

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

## NEWSLETTER No 126 - OCT 2010



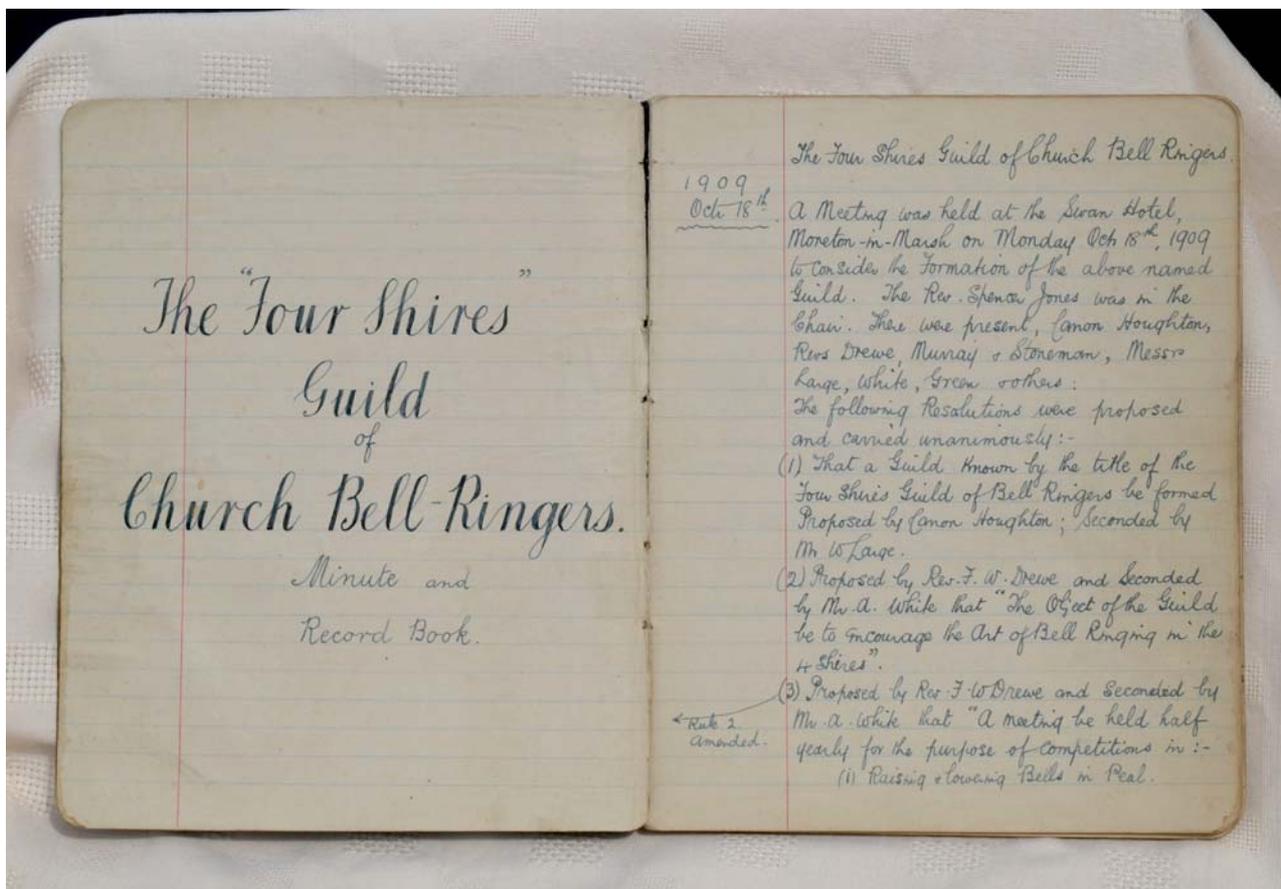
Definitely Founded 1909

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## FSG ORIGINAL MINUTE BOOK FOUND!!

COVERS PERIOD 1909 – 1924.



Steve Bowley, Guild Ringing Master, received a most interesting email in June. The writer said a colleague had the FSG Minute Book dating from 1909, and would the Guild like to have it. Steve replied that we would very much like to have it. He arranged to meet the writer at the local practice, near Swindon, and returned home that night with the book. A quick look through revealed it ran through from the very first meeting to 1924, a total of 110 pages filled with the earliest of Guild history. A real treasure trove!

Should anyone think the present-day Guild has the wrong name, don't worry. The middle of the right-hand page carries the important words: 'That a Guild known by the title of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers be formed. Proposed by Canon Houghton; Seconded by Mr W Large'. No name-changing required. There from Day1! Read the article about the Book on pp.5&6.

*(Never in my wildest dreams did I think when I wrote 'Founded 1909' underneath the FSG badge on the front of the last Newsletter - did anyone notice? - that the next Newsletter's front page would show a document that fully proved the statement. Life is full of surprises: some small, some large - and some massive! Ed)*

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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THE FSG WEB-SITE IS: <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

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## The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (January 2011) is Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 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.)

## EDITORIAL

This Newsletter has appeared fractionally earlier than normal, so that all members can see the Guild Master's Report for 2009/10 (on p.4) prior to the AGM on October 16<sup>th</sup> at Broadwell. Publication of the Report in the Newsletter will allow it to be taken as read at the meeting, which will expedite the Agenda. The Report contains much that is interesting and all members are urged to read it.

The summer quarter, July to October, is traditionally an active time for the Guild, and things have happened this year. Firstly, there was the Ringing Tour on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, which, from the account on p.7, was very successful in both the numbers attending and the towers chosen. The second event was the revived Mini-Mouse Striking Competition on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Cold Aston, which attracted 3 teams and two scratch teams: see the report on p.8. Lastly, there was the Guild Walk on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the report of which appears on p.9. There must be something about FSG events this year, as all had excellent weather! All thanks to those who organised these events. It is hard enough doing this without the weather becoming inclement on the day.

The blockbusting news during this period was of course the discovery of the Guild's Minute Book from 1909 (see front page and pp.5&6). This is a major find and a treasure on a par with – or even in excess of – the Spencer Jones Cup. It will cast a new and precise light on the formation and the earliest days of the 'old' Guild. Its reappearance and journey back to the Guild is a happy and welcome event. It also shows historical artefacts are still out there to reappear eventually, which fuels the fervent hope the pre-war Shield will one day be discovered.

One item in the Minute Book is slightly topical: the subscription paid in 1909. This was 1 shilling (5p) for Ringing Members. A little delving on the internet told me inflation has risen about 77 times from 1909 to now, so 1 shilling is now the equivalent of 77 shillings. For those not of 'a certain age', this is very nearly £4 - and was paid out from wages that were probably less than today's average wages. It appears the Guild commenced with two meetings per year (the two halves of the Striking Competition) and little else. Current subscription amounts to £3, which covers a practice every Saturday evening, other ringing and social functions, and a Newsletter four times a year. Surely even our most parsimonious members must consider the current sub an absolute bargain! And the Committee is not

recommending a rise this year either...!! As the Guild Master says in his report, it's all down to prudent management by your committee, of course.

By the time you read this, there will still be enough time to nominate members in writing for the Guild Officer positions, Guild President and Vice-Presidents, and the new positions of Central Council representatives. If you fancy being any one of these, get another member to complete a nomination form and send it to the General Secretary. Additionally, nominations will be taken from the floor at the AGM for 'ordinary' committee members. If you fancy being an 'ordinary' committee member to help manage the Guild, come along and ask another member to propose you in that way.

A reminder and a repeat: don't be put off by the length of the AGM Agenda (see July Newsletter). My experience is long agendas encourage everyone to get on with the business, because it's – 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!

Oh! and if you want to compete in the Striking Comps, let Steve Bowley know. The Old Minute Book reveals the Competition to be run at Broadwell in October will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first, as the 1st part of the competition in April 1910 (the competition used to be in two parts until recently) had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The winners of this year's competition will therefore have a special satisfaction.

You will notice in Tower News that Temple Guiting's 5 bells are to be augmented to 6 via the generosity of a donor who believes it "would be negligent to leave the pit unfilled". This donation does not cover the full cost of the project and other donations will be required before the bell is hauled up into the empty pit awaiting it. The G&B Assoc have offered a very generous grant towards this project, and therefore that Association will have the pride and satisfaction in taking a 'share' in it – and for G&B members collectively to experience the pleasure and gratitude of Temple Guiting PCC. As we shall be voting at the AGM on whether to have a

FSG Bell Fund, this action by the G&B in helping to bring to fruition this and other bell projects will hopefully assist us in voting for a Bell Fund. It will allow this Guild also to give to, and therefore take a 'share' in, such projects; and for Guild members to experience the gratitude that derives.

Although I'm not a regular on the FSG's Mid-week Tours, I attended the 250<sup>th</sup> Tour to record it for posterity. Tony Brazier, the inaugurator of these tours, would have been proud to witness this milestone. There is a possibility that someone will submit reports of these tours, which have now become a significant part of the Guild's activities. However, the advert on p.12 is still valid at the moment.

Talking about subscriptions as I was, the 2011 subscriptions become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Yes, the year is rushing through; I remember mentioning the 'S-word' in this august publication a year ago. Subs will continue to be £3. As this has been proved to be an absolute bargain, please pay up quickly when the time comes – and with a smile.

Another reminder and a repeat in case you overlooked – or wanted to overlook - this particular bit in the last Newsletter: as previously advised, I am editing the Newsletter for 2010, and another Editor will be required from January 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

Heard at a local Striking Competition:-

Fred: "Listen! Young Dave ain't set that tenner. How many strikes? ...six on 'em! Ee'll get 'em marked down fer that!"

Bert: "Ah, I knows what 'ee be at. 'Ee's a cricketer, see? And I'll lay 'ee be on that betting scam thing!"

Thank you again, John Middleton.....

## GUILD MASTER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2009 – 2010 (Item 5 of AGM Agenda)

I am pleased to report that your Guild has had another very active year, and the committee elected at the last Annual General Meeting has worked very hard on your behalf to achieve that.

The weekly practices have generally been well attended and they have run by the Ringing Master or someone deputising on his behalf. However, due to other pressures, Steve Bowley has decided not to stand for re-election at this meeting and I am sure all members will join me in thanking him for all the hard work he has put in over the past years.

The Committee discussed the merits of insuring the Guild's silverware, and this was agreed. The total value has been added to the existing Public Liability cover with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, set up by our Secretary Andrew Gunn. The website under Roland Merrick is also projecting an active Guild to the web world and the Guild Magazine can now be read online.

The centenary year activities finished in November with a peal of Four Shires Guild Delight Major, a method rung for the first time and named for the occasion. The band comprised members from each of the four Shires, and a peal board has been erected in the ringing chamber at Moreton-in-Marsh to mark the occasion.

Another successful Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Falcon Hotel in Stratford upon Avon. I am sure the dinner was enjoyed by all who attended, and we were all entertained by our after dinner guest speaker Steve Coleman.

One of the most important things the committee did very early in the year was to apply to become affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR). The Rules of the Guild clearly state the elected committee have a mandate to manage the Guild affairs, so with this in mind the committee agreed to apply during this year. The application was made in late January for

consideration at the CCCBR's Administrative Committee meeting in the mid March. This deadline was important, as failure to meet it would have meant a delay until May 2011 for approval by the full Council. Our application was recommended by the CCCBR's Administrative Committee for affiliation, and we were elected to the Council at its meeting in Derby at the end of May this year.

Andrew Gunn attended the CCCBR meeting in May as our temporary Guild representative and holds that position until the next CCCBR meeting in May 2011 when all the members of the council are elected as representatives of their various associations for a further three years ('Triennium'), the period for which the Council operates before the Presidency is changed. The size of the Guild allows us two representatives. They will be elected at the Oct AGM to serve for a three-year period and take their position to represent us at the May 2011 CCCBR meeting in Hereford.

The Guild Newsletter has taken on a new dimension since the last AGM, both in editorial content and printing quality. The printing has now been taken on 'in house' via a home-type printer purchased by the Guild specifically for this purpose, as research showed this method of printing is probably the most economical method of production. Chris Povey took over as our Editor at the last AGM and thanks must go to him for taking on this very important role. However to be an effective editor he needs material to edit, and as it is your magazine, the whole of the Guild membership is responsible for contributing to the content of this publication. After all it is an instrument for everyone to have their say in the running of the Guild, and to bring any matter to the attention of the Guild as a whole, as well as interesting articles.

We always publish in the Newsletter an

abridged report of the Guild Committee meetings. This allows all members to be notified of any important business, and they can inform the Secretary of any items they want discussed at these meetings, or whether they want more information on any item.

As agreed at last year's AGM, the committee has clarified the Mid-Week Tours money held in the Guild accounts and has reached an agreement with Phyllis Brazier to use it as the basis for a Guild bell restoration fund. This will allow us to offer grants towards the upkeep of bells within the Guild's area of operation, so we can help towers in need directly, rather than as previously through the bell funds of others. I have given Notice that I shall propose at the coming AGM that the Guild set up a Bell Restoration Fund. Since the initial Notice was given, details of the rules of the Fund have been finalised, and these will be presented to the AGM as an Addendum to the proposal (*see p.10, Ed*). Should these be accepted, the Fund could be operational almost immediately.

The Guild will not need to increase the subscriptions for 2011. This has been made possible through prudent house-keeping and you will see from the accounts prepared and presented by Mike Rees that we are in reasonable shape for the coming year. Mike will be able to answer any question you may have about Guild finances.

Finally I would like to thank all members of the committee for their commitment and hard work, and for the time they have given to attending the many committee meetings which were held during this year.

Peter Quinn

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### FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER

The Committee met at Ilmington on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The major subject for consideration was the final arrangements for the AGM in October. The Guild Master's report was considered and minor amendments suggested (*final version above, Ed*).

Additionally, there were reports from each of the Guild Officers and other committee members with specific responsibilities. It was noted that the Child Protection guidelines are being reviewed in October, and the CP Officer will monitor any changes. The Membership Secretary reported on the current position with paid-up members, but there had been little or no change since last time.

Guild events since the last meeting were reported. These were the Ringing Tour to Rutland on July 3<sup>rd</sup>

and the Minimus Striking Competition on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Ringing Tour was well-attended and was deemed a great success. The reintroduction of the Minimus Striking competition at Cold Aston had three teams plus two scratch teams, but those participating had a very enjoyable time.

The purchase of a new, home-style Canon printer was reported. This is to print the Newsletter in-house and hopefully will last for four editions, thus making its write-off value £14.50 per edition. We shall see...!

The details of the proposed FSG Bell Fund were discussed briefly. The Guild Master offered to produce a draft for discussion.

The call for contributions towards the CCCBR's new Roll of Honour to record the names of ringers killed in War was discussed. It was agreed to donate £20 towards this.

The Old Minute Book was discussed and there was much support for depositing this in a County Archive on a non-transferred ownership basis. Steve Bowley was asked to investigate this aspect more formally. A facsimile copy of the book has been made.

The Guild Dinner will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011. (*See details, p.11. Ed*).

Next Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Ilmington.

## THE GUILD MINUTE BOOK, 1909 - 1924

The Guild's 'earth' shook a month or two ago. I suspect the last time such a thing occurred was when the Spencer Jones Cup was found; and that was well over 30 years ago. What was the occasion? It was the return of the very first FSG Minute Book to the Guild in late July. It must be the very first item the Guild possessed, as it was there from the first day – which of course makes it over 100 years old. It would have been exciting to have any of the 'old' Guild's Minute Books returned, but to have the first one is... well... truly stunning!

It is an unimpressive-looking book from the outside, but inside it is a veritable treasure trove of information. Up until now we have relied on reports in 'The Ringing World' and its forerunner 'Bell News', newspaper reports, old FSG certificates hanging on Ringing Room walls, word of mouth and similar, perhaps-shaky, knowledge to build up a picture of the beginnings of the Guild, but here in one fell swoop is the complete and absolutely confirmed history. Not only do we have a such a history of the first few meetings, but all the meetings until 1924 in wonderful detail and with the names of those persons taking part in the proceedings.

So, where has the book been all these years? Things are a bit hazy, but we've been told that it's been residing in Wiltshire in a ringer's drawer for the last 50 years and that it only recently came to light when he and his wife were having a sift-through and chuck-out of various things in the house. Apparently, his wife said something along the lines of: 'Do you want this old book or shall I throw it out?' Luckily (for us), an inspection revealed the importance of the contents immediately. Where the book was prior to the last 50 years is unknown at present, but this part of the story may emerge in due course.

The first page outlines a meeting, but it was not a ringing meeting as such, in that no associated ringing is recorded. It was a meeting to explore the possibility of setting up an organisation for Church bell ringers in the North Cotswolds area. The Minutes for that meeting are worth recording here (see text box on the right).

So there we have it: the Guild's name, its objects, the competition rules, the subscriptions, the officers and when the meetings would be held; all decided in one short blast on Day One.

It's also interesting to see that 'Church Bell Ringers' was originally considered for the Guild name, but the final name is unequivocal: just 'Bell Ringers'. I find this surprising considering the number of clergymen present.

It seems likely the Guild's formation was driven by the clergy and Walter Large. I suspect Large and some of his close ringing colleagues may have had the idea, but they needed the backing of the clergy to set up the organisation properly and formally. This was an age when the 'big house' and the clergy reigned supreme, and not obtaining their support would spell Doom from the start. Walter Large had experience of the Oxford Diocesan Guild prior to leaving Burford. That tower was certainly active at the time, as 11 peals were rung there before 1909, most being for the ODG, and Large took part in, and conducted, some of these. From the peals he rang and conducted, we can see he was a very competent ringer – and seemingly he had the energy to move things forward when he decided they should be!

The Book also bridges a particularly significant era in England, the period immediately before, during and following the Great War. It was famously said on the day before Britain's entry to the War, that 'The lights are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our time'.

Before the War everyone knew their place. Money, rank and the Clergy

*(Extract from the Minute Book of the inaugural meeting of the Guild)*

### THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

1909, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>:

A Meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh on Monday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 1909 to consider the Formation of the above named Guild. The Rev Spencer Jones was in the Chair. There were present, Canon Houghton, Revs Drewe, Murray & Stoneman, Messrs Large, White, Green & others:

The following Resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously:-

(1) That a Guild known by the title of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers be formed. Proposed by Canon Houghton; Seconded by Mr W Large.

(2) Proposed by Rev F.W.Drewe and Seconded by Mr A.White that "The Object of the Guild be to encourage the Art of Bell Ringing in the 4 Shires". Proposed by Rev F.W.Drewe and Seconded by Mr A. White that "A meeting be held half-yearly for the purposes of competitions in:-

- (i) Raising & lowering Bells in Peal.
- (ii) in Round Ringing
- (iii) in Call change Ringing
- (iv) in Change (method) Ringing

(3) Proposed by Mr W Large and Seconded by Mr Evans "that the Ringing members pay an Annual Subscription of 1/- (*one shilling: 5p*)"

(4) Proposed by Rev E.T.Murray and Seconded by Rev J.W Stoneman "that Hon Members pay a Subscription of not less than 5/- (*five shillings: 25p*)"

(5) Proposed by Mr W Large and Seconded by Mr Walker, that the ½yrlly meetings be held on the last Thursday in April and the last Wednesday in October

(6) Prop by Canon Houghton & Sec by Rev Drewe that Mr W Large be Hon Secretary

(7) Proposed by Mr Townsend and Seconded by Mr Kile that for the first year the Competitions be restricted to

- (i) Rising & Sinking
- (ii) Round Ringing
- (iii) Call Change ringing

(8) Proposed by Rev Drewe & Seconded by Canon Houghton that a committee be appointed consisting of one member from Each Tower.

(9) Proposed by Rev Drewe & Seconded by Rev Spencer Jones that Canon Houghton be asked to be President.

(10) Proposed & Seconded that the First Meeting be held at Blockley on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

ruled supreme and provided an ordered existence. Then came the War itself, with all its horrors, upheaval and loss of life. The aftermath provided many difficulties, when the Land to which the heroes returned was not as initially promised and inevitable changes in attitudes caused increasing friction. Many families, rich and poor, were affected by the War, with loss of life, disablement or mental breakdown. Cracks in the Old Order were starting to appear, forcing a different way of life to begin.

The Book takes us through these tumultuous years, and it's rather like reading someone's diary. We know what was about to happen from 1914 onwards, but they didn't; of course. It is instructive to see how they gradually became aware of the reality of the War. Meetings were cancelled in some cases. I haven't read all the book by a long way, just bits here and there, but enough to taste the atmosphere of the time. The Book is a wonderful ringing history of the Guild's area, but more than that, it's a fascinating record of social history here, too.

We know now the very first Guild Meeting was held at Blockley on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 1910. It is a shame the Book was not returned a little earlier, as it would have allowed the present Guild to have celebrated the centenaries of the inaugural meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1909 and of the meeting at Blockley. However, it is reported the Blockley meeting was poorly attended on account of inclement weather (no hopping into the 4x4's then). As many towers weren't fully represented, the first part of the Striking Competition was abandoned. The very first FSG Striking Competition was held at the following meeting, which was on Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>, at Moreton-in-Marsh. The Striking Competition due on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Broadwell will therefore be, quite genuinely, the centennial one!!

The first Committee meeting was held on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> 1910, at the Swan Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh, starting at 7.00pm. Keen to mark this auspicious event, the present Committee met at The Swan, Moreton-in-Marsh, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.00pm to toast the memory of those pioneering Committee members of 100 years ago.



A digital copy of the book is now available (see below), and I sent copies to Christopher Pickford, noted national bell historian and author, and Dr John Eisel, the CCCBR's librarian and also a noted bell historian and author, for their comments on the book. I reproduce their comments here (see text boxes on the right).

John Eisel's mention of the FSG now having its own birth certificate is an excellent description of the Minute Book. Our beginnings are no longer lost in the mists of time and therefore questionable. We have a proven record of how we came into existence. And judging by what Chris and John say, it is a remarkably good record, too. John's comment regarding the history of the Guild is well made, too. Do we have an historian among us who could take on this assignment?

The present Guild committee has to decide what to do with the book now. We are aware of its value to the ringing community at large and to its vulnerability to all sorts of dangers, and therefore we (the Guild collectively) have a responsibility to provide secure long-term storage for it. Depositing it in a County Archive is an option that has been investigated, either with transfer or non-transfer of ownership, and this aspect will be discussed at the committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

A photographic copy of the book has been made, by which it is possible to read the book in its original handwritten form. The file (pdf format: Adobe Reader required, which is available free) is less than 10Mb, so it can be sent to most people on broadband without difficulty. A copy of this file is available from me: my email address is on page 2.

It has been suggested the Minute Book copy file could be available to all through the web-site. Is this a good idea? Do we want it to be widely available? Perhaps we could have some letters to the Editor on that one.

Chris Povey

I'm glad to have had a sight of this. It's really quite a find - not so much for the "wider world" of ringing, but very definitely so for the Guild. It provides a remarkably complete record of activities and concerns for the period, through the Great War and into the 20s. The record of results for the competitions must be quite unusually complete.

Also, of course, there is a complete record of the places where the meetings were held, and of the bands and individuals who attended. I noticed that there's information about the Shield, Roll of Honour etc. All in all, it is excellent. Also, it's good to be able to share a digital copy for ease of reference and (to some extent) as a safety/ backup copy.

Chris Pickford FSA

### WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

The success of TV series such as the above indicates the tremendous interest in personal origins, where do we get our personal characteristics? Of course, in the Exercise we have always been interested in our origins, at least in change ringing terms, and we love to argue where it came from, without any firm conclusions! But now, in the case of the Four Shires Guild, its origins are proved without doubt, and the Four Shires Guild has its own birth certificate. I refer, of course, to the recent recovery of the first minute book, covering the period from 1909 when it originated until 1924. Formed at a meeting at the Swan Hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh on 18 October 1909, when Walter Large was elected hon. secretary, the first meeting of the Guild took place at Blockley on 28 April 1910. Interestingly enough, this was not reported in *Bell News* at the time, and as far as I can tell, the first meeting to be reported in the ringing press was the first annual meeting that took place at Todenham on 27 April 1911, which was written up in the *Ringling World* of 12 May 1911.

The minute book does not mention peals rung by the Four Shires Guild, but the first is understood to be one of Grandsire Doubles rung at Great Wolford on 2 February 1910, even before a meeting took place, conducted by Walter Large. However, this was not reported in *Bell News*. Although another peal is claimed to have been rung at Whichford a week later on 9 February, this seems to be confused with a peal rung there by the Four 'Shire' Guild on 8 September 1910 and is probably incorrect. Seven members of the Guild rang a peal of Grandsire Doubles at Todenham (the tenor was rung double-handed) on 20 May 1910, conducted by Walter Large, but this peal was credited to the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and the first one credited to the Guild which was published in *Bell News* was one of Grandsire Doubles rung at Longborough on 2 June 1910, again conducted by Walter Large.

With the first Guild record book now safe, it is possible to write a definitive history of the early years of the Guild. Reports of Guild activities in the years prior to the Second World War, which were published in the *Ringling World*, can easily be traced in the DVD recently issued by the CC Library Committee. The centenary of the first meeting of the Guild has just passed, and it is an appropriate time for the history of the Guild, and its resuscitation in 1973, to be written up and published – and I am old-fashioned enough to like seeing things in print!

Dr John Eisel, CCCBR Librarian

## GUILD RINGING TOUR TO RUTLAND, 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY. (organised by Richard L-S)

We had the best start to any tour that you could ask for: the weather! What a beautiful day! The tour was well attended and a good variety of methods rung. The day started off at Uppingham, which were a nice 8. Next was the village of Edith Weston. Lunch was at The Wheatsheaf in Oakham, and of course, thanks to the weather we all sat outside in the flower-filled courtyard and had a delicious lunch, enjoying views of the next tower, Oakham

We then went on to Belton-in-Rutland, where refreshments had been laid on for us. We left there elated after a successful touch of Original was

rung!! Flowers were also presented to the tour organiser and thanks given, which was a lovely gesture.

The last tower (and my favourite of the day) was Thurnby where a warm welcome was given by Julian Pawley who sadly could not ring with us but stayed to listen.

Both Richard and I would like to thank all the ringers that came to join us on the day, making the outing a great success.

Sophia Lewis-Skeath

(Oakham >>>)



## THE FSG MID-WEEK TOURS HIT 250!

The 250<sup>th</sup> FSG Mid-Week Tour occurred on August 19<sup>th</sup> and, rather appropriately, was run around 'Four Shires Heartland'. Four towers were visited, Mickleton and Willersey in the morning, and Saintbury and Chipping Campden in the afternoon. If it were intended as a delightful, easy and picturesque meander, then it managed this without difficulty. Not only that, the day was fine. All the necessary ingredients then! It only lacked Tony Brazier to witness this milestone (and he would have been delighted to have seen how far his idea had come), but Phyllis was there, along with other long-termers Frank Spiers and John Nicholls. There must have been others on the tour who attended the first one, and I apologise for not identifying them here.

I believe the first tour, arranged by Tony, took place around North Worcs on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1989, visting Belbroughton, Stone, Areley Kings and Shrawley. If I recall correctly, the early tours were called the 'Vice-President's Tours'. The arrangements for this first tour and the general idea must have been acceptable to those attending, as the next tour was the following month: to Herefordshire, where Bosbury, Coddington, Mathon and Bishops Frome received a visit; and the next month (Dec), too, to South Warks: Snitterfield, Aston Cantlow, Hatton and (a quick dip into Worcs) Alvechurch. The formula was clearly right from the beginning, as 'The Geriatrics' Tour' as it was to be become known – due to it being convenient only for non-working, eg retired, people to attend – followed

every month without fail, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month being the designated day. I say 'without fail', but this is not strictly true, as counting 250 months on from October 1989 makes July 2010 the 250<sup>th</sup> tour. So what happened? It appears the February 1991 never took place. I assume bad weather was the reason, but can anyone confirm that, or was there another reason? One month in 250 is quite remarkable, and this testifies to the clearly-amazing behind-the-scenes management that goes into getting tours organised and advertised well in advance. There is quite obviously a loyal following, too.

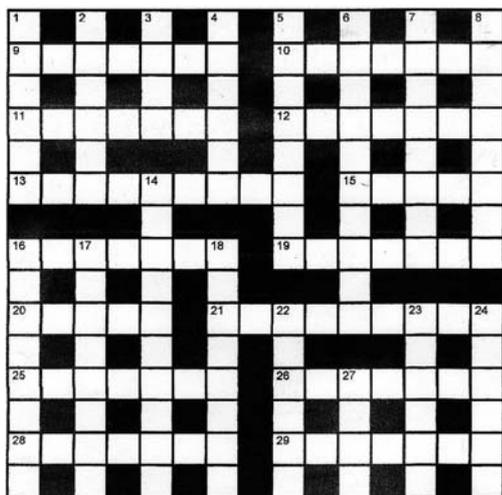
A goodly crowd from many counties met at Mickleton, where Triples and Major were rung. Willersey followed, where the narrow stairs were negotiated for touches of Doubles and Minor. Lunch was taken at The Bell Inn, a few yards from the Church, and afterwards it was up the hill to Saintbury, where the 8 bells were used to good effect. A trickle down the hill to Chipping Campden brought the party to the last tower, where the many steps provided late exercise in getting to the Ringing Room. John Nicholls had a light snack laid on in the Church at the end of the ringing for the participants, at which he said a few congratulatory words about the milestone that had been reached that day.

CMP



## EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Presidente continues to provide fodder for the FSG crossword enthusiasts, whom we hope managed to cope without one in the last Newsletter



- 9 St George. Heavy six in Warwickshire (7)  
 11 Italian wine (7)  
 13 He saw it all! (9)  
 16 Eg. Bellringing (7)  
 20 This isn't anything to do with the town (5)  
 25 A bean as the Frenchman would say (7)  
 28 Rice, meat and onions, etc (7)

- Down**
- 1 Ancient counting frame still used in China. (6)  
 2 Belonging to the dog. (6)  
 3 Blueprint (4)  
 4 Ideal for ringing a peal – in a warm room! (1,5)  
 5 St Peter. A light 10 in Worcestershire (8)  
 6 The little fellow from the Emerald Isle (10)  
 7 A rod-shaped bacterium (8)  
 8 A person placed for surveillance (5,3)  
 14 Threefold (10)  
 16 Abbey Church of the Holy Cross in Worcestershire (8)  
 17 Is it called this because it catches people out? (8)  
 18 Part and parcel of ringing (8)  
 22 Spoiled in rude arrangement (6)  
 23 An alarm-bell (6)  
 24 An international car (6)  
 27 St Edward. A heavy eight in the North Cotswolds (4)

- Across**
- 10 Mix tan with glee to become graceful (7)  
 12 County town with 10 bells at St Mary's (7)  
 15 There are definitely strings attached here (5)  
 19 Look into blockhead's etiquette to find something over the ears (7)  
 21 St Eadburgha's in the North Cotswolds (9)  
 26 Unknown to most people these can attack wooden bell-frames (7)  
 29 Unusual things from abroad (7)

Answers by post to El Presidente at the address on page 2 by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Mark envelope 'FSG crossword'. Answers in the next Newsletter. The first correct answer opened after this date wins the first prize of a night out with John at the pub. A second prize is once again offered: two nights (but must be consecutive).

### ANSWER TO THE BRAIN-TEASER IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER (125)

St Michael's Ringing Chamber was **6 yards, no feet, no inches wide x 8 yards, no feet, no inches long**. El Presidente received six answers this time, all being correct, although John Carroll was the lucky one apparently. (Let us know whether you were successful in claiming your prize, JC.....)

## 'MINI-MOUSE' STRIKING COMPETITION, COLD ASTON, 14<sup>TH</sup> AUG.

Three intrepid teams met at Cold Aston of 14<sup>th</sup> August to battle for the 'Mini-Mouse' Trophy. A 4<sup>th</sup> team had been expected, but they had to cancel. Was it the strength of the opposition that caused this, one wonders?

Cold Aston are a pretty little 5. They go well and sound clearly: ideal for a Striking competition. The weather was ideal for a competition, too: nicely warm and sunny. The tower captain, Roger Jones, welcomed us.

The competition had been organised most ably by Peter Quinn, Guild Master. The judge was Robert Robinson from Stoneleigh. The three teams competing were: 'The Committee', 'Moreton Wellingtons', and 'Wellesbourne'. Two scratch teams were formed: 'Cold Aston Scratch' and 'Welford & Friends'.

The order of ringing was easily decided: the first team with all its members present would ring first! This was 'The Committee'. The Rules were simple: 3 minutes practice and then ring 5 plain courses of Bob Minimus. The rounds before and after weren't marked. 'The Committee' rang well, considering none ring together normally.

Next in to ring was 'Wellesbourne'. Another pleasant piece resulted. 'Moreton Wellingtons' were next. They decided a Minimus competition should be on 4 bells, so they rang just the back 4. Unfortunately, things didn't hang together well and Richard L-S stood it up. Next on were the two scratch teams. 'Cold Aston Scratch' was headed by Richard L-S, who was clearly anxious to see his earlier choice of 'Minimus on 4 bells' properly come to fruition. He chose his band accordingly. The resulting piece was very nice. 'Welford & Friends' was the final team, who completed their piece without major upset.

Robert, the judge, then gave us his results. He placed the teams as follows:-

- 1 Cold Aston Scratch
- 2 The Committee
- 3 Wellesbourne
- 4 Welford & Friends
- 5 Moreton Wellingtons

Richard's decision to ring just the back 4 triumphed in the end.

Robert was then to present the Mini-Mouse

Trophy to the winning band, but ... nobody had brought it! Furthermore, nobody knew who'd got it. Yes, it had been returned from Stratford tower, where it had been resident for the last 14 years, but where from there? Richard solved the mystery by phoning Sophia, who confirmed it was with her. No problem with ensuring it went to the right home, then!

To round off the competition properly and traditionally, it was down to 'The Plough' – and a delightful venue that proved to be, too! All-in-all, a most enjoyable event.



The winning team:- Michael Cummings, Michael Dane, Andrew Gunn, Richard L-S.

## FSG WALKING TOUR, 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER (organised by Wendy Mace)

This year's walking tour was again blessed with fantastic weather. We started at Kingham, where preparations were being made for a wedding later in the afternoon - if we had known we could have reversed the walk and finished by ringing for the wedding as they had struggled to find a band!! The church is a gem with very unusual stone-ended pews and the bells were very tuneful.

We then split into the walkers and the drivers and headed off for Bledington, crossing the mainline railway track and the river Colne in the journey. Bledington Church looked resplendent, having had a wedding the previous week and with the harvest festival decorations as well. The ringing floor has a new staircase and has a lovely aspect looking down into the nave of the church. Here we met some young ladies doing their bronze DoE and one of them was a ringer - with a little encouragement she joined us for part of the ringing - and with several other visitors at the church we think our efforts were appreciated.

By now it was time to repair to the Kings Head on the village green for some liquid refreshment and several of the group enjoyed a light lunch whilst the rest of us settled for our sandwiches.

Two of the group then had to leave us but the rest carried on, again some walking some driving to our last tower of the day at Oddington. Another lovely church, with magnificent remains of medieval wall painting. Here we were joined again the by DoE girls on their trek and with tower 'captain' Margaret we were able to ring very satisfactorily. Again, lots of visitors to the church happily taking photos of us ringing so all in all this was a very sociable tour.

Here we bid farewell to the 'drivers' and 4 of us completed the walk back to Kingham, past the 'rear' of Daylesford, the well-known shop and cafe. We reached Kingham exactly on time at 4.30pm and the wedding there was still in progress as we left the village for home.

A lovely day and it was a shame it clashed with so many weddings and other ringing events - even as I drove through Stow on the way home I heard the bells ringing there: no doubt another wedding!

That was the fourth walking ringing tour and all of them have been held on wonderfully sunny days - long may the tradition continue.

Wendy Mace



L-R: Ted Copson, Allen Turner, Sue Bacon, Roland Merrick, Wendy Mace, Ginny White and Peter Kenealy

## AN 'ALL-SINGLES' QUARTER PEAL OF BOB MINOR

This Quarter peal composition of Bob Minor containing just Singles was printed in the Newsletter many years back, but it's worth another airing to give a nicely-unusual piece of ringing. The 720 appeared in the Ringer's Diary for a number of years, but the 540 was home-spun (computer checked and it's true). Here they are:-

720	<u>23456</u>	W	B	H
	54326	S		S
	52436		S	S
	53246		S	S
	52346			S
	43256	S		S
	<u>42356</u>			S
	54236	S	S	S
	32456	S		S
	<u>34256</u>			S
	53426	S	S	S
	24356	S		S
	23456			S

540	<u>23456</u>	W	B	H
	52346	S	S	S
	43256	S		S
	<u>42356</u>			S
	54236	S	S	S
	32456	S		S
	<u>34256</u>			S
	53426	S	S	S
	24356	S		S
	23456			S

CMP

## ORIGINAL THE THIRD

Avid readers of these columns should be waiting with bated breath for this, my next article about Original, the plain-hunt principle. If, somehow, you missed "An Original Idea" (Parts I and II), then you are strongly recommended (at least by me) to look these up in the April and July issues (*Or look up these issues on the FSG web-sit. In fact, it has been suggested the whole Original series should be put on the FSG website... Ed*)

As promised at the end of Part 2, I am now going to show you some more interesting touches of Original Minor, how to do singles, and a quarter peal.

First, another simple touch: pleasant though not outstandingly musical (on 6), but nice because it has a familiar wrong-home-wrong feel. It also extends with increasing musical splendour to Original on all even numbers of bells from Minor to Maximus. So here it is (for key to notation please see previous articles)

### Touch 4: 204 changes of Original Minor

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

The next touch, by simple additions of bobs and/or singles, extends to a range of lengths to suit your needs. I think this is one of the nicest touches to ring, and definitely repays the extra effort required in learning it!

### Touch 5: 64/128/192/384 changes of Original Minor

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

If you don't call anything at (1) then it will come round as shown, and this is the complete touch of **64 changes**. If you call a bob at (1), and repeat the whole thing twice more, you then get the touch of **192 changes**.

Note that a bob at 3 (in the first and third lines of the touch) will make the tenor make the bob. It is then in 4th position at the backstroke at the end of the bob, so (in line 2) the bob at 4 will follow straight away afterwards. In other words, the bobs at 3 and 4 in lines 1 and 2 are basically two bobs together, and a double dodge will be made by the two bells at the back.

Even prettier tunes can be obtained by using singles. The only bells that do stuff at a single are the bells in 3 and 6 at the backstroke when the single is called.

- *The bell in position 3 makes two blows in 4ths, and arrives in position 4 at the next backstroke. (This is the same as this bell would do if a bob is called in the same place - ie it makes the bob.) So the next thing it will do, will be to hunt down.*
- *The bell in position 6 will make two blows in 5ths (lying twice over the bell making 4ths), and will therefore arrive in position 5 at the next backstroke. It will next go into 6th place (and lie full, unless a bob is called straight afterwards!)*

The bell in 5th place, while its path is unaffected by the single, will be aware that its two blows in 6th place will be made over the same bell.

The changed paths are shown below in bold, assuming we start a touch with a single called at the backstroke of rounds:

<i>Resulting changes</i>	<u>1 2 3 4 5 6</u>
	2 1 4 3 6 5
	<u>2 4 1 3 6 5</u>
	4 2 3 1 5 6

Now, if we put a single in at (1) in Touch 5 above, and repeat the whole section, you will get 128 changes. You can get the full 384 by calling the 192, replacing the last bob at (1) with a single, and repeating the whole lot again (making a touch of six parts).

384 changes are a bit long for normal purposes, so here is my favourite touch of all, a one-part 192, with all the best music of the 384 included. It is a bit of a tour-de force for the conductor, so it gives you quite a challenge to aim for!

### Touch 6: 192 changes of Original Minor

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

{..} = A

*"I've got five people who can ring Original, and one other who can hunt the treble, what can I do?"*

One answer, of course, is "Teach him or her how to do bobs and singles". But, even if this is not possible, all is not lost. There are quite a few really nice touches of Original Minor in which the treble just plain hunts. This next one is my all-time favourite - it has very few calls but lots of really nice music. Having fewer calls can be more relaxing to ring (and call) compared with the more "dodgy" touches we've looked at so far. For example, the 128 shown above has no less than 30 calls (that's almost one every four changes), while the present touch of 96 has only 12 calls (that's one every 8 changes). So it is highly recommended!

### Touch 7: 96 changes of Original Minor

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

-ooOoo-

### A Quarter Peal

Finally here is a quarter peal of Original Minor. No bell plain hunts all the way through, there are lots of bobs and singles, and so it is lots of fun and a challenge! Good luck!

Touch 8: 720 changes of Original Minor

Tenor:	<u>6 2 3 5</u>	<u>Course end</u>	
	3 S - 3	2 5 4 3 1 6	
	3 {S 3		
	S 3 3	5 4 3 1 2 6	
{..} = A	<u>3 3</u>	<u>1 3 2 4 5 6</u>	
	3 S - 3*	3 5 4 2 1 6	3* = single-bob-single
	3 {S 3		
	S 2		
	- - 3	5 4 1 3 2 6	
{..} = B	<u>3 3</u>	<u>3 1 2 4 5 6</u>	
(+)	3 S 2		
	<u>A</u>	<u>3 2 1 4 5 6</u>	
	3 S 2		
	<u>B</u>	<u>2 3 1 4 5 6</u>	
	3 S 2		
	<u>A</u>	<u>2 1 3 4 5 6</u>	
	3 S - 3	1 5 4 3 2 6	
	<u>3* B</u>	<u>1 2 3 4 5 6</u>	

Note that three bobs in position 3 means you call the tenor to make the bob on three successive occasions, with no other calls being made between them.

Touch 9: 546 changes of Original Minor

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

Then continue as from (+) in Touch 8.

And what of Original goes fourth?

With these three articles you have, at least in theory, the information you need to take a band from "plain hunting on six" to rather splendid touches of Original Minor and a quarter peal. It's amazing how much can be done with such a simple framework! And there's more! Next time, in "Original goes fourth", I shall show you Original Triples and its many delights. Happy ringing!

Robert Chadburn

**NOTICES AND ADVERTS**

**GUILD ANNUAL DINNER  
SATURDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

The Annual Dinner will be held at The Royal White Hart Hotel, Moreton in Marsh, Glos  
7.00 for 7.30pm.

**Menu**

Winter vegetable broth served with crusty bread

or

Ham hock terrine with apple chutney

\*\*\*\*\*

Roast pork served with fondant potatoes, sage and onion stuffing, seasonal

Vegetables and gravy

or

Poached salmon with crushed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables and finished with a

herb cream sauce

or

Ribbons of pasta with oven dried tomatoes and goats cheese

\*\*\*\*\*

Vanilla crème Brulee served with shortbread

or

Apple crumble served with custard

\*\*\*\*\*

Cost of Dinner £20.00

Please let either John Nicholls on 01386 841084 or Peter Quinn on 01789 840827 know your  
choice of menu by Saturday 22nd January 2011

There will be a guest speaker

The striking competition cups and trophies will also be presented

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS (cont)

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

The following will be proposed by me as an Addendum to the above proposal and relates to the details of the scheme and its operation:-

#### **THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS BELL RESTORATION FUND RULES**

1. The Fund shall be known as The Four Shires Guild Bell Restoration Fund. References to 'the Guild' shall mean the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers.
2. The object of the Fund shall be to provide financial assistance by way of grants to churches in the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers' area of operation that are to incur expenditure on the provision, maintenance or improvement of their ring of bells and bell installations.
3. The committee of the Guild shall administer the Fund.
4. The committee shall have the power, after considering an application submitted to it in writing, to approve a grant from the Fund.
5. The committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees, which will report back their suggested actions fully and promptly to the committee. The committee shall have the power to co-opt such persons as it considers necessary to assist in its deliberations.
6. The management of the Fund shall be an item on the agenda of every meeting of the committee.
7. The amount of grant given by the committee will depend solely on the state of the finances of the Fund at the time of application. Grants approved by the committee shall become payable after satisfactory completion of the restoration work.
8. All monies will be kept in the general account of the Guild and will be accounted for separately by the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet for the Fund as at 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year, including income and expenditure of the Fund in that year, which shall be examined by the Independent Examiner elected by the members of the Guild at its Annual General Meeting.
9. The committee shall have the power to raise funds by any means it sees fit.
10. Any grant shall lapse if not claimed within two years from the date it was awarded. Should such occur, the party to which the grant was originally awarded will be notified of the lapse in writing by the Guild. A written re-application will be allowed, at which point it will be treated as a new application.
11. In the event of the dissolution of the Fund, its assets shall be distributed equally to the bell repair funds of the surrounding guilds/societies/associations for them to carry on with the work of bell restoration and repair.

**Peter Quinn, Guild Master**

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

This is a reminder 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.

**CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS?**

#### **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

## TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ALL SAINTS, CHURCH LENCH



Into Worcestershire for a change this time, to Church Lench, where there is a ring of 6, GF, and recently rehung. The church sits on a high point on the edge the Vale of Evesham, a location that gives a glorious view of the surrounding countryside for many miles distant.

The church is originally assigned to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries, although successive rebuildings have left little from this period. It is thought it originally comprised a nave and short chancel, but it now includes nave, chancel, south aisle and tower.

There is a large mural above the chancel arch, although this is essentially a line drawing, having little colour. The north doorway is

blocked up. What would otherwise have been its tympanum is now a window containing fragments of 15<sup>th</sup>.C stained glass.

The nave has clerestory windows in both N & S walls, but these are likely to have been added when the nave walls were raised.

The lower stage of the tower was added in about the 15<sup>th</sup>.C, with completion in the 16<sup>th</sup>.C. The ground floor ringing room is small, some 8ft x 8ft. Although this widens slightly further up, it gives very little room for the bells, particularly a 14cwt 6. A Worcestershire worthy (now deceased) once said to me, 'Church Lench tower isn't a tower; it's a chimney!'. Having seen this for myself, and the cut-outs of old to allow the bells to swing unimpeded, this description is close to the truth! Eyre & Smith rehung the bells for the Millennium, and they made an excellent job of shoe-horning the bells in: quite remarkable.

Although the ring is essentially a Taylor ring of about 1870, the 5<sup>th</sup> is by Henry Farmer, dated 1600. It seems to be the earliest extant bell cast by this founder, the site of whose bellfoundry has never been positively located. Recent thinking suggested it was in the Evesham-Tewkesbury area, but a document unearthed from the Tewkesbury Abbey archives almost certainly confirms Evesham.

The Guild has a practice here on December 4<sup>th</sup> (see Diary, back page)

CMP

## AROUND THE TOWERS

### QUARTER-PEALS:-

**Badsey, Worcs**, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1260 Doubles (April Day, Plain, Grandsire): Tim Pinner 1, Doug Bott 2, Claire Penny 3, Tom Sandham 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Gordon Hill 6. Rung on behalf of Girl Guiding UK to celebrate the Centenary.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1260 Single Oxford Bob Triples: Michael Cummings 1, Keith Murphy 2, Isobel Murphy 3, Joanna Murphy 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, John Nicholls 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Stuart Cummings 8. To congratulate Joanna on graduating from the University of Warwick with a 2:1 in History and Politics. First on 8: 1 & 8 First in method: 2, 3 & 4.

**Whichford, Warks**, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Michael Cummings 1, Ted Copson 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Trevor Hobday 5, Peter Kenealyr 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Stuart Cummings 8. 65<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Peter. First Q without a stay: 1!

**Harbury, Warks**, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1280 Westerfield S Major: Michael Gray 1, Diana Reeves 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Alan Hartley 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Nicholls 7, Chris Mew (C) 8. 5<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Eliza Lewis-Skeath, daughter of 3 & 5.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Claire Penny 1, Tony Hartwell 2, Robert Hall 3, Chris Povey 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, John Bolton 6. 1st Q of PB Doubles and inside: 2.

**Badsey, Worcs**, 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Robert Hall 1, Claire Penny 2, Tom Sandham 3, Paul Green 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Gordon Hill 6. Rung on the back 6 after the Christening of William Henry Whitby, Grandson of 3.

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 6<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1344 Sydney S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Julia Doyle 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Karen French 5, Alan Hartley 6, John Nicholls 7, Peter Quinn 8.

**Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos**, 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1250 Yorkshire S Major: Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Diana Reeves 3, Alan Hartley 4, Robert Reeves 5, Peter Quinn 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8. 1<sup>st</sup> Yorkshire as conductor.

**Ilmington, Warks**, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Andrew Gunn 1, Bill Nash 2, Chris Povey 3, Steve Bowley 4, John Nicholls 5, Michael Haynes 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Mike Fairfax 8. On Battle of Britain Day; for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Chipping Campden, Glos**, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1344 Spitfire D Major: John Gwynne 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Lucy Gwynne 3, Alan Hartley 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Nicholls 6, Chris Mew (C) 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath 8. Rung for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

### TOWER NEWS:

**Temple Guiting:** there is some exciting news from here, as an augmentation to 6 is about to occur. A second-hand bell of the right weight, note and matching founder (Taylor) has been found via the Keltek Trust and is being donated to the church. The donation covers just the bell, so there are costs of the fittings and the installation to meet. Installation of the bell could possibly be before the end of this year.

*(Let me have any details regarding any changes to towers. Ed)*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Chris,

I think it was at the AGM held at Norton 2 years ago that a suggestion was made regarding items relating to the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers ie. Peel Boards, photos, old Guild certificates, etc. I believe the consensus was that perhaps a list of the various items known could be made with a view to renovating, indeed saving, as much as possible. Does anyone know if any progress has been made to collate the information? Bob Hall, Evesham.

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## 2010

Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	TODENHAM, Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F <b>!!NOTE CHANGE OF TOWER!!</b>
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	MICKLETON, Glos	8, 15-3-16 in E (GF)
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AGM &amp; STRIKING COMPETITIONS, BROADWELL</b> (see Notice of AGM, p.3, July Newsletter)	
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	KINGHAM, Oxon	8, 12-0-14 in F# (GF)
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E <i>(One of Taylors' all-time glories.....!! Ed)</i>
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Glos	8, 22-1-18 in Eb (Beware large external step to get onto or from the tower steps)
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	UPPER SLAUGHTER, Glos	5, 13-0-14 in G# (GF)
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	WINCHCOMBE, Glos	8, 11-2-11 in F#
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	CHURCH LENCH, Worcs	6, 13-3-26 in G (GF)
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	CLEEVE PRIOR, Worcs	6, 8-3-26 in G
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos	8, 27-2-24 in D
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	NO PRACTICE today, folks. It's Christmas Day!!!	

## 2011

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	NO PRACTICE <i>(You may still be recovering from the night before.....Ed)</i>	
Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	LOWER QUINTON, Warks	6, 13-0-27 in F# (GF)
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	NORTON, Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	CHIPPING NORTON, Oxon	8, 14-1-4 in F#
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	SNITTERFIELD, Warks	6, 16-1-13 in F

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](mailto:isobel.murphy@btinternet.com) and phone number is 01608-652466. Details of the FSG Mid-Week Tours can be found on the FSG web-site: [www.fourshires.org.uk](http://www.fourshires.org.uk).**

## NOTE: dates set for events in 2010 are:-

**Guild AGM & Striking Comps: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Broadwell. PLEASE COME!!  
Advise Steve Bowley of your entry to the Striking Comps**

## ..... and dates set for events in 2011 are:-

**Guild Annual Dinner: Saturday 5th February. Moreton-in-Marsh (see details, p.?)**  
**Guild Ringing Tour Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Location & details tba: book the date!**  
**Mini-Mouse Striking competition Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Location & details tba: book the date!**  
**Guild Walking Tour Possibly Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, but a firm date is tba**  
**Guild AGM Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Details tba: book the date!**

**I hesitate to mention the 'S-word', but January 1<sup>st</sup> is not far off now..... Still £3. Buy at this price while you can! Buy two and get an even bigger bargain.....**