evening ringing: nothing arranged at this stage. See web-site for updates nearer time.</p>
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The AGENDA for the AGM is:-

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (published in the January 2010 Newsletter, no 123; pp.4 & 5*)
- 3 Matters Arising.
- 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, General Secretary, Treasurer).
- 10 Election of Committee and Honorary Auditor.
- 11 Election of two Central Council representatives to serve for 3 years
- 12 Confirmation of new members
- 13 Proposal to form a bell fund to offer grants for work to bells within the FSG area of operation (see proposal: p.12)
- 14 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)
- 15 Results of the Striking Competitions.

(* available from the website for printing out if reqd: www.fourshires.org.uk; then select 'Newsletters')

Andrew Gunn, General Secretary

Light refreshments will be available from 2.00pm and will be served in the Village Hall. Donations of light refreshments, or donations towards these, would be welcomed. Toilets are available at the Village Hall.

Teams intending to take part in the Striking Competitions should contact the Ringing Master (Steve Bowley) about their entry.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that you will be as pleased as I am that our application to become affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers was accepted by the Council at its meeting in Derby on May 31st. Our thanks go to the Guild members who prepared our presentation to the CC's Administrative Committee, which recommended it to the Council. The vote was overwhelming - approximately 200 to 2! I had a conversation with two members of the Admin Committee and they both said the Guild was recognised as a 'lively' and 'vigorous' organisation. Thank you Andrew for being a caretaker delegate. On our behalf I gave an appreciation to the Council.

John

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to Rob Harvey on reaching 92, and for ringing so well in his birthday quarter (p.6)!

The Notice of the 2010 AGM and Striking Competitions at Broadwell on October 16th 2010 appears on page 3. By any stretch of the imagination, the Committee was inadequately prepared for the 2009 AGM. Although not an excuse, there had been two major events in the months before and a lot of committee time and effort went into organising and running them. Resources were strained by the AGM. The Committee does not intend a similar situation to occur this year, and organisation of the event and the Notice to members are consequently earlier.

Also, the Guild Rules (yes, we have some!) state that proposals for the Guild Officers should be made in writing and be received by the Gen Sec not later than 2 weeks prior to the AGM. The Committee agreed to revive this system. Please see – and please use - the pull-off proposals sheet attached to the back of this Newsletter.

Additionally, a proposal is to be being made at the AGM by the Guild Master, on behalf of the Committee, to form a bell fund, from which grants can be made towards bells within the Guild's area of operation (see p.12 for details). A bell fund? Certainly! The Guild can then be seen to be helping towers in need directly, rather than as previously through the bell funds of others.

Oh, one last thing: don't be put off by the length of the AGM Agenda. My experience of long agendas is that they encourage everyone to get on with the business, because they're – er – long. Short agendas can be the problem: lots of time in hand, so can keep chewing over each subject to the bitter end! SO, PLEASE COME TO YOUR AGM!

As the President's message above states, the Guild entered a new era at the end of May. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) voted overwhelmingly to accept the Four Shires

Guild as one of their own at the meeting on May 31st. The Guild is allowed two CCCBR representatives, who will be elected at the Guild's AGM in October. Our General Secretary acted as a 'caretaker' rep and took a seat at the meeting when the President of the Council formally welcomed the Guild.

A CCCBR rep is normally chosen for the 'triennium', the 3-year period for which a Council operates before the Presidency is changed. In case 'triennium' and 'Presidency' sound ominously similar to European Union language and the gravy-train that seems to attach to that organisation, please erase such thoughts now! I can tell you nobody gets rich out of the CCCBR. If anything, its representatives get monetarily poorer; and if those reps do as they are intended to do – that is, work as members of the committees that churn away in the background shifting business – then they will end up poorer timewise, too. But that's the way it is – and has been since the CCCBR came into being in 1891. Nominations for the 'permanent' reps (ie for the 3-year period – the triennium – of the new Council) are included on the proposals sheet attached to this Newsletter.

By the time you read this, the 2010 Guild Ringing Tour to Rutland on July 3rd will probably have taken place, and hopefully a report of this will appear in the October issue. There are two other FSG events within the coming 3 months: the Walking Tour on September 25th and the 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition on Aug 14th, both of which await your presences. Please come to them.

In the past the Newsletter has carried adverts for activities at the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre at Kineton, even though it is outside the FSG area of activity. The seminars offered there are wide-ranging and open to all. Not only is the subject matter relevant and

therefore beneficial to FSG members, but the Centre is very local. I interviewed Graham Nabb, who runs it, to report on his future aims, and the facilities and courses he is offering and hopes to offer.

You will see this issue carries an advert (for our caring, sharing, local and ever-lovable Whites of Appleton). The Committee has agreed that adverts can be accepted for ringing-connected subjects, although inclusion of any advert will not signify FSG endorsement of the product or service. If you wish to advertise, please contact the Newsletter Team for rates, etc.

Lastly, I hope the very last paragraph of the Committee meetings report (p.5) doesn't escape the notice of the more 'cost-conscious' members.....

A reminder: as previously advised, I am editing the Newsletter for 2010, and another Editor will be required from January 1st 2011 onwards. Editing's not dreadfully hard, although – yes - a little time is required. You won't need to apply in writing (just telephone or email me). You won't need to send a CV. You don't need to hold a degree – although one from the University of Life & Hard Knocks is always useful. A working knowledge of ringing would be good. Yes, computer skills will be required. The most important thing is a desire to follow Pam Copson's vision of the FSG Newsletter (make it readable and interesting for everyone - and 'the best'). Lastly, there's a fixed rate for the job, so the nightmare of negotiating a salary won't occur....

Chris Povey

(The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Four Shires Guild or its Committee)

A country Parish was raising money for some badly-needed repairs to its Church. The money was being sought from within its reasonably well-heeled congregation, but, as ever in such circumstances – the rich being rich, largely because they know how to hang on to it – the total collected was rising painfully slowly. The Vicar, anxious to accelerate the process, ascended the pulpit to bring the state of play to mind, and, after the usual introductions to the sermon, began thus:

'Brethren, I come to you today to update you about our Appeal for money to undertake the repairs to our much-loved church.

The Good Lord allows me to tell you there is abundant good news, but there is bad news, too.

The good news is that I have all the money we need. (*Pause for rousing and prolonged applause from the congregation*)

The bad news is.... it's in your pockets.....!!'

(Another little gem..... Thank you yet again John Middleton)

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 27th MAY

The Committee met at Ilmington on May 27th. A major item for discussion was the AGM in October and the need to make arrangements well in advance, to avoid the rather disorganised state of last year's event. The issues included finalising the items required to be in the Notice of AGM & Striking Competitions that must appear in the July Newsletter, because their appearance in the next issue (October) will give insufficient notice. These were: agenda content; the 2009 accounts (although unavailable until after the meeting); proposal for a subscription increase*; proposal to form a bell fund; and a proposals sheet on which to propose Guild Officers for election at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Although the latter is required under the Guild Rules, its use has lapsed in recent years, but it was agreed it should be revived this year. The format of the proposals sheet was agreed. It will be attached to the back of the July Newsletter, as the subs renewal form. The rule applies only to Guild Officers, defined as: Guild Master; Ringing Master; General Secretary; and Treasurer. Although the President and Vice-Presidents are not specifically included in this list, those posts are for annual election at the AGM and therefore are being included on the proposal sheet. The remaining members of the Committee, 'six other elected members', do not have a defined time for election, so proposals and votes for these posts will be taken at the AGM. If the Central Council of

Church Bell Ringers allows the Guild entry, the two CCCBR Reps will need to be elected via the sheet. The two posts will be added to the proposals sheet if this occurs.

Steve Bowley, the Ringing Master, said he intends to stand down from this post at the AGM, as his personal commitments will not allow him to continue. He believes it would be beneficial to have some deputies to assist the Ringing Master, as it can be difficult to be at every Saturday night practice.

The Membership Secretary reported 175 members had now paid their 2010 subs. This was seen as an excellent result from the closer monitoring that has been applied to the paying subs, as promised to the membership at the last AGM.

It was agreed the Minimus Striking Competition should take place, but on a 5 this time with the tenor behind, at Cold Aston before evening ringing there. The Guild Master will arrange this (see pp.13 & 14).

Whether to have a Christmas Party or another function this year, or nothing at all, was deferred to the next meeting.

The advantageous arrangement for printing

the Newsletter has been lost, so an alternative was discussed. It was agreed this should be via a network of home printers, with the owners printing off and stapling together multiples of 10 copies. The costs can be reclaimed from the Guild at a rate of £4.00 per 10 copies for Newsletters having up to 12 sides, and £5.00 per 10 copies for 14-16 sides. This will equate to what we have paid previously. A trial run will take place this time with a small number of volunteers, to assess viability.

This year's events were discussed. These include: the Guild Ringing Tour to Rutland on July 3rd, the details of which appeared in the April Newsletter and on the web-site; the Walking Tour on Saturday September 25th, which has been finalised and its details appear in this Newsletter (see p. 12); and the Minimus ('Mini-Mouse') Striking Competition (see p.13).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd September at Ilmington, 6.30pm start.

* on subsequently seeing the accounts and finding them better than expected, your committee decided to defer a rise in the subscription amount until next year.

TALES OF OLD....

Hi Chris,

I have recently been reading 'Paupers and Pigkillers. The Diary of William Holland, a Somerset Parson, 1799-1818'. Attached are some extracts relating to Bell Ringing. I enjoyed them and thought your readers may also enjoy them. It seems little has changed in 200 years.

Tim Pinner, Badsey

Tues Jan 1st 1805. 'They did not ring in the New Year which surprised me very much.'

Thur Dec 5th 1805. 'This is the Thanksgiving Day for Nelson's Glorious Victory. - Our Bells were ringing all this day.'

Sun Dec 7th 1805. 'I understand that Mr Amen has been at Ely Green drinking out the money they received for Ringing on Thanksgiving Day. Instead of ringing all the rejoicing Night they left off at five and divided the money and went to different places to drink it. This is not right and I must see to the matter.'

Thur Jan 1st 1807. 'The Ringers begun so early this morning that our sleep has been much disturbed.'

Fri Jan 1st 1808. 'The Bells ringing from five o'clock.'

Sun Dec 31st 1808. 'The Bells are merrily Ringing out the Old Year.'

Mon Jan 1st 1810. 'The Old Year was rung out and the New Year rang in tolerably early this morning.'

Tues Mar 27th 1810. 'Our ringers were ordered to ring the Bells for Mr Crosse who has taken the Park Cottage (as they call it) and brought his wife home.'

Mon Nov 5th 1810. 'We had Bell Ringing this morning being the Fifth of November.' *

Thur Nov 5th 1812. 'I was awakened this day by the Ringing of Bells.' *

* *Thanksgiving for the Discovery of Guy Fawkes. The Service was appointed by an Act of Parliament of 1606.*

Fri Sept 5th 1817. 'The Bells ring merrily this morning. On enquiry I find John Morle married a Miss Rollins of Stowgurdy.'

What a delightful entry for Dec 7th 1805. I can't think that sort of thing would have occurred in our area.....

Ringing at 5am on 1st January! Good cure for bad heads? The ringing of bells seems to have occurred far more often in years gone by. For example, records of Evesham Bell Tower show there was ringing averaging 5 hrs each day for 21 days in 1838 for the canvass and poll of the Evesham Parliamentary Election, for which the ringers were paid £40 amongst them (and a good dinner every day, too!).

Interesting to see the entries about ringing on Nov 5th. When I learnt to ring at Ebrington in the early 1960's, there was ringing on Bonfire Night - but in the evening. This practice ceased some years ago. Did any other tower ring on Nov 5th in recent times; and does it still? The Act of Parliament requiring ringing and rejoicing was repealed in 1859. Ed.

92 TODAY, 92 TODAY.....! ROB HARVEY'S BIRTHDAY QUARTER



L-R: Chris Povey, John Nicholls, Jackie Hands, Mick Austin, Rob Harvey (between the ladies, of course!), Ted Copson, Sally Austin, Trevor Hobday, Peter Kenealy.

The ring of six bells installed at Whichford in 1904 were augmented to the present excellent ring of eight in 1998 at the initiation of Rob Harvey, Tower Captain, who donated the new treble.

For very many years now Rob has organised and rung in a quarter peal to mark his birthday. On this occasion the band, all friends of Rob and all of whom had rung in the previous years, was put together by Peter Kenealy, and ringing took place on Rob's anniversary, 19th June, on a splendid summer's day.

It has always been a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to mark Rob's birthday in this way and it was particularly so this year. It had been thought that Rob might have felt unable to stand in the band. In the event however he took hold of the treble, although in the past he would have rung inside, and set the pace for a well-struck quarter without a falter. Chris Povey elected to be the reserve ringer and was very pleased to have to remain on the bench. In doing so, he noted that Rob, although not seeing too well now and mostly ringing by ear, struck his bell as accurately as the rest. *(It was a delight to watch Rob. He never once looked tired. It was an impressive performance. CMP)*

Whichford, Warks, Saturday 19th June 2010, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Rob Harvey 1, Ted Copson 2, Jackie Hands 3, Trevor Hobday 4, Mick Austin 5, Sally Austin 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Peter Kenealy 8. To celebrate Rob Harvey's 92nd birthday this day

Ted Copson

(To be submitted for publication in The Ringing World)

GRANDSIRE DOUBLES: SOME (MORE) USEFUL TOUCHES

Grandsire Doubles is a fascinating and useful method. It has good music, it's not horribly difficult to ring and its calling can range from comfortably easy to nicely complicated. For many of us in the FSG area, it was the first method we learnt to ring, and therefore there is something very special about ringing it.

With regard to calling it, yes, there are the 10 extents: the six 2-parts and the four 3-parts (3rd & 5th observation). There are a number of 240s, which help to spice things up; and in a future article I shall list these. Also, there is the ability to change to 2nd & 4th observation (my article on this was published in the April 2002 Newsletter, No 95).

Quarter peals generally run to 1260 changes, which requires ten extents giving 1200 changes (or some 240s can be substituted, of course), and the remainder is made up of a touch of 60 changes. All this is nicely straightforward.

The odd 60 always seem to me to be rather untidy after plugging away at the extents: just a tacked-on, make-up piece, which of course it is. I usually like to hide the 60 somewhere in the middle of the quarter, so the performance can end more grandly with a 120 or 240. (My preference is to end with 'the Old Friend': P B P B P S, repeated, 5th obs, as there's something particularly comforting about this one. You know it's so stable, it just can't go wrong!)

While trawling the net recently (as you do), I came across some touches of 180 changes. Huh, you might think: what's the point of those? Well, they are very useful, as they remove the need for the silly 60. Instead of calling an extent and then 60, you can just call a 180. Geddit? Much more elegant!

Here are the callings. There are 10 of them. All the repeated changes are repeated only once; and they occur once at handstroke and once at backstroke. You might notice the first three of the 2-part 180s look very much like the 2-part 120s, which is useful for remembering the callings, ie 2 plain leads in between calls instead of 1.

180 Grandsire Doubles. All repeated twice (3-part)

<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>
4523 B	5423 S	5423 S	5423 S
3245 S	5342	2354 B	3254 S
3524	2453 S	4523 S	4532 S
4235 S	3524 S	3245 S	3245 B
5342 S	2435 B	3524	5432 S
2453 S	5324 S	4235 S	5243

180 Grandsire Doubles. All repeated once (2-part)

<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>
2534	2534	2534
2453	2453	2453
5324 B	5324 B	3524 S
5432	5432	3452
5243	5243	3245
4352 B	3452 S	4532 B
4235	3245	4253
4523	3524	4325
3245 S	2435 B	2543 B
<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>	<u>2345</u>
4523 B	5423 S	5423 S
4352	3254 S	3254 S
2543 S	5432 B	4532 S
4325 B	5243	3245 B
5243 S	3452 S	3524
5324	5234 B	4235 S
4253 S	4352 S	3542 B
3542 S	4235	2435 S
2435 S	5342 S	2543

CMP

LA CLOCHE - DIJON

It's amazing what one can find in auctions and recently I picked up, not quite for a song, this luggage label with its intriguing emblem.



Dijon, one of the well-known cities of France with a population of some quarter of a million,

capital of the ancient kingdom of Burgundy and home to the Dukes of Burgundy before the unification of France, is famous for its wines and mustard. It lies within one of the great gastronomic areas of France, with top vineyards within striking distance; and Beaune itself not far away. In 1742 Antoine Maille created his internationally renowned Dijon Mustard, still made today.

La Cloche hotel, now part of the Sofitel Group, is near the city centre in Place Darcy, near the Cathédral St Bénigne, with the Ducal Palace and lots of museums and other churches in the area. So what is the reason for which it took its name? It must have been significant – a curfew bell, and bourdon bell, a carillon? Perhaps a case for our Roving Reporter. Of course I suppose an email to the hotel would supply the answer, but what better excuse for a gastronomic weekend, to

soak up the atmosphere and the wine – and report back if it sounds as well as it implies?

Peter Richardson, Halford.

Well, Peter, this is an enticing invitation to find the answer to the question you pose, particularly as the area produces one of my favourite wines (Nuits St George; a glorious gutsy red, that makes you glow before letting you sink slowly and gently into happy oblivion... The problem is affording sufficient to reach oblivion.). Should the Guild or interested readers wish to cover the cost of the trip, I am willing to depart at a moment's notice; and I'm very willing indeed to accept the offer of 'a case for our Roving Reporter' (12x NSTG, please), Ed

BRETFORTON BACK IN ACTION, EASTER 2010



L-R: Nigel Smith, John Ward, Robert Davies, Graham Hall, Colin Currill, Tony Shilham, John Bolton, George Jelphe, Hilary Bolton

Several months ago one Thursday afternoon a small group of local people including a Bretforton ringer had got together in the 'The Fleece' for their

usual weekly chit-chat. Some were saying how they missed the regular sound of the Church bells and as good as Badsey ringers were in helping for special services and weddings, it would be nice to form a regular band. Several of the group volunteered. At the time both Graham Hall (Tower Captain) and I (Badsey: deputising for Graham), were busy holding up the NHS, one being hospitalised after the other. A quick decision was made to ask Colin Currill if he could take on the physical task of teaching the handling. He agreed with reservation, not having done it before, and not knowing how many people would turn up on the arranged night. Word got round and he eventually ended up with five people. One or two dropped by the wayside, but three still remain; two are very regular and the other one will be rejoining following illness. Colin has done a sterling job and is to be congratulated. Easter Morning service was the suggested target to aim for; and as you can see by the photo some of the original ringers had returned by this point, including Graham. With a little bit of help from John and I, some creditable call changes were rung as a debut – much enjoyed by the ringers and best of all with much praise from the village.

Hilary Bolton.

(Congratulations to all; particularly to Colin. Ed)

HISTORIC CHURCHES 'RIDE AND STRIDE' EVENT, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Following on from Peter Richardson's letter in the last Newsletter (April), in which he encourages the setting-up of tower funds for bell maintenance and the invitation to members to raise money for such funds via a sponsored walk, is the Historic Churches Trusts' 'Ride and Stride' events on the second Saturday in September (11th). Regular partakers know the events are primarily to raise money for these worthwhile trusts to continue providing grants for churches in need of repairs. In some dioceses the money raised is divided equally between the participants chosen church and the County Trust. It should not be difficult, one imagines, to ask that such money can go to a tower fund (if one exists, of course – and perhaps this is the opportunity to start one). All the four counties have such an event and details of the one(s) covering the churches on your proposed route can be found via the

following websites. *(Having taken part in a few of 'the Churches Cycle Rides' in the past, I can confirm how enjoyable these events can be. You can visit as many churches as you wish. – there is no lower, or upper, limit. Ed)*

The websites are:-

General site:-	www.rideandstrideuk.org/
Gloucestershire:-	www.ghct.org.uk/ride.php
Worcestershire:-	www.worcestershirechurches.blogspot.com/
Warwickshire:-	www.warwickshirechurches.org.uk
Oxfordshire:-	www.ohct.org.uk/bike.htm

THE HARRY WINDSOR RINGING CENTRE, KINETON, WARKS



St Peter's Church, Kineton, Warks (Photo: Chris Povey)

I visited the Harry Windsor Ringing Centre at St Peter's Church, Kineton, to investigate the skills that are available there to FSG members. Kineton is just outside the FSG area of operation, so the work of the Centre wouldn't normally be included in the Newsletter, but having taken part in a seminar there earlier this year – and been impressed with the setup – I thought it may be beneficial to members to know more about it, particularly as it's so close.

Firstly, what is a Ringing Centre? Here is the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' definition: *'A Ringing Centre is a combination of people, tower bells, technology and other facilities designed to help people learn to ring. Centres are intended to promote high standards of teaching and to train teachers of ringing.'* The Harry Windsor Ringing Centre is one of 37 such Centres currently within the UK (and 1 in Australia).

The Centre is the brainchild of Graham Nabb, who moved to Kineton four years ago. He found himself with a bit of time and a desire to 'give something back' to ringing in the form of teaching people to ring. However, it wasn't just 'teaching people to ring' that interested him; he wanted to teach people to ring properly, that is, with the correct style and action, and the ability to hear and strike the bell accurately. Not only that, he wanted to teach people to ring in a much shorter time than is normal. The basis of this desire to help people ring better derived from his time in Worcester, where occasionally he rang at Bromsgrove. He spent more time there trying to catch flailing sallies than ringing the methods. He resolved to refine his ringing style and investigated what he was doing wrong. He persevered and eventually it paid great dividends, as he gradually conquered the lively bells.

At Kineton, he found a light ring of 6 hanging in an excellent, modern 8-bell frame. He also found the local ringers were progressive and receptive to new ideas, as they'd already installed a ringing simulator. Sound control had been considered. The setup as found was attractive; and importantly, it had a basis for going further.

Graham is a lively chap; he's the 'up-and-at-it' sort. It wasn't long before he'd got the Kineton ringers on-board for forming a Ringing Centre based on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers' template for such. Much activity followed. An appeal for filling the spare pits with two new bells was launched. Adjustable sound control was installed, to allow the bells to be used for long periods. The two new trebles didn't take too long to arrive (they were cast in 2008), one bell being given by the Coventry Diocesan Guild in memory of Harry Windsor MBE, a noted member of that Guild who pioneered a tower sway analysis that allowed the chime of bells at Coventry Cathedral to be hung for ringing

in 1987, and after whom the Centre is named. The major part of the hardware for the new Centre was now there, except for one significant item: a dumb bell. For those wondering what this is, it's a false bell with a weight taking the place of the bell. It acts like a bell acts, but with one major difference: it's lighter than a real bell and therefore doesn't have the force to damage people in the way bells do if a learner gets its wrong, ie it's much safer. And one other thing; it doesn't make any noise, so it can be used all day with no complaints about noise.



The dumb bell: note the old clock weights acting as a bell, and the interesting bungee 'slider' gear.



...and what's downstairs: a bell rope and the computer to give the 'bell' some bell sound.

For those not familiar with bell simulators, these are electronic sensors that trigger an electronic bell noise at the right time as a bell rotates. A target positioned at the relevant point on the bell wheel activates a sensor, which is connected to a computer programmed to make the relevant sound for the bell being simulated (the bell clapper is tied or silenced during simulator use, of course). Although the ringers can hear the 'bells' in the Ringing Room, absolutely no sound is heard outside, which is yet another way to make a lot of use of bells without attracting complaints about noise.



A view of the belfry: note wires from the sensors on the bells to the computer, the adjustable sound control, and the 'quickfit' car tyre bell muffle.

Having got the hardware sorted out, a proper management structure was put in place. This consists of a committee of four ringers' Michael Gray from Snitterfield is the Chairman, plus Kineton ringers Graham, Sue Marshall and Nick Gunn. Graham is the secretary and manager. All are well-experienced in teaching. A web-site to advertise the Centre and its services was constructed and the Centre opened for business in 2008.



Graham Nabb in his lair (beard due to no shaver point in holiday let!)

As the CCCBR definition states, the business of the Centre is teaching people to ring. This can be from scratch and/or to greater things, so what does it do to achieve this? Well, from what I can see – and from the bit I've experienced – a huge amount, which is clearly of benefit to ringing as a whole. I can do no better than to reproduce the information on the Centre's 'flyer' (although this is dated 2009, so things may have expanded even further):-

What training events take place at the Ringing Centre?

Training Days: These will be organised by the Centre on a regular basis and will cover subjects that people have identified would be helpful to them. Normally they will be 5 hour events with a lunch break – but this may depend on the subject covered. Anything from theory to raising in peal, rope splicing or first aid might be covered, as well as particular methods.

Training Courses: Half or full day courses may be arranged on request and any group may book the Centre for a course of their own, either organised by themselves or the Centre.

Targeted Practices: Special Practices can be arranged at various levels for specific training needs.

Individual Coaching or Tuition: This may take the form of a practical session using the simulator to develop listening, conducting or method skills, help with rope handling or teaching skills.

Weekday Training/Coaching Sessions: For those available in the week, individual tuition can be arranged on a weekday. Normally Thursday mornings are used for a variety of tuition, including ringing all the bells using the simulator. Refreshments are available.

Central Council Training Modules: Facilities are present to host Central Council Training Modules. Currently 'Management, Teaching & Maintenance' or 'Listening Skills' are available.

Quarter Peals: Sustained practice to consolidate any learning is essential for any skill. Quarter peals are encouraged and the Centre is available using the simulator or the sound control.

'Handling a Bell from Scratch' Tuition: Where desired, Centre tutors will teach bell handling from scratch to rounds – provided it is carried out exclusively by the Centre's tutors.

Band, Ass/Soc/Guild or other training practices & events: With the variety of facilities and convenience of location, the Centre is available to book for any training event – including bands from other towers looking to use the Centre for extra practice.

This indicates a lot of facilities are available. So what does the Centre have? Again, I will quote from the Centre's 'flyer':-

- Eight bells – tenor 10cwt
- Abel Simulator connected to all bells allowing:-
 - Individual tuition of listening skills
 - An analysis of striking
 - Individual method practice
 - All 8 bells to be rung silenced to methods
 - A front 6 (5cwt) to be rung sounding as a natural 6
- Variable Sound Control
- Handbells
- Teaching facilities (screen & seminar areas) in Church
- Kitchen & Toilet facilities in Church
- Dumb Bell – connected to simulator
- Whiteboard & Flipchart
- Conference facilities available for hire in nearby Village Hall
- Easy parking with local shops, pubs & coffee shop nearby

I expect many are thinking 'What in Heaven's name does all this cost?'. The flyer again (but with updated costs):-

The Ringing Centre is a non-profit-making organisation and aims only to cover its expenses (and that of St Peter's). Any excess is set aside for new equipment and developing the Centre's facilities. Typically, individual tuition is charged at £2 an hour and group events at £15 an hour (per group). Full day conferences individually costed.

Teaching bell handling from scratch to rounds – set charge of £12 per person in total. Quarter peals on the simulator - £2 per rope.

Where a lecturer travels any distance or where food & drinks are supplied, these expenses will be added at cost.

I'm sure even our most 'cost-conscious' members would recognise these costs as an absolute bargain. Being taught to ring from scratch to rounds for 12 quid? 'Amazingly good value' is a huge understatement! On a similar note, from what I've seen, the hardware, software and the highly-committed, human input are truly outstanding. The benefits to ringing – and there are many - are very clear to see. The Centre deserves full support in its endeavours; and all power to the elbows of the people running it!

The Centre has a web-site (www.coventrydg.co.uk/ then choose 'Ringing Centre' from the menu), which outlines the courses and seminars on offer. It also appears on the FSG web-site: choose 'Activities', then 'Non-Guild events' from the menu.

Should the FSG have a Group Training Day there? CMP

BACK ISSUES OF THE FSG NEWSLETTER WANTED BY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LIBRARY

This is another call for back issues of the Guild's Newsletter. The Librarian of the CCCBR's Library, John Eisel, has asked whether any – or all – back issues of the Newsletter might be available for the Library's collection. (The CC library is the most comprehensive collection of ringing books and information in existence.) If you have any duplicates, or have a collection you think might be better in the CC's library than taking up space in your home, then please get them to the General Secretary, Andrew Gunn. Please delve into little places that haven't been disturbed for a time.

This may be an appropriate time to suggest any collections of Newsletters that might otherwise get chucked out if circumstances change (Spring clean, house move, or.....) could be given to the Guild before the 'I didn't realise they were wanted, and if I'd known, etc' is uttered as the flames lick the hallowed pages, or the dust cart drives away.

AN ORIGINAL IDEA (Part 2)

Part 1 had to break in the middle of me describing what bells do at various positions in Original Minor when a bob is called. (*Oh, the pain of being an Editor! Ed*) You might just wish to refresh yourself on this information before continuing here. Robert

Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called: 4
 Hunting up or down down
 Change in plain course when bob is called 5 3 6 1 4 2
 Action over next two changes

Unaffected position, so continue hunting down to 3rd and 2nd place, arriving at the 2-down position at the next backstroke.

Resulting changes 5 3 6 1 4 2
 3 5 1 6 2 4
3 1 5 6 4 2

Position of bell at backstroke when bob is called: 2
 Hunting up or down down
 Change in plain course when bob is called 3 1 5 2 6 4
 Action over next two changes

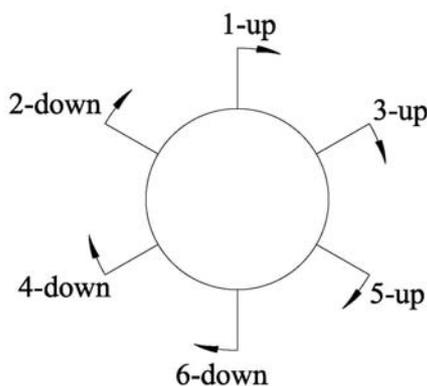
Unaffected position, so continue hunting down to lead, ie lead twice, arriving at the 1-up position at the next backstroke.

Resulting changes 3 1 5 2 6 4
 1 3 2 5 4 6
1 2 3 5 6 4

Looking at the above, it would appear theoretically possible to keep calling bobs every two changes an infinite number of times, which (if you were the 5-up bell for example) would have you dodging 5-6 up in perpetuity. Happily this fate will not befall us in practice, as the composition will run false after just 8 changes, so the maximum number of dodges you should ever be *required* to do in the same place is just three.

The 'circle' of Original

Many ringers memorise a blue line by visualising a circle, where the order of events is represented by moving clockwise around it. So for Original Minor we could draw the following:-



As well as showing each of your backstroke positions in sequence, and hence what you should be saying to yourself every backstroke as you ring it, each number also shows where each bell starts in the plain course. Using this diagram, and the operations for a bob which we described above for each of the six positions, you now have all the theoretical material you need to ring a touch. For example, if a bob is called on the first change (while rounds is still being struck), the 3rd (the 3-up bell) will make the bob, the 5th (the 5-up bell) will dodge in 5-6 up, and the 6th (the 6-down bell) will dodge 5-6 down.

Calling original

The disadvantage of Original is that, in order to ring it, you do need someone to call the bobs. (For anyone who likes bob-calling, though, this might be seen as a significant plus-point, as there is no shortage of bobs that need to be called. For example, there is a normal-length peal of Original Royal that requires more than 1000 calls – needless to say it has never been rung.)

The qualities required of an Original bob-caller are somewhat different from those of the normal non-bob-calling original ringer. For one thing, he or she does not actually have to be as alert, as he or she will *know* when the next bob is about to be called. On the other hand, while non-callers can drift along with the short-term memory span of your average goldfish, the bob-caller needs to possess the memory capacity of a modest-sized laptop. Not all touches of Original are that hard to remember, to be fair, as many compositions include lots of repeating sections (the above peal, for example, is in 12 almost identical parts). Nevertheless, reeling off a seemingly random and endless barrage of bobs while dangling on the end of a bellrope remains one of the best ways to impress that I know. (Now we are sad, truly sad...) *....and keeping it right in the barrage when it goes wrong is even more impressive....!!* . Ed

There are also two types of Original bob-caller. The first is the type who thinks it would be fun to call bobs more or less at random for 3-4 minutes, and then spend the next 30 minutes trying to call it back into rounds. The other sort, however, has done their homework, and has learnt what they are going to call *in advance*. This has a lot more to recommend it because:

- you can design/choose a composition to give you the music of your choice, and this will *please the other ringers who are ringing with you*
- you can repeat the performance on a number of occasions
- you can time it better
- you can pass it on to someone else who can repeat the performance in your absence.

How to call a touch

As we said, you call each bob at a backstroke, and the action takes place (or "the bob is made") over the next handstroke and backstroke *only*. The bob-calling positions are easiest to remember by the place of your bell, *ie* whether you are in 1-up, 3-up, 5-up, 6-down, 4-down, or 2-down when you call a bob. (From here on, we'll call these positions 1, 3, 5, 6, 4, and 2 respectively, as with familiarity you'll soon twig that all the odd numbers are "up" positions, and all the even numbers are "down".)

You can call any touch from any bell. However, if a touch repeats itself (*ie* it is in more than one "part"), it is easier to remember it from a bell that returns to its home position at the end of each repeat (*ie* at the end of every part). For most compositions, this will apply to the tenor at least, so the tenor is generally a good bell to choose. (Go on, you know you want to!) It's also, usually, the most fun.

Touch 1: 36 changes of Original Minor

This is the simplest touch of all. Call a bob every time the tenor is in the 2-down position. The result is that a bob will be made every time the tenor leads, involving just bells 1, 2, and 3 at each bob, and will come round after 3 courses.

This is how we could write the touch:

Tenor:	<u>6 4 2 1 3 5</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	-	3 1 2 4 5 6
	-	2 3 1 4 5 6
	-	<u>1 2 3 4 5 6</u>

The bar (-) in the table indicates a bob is called when that place is reached by the tenor in the course.

We could actually shorten the writing of the above touch, as each course end happens also to be a repeat point (ie a part end). So we could write it as:

Tenor:	<u>6 4 2 1 3 5</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	-	3 1 2 4 5 6
	Repeat twice	

We suggest you try ringing this touch first, in order to get started. Also, as it only affects three bells, you could *call* it of other bells, so that everyone has a go at the bob-work (eg try calling it off the 3rd), or alternatively ring the same touch but get people to ring different bells.

Touch 2: 84 changes of Original Minor

Tenor:	<u>6 4 2 1 3 5</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	- -	3 2 1 4 5 6
	- -	2 3 1 4 5 6
	Repeat twice	

This is a bit harder, more fun, and more musical. All bells are affected; including the tenor, although 4, 5, and 6 do not "make" any bobs. Note that you start the touch with a bob straight away, so you will call: "Go Original...bob!", so that the ringers have enough warning to ring a bob over the first two changes. The touch contains all the possible changes with 546 and 456 at the back, which is quite an achievement in just 84 changes.

Touch 3: 108 changes of Original Minor

Tenor:	<u>6 4 2 1 3 5 6</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	<u>2 - - - - 1</u>	3 1 2 5 4 6
	Repeat 5 times	

Now we're getting really exciting! We start with the same "Go Original...bob!" command as in touch 2, but now there is a second bob, which is called straight after - in the same position. Hence you will call two bobs, at consecutive backstrokes, in the same (6-down) position, and physically you yourself will double-dodge 5-6 down as a result.

The "1" under the 6-down position at the end of the course could have been written as a (-), but we wanted to emphasise that this single bob in 6-down would then be *immediately followed by the two bobs in 6-down at the start of the next repeat*. So, physically, you will be calling 3 bobs together in 6-down every time, followed by a bob in 4-down, and then doing all of that a total of six times. It just so happens that the touch begins and ends part way through a 3-bob sequence.

Have a go at ringing this one: because only then will you see why Original is so well worth ringing - the music is very pretty.

Parting thoughts

You will note that I have been very careful to avoid the word "conductor" when talking about calling Original. It is one thing to call the bobs, it is quite another to be able to sort out any mistakes. But, one step at a time: you (and others) can get a lot of fun (and good ringing) with the services of a (not-so-humble) bob-caller. So, if it fires up, it will probably fire out. So what: try again, and if the ringers know that success really does depend on their staying alert for the duration, then the ringing you can achieve *on* success can be close to perfection and extremely satisfying for all.

I think you now have enough of a starter pack to get your own Original Minor band going. Next time I'll show you some more interesting touches, singles, a quarter peal, some hints for conductors and composing. In subsequent articles I hope to cover such delights as Original Triples, Major and Royal. Happy ringing!
Robert Chadburn

Thank you Robert for such a full and readable description of this fascinating Principle. Let's hope it fires up the enthusiasm for ringing Original Minor and, after Part 3 (or 4?), Triples, Major and beyond. Ed

EL PRESIDENTE'S BRAIN TEASER

A slight change to the norm here by El Presidente, with a mathematical problem (what do you expect from a maths teacher...?). It's a delightful little problem, which will give 'non-crossword' members a bit of a look-in. Here it is:-

St Michael's ringing chamber is rectangular. If it had been three feet longer and 1 foot wider, its area would increase by 81 square feet. If it had been 1 foot longer and 3 feet wider, its area would increase by 93 square feet. What are the dimensions of the ringing chamber - in good, old-fashioned Imperial yards, feet and inches?



Answers by post to El Presidente at the address on page 2 by August 1st 2010. Mark envelope 'FSG Brain Teaser'. Answer in the next Newsletter. The first correct answer opened after this date wins the traditional first prize of a night out with John at the pub. Second prize in abeyance this time.

Crossword addicts will be relieved to know their 'fix' will return in the next Newsletter.

<<< ANSWER TO THE CROSSWORD IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER (124)

El Presidente received no solutions to this crossword, correct or otherwise. Does this mean there are no crossword fans after all, or that the crossword itself was much too hard? (*El Presidente tells me he thought it 'embarrassingly easy' this time - Ed*) And the prize must be worth the effort expended - surely?

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following proposal will be made by me on behalf of the Guild's Committee at the AGM on October 16th 2010:-

'That a Four Shires Guild Bell Fund be established with the money accrued by the FSG Mid-Week Tours (presently in the Guild's bank account and standing at some £1400). This Fund is to be administered by the Committee, for the purpose of making grants to churches within the Guild's area of operation for bell renovation, refurbishment, maintenance and associated works. The detailed terms and operation of the Fund are to be proposed subsequently by the Committee, which will report these to, and seek approval from, the membership before operation commences.'

Peter Quinn, Guild Master

FOUR SHIRES GUILD ANNUAL WALKING TOUR SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2010

This year's walking tour will centre around the villages of Kingham, Bledington and Lower Oddington. Although this is primarily a 'walking tour' and thus towers are chosen which can provide a realistic route, it is always a benefit to have at least some of the ringers travelling by car between towers, so, walkers, non-walkers, ringers, non-ringers, this is a day for all to enjoy.

We will commence our ringing at **St Andrews, Kingham (8,12cwt GF), 10.15 until 11 am** followed by a walk of around 1.5 miles to **St Leonard's, Bledington (6,8cwt)**. We plan to arrive so as to ring from **12 to 12.45pm**. There is an excellent pub, The Kings Head, adjacent to the village green so those who want a pub lunch or just a swift half following their sandwiches can all be catered for here.

The walk then continues to **St Nicholas, Lower Oddington (6,10cwt GF)**, around 2.5 miles and ringing is arranged for **2.45 to 3.30pm**. We then return to Kingham another 2.5 miles and so should be back at the cars at around 4.30

If you plan to walk you will need stout walking shoes or preferably boots - when I tested the route in February it was extremely muddy in places though I hope it will be fairly dry underfoot in September. I recommend walkers come prepared with waterproof clothing and of course flask and packed lunch. Even if you plan to visit the pub it is always a good idea to carry at least water and some food items with you.

Please contact me nearer the time if you would like to join the walk - even if you can only make it to one of the towers you will be most welcome; and of course if any of the regular ringers at any of the 3 towers want to join the tour they will be warmly received.

Organiser (to whom all thanks, Ed):-
Wendy Mace: 01608 682543. macebwell@aol.com

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WANTED!

reporter for the Mid-Week Tours

The Newsletter used to include reports of the Mid-Week Tours (fondly - but quite unkindly, of course - called 'The Geriatrics' Tours'), given by one or another of the regulars on these. Sadly, nothing has been reported for some time now. These tours are Guild-run events, therefore reports in the Newsletter are very appropriate. A lot of ringers attend them, so interest in a report of the three tours between Newsletters will be wide. Would anyone (or any people) like to produce a regular report? If so, contact the Newsletter Team

NOTICES & ADVERTS (cont)

GUILD MINIMUS STRIKING COMPETITION FOR THE 'MINI-MOUSE TROPHY', WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST 2010, AT COLD ASTON, 5.00pm START

Do you remember the 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition? If so, you've been a member of the Four Shires Guild for a long time, as it was last held in 1995! Pam Copson introduced this delightfully informal contest and a trophy was donated. The Mini-Mouse Trophy has now been found and returned to the Committee for safekeeping. It has been decided to run this essentially fun striking competition again, but this time on a 5, ie with tenor covering.

It's a late afternoon event and it ought to take no longer than 2 hours (depends on the number of teams entering). As the bells are booked for 3 hours, there will be time to have some ringing afterwards and then it is probably down to a local hostelry to sit in the sunshine, slag off the Organiser and the judge, and drink your tippie.

Teams can be associated with a tower, or any 5 FSG paid up members can form a team with a name. No ringer can ring for more than 2 teams. All teams get a warm-up practice of 3 minutes, and then no further practice. A maximum of about 10 whole pulls of rounds before the test piece. Rounds before and after not marked. No rising and falling in this event.

Names of teams, such as "Moreton Minnows" and ringers names in them to me by Monday 9th August if possible, otherwise turn up on the day and 'fit in'.

Organiser, Peter Quinn
01789-840827 or peterquinn22@googlemail.com

QUARTER-PEALS:-

Evesham, Worcs, 29th Mar, 1287 Stedman Caters: Chris Povey 1, Diana Reeves 2, Annie Hall 3, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 4, Alan Hartley 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, Robert Reeves 7, Chris Mew (C) 8, Mark Sayers 9, Steve Bowley 10. 1st on 10: 4 (On light 10)

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 11th Apr, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Jane Gilbert 3, Keith Murphy 4, Nick Allsopp 5, David Adams 6. Rung as a farewell compliment to Nick as he leaves to start a 3 year contract in Saudi Arabia.

Ilmington, Warks, 23rd April, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Andrew Gunn 1, Fran Chapman 2, Chris Righton 3, Bill Sabin 4, John Kinchin 5, Bill Nash 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Mike Fairfax 8. For St George's Day.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 23rd April, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Claire Tarrant 1, Gayle Woods 2, Sally Austin 3, Mick Austin 4, Jonathan Muller 5, Graham Clifton (C) 6. For St George's Day. 1st Minor: 2

Although attributed to the Cov DA, this Q is well-worthy of inclusion here:

Harbury, Warks, 10th May, 1280 Four Shires Guild D Major: Chris Mew 1, Diana Reeves 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, Alan Hartley 7, Peter Quinn (C) 8. 1st in method: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 (*Congratulations. Ed*) For Evensong.

Mickleton, Glos, 8th May, 1260 Plain Bob Minor (with tenor cover): Andrew Gunn 1, Chris Righton 2, John Nicholls 3, Bill Nash 4, Jackie Hands 5, Michael Dane (C) 6, Mike Fairfax 7. For the 65th anniversary of VE Day

Evesham, Worcs, 24th May, 1259 Grandsire Caters: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Diana Reeves 3, Karen French 4, John Nicholls 5, Robert Reeves 6, Peter Quinn 7, Chris Mew (C) 8, Mark Sayers 9, Chris Povey 10. 1st Grandsire Caters: 4 (On back 10)

Wellesbourne, Warks, 29th April, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Ted Copson 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Michael Haynes 3, Sue Bacon 4, John Carroll 5, Paddy Taylor 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Allen Turner 8. To celebrate the 50th birthday of 4th (tomorrow).

Offenham, Worcs, 12th June, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Tim Pinner 1, John Bolton 2, Claire Penny 3, Colin Currill 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, John Middleton 6. For Offenham Wake. 1st Q away from tenor behind: 1

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 14th June, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Robert Reeves 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Diana Reeves 3, Karen French 4, Alan Hartley 5, Mark Sayers 6, John Nicholls 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 8. 1st Surprise Major as conductor.

Todenham, Glos, 16th June, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Isobel Murphy 1, Chris Righton 2, Michael Cummings 3, John Nicholls (C) 4, Keith Murphy 5, Stuart Cummings 6. To celebrate Stuart Cummings' 60th birthday earlier this month

(Please let me have details of quarters. I cannot guarantee to see them on Campanophile or wherever. I do some, but probably not all. Ed)

TOWER NEWS:

Adlestrop: although reported last year that a bells rehanging committee was likely to appear, it is only recently that the PCC has given the formal go-ahead for this to begin. A committee has been formed and the options for how the bells will be arranged when rehanging have been discussed. These options are based on the quotations supplied by bellhangers in 2007. A meeting with the new Gloucester DAC Bells Adviser took place

at the beginning of May. He is supportive of the favoured option: discarding the tenor and using the 4th bell (5cwt) as the tenor of a lighter ring, using the existing 2nd as a fixed clock bell and casting 2 new trebles, replacing the bellframe with a 6-bell frame if allowed, and augmenting to 6 if money allows. The cost of this work is currently estimated at £50k. As ever, if there are any

millionaires out there with a need to offload lots of dosh in the name of charity, or anyone else who happens to feel likewise, please let Ralph Price at Adlestrop know (Ralph is the Chairman of the Rehanging Committee).

Please let me have any information about what's happening in towers in the area. Ed

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

July 3 rd	RINGING TOUR TO RUTLAND (see April Newsletter, p.11) - <u>NO EVENING PRACTICE</u>	
July 10 th	WHICHFORD , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
July 17 th	HALFORD , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
July 24 th	ALDERMINSTER , Warks	6, 12-0-26 in F (<u>Note exchange of date with Stratford</u>)
July 31 st	STRATFORD-UPON-AVON , Warks	10, 19-0-2 in E (<u>Note exchange of date with Alderminster</u>)
(Beware of the narrow spiral staircase and the three close-together steps half-way up!)		
Aug 7 th	BADSEY , Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F (7.00-8.30pm)
Aug 14 th	COLD ASTON , Glos	5, 5-3-16 in B (GF) (7.00-8.00pm after Minimus Comp)
Aug 21 st	TEMPLE GUITING , Glos	5, 11-3-17 in F# (beware the low entrance to the R/Room!)
Aug 28 th	WELLESBOURNE , Warks	8, 10-0-24 in G (GF)
Sept 4 th	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN , Worcs	8, 10-1-8 in G
Sept 11 th	TYSOE , Warks	6, 12-0-18 in F
Sept 18 th	WELFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
Sept 25 th	TODENHAM , Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
Oct 2 nd	HOOK NORTON , Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E (<i>One of Taylors' all-time glories.....!! Ed</i>)
Oct 9 th	MICKLETON , Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E (GF)
Oct 16 th	AGM & STRIKING COMPETITIONS, BROADWELL (see Notice of AGM, p.3)	
Oct 23 rd	LONG COMPTON , Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F
Oct 30 th	KINGHAM , Oxon	8, 12-0-14 in F# (GF)

For any alterations to this programme, check the new FSG web-site (<http://www.fourshires.org.uk>), or Campanophile's diary (<http://www.campanophile.co.uk>). The Calendar part of the FSG web-site gives further information about each Saturday night tower (just single-click the tower name), including a location map.

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.

A wide range of ringing is undertaken at these practices, so something will appeal to your ability – or your desire to try something a bit more difficult. Practices have been well-attended recently, so this indicates a marked success in getting the right balance.

The Guild carries Public Liability insurance through the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for all its activities. Non-members attending these activities are also covered by this insurance, providing they abide fully by the Guild's Health & Safety and Child Protection policies. (Both policies now appear on the FSG web-site, so their contents are available to all, whether members or non-members.)

TAG-END:

Isobel Murphy has taken over from Phyllis Brazier as the General Contact Point for the FSG Mid-Week Outings. Isobel's email is isobel.murphy@btinternet.com and phone number is 01608-652466. Details of the FSG Mid-Week Tours can be found on the relevant pages of the FSG web-site www.fourshires.org.uk.

NOTE: dates set for events in 2010 are:-

'Mini-Mouse' Striking Comp: Saturday 14th August at Cold Aston (and see above)
Autumn Walk: Saturday 18th September
Guild AGM & Striking Comps: Saturday 16th October at Broadwell. PLEASE COME!!

Get them in your diary now!!

STOP PRESS!! The Guild's Minute Book dating from 1909 (ie from the Guild's original foundation) has come to light – in Wiltshire! More details in next Newsletter. Ed