

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 128 - 1st APRIL 2011

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Founded 1909

MAJOR FIND IN THE BELL WORLD!

**Huge bell discovered in Hungary.
Was hidden from invading forces a century ago, to prevent being melted down.**



A massive bell has been discovered in Budapest – see photo, courtesy of the Magyar Távirati Iroda (the Budapest News Agency). This Agency reports the bell has been sitting on top of a building, disguised as a roof. It seems the reason for it being there had been a well-kept, and then long-forgotten, secret, and it would have remained so had not some of the external panelling required repair after high winds. When the damaged part was removed, the workmen found – a bell. Delving into the city's archives revealed nothing until permission to access those of St Stephen's Basilica was given. Details are still scant, but they appear to show the bell had been placed in its current position at the outbreak of hostilities early last century, to prevent it being confiscated by invading forces to make guns and associated items of war with its metal. At that time it seems the bell had been lowered from the Basilica's bell tower to allow strengthening work to be undertaken on the foundations, which were failing under the combined weight of the fabric and the bell. Being vulnerable on the ground, it was suggested it could be hidden as an ornate roof on a building then being constructed. External panelling was placed around it to complete the disguise. Those involved with the work were sworn to secrecy. So good was the work, the invading forces took no notice; and because those involved with the work maintained their silence in the subsequent hostile regime, the inhabitants of Budapest came to accept the outline as merely an ornate roof. It has been difficult to measure the bell under the panelling, but estimates suggest it is some 5.5m in diameter (about 18ft). This leads experts to suggest it weighs over 120 tonnes, placing it as one of the largest bells in the world (in comparison, the Tsar Kolokol in Moscow is about 22ft dia and weighs some 200 tonnes). Unfortunately, the work to strengthen the foundations of the Basilica's bell tower was never undertaken, so there is still doubt about the tower's ability to contain the bell. Until these problems are solved, the bell is likely to stay in its current position for the foreseeable future. The owner of the building is happy this occurs, as, he says, 'the roof in that part has never leaked!' Some well-known UK bell historians are arranging to visit Budapest as soon as they are able. As one explained, 'This is extremely exciting: a most unusual find'.

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To 1st May 2011:- Mr Andrew Gunn

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Mr Chris Povey Mr Keith Murphy

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

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (July 2011) is June 13th 2011

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 address 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. It can normally be translated. Just send it in!

Newsletter Editor: Chris Povey Postal and email addresses above ([please note my new email address](#))

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. (I have the facility to scan photo prints if you haven't.) Please let me 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

The Guild Annual Dinner at Moreton-in-Marsh on Saturday February 5th has been and gone. Many thought it was a good one. Perhaps it was because it was back in the Guild's spiritual home. Peter Quinn was unable to attend this year, being on holiday, so it was MC'd by Bill Nash.....or somebody who doubled for him... A report and photos appear on p.7.

The Minutes of the 2010 AGM appear on p.5, just to refresh memories of that event. As reported in the last Newsletter, Temple Guiting's project to augment to 6 was subsequently granted £500 from the new Bell Restoration Fund. This project is coming to fruition – with our help: see Tower News on p.13 for an update.

Richard Lewis-Skeath has wrought his magic once again to provide us with another Guild Annual Ringing Tour. This will be on Saturday July 2nd and will be in Wiltshire. See the notice on p.12 for all the details. Yes, it will require an early start to get to the first tower, but rising early on a summer's day is pure joy. The tour details are provisional at this stage, because there is sufficient potential in these types of events for

slight changes to occur, but all such changes will be posted on the FSG web-site in the fortnight prior to the event, or Richard will be happy to tell you if you ring him.

Robert Chadburn concludes his article on Original on p.8. The whole series has been a fascinating, in-depth read, and I understand it has encouraged at least one tower to partake of this exceptional principle. Thank you for all of it, Robert. It has been suggested that all the parts should go on the website. I am one that thinks they should.

Although subscription payments are coming in now, please don't delay any longer if you haven't paid yours yet. One of the life-bloods of the Guild is its funding via subscriptions.

Regarding subscriptions, the committee voted to place a proposal before the members at the 2012 AGM to raise the yearly subscription to £5 (see Committee Meeting: p.4). Yes, some are going to gasp, 'A 66% increase!', but 66% of little is very little! The current sub buys just over a pint of beer. The

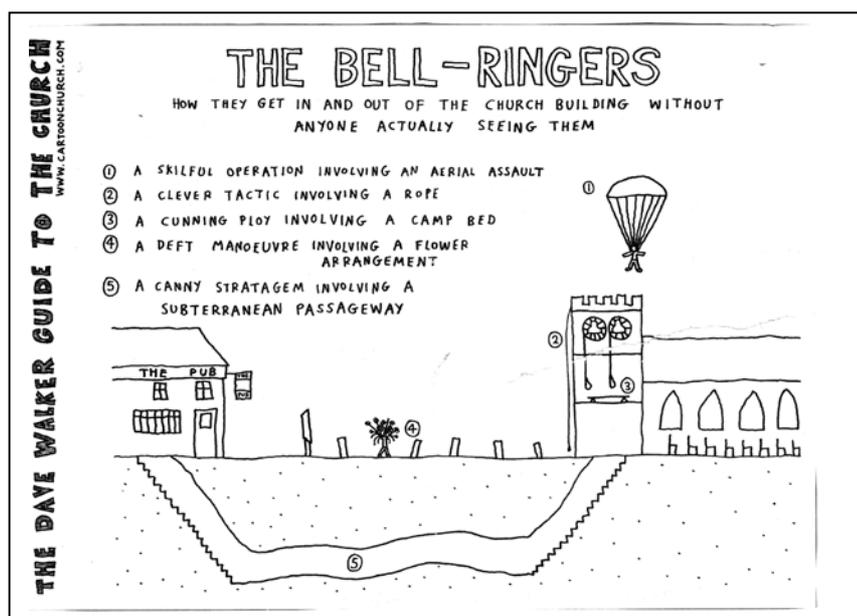
new rate still doesn't manage 2 pints; and £5 per year is less than 10p per week. We really aren't talking big bucks here.

This is the first reminder that I'm available to discuss the requirements of being the Editor of this august journal. So far, no-one has contacted me. Do, please, remember that I am departing after the January 2012 Newsletter. It isn't the hardest of jobs (I've done much of the hard work in setting up the format), but some time is required. See the advert on p.12.

I wish to point out that the report of the discovery of the huge bell in Budapest and the date of this Newsletter is entirely coincidental.....

Chris Povey

(The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Four Shires Guild or its Committee. The Newsletter was proof-read by Richard Lewis-Skeath.)



A member of the congregation at Evesham passed on this cartoon to me. I understand it appeared in *The Church Times*. It is cleverly humorous. Rather surprisingly, I do not believe it has ever appeared in *The Ringing World*.

The cartoonist has seemingly never considered a detached bell tower (ah, the joys...), as his options do not include this. Such buildings do, of course, allow ringers to come and go without attracting the attention of those in the congregation, who, when seeing ringers taking flight after the ringing has ceased, are instantly taken with the view that such heathen beings should attend the Service.....



A PIC OF THE NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM TOILING ON YOUR BEHALF: Chris pushes the computer buttons to command the printer to produce the relevant pages of print, while Stuart, John and Peter Q jump about feeding the printer with paper and inks, and taking the printed sheets away for collating. After this stage the Newsletters are stapled up ready for their distribution to the four corners of the area. Ted Copson is the Distribution Manager, to whom the Newsletters go after leaving the printing hothouse.

Can members complain about the quality of the service they receive from the Committee, when El Presidente and the Generalissimo, together with two committee minions and El Secretario (who gives up his house to the operation, and supplies the coffee), expend vast amounts of physical energy on their behalf every 3 months? Perish that thought, please!!

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 10th MARCH

The Committee meeting on 10th March was again held in Ilmington, through the kindness of the Secretary, Andrew Gunn. The Guild Master, Peter Quinn, was unable to be there, so the President was asked to chair the meeting. Both Jackie Hands and Peter Q sent apologies.

Matters arising included updates on:-

- 1) the Worcs & Dists possible input to the Inter-Shires Striking Competition in November: they wish to defer a decision on this until the July meeting on their Central Committee;
- 2) the Guild Ringing Tour: all now organised; see notice on p.12;
- 3) further discussion on recording and archiving Guild artefacts in the area: a list of the towers within the Guild's area of operation will be compiled and committee members will each take a number to inspect;
- 4) striking competition rules review: Bill had compiled a list of features from all types of striking competitions as relevant suggestions for discussion, and will supply the Secretary with this list so that it may be copied for distribution to committee members;

- 5) a review of the Guild's constitution and rules: Andrew had compiled a list of his recommendations for updating, which were discussed by the committee. All had approval, pending further consideration subsequent to the meeting. Andrew was thanked for an excellent presentation, which pushes this aspect forward considerably;
- 6) the terms on which books are loaned out from the Guild's library: Peter K outlined some suggestions for agreement.

Highlights of the reports from the various holders of posts included:

- 1) Treasurer: gave an interim state of the finances;
- 2) Ringing Master: no problems with the practices;
- 3) Membership Sec: subscriptions are being paid: about 100 in so far;
- 4) Child Protection Off: new legislation is being introduced that 'tones down' the requirements for CRB checks. Details awaited, but it is likely the Guild will not require the checks it would previously, as it

- has no direct contact with children;
- 5) Newsletter Ed: April Newsletter very nearly finalised and wants to print before the end of March. Chris also mentioned the publishing deadlines that must be met for important items where sufficient notice to members must be given;
 - 6) Bell Restoration Fund: no further applications. Chris gave an update on the Temple Guiting augmentation project.

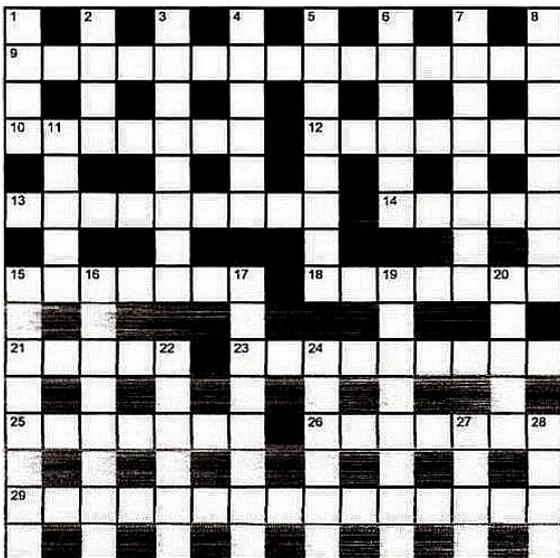
Items for discussion included:-

- 1) feedback from the Dinner: this was judged to be a good one. The President thanked all who had been involved with it;
- 2) Guild Walk: Chris had liaised with Wendy Mace, who has identified 1st Oct for this. (See notice on p.12);
- 3) future subscription amount: it was agreed that a proposal be put to the membership at the 2012 AGM to raise the sub to £5. The Treasurer will make the proposal with committee backing.

Next Meeting: 2nd June, Ilmington.

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Presidente's printer was running out of ink when he produced the crossword below. Luckily, El Presidente appears not to be running out of ink himself (it has been said the world will end when he runs out of ink), as he supplied me with two crosswords recently.



ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER (127)

Down

- 1 One of many belonging to Bill Nash? (4)
- 2 Ripe bananas at the sea-side (4)
- 3 Combatant in the Battle of Britain (8)
- 4 Stump microphone (6)
- 5 Eg, Jock or Hamish (8)
- 6 Spoil (6)
- 7 Hide! Save the blue-tack (8)
- 8 Modern fount of all knowledge? (8)
- 11 Less common (5)
- 15 Walter Large's home village (8)
- 17 Make less complicated (8)
- 19 Risk-takers (8)
- 20 Comfortable slang (5)
- 22 Mine and his (6)
- 24 How we all started (6)
- 27 Irish principle? (4)
- 28 Father. Rise and rewrite (4)

Across

- 9 St James looks over a beautiful town (5,7)
- 10 This ringing will not win the shield (7)
- 12 The artist treats these ropes with respect (7)
- 13 Many churches are shaped like a cross (9)
- 14 It has lasted for 59 years so far (5)
- 15 Tools for gardeners, bricklayers, etc (7)
- 18 This could lead to trouble in belfries, etc (7)
- 21 And the same to you! (5)
- 23 The 4-bell competition (9)
- 25 The tuned-in tone that is an octave above the strike-note (7)
- 26 Eg, dales or glens (7)
- 29 Largest warship (15)

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers was held at Broadwell Village Hall on Saturday 16th October 2010 starting at 1517 hrs, with the Guild Master, Peter Quinn, in the Chair. Twenty-two members attended. Prior to the meeting, the Striking Competition for the Newing Shield and Spencer Jones Cup was held, with five teams entering.

The Guild President, John Nicholls, welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked the Committee, particularly Sophia Lewis-Skeath, Peter Quinn and Andrew Gunn, for making the arrangements. He thanked those that had brought food.

1. Apologies: were received from Michael Haynes, Sue Bacon, Robert Hall, Michael Fairfax, Robin Walker and Mark Wilson.
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting: Bill Nash said his request that the Minutes were not released until approval by the President was not included. The Meeting was asked to take the Minutes as read and then be signed-off at the first Committee meeting when this aspect, and its need or otherwise, could be discussed. Agreed.
3. Matters arising: Bill Nash asked whether it was necessary for the Guild to have insurance cover, as all Churches are covered under public liability and employees liability cover. It was explained to him that such insurance covered only negligence by PCCs or accidents caused to third parties by circumstances within their control. It did not cover events organised by the Guild, or damage caused through the Guild's activities or its negligence. The meeting agreed the need for insurance cover.
4. President's Report: John Nicholls reported that the Saturday practices have been well attended and that the ringing standards have improved. He said the Committee has worked very hard this year for the Guild's benefit and therefore for members. The Guild's application to join the CCCBR had been successful. No quarters have been rung before any Committee meetings, but that wasn't necessarily the most important aspect.
5. Guild Master's Report: Peter Quinn referred to his report in the October Newsletter. Some highlights of this were: the successful Central Council application; the well-filled Newsletter, the printing of which is now being done in house to save costs; and the proposed formation of a Guild Bell Fund (a later agenda item) to give grants for repairs etc.

Bill Nash expressed his deep unhappiness at the way the CCCBR application had been conducted, with the Committee acting without consulting the whole membership, as at the

previous attempt to join in 1996. Chris Povey said the 1996 meeting included a farcical vote and a farcical number of votes that disguised the true result, which was in favour of joining. That method had therefore proved unsatisfactory. The President, John Nicholls, agreed that the 1996 event was indeed a farce, and that correspondence to the Committee afterwards confirmed the situation. The Committee agreed overwhelmingly that the Guild Rules clearly give the Committee a mandate to manage the Guild. The proposal to apply to join the Central Council was overwhelmingly supported by the Committee and, having made this decision, there was no good reason to delay the application. Chris Povey said the January and April 2010 Newsletters carried full details of the Committee decisions made to apply for affiliation and the intended actions in doing so, and therefore all members were fully aware of what was happening. If any member had genuine concerns about these decisions and the way the Committee was acting, they had sufficient time to make those concerns known. He was able to confirm that he, as Newsletter Editor, had received nothing on this subject for publication. The Guild Master suggested Bill consider being co-opted onto the Committee, so that he could participate directly within the Guild's management. No other concerns about the Central Council application were raised.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mike Rees presented the accounts ending 31st Dec 2009, saying it had been a very busy year with the Centenary celebrations and with the Moreton Show stand. The net cost of the combined events was around £200. He said, notwithstanding a generous donation of £100, the Guild is losing about £100 per year (excluding the Mid-week Tours). However, there is still a reasonably healthy reserve, which has encouraged the Committee not to raise the subscription this year, although a rise from January 2012 will be considered. Mike mentioned the split of some of the Centenary and Moreton Show costs in the accounts may not be strictly accurate, but the costs are correct overall. The Central Council annual affiliation fee of £40 was mentioned, and that two members had donated an amount to cover it. The accounts were proposed by Chris Povey and seconded by Freda Cleaver, and accepted. Mike gave advance notice that he intends standing down at the 2011 AGM.
7. Election of the President: one nomination for President had been received. Chris

Povey had proposed John Nicholls, who was therefore returned for another term of office.

8. Election of Vice Presidents: Proposals for current holders, Phyllis Brazier and Rev Peter Newing, had been received. Bill Nash seconded the proposals. Both were returned as Vice-Presidents.
9. Election of the Officers:
Guild Master: Peter Quinn passed the Chair to the President for this election. Peter Q was proposed by Sophia L-S and seconded by Chris Povey. There was no other proposal. Peter Quinn was therefore re-elected and he resumed the Chair.
Ringling Master: Sophia L-S was proposed by Peter Q and seconded by Andrew Gunn. Elected.
General Secretary: Andrew Gunn was proposed by Sophia L-S and seconded by Trevor Hobday. Elected.
Treasurer: Mike Rees was proposed by Bill Nash and seconded by Sophia L-S. Elected.
10. Election of the Committee and Honorary Auditor: except for Steve Bowley, who did not seek re-election, the current Committee agreed to offer themselves for re-election. These names were proposed enbloc by Richard Lewis-Skeath and seconded by Freda Cleaver: all re-elected. The need for one further committee member to fulfil the six required under the Rules raised the earlier suggestion that Bill Nash should fill the vacancy. His answer that 'he didn't think he had the time' caused considerable mirth among the gathering and the President to exclaim, 'The Committee needs a comedian on it!' With this, Bill Nash offered no objection to his proposal by John Nicholls and seconding by Chris Povey, after which he was duly elected. The appointment of Honorary Auditors was then discussed, as Doug Carr hasn't been seen recently. Mike Rees will follow this up, but a new Auditor was felt to be required to join Michael Fairfax. A discussion resulted in Trevor Hobday being proposed by Sophia L-S and seconded by David Adams. Both Mike Fairfax and Trevor were accepted. Keith Murphy asked if the Auditors can be members of the Guild: yes they can.
11. Election of two Central Council Representatives to serve for three years: Peter Quinn said two Central

Council representatives are required from May 2011. Andrew Gunn was currently acting as a caretaker representative. Andrew reported that three candidates have been proposed: Chris Povey (by John Nicholls), Andrew Gunn (by Bill Sabin, John Kinchin, Mike Fairfax and Robin Walker) and Keith Murphy (by Bill Nash). The candidates' proposers spoke, and then the candidates themselves, giving reasons why they wanted the job. David Adams asked whether the two representatives are to be part of the Committee. Peter Q advised that the Guild Rules and Constitution are to be reviewed in 2011, so this may occur. After the votes were counted, the results were declared: Chris Povey, 20 votes; Andrew Gunn, 8 votes; Keith Murphy 12 votes. Chris Povey and Keith Murphy were elected the CC reps.

(Note: none of Andrew Gunn's proposers were able to be there, so nobody spoke for him in this position, a situation that some thought afterwards may have left him disadvantaged. An invitation for someone else to speak from the floor on his behalf was not offered. Had this occurred it may have prompted further support. A competitive election had not occurred previously, so procedures were 'ad hoc'. Andrew will leave the results to stand, but more-formal procedures are to be considered for the future.)

12. Confirmation of new Members: The following were elected.

Moreton in Marsh: Ben Lewis-Skeath, proposed by Richard L-S and seconded by Keith Murphy.

The following were proposed enbloc by Peter Kenealy and seconded by Ben Lewis-Skeath
Long Compton: Kim and Lotty Petty, Julie Upward, Linda Bachelor.

Cherington: Janet Owen, Sarah Scotter, Christine Thompson, Cameron Townsend.

Willersey: Margaret Clayton.

Alveston: Graham Allman.

Evesham Bell Tower: Mathew Kemble.

Welford on Avon: Rosemary Cole, Mavis Grey, Stuart Founby, Maurice Wright.

Worcester: Robin Walker and Mark Wilson

13. Proposal to form a Bell Fund: Peter Q presented a resumé of his formal proposal to form this Fund, as printed in the July and October Newsletters. He thanked Stuart Cummings for his assistance in forming the proposed Rules. It was pointed out that it would not be Charity registered, as the tax aspect can be complex. It would commence with a starting balance of about £1400, that being the sum accumulated in the Accounts from the monthly Vice-President's (Mid-Week) tours. Bill Nash asked if bell ropes would come under future grants. Peter Q advised that it would be for the Committee to decide this. Freda Cleaver asked if previous Guild donations to Dioceses will now form part of the Bell Fund, and was advised they would. Bill Nash asked if the area is defined. Peter Q replied that it will encompass the towers that the Guild visits regularly, but the Committee will decide. Peter Quinn formally proposed and Freda Cleaver seconded that the FSG Bell Fund be formed as outlined in the October Newsletter notice. There was unanimous agreement to this. Chris Povey then asked if, with this vote, the Fund was now in operation. On being told that it was, he presented an application for Temple Guiting's augmentation to 6.

14. Any other Business: Freda Cleaver thanked Chris Povey for his editorial work on the Newsletter and asked if he will continue. Chris asked whether anybody had come forward to take it over. Peter Q asked whether we have a replacement. There was no response and it was agreed to discuss this subject at the December Committee meeting. Chris asked a question on behalf of Robert Hall concerning Guild Peal boards and other records, as he had asked in his letter in the October Newsletter. Andrew replied that he is slowly building up a record, but a more formal process to obtain the records

would be welcomed. It was agreed this subject would be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Bill Nash raised the recovery of the first Minute book and wondered whether any of the people involved with its discovery knew the whereabouts of other lost Guild items. Bill also said Saturdays for the Guild practices are inconvenient and wondered whether they should be run on another night. This was rejected, as many said the Saturday practices are well-attended. Bill was reminded that at the previous AGM he had asked for more 10 & 12-bell practices, but he hadn't attended any of those organised subsequently. Stuart Cummings mentioned Campanophile didn't have the last few Saturday details on it. Richard Lewis-Skeath said he would take this on if wished: proposed by Stuart Cummings and Seconded by Freda that he do this; and accepted. Chris Povey reminded that all the details are on the Guild website.

15. Results of the Striking Competition for the Newing Shield: This was judged by Chris Povey, who placed the teams as follows (full details of marks and other relevant details were published in Newsletter 127)

1st Mickleton – awarded Newing Shield

2nd Ilmington – Spencer Jones Cup

3rd Moreton

4th Wellesbourne

Scratch team

The Brazier Competition, no entries this year.

The Meeting closed at 1645 hrs.

Andrew Gunn, General Secretary.

Please note that these Minutes are subject to final acceptance at the 2011 AGM.

FROM THE ARCHIVES (100 YEARS AGO)

The Old FSG Minute Book records the following for the period 1st April to 31st June 1911:-

27th April 1911:

The Third (Spring) Meeting of the Guild took place at Todenham on Thursday 27th April 1911. The Attendance was not so good as previously owing to the wet weather. Competitions commenced at 2pm and 4 towers entered, viz:- Shipston; Campden; Blockley and Longborough: In each part Shipston easily won. The order was as follows:-

Rising & Sinking	Marks	Round Ringing	
1 Shipston	30	1 Shipston	42
2 Longborough	12	2 Campden	38
3 Campden	4	3 Longborough	34
4 Blockley	-8	4 Blockley	33

Call Changes

1 Shipston	42
2 Blockley	38
3 Longborough	34
4 Campden	32

Method Ringing

1 Shipston	44
2 Longborough	35
3 --	
4 --	

Tea was held in the Farrier's Arms, to which about 50 sat down. A special Service was held, the preacher being Canon Houghton, Vicar of Blockley and Chairman & President of the Guild. After tea the Treasurer's account was passed and signed & Certificates awarded. Ringing continued till 9pm. Messrs F A Case & W Large were the Judges in the Competitions.

THE 2011 GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

The 2011 Annual Dinner returned to the Guild's spiritual home of Moreton-in-Marsh. The return was coincidental, as the decision to investigate a suitable venue in the town was made before the Old Minute Book was discovered and provided the relevant confirmation. The venue, The White Hart Royal Hotel, proved very acceptable, in accommodation, service and food, and may be a front-runner for next year's Dinner.

Some 50 members and partners attended. We not only had the President, John Nicholls, this year, but one of our Vice-Presidents, too, Rev Peter Newing. Unfortunately, the Guild Master, Peter Quinn, was unable to be with us, as he and Veronica had an appointment to chug up the Panama Canal. Chris Povey acted as MC. Chris explained that his beard had not truthfully been grown to combat the winter, but to disguise himself as Bill Nash, whom allegedly he'd agreed with Peter to contact about being MC. But he said he'd overlooked this action, so the growth was a desperate measure to make Peter think Bill was MC after all when the photos of the occasion were published. Few were convinced about this explanation, although Bill visibly paled when Chris apologised for depriving him of his moment of glory, but said there was always next year.

The President welcomed everyone to the Dinner, after which he invited Peter Newing to say Grace.

After the meal was concluded, Chris introduced the Speaker, who this year was Jackie Roberts. Jackie is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of *The Ringing World* (RW), which publication - by the time you read this - will have celebrated 100 years of existence in March. Although living in Woking for some years now, Jackie spent time in our part of the world through her employment as a Human Resources Manager, and learnt to ring at Bishop's

Cleeve. She is now an HR consultant and acts in this role with RW.

Jackie admitted that she had known little about the Guild until recently, and had sought to find out what it's about and how it ticks. She said she was truly amazed at what this comparatively small and rural organisation achieves on a regular basis. She said, 'You have weekly practices! I know of no other organisation that has weekly practices, other than the College Youths - but they're not a proper ringing association so don't matter!' (There were some shocked looks on the top table, and a hissed and horrified 'What did she say, John?' may have been heard at the adjoining tables! Jackie responded with a wide grin.) She continued by praising the quality and content of the Newsletter, saying that it continued a tradition that had been confirmed by it winning a RW-run competition for newsletter publications a few years ago. Her exclamation, 'What are you *on* here?!' clearly demonstrated her delight at discovering what the Guild is achieving. She said she'd looked up the Guild in RW, but could find nothing of note until 1979, when a history was published following the 1974 refounding. Since then, the Guild and its activities have become better and more widely known, culminating in the Guild's successful application to affiliate to the Central Council last year, when it received an almost unanimous vote from the 200+ delegates. She said some Guild members were already playing prominent roles in the Central Council via other organisations, but the Guild could now fly its own flag through its new CC representatives. She wished the Guild well for the future, which, under the present mode of operation, would be assured.

Following the applause, Chris Povey said he had a presentation copy of the Newsletter to give her; and if Robert (Lewis: the RW Editor) ever had a problem, we would be happy to give advice.....

After this, the 2010 Striking Competition trophies were given to the winners. First up was Mickleton for winning the competition and thus gaining the Newing Shield. Chris Righton accepted this on behalf of the team. The second presentation was a miniature shield given permanently to the winners. This was presented to the 2009 winners (it had been unavailable at the 2009 Dinner), who were Ilmington, on whose behalf Bill Nash accepted it. The last presentation was the Spencer Jones Cup to the team that came second in the 2010 event, which was Ilmington, on whose behalf Andrew Gunn accepted it.

The last event of the evening was the raffle, run by the inimitable and irrepressible Jackie H (see photo). This was quite an event, as there were loads of prizes; it just went on and on, such was the generosity of those giving the prizes. The raffle raised £63 for the new Guild Bell Restoration Fund.

Was it a good evening? Yes, it certainly seemed to be! Thanks for this must go to Peter Q, who set it up with the hotel initially, to Sophia L-S in liaising with the hotel on the night and probably many other little things as well (the perils of living so close!), to Jackie H for running the raffle, to Andrew Gunn for collecting the Dinner money, and to all others who helped in some way and aren't mentioned individually here.

CP

THE PHOTOS (courtesy of Charles Wilson)



Richard L-S, Sophia L-S, Speaker Jackie Roberts, John Nicholls, Pat Nicholls, Helen Povey, Chris Povey, Rev Peter Newing. (This pic was likened to the Last Supper!)



The irrepressible Jackie! (Impressed you had no camera shake with this shot, Charles!)



Jane Gilbert, Keith Murphy, Ian Sturgess, Isobel Murphy, Freda Cleaver, Sandra Sturgess, Edward Timmins, Chris Righton

MORE DINNER PHOTOS



John Carroll and Michael Haynes



Robin Walker, Mark Wilson, Steve Bowley and Peter Kenealy



Jackie Roberts being presented with the FSG Newsletter amid some gentle ribbing from Chris Povey about help to The Ringing World



Ted Copson and Sue Bacon



Chris Righton receiving the Newing Shield for Mickleton



Bill Nash receiving the permanent 2009 winner's shield for Ilmington



Andrew Gunn receiving the Spencer Jones Cup for Ilmington

ORIGINAL TO THE END!

In my previous four articles I have covered Original Minor and Triples. In this last-in-series I hope to introduce you to the interesting possibilities of ringing this principle on 8 bells and beyond.

I will assume you already have the basic idea about original from my other articles (which you can find in the last four issues of the FSG newsletter). The main thrust is that the principle is plain hunt, on any number of bells, with bobs (and sometimes singles) in.

Original Major

Conventional wisdom (and probably ringing purists) would have us make bobs in 6th place, with the back two bells dodging. Musically, however, I believe this to be far less rewarding than making bobs in fourth's place, and it is only this latter version that I will use in what follows.

So, in Original Major we therefore make the bobs in 4th's place. First of all, here are the first 6 changes of the plain course (*ie* without any bobs):

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
 2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7 *
 4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
 4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5
 6 4 8 2 7 1 5 3
6 8 4 7 2 5 1 3

Bobs are called at a backstroke, and they take effect immediately at the

next handstroke and backstroke. So, if a **bob** is called when row * is struck, the following happens:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
 2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7 CALL BOB
 4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
 4 6 2 1 3 8 5 7
 6 4 1 2 8 3 7 5
6 1 4 8 2 7 3 5

So, if at the backstroke at which the bob is called you are in **3rd's place going up**, then at the next handstroke and backstroke you **make two blows in 4th's and hunt in**. This is shown above by the path of the treble.

If, at the backstroke at which the bob is called, you are in positions 5, 6, 7, or 8, then you are required to **dodge once in the place that you are then in**. In the above, for example, the 8th is in the process of hunting down to the front, and finds itself in 6th place when the bob is called. So the 8th needs to dodge once, immediately, in 5-6 down, ending up two blows later back in 6th place ready to carry on hunting down. The bells in 5, 7, and 8th positions do similarly.

As usual, bobs can be made in immediate succession. So, suppose we called another bob at the next backstroke immediately following the previous call, then the following would happen:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7
 2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7 CALL BOB
 4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5
 4 6 2 1 3 8 5 7 CALL ANOTHER BOB
 6 4 1 2 8 3 7 5
 6 1 4 2 3 8 5 7
 1 6 2 4 8 3 7 5
1 2 6 8 4 7 3 5

The result is that the four bells 5 6 7 8 dodge again (in the same places), while a second bell (the 2nd in this case) makes 4th's. There can be no more than three bobs in succession without the changes running false.

As usual, we identify where the bob comes in the touch by the place of the bell you are calling from when the bob is called. So, if you were calling the above touch from the tenor, we would say that 2 bobs in 6th's have been made.

Touches

Good music can readily be obtained from Original Major!

Touch 1: 108 changes of Original Major

Call 8: 2 1 8 Course end
 - - 1 2 3 6 5 4 7 8
 - - 1 2 3 5 6 4 7 8
 Repeat twice

This is a short and simple touch to learn and call. It has nice conventional 8-bell music and single dodging only, so could be a nice one to start with.

Touch 2: 240 changes of Original Major

Call 8: 6 2 1 7 8 Course end
 - - - 2 4 3 1 5 6 7 8
 - - - 1 4 2 3 5 6 7 8
 - - - 3 4 1 2 5 6 7 8
 - - - 4 2 1 3 5 6 7 8
 - - - 3 2 4 1 5 6 7 8
 - - - 2 1 4 3 5 6 7 8
 Repeat

This is more of a challenge for the conductor to remember! However, it's not that difficult to ring as the back bells keep together quite well. It contains all 24 5678 roll-ups while only using single dodging.

Touch 3: 276 changes of Original Major

Call 8: 8 6 2 Course end
 2 - - 2 3 5 1 6 4 7 8
 3 - 2 3 1 4 6 5 7 8
 Repeat 5 times

This is a cracker as its got loads of nice music (including a variety of roll-ups and tittums) and is really easy to remember. It's a bit long, though, so you need a bit of time to have a go at it!

The next two touches are for the more experienced band!

Touch 4: 204 changes of Original Major

Call 8: 6 4 2 1 3 5 7 8 Course end
 [- - 3 3 1 2 5 6 4 7 8
 - 2 3 1 2 5 3 7 4 6 8
 [...] = A 3 - - - - 3] 3 1 2 5 4 6 7 8
 A 2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8
 - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Touch 5: 172 changes of Original Major

Call 8: 8 6 4 2 1 3 7 Course end
 - 2 - 1 3 5 2 7 4 6 8
 3 - - 1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8
 - - 3 2 1 4 5 6 7 8
 3 - - Repeat
 - - 2

Contains Queens and lots of 468s.

Original Caters

Not much to say about this, as I've not had many opportunities to have a go at it! In my version, bobs are made in 5th place (like triples), with dodges made by the bells in 67 & 89. As in triples, the bobs are called at a handstroke and are made immediately at the next backstroke and handstroke. It's musical to ring, but rather tricky to compose (there is some mathematical property of 9 bell permutations that, with 5th place bobs, causes falseness at every conceivable opportunity). Still, the touch below is true and very nice to ring if you have the band and the bells!

Touch: 148 changes of Original Caters

Call 4: 2 4 8 9 7 5 3 1 Course end
 - 3 - - - - 5 3 4 2 1 6 7 9 8
 (*) - - 1 2 3 4 5 7 6 9 8
 - 3 - - - Repeat
 - - -

(*) Note that the bob at 4 in this row causes the 4th to make the bob, and so the bob at 5 comes immediately after - ie the two calls in this row are consecutive.

Original Royal

This really lives up to its "royal" title, and is arguably (and perhaps surprisingly) one of the best numbers of bells for original. With 4th place bobs, and dodging in 56, 78 & 90, the roll-ups are quite exceptional. Calls are made at backstroke, and the bob made at the next handstroke and backstroke, as in minor and major.

The first three touches keep all the back bells at home, and the first one is really simple to learn and call.

Touch 1: 156 changes of Original Royal

Call 10: 0 9 Course end
 2 - 3 5 4 1 2 6 7 8 9 0
 - 2 2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 Repeat twice

Touch 2: 176 changes of Original Royal

Call 10: 0 9 Course end
 2 - 3 5 4 1 2 6 7 8 9 0
 - 2 2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 3 3 4 1 5 3 2 6 7 8 9 0
 2 3 3 2 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
 3 2 5 4 3 2 1 6 7 8 9 0
 3 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Touch 3: 300 changes of Original Royal

Call 10:	<u>9 0</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	- 2	4 1 5 2 3 6 7 8 9 0
	- -	3 2 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
	- -	5 4 2 3 1 6 7 8 9 0
	<u>2 -</u>	<u>2 3 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 0</u>

Repeat twice

This is longer and has fewer multiple dodges, which can be a relaxing for a change.

There is no space to put in any of the more complicated touches (which mix up all the back bells in most exciting ways!), except this final touch, which is simple to call. If you want more, then just let me know.

Touch 3: 160 changes of Original Royal

Call 10:	<u>0 8 6 4 2 3</u>	<u>Course end</u>
	3 2 - - -	
	- -	<u>2 3 4 1 5 6 8 7 9 0</u>

Repeat three times

I do have a peal of Original Royal, which has 1004 calls, and unbelievable music. If anyone would like to call it, you know where I am!

I wish you much fun and joy ringing Original, on any number of bells, wherever you may be.

Robert Chadburn

Thank you for this excellent and comprehensive series, Robert. There is no good reason now why anyone should be ignorant of this fascinating principle, which is one of the easiest to ring, but equally one of the hardest to ring well. Ed

IVY ELLEN RISEBOROUGH – A MEMORIAL

George and Ivy Riseborough regularly joined in with FSG Guild practices and events when they were in this area from their home in North Walsham, Norfolk, and became well-known among members. Ivy sadly died last year and George wondered whether his obituary of Ivy in their local Association's publication could be reprinted in this Newsletter, so that all who remember Ivy might see it. He therefore wrote to Peter Kenealy, with the object of it being passed to me for inclusion in these pages. I reproduce George's letter to Peter and Ivy's obituary. Ed

North Walsham, Norfolk
26-1-2011

Dear Peter,
Please receive enclosed cheque to cover my subscription for 2011, plus a donation to the FSG Bell Fund.

I was asked to write a brief story on the life of my Dear Ivy for the *Striking Example* (a circular for the Eastern Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Guild) and I thought I'd send you a copy of this to pass to your Editor, Chris Povey. We have been coming to Moreton since 1994 and have rung in many FSG parishes and many people had got to know her. I must say with all her disabilities I still miss her. If all goes well, I hope to be back with you all in July (God willing).

I have received your Newsletter No 127 and always find it makes good reading; just makes me feel much closer to you all. I'm also missing out on those Cotswold ales and bitters. If it's not too late, I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year. Let's hope it will be a much warmer one, so I can get my shorts on again. My very Kind Regards to you and all who know me.
George Riseborough.

IVY ELLEN RISEBOROUGH
6th August 1922 – 20th May 2010

Ivy was born in Wolverhampton and brought up in Walsall, where she grew up and lived as a young girl, later working for Crabtrees, a local electrical firm.

At 'Bluecoats' School, at the age of 13, in the playground, Ivy suffered an accident in which she hurt her ankle, after which she was diagnosed with tubercular osteomyelitis. She spent the rest of her school years in hospital fighting the disease.

Ivy's first husband unfortunately died young, and Ivy was left to bring up and provide for her three children alone.

Years later, George and Ivy met and fell in love with one another at Costessey, and made their life together at Longmoor Farm, Catfield. They were married for 37 years.

George worshipped at All Saints Catfield. Jocelyn Gardiner encouraged George to learn to ring with an invitation to 'come and see', which is where he first met Gilbert, who was teaching learners there. Later on, at an NDA quarterly meeting, Rosemary Charles apparently enquired of Ivy if she was a ringer, and upon Ivy's 'no', Rosemary said it was about time that she was! So Ivy at the age of 60 took up the challenge. Gilbert taught her to ring at St Mary's Happsburgh, where she remained a member of the band for practice nights and Sunday service ringing (as well as a choir-member) until she broke her wrist badly. She never regained enough strength in her hand to return to ringing.

She became a member of the Norwich Diocesan Association at Kessingland on 4th September 1982, and her framed certificate, signed by Jocelyn as President and Jim Morley as Secretary & Treasurer, proudly hangs on the wall of George and Ivy's sitting room to this day.

In 1984 Ivy rang her first quarter peal at St Michael's, Shap, in Cumberland, with George, and Gilbert and Joan and their sons Duncan and Phillip. It was a surprise to Ivy, as no-one had said they were going for a quarter. George and Gilbert hatched that one up between them! There were more quarters, but none as memorable as the first.

Sadly Ivy's health began to fail, and over the years she became to rely completely on George for her everyday needs. Finally Ivy became more unwell and collapsed, and after nearly a week in hospital, passed away on 20th May.

Ivy was cremated at St Faith's on 1st June. This was followed by a well-attended memorial service, with some lovely hymns, at St Mary's Happsburgh, with contributions in her memory to St Mary's church fabric fund, for which the church was very thankful.

On 21st August, George, with Ivy's family, held a private prayer service at Longmoor Farm, Catfield, their old home, and then Ivy's ashes were offered up to the wind that blew over the surrounding Neolithic area and places that Ivy had loved.

GR

THE GUILD SILVERWARE

The FSG Annual Dinner is the time when the Guild's various pieces of silverware venture from their various locations to be displayed all together. The Guild is indeed fortunate to own such superb pieces.

A Guild member not attending the Dinner may therefore never have seen these pieces and photos of them are shown here for the benefit of those members. Rather surprisingly, none of the pieces were insured until recently, but they all are now.

The Newing Shield was donated as a replacement for the pre-WW2 Guild Shield, which has never been recovered. Only the Spencer Jones Cup dates from the pre-WW2 period. All the silverware except the Brazier Trophy was made at Campden's Guild of Handicrafts.



President's Chain of Office



The Newing Shield



The Brazier Trophy



The Spencer Jones Cup (made in 1929)

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY TOURS

The FSG Monthly Ringing Outings continue to be well-attended and enjoyable. The **December 2010** outing, organised by Isobel Murphy, took us into Worcestershire. The first tower was Church Lench (6, 13cwt) and then onto Upton Snodsbury (6, 14cwt), after which we had a Christmas lunch at The Boot Inn, Flyford Flavell. The first tower after lunch was Feckenham (8, 11cwt) and then we ended the day in the heart of Archers' Country at Inkberrow (6, 11cwt). Not only was the ringing memorable, but the hoar frost we had then was, too. We wished each other Merry Christmas before departing.

The **January** outing, organised by Frank Spiers, kept us in Warwickshire. The first tower was Stratford-on-Avon, Shakespeare's Church, with its 10 (19cwt), after which we went to Alderminster (6, 9cwt). We had a good carvery at the New Inn, Clifford Chambers. The afternoon towers were Welford-on-Avon (8, 10cwt) and Pebworth (10, 11cwt), thus ending a pleasant day.

February's outing was organised by Ken Wakefield and Chris Sears, who took us to North Oxfordshire. Kingham (8, 12cwt) was the first tower, and then on to Salford (5, 6cwt). Lunch was taken in Hook Norton, which had to include a pint of Old Hooky. This got us in good stead to ring the 20cwt 8 there. We did the Guild proud here, people remarking afterwards what good ringing it was on the heavy bells. We ended the day at Swerford (6, 6cwt).

The **March** outing, organised by Pat Halls, took us to South Derbyshire, and to me it was so pleasing to see so many of us making the effort to travel into fresh countryside, which gave many of us new towers. The first tower was Sawley (8, 9cwt) and then on to Long Eaton (8, 6cwt). We had a good lunch at The Bull's Head, Breaston, and then rang at the Church there (6, 7cwt). We ended a very pleasing day at Ockbrook (6, 5cwt).

Frank Spiers
(Thank you for this, Frank. Also, all please note the April tour is on 14th April: see Tag End, back page. Ed)

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2011

The Annual Ringing Tour this year will take place in Wiltshire. Richard Lewis-Skeath has organised six towers for our delectation. The early July sunrise will help with getting to the first tower! From then on, the tour gets gradually closer to home as it progresses through the day. OS map references are included to aid navigation.

The (provisional) itinerary will be:-

09.15 - 10.00am	BRADFORD-ON-AVON, Christ Church (8, 12-0-7 in A ^b)	(ST 827613)
10.30 - 11.15am	HOLT, St Katherine (6, 9-0-6 in G)	(ST 860616)
11.30 -12.15pm	MELKSHAM, St Michael & AA (8, 18-0-7 in E)	(ST 902637)
12.30 - 2.00pm	Lunch - The George Inn at Lacock is the suggested venue	
2.15 - 3.00pm	LACOCK, St Cyriac (6, 12-2-14 in F)	(ST 916685)
3.30 - 4.15pm	CHIPPENHAM, St Andrew (8, 18-1-5 in E ^b)	(ST 922732)
4.30 - 5.15pm	CHIPPENHAM, St Paul (8, 13-2-20 in F)	(ST 919739)

There will be a charge of £5 per ringer for the day, for tower donations.

Changes to the above may be unavoidable due to a variety of circumstances, so final arrangements will be shown on the FSG web-site in the fortnight before the tour. Check there, or with the Organiser (see below) before departing!

Organiser is Richard Lewis-Skeath (mob: 07747-802555), to whom eternal thanks.

A bus for the tour may be a possibility if there is sufficient commitment. Contact Richard if you are interested.

GUILD WALKING TOUR

This event will occur on **Saturday October 1st.**

The walk is planned for the Saintbury/Willersey/Broadway area.

Full details will appear in the July Newsletter.

Historic Churches 'Ride & Stride' Advance notice

The chance to help with the upkeep of ancient churches by being sponsored to cycle ride or walk between churches in the four Shires will occur on September 10th. More details in July Newsletter.

THE HARRY WINDSOR RINGING CENTRE, ST PETER'S CHURCH, KINETON, WARKS

This Centre is running a course for Tower Captains, existing or budding, on Saturday 9th July entitled:-

A CAPTAIN'S LOT - SOME SOLUTIONS

A course on Teaching & Tower Management

Full details can be found on the FSG Website,
see: Activities/Non Guild events

The Centre's courses are highly recommended and good value.

WANTED **EDITOR FOR THIS NEWSLETTER**

From 1st January 2012 onwards, to prepare the April 2012 issue and future issues.

The present Editor will be on-hand to offer advice. Ideally the new Editor can work with the present Editor prior to 1st Jan.

You will need: some time, some computer skills (especially in M/S Word and in using digital photos), some knowledge of ringing, reporting and writing skills, patience, understanding, GSOH, the ability to encourage and then if necessary to cajole tactfully, an eye and a nose to wrinkle out news items, and a desire to make the FSG Newsletter 'the best'!

CAN YOU HELP IN THIS WAY?

TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ST PETER’S, WELFORD-ON-AVON



(Photo: Freda Cleaver)

All that remains of the original Saxon church (1059) is the bowl of the font. It was replaced by the present Norman church (1100-1170) built with typical solid walls, heavy pillars, round arches and narrow windows, which remain in the west wall and tower. The simple carved decoration on the pillars is reflected in the carved arch above the original south door. In 1336 Perpendicular Decorated Gothic windows were installed in the chancel by monks from Tewkesbury Abbey. Those in the north and south aisles were replaced in 1441, while that in the south was decorated outside with carved stone heads of Henry VI and Margaret of Anjou.

The main structure of the church has since changed little, but in 1866 substantial alterations were made to the interior, and half-timbered porches were removed from the north and south doorways, the south porch being replaced with the present stone one. In the 1920s a copy of a Benedictine carved screen, by Joseph Northcott, replaced one from the 15th century. In 1924 the east window, a modern version of a Jesse window was installed. The 'trademark' of the designer, Geoffrey Webb, appears in the right-hand corner. The chancel was later re-furbished, with new carved oak choir stalls and the organ (by Henry Hewins of Stratford-upon-Avon). The lich gate was rebuilt at the end of the 20th century to replace the late 14th century original.

A ring of 6 bells was cast by Sanders of Bromsgrove in 1721, replacing an earlier ring of which no details survive, although Welford's bells were said to have celebrated the Battle of Crecy (1346). The interior and roof of the church tower were destroyed in 1884, bringing down these bells and damaging the clock, which had been given in 1660 by Rector Jenkins Bowen. New bells were cast from the old bell-metal in 1885 by James Barwell of Birmingham and the clock replaced. The bells had to be taken down again in 1957, but were re-cast by Taylor's of Loughborough in 1960 to make a new ring of six and installed in a new iron frame designed with space for two extra bells. In 1980 these bells were added, making a ring of 8 in A flat. The tenor weighs 9-3-11 (500 kilos) and is 3 ft. 1½ in. (952 mm) in diameter. The turret for a Sanctus bell remains on the East gable of the nave. The Guild practice is here on [Sat May 21st](#).

Rosemary Cole

AROUND THE TOWERS

QUARTER-PEALS:-

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 9th Jan, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Robin Green 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, Jane Gilbert 3, Chris Righton 4, Keith Murphy 5, Isobel Murphy 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Rob Stansbury 8. To celebrate England winning The Ashes in Australia.

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 24th Jan, 1280 Wessex S Major: Keith Murphy 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Peter Quinn 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Gwynne 6, John Nicholls 7, Chris Mew (C) 8. Wedding anniversary compliment to Catherine and Andy Lowe, sister and brother-in-law of 2.

Swerford, Oxon, 24th Jan, 1260 Doubles (Grandsire & Plain Bob): Michael Gray 1, Michael Haynes 2, Richard Hartwell 3, Rosemary Hemmings 4, Colin Meakes (C) 5, Stuart Cummings 6. Rung in memory of Alistair Haynes, who passed away on Saturday 22/1/11, father of 2.

South Newington, Oxon, 29th Jan, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Stuart Cummings 1, Rosemary Hemmings (C) 2, Michael Haynes 3, Peter Kenealy 4, Richard Hartwell 5. Rung in memory of Alistair Haynes, father of 3, who passed away 22/1/11.

Salford Priors, Warks, 31st Jan, 1260 Stedman Triples: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, John Gwynne 2, Lucy Gwynne 3, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 4, Annie Hall 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, John Nicholls 7, Michael Gray 8. To celebrate the life of Rev Malcolm Beal (11/5/31 – 11/1/11), Vicar of Salford Priors 1974-1983.

Swerford, Oxon, 24th Jan, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Peter Kenealy 1, Michael Haynes 2, Graham Allman 3, David Roskelly 4, Richard Hartwell (C) 5, Stuart Cummings 6.

Harbury, Warks, 28th Feb, 1280 Christchurch S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Diana Reeves 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Robert Reeves 4, John Gwynne 5, Peter Quinn 6, John Nicholls 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath 8. In memory of those who lost their lives in the Christchurch earthquake.

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 20th Mar, 1260 Plain Bob Triples: Keith Murphy 1, Isobel Murphy 2, Sue Marshall 3, Bill Nash 4, Joe Johnson 5, Michael Dane 6, Joanna Murphy (C) 7, John Nicholls 8. Isobel's birthday treat! 1st in method as conductor.

TOWER NEWS:

Temple Guiting: this project is much nearer its conclusion. Gloucester Diocese has granted a faculty, subject to English Heritage's requirements being satisfied and the inscriptions being acceptable. EH have advised no interest, so they present no concern. The inscriptions for the bell and a wall plaque are being finalised and will soon be submitted to Gloucester DAC for approval. Hopefully these will be accepted. Grants nearly total the amount required and (at the time of writing) the PCC has agreed to underwrite the deficit, pending another grant application being made. Acceptance of the inscriptions will therefore mean a green light for the order to be placed. One part of the work has seen a significant price rise, so a firm order will fix the cost. It would be nice if the July Newsletter were able to carry a report of

the completed, or at least the nearly completed, work.

Wyck Rissington: I have heard the PCC are to go ahead with rehanging these unringable bells (4, 7cwt).

Adlestrop: as the current proposal is to remove the bellframe, English Heritage came in February to inspect and to determine its historical value. They thought it later than had previously been dated, C19th rather than C18th, which is good for the project. However, there has to be a survey and report by an expert person for this, so the next job is to engage one.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 2 nd	STRATFORD-UPON-AVON , Warks	10, 19-0-2 in E (care with those tricky tower steps!)
Apr 9 th	BIDFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 14-0-24 in F (GF)
Apr 16 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL , Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F
Apr 23 rd	SALFORD PRIORS , Warks	8, 15-0-14 in F# (GF)
Apr 30 th	MORETON-IN-MARSH , Glos	8, 10-0-14 in G
May 7 th	BLOCKLEY , Glos	8, 16-0-27 in F
May 14 th	BLADINGTON , Glos	6, 8-0-13 in B – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
May 21 st	WELFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
May 28 th	CHERINGTON , Warks	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF)
Jun 4 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER , Glos	8, 12-1-22 in F#
Jun 11 th	ODDINGTON , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF)
Jun 18 th	SAINTBURY , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
Jun 25 th	Longborough , Glos	6, 11-0-2 in F#
Jul 2 nd	GUILD RINGING TOUR TO WILTSHIRE (see Notice p. 12) - <u>NO EVENING PRACTICE</u>	
Jul 9 th	WHICHFORD , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
Jul 16 th	HALFORD , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
Jul 23 rd	COLD ASTON , Glos	5, 5-3-16 in B (GF)
Jul 30 th	BRETFORTON , Worcs	8, 8-3-11 in F# (GF) – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>

For any alterations to this programme, check the 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:

At the recent Committee Meeting the Membership Secretary reported that subscription payments are coming in. However, there are more still to come. If yours is outstanding, the Treasurer would be delighted if you were to pay it sooner rather than later. Yes, the rate remains at £3. The renewal slip attached to the last Newsletter (January) makes this easier for the Membership Secretary.

A reminder that the Guild's Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours take place on the 3rd Thursday of every month, except in April, which will be on the 2nd Thursday (14th) to avoid Holy Week. A variety of areas are visited on these tours. Isobel Murphy is the General Contact (see page 2), and she can supply you with details. These details also appear on the FSG web-site.

NOTE: dates set for events in 2011 are:-

Guild Ringing Tour	Saturday 2nd July. Full details are now available: see p.12
Mini-Mouse Striking Competition	Saturday 10th September. Location & details tba: book the date!
Guild Walking Tour	Saturday 1st October: see Notices, p.12
Guild AGM & Striking Comps	Saturday 15th October at Barford, Warks. Full details tba!
Inter-Shires Striking Competition	Possible event: early November. Details later