

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 129 - JULY 2011

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Founded 1909

TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ST GREGORY'S, TREDINGTON, WARKS



Photo: Chris Povey

St Gregory's, Tredington, is a large and spacious church with much history behind it. Its glorious 200ft spire can be seen for miles around. It was once the centre of a parish that extended from Newbold-on-Stour in the north to the edge of Todenham in the south, with Shipston in the middle. The original church was founded in 961 and came under the jurisdiction of the Bishops of Worcester, which resulted in Tredington being in Worcestershire until the boundary changes of 1932.

An unusual piece of history meets you on entering the church: musket ball holes in the North door! These occurred during the Civil War, although the reason for doing this is unclear. Inside, the pews are worth inspecting, as they are late C15th: very ancient indeed. Another gem is the Jacobean pulpit, complete with magnificently-carved sounding board. There are some ancient brasses, two set into the west wall of the North Aisle (both were originally set into the floor) and one in the South Aisle floor.

Looking upwards to the West wall of the South Aisle, one can view what remains of the C17th wall murals that used to adorn the Church. Looking up at the Nave walls, below the clerestory windows, reveals some very interesting stonework: parts of the arches of the windows of the Saxon building. Further and more extensive Saxon stonework can be viewed in the wall opposite the South Door.

One item you will not see in St Gregory's is a pipe organ – and there seems to be no record of one ever existing. An electric organ suffices.

The tower and spire are C14th. The structure was built apart from the Nave and then joined by extending the Nave. The 6 bells (16-1-20) are rung from the ground floor and go fairly slowly. The back 4 bells are unusual for this area, being cast by George Purdue and Robert Atton in 1622 and 1624. Matthew Bagley provided the treble in 1683. The 3rd is a Mears bell of 1858 and clearly replaced an earlier bell. The tenor has an unusually deep note for its weight, being slightly sharp of D. The Guild has a practice here on Saturday August 20th.

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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Chaplain

The Rev Patrick Wooster

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Membership Secretary

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

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (Oct 2011) is September 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.)

NOTICE OF 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS, BARFORD, WARKS, 15th OCTOBER 2011

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2010

	<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
£432.50	subs+donations	£507.50	£315.00 (3 iss's)	Newsletters (4 issues) £355.17
£9.34	interest	£1.20	£105.00	Insurance £174.14
£100.00	advertising sales	£25.00	£79.86	Expenses £85.00
£2.50	badge	£0.00	£245.23	Moreton Show £0.00
£458.50	garments	£118.00	£62.82	BBQ £0.00
£244.04	BBQ,beer,tour etc	£00.00	£437.68	garments £91.59
0.00	Mid-week tours	£300.00	£100.00 (2010)	Dinner deposit £0.00
0.00	Annual Dinner	£17.00	£16.00	Hampton PCC £0.00
<u>0.00</u>	G&B Donation	<u>£80.00</u>	£75.00	donation Dawson Mini-ring £0.00
£1246.88	Total receipts	£1048.70	£0.00	Coventry Silvercraft £0.00
<u>£2615.40</u>	Opening balance	<u>£2425.81</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	CCCBR <u>£60.00</u>
£3862.40		£3474.51	£1436.59	total payments £823.33
			<u>£2425.81</u>	closing balance <u>£2651.18</u>
			£3862.40	<u>£3474.51</u>
	<u>Assets</u>			<u>Liabilities</u>
£2413.00	Bank	£2638.37		Mid-week tours* £1725.25
£14.52	Cash	£12.81	£1425.25	surplus £948.43
<u>£27.50</u>	Badges	<u>£22.50</u>	<u>£1029.77</u>	
<u>£2455.02</u>		<u>£2673.68</u>	£2455.02	<u>£2673.68</u>

* this money was transferred to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund, the transfer and the setting up of the Fund being agreed at the 2010 AGM.
Other assets: Newing Shield, President's Chain, Brazier Trophy, Spencer Jones Cup, peal books & documents. The Shield, Cup, Trophy and President's Chain have been valued professionally and are currently insured by the Guild for £3650.

Mike Rees, Hon Treasurer

ORDER OF THE DAY

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

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting (published in the April 2011 Newsletter, no 128; pp.5 & 6*)
- 3 Matters Arising.
- 4 Guild Master's Report.
- 5 Treasurer's Report.
- 6 Election of President.
- 7 Election of Vice Presidents.
- 8 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, General Secretary, Treasurer).
- 9 Election of Committee and Honorary Independent Examiner(s).
- 10 Confirmation of new members
- 11 Proposal to amend the Guild Rules with immediate effect, as proposal published in July Newsletter, p.12
- 12 Proposal to raise the annual subscription, with effect from 1st Jan 2012, as proposal published in July Newsletter, p.12.
- 13 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)
- 14 Results of the Striking Competitions.

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

Andrew Gunn, General Secretary

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

Teams intending to take part in the Striking Competitions should contact the Ringing Master (Sophia L-S) about their entry.

EDITORIAL

I'm sorry if this Newsletter reaches you slightly later than is normally expected. Helen and I went on holiday at the end of June, so the content wasn't finalised until early July. We went to northern France. We stopped at a village a short distance from Calais, where the market was in full swing and the carillon of the church alongside the Square was playing tunes continuously for at least the 45 minutes we were there. Nobody seemed to be concerned about the 'noise' of the bells – it was obviously how Bourbourg operated. I guess if anyone complained, they would be told in typical Gallic terms – and without fear of reprisal - that if they didn't like it, they should go and live somewhere else. One wonders why such logic and direct communication quickly dilutes as it travels across the English Channel....

I hope you liked my April Fool in the last Newsletter and weren't too offended if you were taken in. What's that you say; you didn't know there was one? Well....er... it was the front page article, about the 120 ton bell in Budapest. I'm afraid there's no such thing. I made it all up for the occasion. I'd hoped the date on the front might just have helped: it did say 1st April at the top.... and there was a hint in my Editorial (what's that again; you don't read my Editorial!!?). However, the photograph is absolutely genuine – this bell-shaped roof exists. I took the photo when Helen and I were on holiday in Budapest a few years ago. I thought it would make a good spoof article. Well... I thought it's now or never, so just had to do it.

There was a hint of another AF, too, but unfortunately it was an error on my part that led to this one. I could say the omission of 16 Down in El Presidente's crossword was an attempt to make it harder (El Presidente has said to me on more than one occasion that he thinks his crosswords are embarrassingly easy...), such that the real challenge was to determine the correct wording of the clue. Not so, I'm afraid. I just overlooked typing it in. Ah well, there's no crossword this time, as El Presidente has produced a mind-bender for your delectation – with a genuine prize (see p.5).

Did you ring to celebrate St George's Day on April

23rd? It was frustrated this year by being on Easter Saturday, when convention dictates no ringing. The subject was further enlivened by the rather timely article forwarded to me by Tim Pinner, about the Badsey ringers appearing in court for the offence of ringing in Holy Week for a wedding (no, no; Hilary and John weren't hauled before the Bench. It was long ago.) To complement this I asked the Guild Chaplain, Patrick Wooster, to explain the Holy Week situation (p.7).

The Royal Wedding came and went, with many thinking 'it was a good day'. Bells played a great part in it, with 'our' towers ringing quarters - and a peal, even (see p.5). This latter was significant for two reasons: firstly it was a Guild peal and therefore can be seen in the Exercise's peal records as the Guild's contribution to the happy event; and secondly – and more importantly – it was the first peal for the Guild's much-loved Ringing Master, Sophia Lewis-Skeath, who had vowed never to ring a peal, because she just didn't think she could. I don't know who put the pressure on her, but whoever it was did an impressive job! Sophia rang brilliantly throughout – and never showed signs of flagging.

Your Central Council reps attended the Council Meeting at Hereford on May 30th and a report of this by brand-spanking-new rep Keith Murphy appears on p.8. It wasn't the first meeting the Guild attended in its own right, which was last year when Andrew Gunn took a seat after the Guild was voted onto the Council, but it was the first in which its reps took their seats from the start as of right.

The situation concerning unintended false touches that occurred in the Newing Shield Striking Competition has been considered by the Committee at their recent meeting. A new rule has been formulated to clarify this and it appears on p.11. Conductors take note!

While you might think the Guild's AGM is a long way off (October 15th), it is the July issue

that carries all the information about it, because the October issue appears in too short a time beforehand to give adequate notice. You will see the Notice of the meeting on p.3, and there is another equally-relevant notice on p.12 concerning proposals that will be made on behalf of the Committee at the meeting. They are changes to the Guild Rules to take place immediately (see full details of the proposed changes on p.10), and a rise in subscriptions from 1st January 2012. Additionally, nominations are required for the various Officer posts for 2011-2012, so, as last year, nomination slips are attached to this Newsletter. Mike Rees, the Guild's Hon Treasurer, indicated at last year's AGM that he would stand down at this one, so nominations for a new Guild Treasurer will be required – unless, of course, Mike relents!

Wendy Mace has once again organised the Guild's Walking Tour, to be held on Saturday 1st October. Full details are in the Notices (p.12). Looks like a leisurely hike along the Cotswold edge, with the promise of some excellent views.

This is the second reminder that the job of Newsletter Editor is up for grabs. I'm available to discuss the requirements of being the Editor of this august journal. Again, 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 the back page. Do not think there is a dearth of material out there and therefore there will be nothing with which to fill the Newsletter. It somehow keeps coming in.

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.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES (100 YEARS AGO)

Somewhat amazingly, there were no entries in the Old Minute Book for the period 1st July to 30th September 1911!

This may therefore be an appropriate moment to give a brief update (as much as I've been able to glean) on the history behind the discovery of the Old Minute Book. It appears it was given some 50 years ago to the Swindon ringer that recently passed it to the Guild. Apparently it did indeed lie in a drawer until his wife decided a Spring Clean was necessary and it was very nearly thrown out, but was saved at the last moment. But how did it get from here to Swindon? The contact I have there tells me the

Swindon ringer was given the Book by Frank Wilton, who was a ringer from Swindon and who was stationed at the Fire Services College at Moreton for a time. That answers the question of how it got to Swindon. The really interesting question is: from where or from whom did Frank Wilton obtain it? We may never know.

I can just about remember Frank Wilton, as he was still ringing at Moreton in about 1966/67, when I was going to the Friday night practices there.

CMP

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 9th JUNE

The June Committee meeting was postponed for a week, to the 9th, due to the indisposition of some members. Keith Murphy, as CC Rep, was invited to attend. Matters Arising were:-

- 1) John N reported that he had arranged for the Intershires Striking Competition to be held at Cherington, although the date is not yet fixed;
- 2) Minute Books: Chris updated on what he'd managed to discover about the Old Minute Book's history before it came back to Guild ownership last year: not much, unfortunately (see 'From the Archives'). The situation concerning some missing pre-1974 books was discussed, and concern is growing that these might not return from their last-known location. Efforts to obtain them will continue;
- 3) Andrew has drawn up a list of towers with which to tackle the Guild artefacts survey. This is very good and will provide a useful start;
- 4) a draft document outlining in detail the proposed changes to the Guild's Constitution and Rules was tabled for discussion. With minor changes, this was accepted as the Committee's proposal for change at the 2011 AGM. As any changes to the Rules require the approval of the members at an AGM, the proposals as agreed will be published in the July Newsletter to ensure full circulation, along with the formal notice of the proposal to make changes (see pp 10-12);
- 5) Striking Competition Rules: Bill tabled some proposals for this at the meeting. Copies of his

proposals for the competition were made for each member to take away and consider. These included his suggestion for dealing with false touches: that these should not matter, as the event is a striking competition, not a conducting competition. This did not receive support, particularly regarding the inadvertent sounding of rounds (as had happened in 2010). An alternative proposal for treating this aspect was submitted by Chris, and this received majority support, such that it will be adopted for the 2011 competition (see Notice on p.11). Bill's suggestions for Striking Competition changes will be discussed at the next committee meeting;

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

- 1) Treasurer: Mike submitted the Guild accounts for 2010. These are to be reported in the July Newsletter as part of the AGM Notice (see p.3). They show a continued reduction in surplus money;
- 2) Newsletter Editor: Chris showed a draft of the July newsletter, suggesting 14 pages again. Due to his holiday commitments, printing will be in the first week of July at earliest, so distribution to members will be slightly later this time;

3) Vice-President's (Mid-week) Tours: these average about 20 people per time. Money collected on recent tours was handed to the Treasurer, and thanks was expressed to Isobel for running this activity;

4) Guild Bell Restoration Fund: no applications since Temple Guiting, on which Chris updated. The PCC have now ordered the work formally and installation of the new treble is due in September.

5) Keith M gave an extensive and more-detailed account of the Central Council meeting at Hereford in May.

Other items for discussion included:-

- 1) Agenda and arrangements for the 2011 AGM agreed (see Notice on p.3);
- 2) Guild Walk and Mini-Mouse Comp: full details of each event now available (see Notices, p.12);
- 3) Xmas Party: deferred for this year. Guild Dinner 2012: decided to return to the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh, as the venue, food and service were judged to have been extremely good.

Next Meeting: 1st September, Ilmington.
(NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.)

ROYAL WEDDING RINGING

The Guild was active with ringing for the Royal Wedding on April 29th. Here are the details of such ringing your Editor found. I hope it was all the ringing, but unfortunately I think some may not have reached my eyes or ears. If your ringing has been left out and you'd like to see it recorded for posterity, let me know and I will put it in the next issue.

Offenham, Worcs, 29th Apr, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Tim Pinner 1, Claire Penny 2, Chris Povey 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Martin Kemp 6. 1st Q for over 30 years: 6. 1st inside: 4.

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 29th Apr, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Isobel Murphy 1, Joanna Murphy 2, John Nicholls 3, Joe Johnson 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 5, Robert Stansbury 6, Keith Murphy 7, David Adams 8.

Hook Norton, Oxon, 29th Apr, 1260 Doubles (360 Stedman, 900 Grandsire): Daniel Austin 1, Claire Tarrant 2, Jonathan Muller 3, Mick Austin 4, Mark Tarrant (C) 5, Sally Austin 6.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire
Church of St. David

Monday, 2 May 2011, in 2hrs 38 mins (tenor: 10-0-14)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed: C. Middleton (believed no relation!)

- 1 Christopher F. Mew (C)
- 2 Sophia A. M. Lewis-Skeath
- 3 John W. Nicholls
- 4 Christopher M. Povey
- 5 Peter J. F. Quinn
- 6 Alan J. Griffin
- 7 Mark W. Sayers
- 8 Richard Lewis-Skeath

Rung to celebrate the marriage at Westminster Abbey of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

1st peal - Sophia Lewis-Skeath.

EL PRESIDENTE'S PUZZLE

As mentioned in the Editorial, El Presidente has devised a fiendish little puzzle for non-Crossword readers. It may not be a Crossword, but it will surely promote cross words. It is probably solved by fairly intricate mathematics (what do you expect from a maths teacher), and, because **El Presidente is offering a prize of a bottle of wine to the first person with the correct answer drawn out of the hat**, it clearly won't be easy. However, El Presidente has applied one restriction: Angela Newing is ineligible to compete, because she will definitely solve it! Please send your answers to John, to arrive no later than Sat 13th Aug 2011. Here it is:-

The 1st Campden Scouts set up camp in a field and coincidentally placed their flagpole equidistant from each of the four corners of the field. The sides of the field measured 56 metres, 48 metres, 52 metres and 44 metres. What is the area of the field (to the nearest 0.1sq.m)?

ST GEORGE'S DAY RINGING 2011 (and associated aspects)

Did you ring on St George's Day this year? After a successful campaign over two years ago to encourage the Church to have their bells rung for St George's Day (April 23rd if you didn't know it – although Stratford-upon-Avon has difficulty with it, as that date is The Bard's birthday; and his death date, too!), even getting as far up as the Diocesan Bishops and possibly above, there was enthusiastic ringing on the day in 2009 and 2010. A problem that threatened to derail the campaign was foreseen for 2011: April 23rd lay between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a time when church bells are not rung due to the Holy Week restriction. If I remember rightly, there was a suggestion that the 2011 St George's Day ringing should be postponed to the May Day Bank Holiday to overcome the problem. This seemed a bit of a sham.

I have to admit that I don't (and still don't) know the precise reasons for the Holy Week ringing restriction. No, I wouldn't willingly ring on Good Friday (although some do); but the days up to Good Friday and the Saturday between then and Easter Sunday? That the practice is traditional is obvious: it has been around for all my almost-50 years of ringing and very much before then. I have little doubt it was originally a church edict, but I am inclined to wonder whether the Church is still fully behind this practice, or whether, because of its very long existence, it has seeped fully into ringers and therefore has also become a 'ringers' restriction'. If so, has the ringers' restriction become greater than the church restriction? I don't know.

Evesham Bell Tower has had a Wednesday practice in Holy Week since 1985. Did we just ignore the Church then and hammer on regardless, risking Hell, Fire and Damnation? Well, no. The suggestion came from the Vicar of the time, Canon Bertie Webb, who was a ringer. We have continued the practice since 1985, through three more incumbents, who have never, ever, commented about it. Have we experienced Hell, Fire and Damnation? Not that I'm aware, although I've had a few aches and pains over the years, but that might be due to being nearly 30 years older! It's possible St Michael at The Pearly Gates is going to have a word, but I'm convinced Bertie will have got through without any difficulty, so there's a chance. The complete lack of clerical comment (and remember it is the Incumbent who has full and final control of when and how his or her bells are rung) leads me to wonder whether the Church has moved on a bit, and whether in some cases the restriction on Holy Week ringing is mainly ringer-led. Let me say here and now that I have no disagreement with anybody, cleric or ringer, who wishes not to ring in Holy Week, but it would be nice to think their decision is based on known reason. As I said, I've been around some time and don't believe I know what it really is. It is possible the restriction is, in many cases, pure tradition. (I

should say, though, that I respect the decision of any incumbent or ringer not to ring in Holy Week, howsoever that decision is made.)

When the discussions about St George's Day 2011 were doing the rounds last year, I emailed the primary person involved to say that Evesham had run its practice in Holy Week for many years and that there had been no clerical restriction from any of the four incumbents in the time. I suggested that the Church itself might have moved forward on the Holy Week restriction, particularly as the ringing in this case was to be for England's patron saint. I said then that although I could not be absolutely sure, I was 99% sure Evesham's Vicar would give his permission willingly when the time came, as he may be described as one of the more 'progressive' clerics.

It so happens St George's Day in Evesham is also The Asparagus Festival (unlike Stratford, our star performer is still alive!!). The St George's Day ringing takes place early, 7.30-8.15am, so it doesn't become confused with this event. I thought I'd better obtain the Vicar's permission this year, even though he's been enthusiastic about ringing for St George in the past. His reply was short and to the point: 'Ring away' he said! No trace of reluctance there, then.

So ring for St George we did (one of our band said he would ring for endangered dragons, but that also seemed perfectly reasonable). The big surprise I had when I got to the Tower was to find this year's Asparagus Festival was being set up in the Churchyard instead of The Park. So, no hint of Holy Week silence in that respect either! I cannot think the decision to allow the Festival to occur in the Churchyard was taken entirely by the Vicar. The PCC and churchwardens must have been involved, too.

Did this apparent invasion of Holy Week affect things ecclesiastically and spiritually? I did not feel it did, although to be fair I'm just a ringer and the actions taken at Evesham involved a much wider audience than the ringers. I've not heard gripes from anywhere, though. I do not believe, either, that Evesham's Vicar has been hauled before the Bishop of Worcester for a severe dressing down!

So where is all this all leading? I suppose it was the chain of events this year that has brought the Holy Week ringing restriction into much sharper focus and how one Incumbent has acted (and there may have been others), ie where's the consistency in the Church; and what, exactly, is the Church's view on this now?

I thought I should seek advice on the subject from the Guild's Chaplain, the Rev Patrick Wooster, firstly to ask how the restriction came about in the first place and secondly to ask whether there is now a general view in the Church about it; and if so, what it is (if you've got a Chaplain, you've got to use him!). Patrick's answers to these questions are outlined below.

By sheer coincidence (it must have been so) Tim Pinner passed on to me an article by Val Magan that appeared in the *Badsey Society Magazine* about Holy Week ringing. This is a truly fascinating piece and it shows that things have moved forward, but only in not taking ringers to court for such misdemeanours! It is certainly worth reading and appears below. (Val agreed to publication here.)

It would be nice to receive some letters on this subject, particularly as we haven't had any letters in the Newsletter for a few issues now. Let's have some views, folks!

Chris Povey

BELL-RINGERS, BEWARE!

Valerie Magan, in her researches at Evesham Library, came across an interesting article in *The Evesham Journal* of March 1869, in which a case of over-exuberance on the part of the bell-ringing fraternity almost resulted in them ending in gaol.

On Thursday 18th February 1829, Mr George Field and Miss Elizabeth Hambler, eldest daughter of the late Mr Robert Hambler of Badsey, were married in Badsey parish church. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Reverend T H Hunt; the church was well filled by spectators and the festivities carried on "right heartily throughout the day". Towards the close of the marriage ceremony, the bell-ringers, namely William Field, Elisha Hopkins, Charles Hall, William Williams and Joseph Harris decided amongst themselves they would ring the church bells, in opposition to the ruling that the bells of Badsey church may not be rung during Lent.

John Phillips and Joseph Jones, both churchwardens, brought a case against the bell-ringers for riotous and unlawful behaviour in church. P.C. Surrell from Bretforton issued a summons for all to attend Evesham Petty Sessions Court on 1st March. On the day of the court session,

the bell-ringers offered their deep regret at what had happened. The Churchwardens accepted their deep regret and said that they did not wish to go into the charge. The Magistrates felt that, although the Vicar and Churchwardens had the right to compromise the matter, they still wished to investigate the case. It was felt the bell-ringers had committed a serious offence and they should know exactly how the law stood. Had there been a charge, they could have received a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding two months.

The Reverend Hunt was also in court and stated he was desirous of saying that it was not on account of any personal feelings that the bells were not allowed to be rung; he believed the ruling had been in place before his sojourn in Badsey. In fact the bride had been a friend of his for the past 17 years and, he added, he had given her a bridal present, as had his wife and sister. He felt the rule should not be broken for rich or poor. The only time when the bells were rung in Lent was on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, and never before.

The Chairman felt Reverend Hunt and the Churchwardens were right on the subject of the law regarding the ringing of the bells and probably the parties who caused the disturbance were ignorant of the law – doubtless they were entirely ignorant. The Court was crowded, and the greatest interest seemed to be manifested in the proceedings.

Val's comment: _

It was obviously a relief to the bell-ringers and their families that they got away with just a ticking-off. Does anyone know when Badsey church's rules about bell ringing in Lent were relaxed?

Answers please to editor@badsey.org.uk (*and to this Editor, too, please!*)

OUR CHAPLAIN'S REPLY:-

Dear Chris,
Before replying to your article about ringing during Lent, I would like to comment on the one about the incident at Badsey in 1829, as it contains examples of a particular *bête noir* of mine. Mention is made of 'The Reverend Hunt' and in the following paragraph to 'Reverend Hunt'. These are improper forms of address. 'Reverend' is a description (not a title), which should always be preceded by the definite article and followed by a Christian name or initials, in much the same way as one would not say 'Sir Jones', but 'Sir Davy Jones'. So it is not 'Reverend Hunt', but 'The Reverend T H Hunt'. If you don't know the clergyman's first name or initials it is permissible to write 'The Reverend Mr Hunt', but if all that seems a bit of a mouthful it is quite proper to say 'Mr Hunt' (or if he is of the high church persuasion, Fr Hunt), but *never* 'Reverend Hunt'.

Here endeth the First Lesson on 'How to address the Clergy'. For more information see the relevant pages of Crockford's *Clerical Directory*, or even Mrs Beeton's *Household Management*.

What puzzles me is why, since he objected to the ringing of bells during Lent, the worthy Mr Hunt did not conform to what was then a widespread custom, (though perhaps so a decade or two later, thanks to the Oxford Movement) of not allowing weddings during Lent, a policy still adhered to today by quite a number of clergy. In celebrating the wedding but refusing the bells the man proves himself duplicitous; I blame him for all the trouble!

Since Ye Ed has already written that I will provide this article, I'd better get on with it!

From earliest times the Christian Church, in common with all other major religions, has acknowledged the value of keeping times of fasting and self-discipline. In *The Prayer Book* there is a 'Table of days of Fasting and Abstinence', which begins with 'The Forty Days of Lent' (there are only 40 days in Lent; Sundays are not part of Lent), and ends with 'All Fridays in the Year, except Christmas Day'. You may think this a bit old fashioned and doesn't apply any more, but the 21st Century '*Common Worship*' also has a list of 'Days of Discipline and Self Denial. It begins, 'The weekdays of Lent and every Friday in the year are days of discipline and self-denial, except all Principal Feasts and Festivals outside Lent and Fridays from Easter Day to Pentecost.' So the Roman Catholic Church is only just catching up with its recent reinstatement of Fish Fridays! I've never heard of anybody not ringing because it's Friday.

There are still many people, though, who 'give something up' for Lent, and others who do things like extra Bible reading, or attending extra church services, but by and large the rigorous observance of the Lenten Fast has considerably slackened. Nevertheless, it is appropriate that this season of Lent should be kept with all due solemnity, and usually there are no flowers in church during Lent, the alter-hangings and vestments are often Sackcloth, the Gloria in Excelsis is not sung during the eucharist, and some people feel there should be no undue ringing of bells. Some years ago I was invited to take part in a peal at a tower in Kent where the incumbent insisted that we should ring half-muffled because it was during Lent. I have heard of churches where Sunday service ringing during Lent was reduced to the tolling of a single bell, but I think the reason for this is very doubtful, especially as Sundays are not, technically, part of Lent.

The season of Lent works up to its climax in

Holy Week, when we remember on Good Friday our Saviour's death for us on the Cross. There has always been a widespread practice of not ringing at all during this solemn week, though the final word is always with the incumbent. Personally I always encouraged open ringing for the Maundy Eucharist, celebrating the institution of the Last Supper. In some parishes it may be necessary to suspend or change practice night to accommodate some special services.

The Reverend Percy Dearmer, who was once considered the authority on all Church matters, has very little to say at all about church bells; in fact his book has only one short paragraph, which I quote in full: "All the church bells should be silent during the last three days of Holy Week after the Maundy Mass. Therefore we have no precedent for the objectionable and morbid practice of tolling a bell at 3pm on Good Friday."

Well, times move on and things change. It is not unusual now to have half-muffled ringing and even quarter-peals on Good Friday. Such ringing sounds 'different', and is a reminder to the general public that Good Friday is a special day, something which is increasingly ignored in our secular and commercially motivated age.

With regards to your last question, Chris, about ringer-led restrictions, all the ringers I have ever known are only too happy to ring on any reasonable occasion (and some on unreasonable occasions, too!). I don't see any ringer voluntarily initiating restrictions on ringing, so the answer is No.

Now we come to the matter of St George's Day. The Church Calendar has a Table of Preference, which tells us what to do if two Holy Days fall on the same date, for instance if Lady Day falls on Good Friday. In such cases the preferred Holy Day is kept on the usual date, and if the second one is a Major Feast it is moved to the next available date, or if the second one is a Minor Feast it is praetermitted (which is just a posh way of saying that it is left out for that year). Technically St George is a minor saint, so since this year 23rd April was Holy Saturday he would normally have been praetermitted, but as he is our patron saint a special case was made for England. In fact this year several days got moved because they fell in Holy Week or Easter Week, and on the Monday after Low Sunday (2nd May) we had St George, moved from 23rd April; on the Tuesday we had St Mark, moved from 25th April; and

on the Wednesday we has Ss Philip & James, moved from 1st May.

Of course, you still keep Shakespeare Day and Asparagus Day on 23rd April, but the Church celebrated St George on 2nd May this year, which meant that St Athanasius had to be praetermitted. It all happened because of the exceptionally late date of Easter, and you will be pleased to know that St George will not have his Feast Day moved again for many years to come!

Patrick

(Thank you for this very valuable contribution, Patrick, which explains how the Church copes with ecclesiastical blips and why some clergy think the

way they do about Holy Week.

So the Church celebrated the Feast of St George on May 2nd, while (presumably) the wider English public continued with 23rd April. I notice the Ringing World Diary shows the following entry for April 23rd: 'St George's Day (feast transferred to 2nd May)'. At least the confusion won't happen again for a very long time. I guess a similar, but permanent, situation exists with St Thomas's Day, which used to be on 21st December, but which was moved to 3rd July some years ago. Should the St Thomas's Day ringing now be called 'Old St Thomas's Day ringing'?

Although I could probably have managed

without knowing about 'praetermitted', this was very definitely not the case with a clergyman's correct form of address. The incorrect use is widespread, which is why I am very pleased you have included that aspect in your reply: to make people more aware. I have been as guilty as anyone – and you will notice the headings on p.2 for both you and Peter Newing have been altered accordingly.

As an aside, I wonder whether the Irish would be happy to celebrate St Patrick's Day, as they do in inimitable fashion, on a date other than March 17th if that day clashed with a Holy Week day – which may be a possibility? Ed)

CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING 2011 – FIRST IMPRESSIONS

On Bank Holiday Monday 2011, some 206 members of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers sat down in a suitably large conference room in the Three Counties Hotel, Hereford. The occasion was the 114th Annual Meeting of the Council and the first I attended, as representative of the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers.

Fortunately Chris Povey, and many other friends from ringing in North Gloucestershire and Sussex were close at hand to help me through the early stages of the process. Signing in, finding a seat, working out who was who and what was going to happen during the day were my immediate concerns.

I really didn't have to wait very long before it was obvious that the other 205 reps were, as is the general rule with ringers, really welcoming. This particular session of the Council had more than 50 new members which was thought to be an all time record, so change could perhaps be in the air. The first part of the welcome is a roll call of the new boys and girls and a quick stand up and "wave if you're brave" to the assembled throng. Pretty much like the first day at a new school really.

Things began to get a little more serious when business matters began. Previous minutes, the annual report of the Council and the accounts for 2010 all passed through the appropriate processes and following this, the election for additional members and Officers took place. It's not my intention to replicate the minutes here so don't get worried... just some highlights such as the election of Kate Flavell (Surrey Association) as President from 2011-2014 and (almost our very own!) Chris Mew (Coventry Dio. Guild) as Vice President 2011-2014.

Item 13 at the meeting could indeed be viewed as somewhat unlucky. The guild subscriptions per representative member were to be raised from £20

to £25 from Jan 2012. The last rise was in 2007 so in considering escalating costs (VAT, postage, venue costs etc.) Council concluded that the time was right for a rise. How about that? First meeting and the subs have gone up! How am I to explain that back at FSG?

One of my aims for the day was to somehow get myself elected onto one of the 16 committees of the Council. New faces are enthusiastically encouraged to participate in this. I was told that occasionally in the past committee places had remained unfilled but this was not the case for the 2011 meeting perhaps because of the large new intake.

Prior to the Council meeting, I had identified that an appropriate committee would be "Ringing Trends" as my day job essentially involves analysis and presentation of data. So with a contact from the G&B to propose me, and a ringer from my Sussex past prepared to second, I was all set to put my name forward at the required moment.

Tension was building as I was proposed and seconded and my name went up on the screen as the first candidate for the one position available. But then..... up went another name with the proposer waxing lyrical on his candidate's merits and I began to see my chances of election dwindling by the minute. However..... riding to the rescue from the floor came the suggestion that surely no election was necessary if the Ringing Trends Committee took two instead of one. Hence without further ado, the two of us willing volunteers were in.

The length of the meeting with the associated AGMs of *The Ringing World* and the Ringing Foundation was not inconsiderable: a 10.00 am start going through to just gone 6.30pm

but there were breaks for lunch and the occasional coffee and tea. Council members were frequently to be heard trying to conclude if the format of the meeting and the time committed to the process was "about right".

I guess there's not a right or wrong answer here but representing the views of thousands of ringers across the country is not easy and the process used, whichever you select, will likely have some deficiencies. Bit like our ringing really, there's always more to learn and perfection can be approached but perhaps never achieved....

I'm looking forward to representing the FSG at the Central Council and linking between your committee and the Council. Please don't hesitate to make use of myself or Chris if you need any further information on the CCCBR or would like to discuss related matters.

Keith Murphy (FSG CCCBR Rep)

(It was reported in the issue of The Ringing World following the meeting that all the posts in the committees were filled – the first time for many a long year, no doubt. I cannot remember this happening in the time I have been a CC rep: 17yrs. Even Bill Nash, CC Rep for the G&B, managed to find himself on a committee (the Bell Restoration Committee), his entry to this being in similar fashion to Keith's. Ed – and the other FSG CC Rep)

THE 'GRAND OLD MAN' REACHES 93!



In what has now become something of a Guild tradition, Rob Harvey's birthday was celebrated with a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at Whichford on Saturday June 18th. It is very pleasing to report that the quarter was accomplished successfully, so that the event was marked in proper and fitting style. Rob had had a cold leading up to the day, so he was under strict instructions from his youngest daughter not to ring this year – or at least not for very long. Rather amazingly Rob did take this advice, so he rang his beloved treble (the bell he donated and which carries his name) for a few rounds beforehand.

After the quarter, the ringers were invited to the Norman Knight pub to enjoy drinks and eats provided by Rob. Details of the quarter are:-

Whichford, Warks. Saturday 18th June 2011, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Chris Povey 1, Ted Copson 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Trevor Hobday 4, Sally Austin 5, Mick Austin 6, John Nicholls (C) 7, Peter Kenealy 8. To celebrate Rob Harvey's 93rd birthday (actually on the 19th – and yes, he did reach that day successfully!).

RECENT MONTHLY MID-WEEK TOURS REPORT

The **April** outing was organised by Roland Merrick and took us to the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border. The first tower was the 6 (17cwt) at St Edburga's, Leigh. The next tower was the light 5 (4cwt) at St Mary Magdalene, Broadwas.

Lunch was taken at the Nelson Inn, Suckley, after which we ascended the tower of St John's Church to ring on the 6 (12cwt) there. We ended the day on the 8 (14cwt) at St James, Cradley. Thank you, Roland, for organising a lovely outing in lovely countryside. (We never find bad beer on these outings!)

The **May** outing was organised by Wynne Holcombe. It took us to South Gloucestershire in beautiful Cotswold country. The first tower was St Peter, Dyrham (6, 13cwt), which is situated in the grounds of the magnificent Dyrham House. After Dyrham we travelled to St Peter, Wapley (6, 8cwt), and from there to lunch at the Cross Hands Hotel,

Old Sodbury. *(This was the Hotel in which the Queen took refuge in December 1981, when a blizzard prevented her car from travelling back to Windsor after visiting Princess Ann at Gatcombe Park. Ed)*

After lunch we rang at St James', Horton, where the 6 (17cwt) have recently been restored after many years of being unringable. Our last tower was Holy Trinity, Wickwar, on the 6 (11cwt), after which we had tea and cakes before our journeys home. Thank you, Wynne, for giving us a lovely day out ringing; and it was pleasing to see so many of us there.

The **June** outing, organised by Peter Olding, took most of us into new countryside in Staffordshire; not the industrial side but the lovely forested side. The first tower was the 6 at Holy Angels, Hoar Cross. At 28cwt,

its tenor is one of the heaviest 6-bell tenors in the Midlands. Then we went to the 8 (11cwt) at St Nicholas, Abbots Bromley, where afterwards we had lunch at the Coach and Horses.

The first tower after lunch was Mavesyn Ridware, where we rang on the 8 (9cwt). The next tower was Armitage with its light (4cwt) 6. We ended a lovely day's ringing on the 6 (11 cwt) at All Saints, Kings Bromley.

Thank you, all you Organisers, for some lovely Outings.

Frank Spiers

(Thank you for these reports, Frank. Keep them coming. Ed)

FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER: THE ISLES OF SCILLY



For many, a lovely, quiet holiday destination off Cornwall, with sun, sea, sandy beaches and a sub-tropical climate. Renowned for its world-famous Tresco Abbey Gardens, ships' figure-heads museum, ancient fortifications, etc, the islands offer an attractive 'get away from it all' break.

But now there is something to listen out for apart from the birds and the breakers on the beaches – the sound of bells. A ring of 8, cast at Whitechapel Foundry, was installed at St Mary's Church and dedicated in 2009.

Peter Richardson.

(The ring, with a tenor of 8cwt, was cast with a Gillett & Johnston profile. They were a completely new installation. The hanging was undertaken by Nicholson Engineering of Bridport. Ed)

THE GUILD RULES: DETAILS OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND

This article gives the details of the proposal that is advertised in the Notices (see p.12) regarding amendments to the Guild Rules.

The existing Guild Rules (as last amended 1992 and currently contained within a yellow booklet) are shown below in black. The part that is to be amended is shown struck through, with the proposed wording to replace it shown in blue. The reasons for the proposed change are shown in *italics*. The proposed amendments generally arise because of various changes that have occurred since 1992.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF ~~BELLRINGERS~~ **BELL RINGERS** –RULES

(Reason for change: there were two variations of the name in use. The Committee decided this version should be used)

Name: The Guild shall be called THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF ~~BELLRINGERS~~ **BELL RINGERS**. *(Reason: as above)*

Objects:

- (i) To encourage the regular ringing of Church Bells for Church Services and as otherwise directed, requested or approved of by the incumbent of the Parish;
- (ii) To concentrate the activities of the Guild within the boundaries of an area agreed from time to time by its Members*;
- (iii) To encourage the training of ringers, instructors and conductors, and generally cultivate the art of change ringing;
- (iv) To promote fellowship amongst ringers.

Membership: Membership shall be divided into the following classes:-

- (i) **Ringing Members:** a Ringing Member shall be an active church bell ringer, shall normally reside and ring in the area covered by the Guild, and shall be elected on the proposition of a Ringing Member **and** seconded by an Officer of the Guild. Such election shall be formally noted to the next Annual General Meeting of the Guild;
- ~~(ii) **Associate Members:** persons other than active members who wish to support the work of the Guild may be so elected at an Annual General Meeting; *(Reason: has become redundant.)*~~
- ~~(iii)~~**(ii) Honorary Life Members:** ringers who have reached the age of 65 years and have (a) taken part in the activities of the Guild prior to 1940, or (b) have been a paid up member of the Guild under (1) or (iv) for the previous five years, are entitled to become Honorary Life members without payment of subscription, upon application to the Secretary **in the opinion of the Committee have rendered exceptional service to the Guild. Confirmation of this is by a recommendation to the membership at an Annual General Meeting, which must gain support from at least 75% of those present and able to vote. Honorary Life Members are granted membership without payment of subscription; *(Reasons: the Guild would be bankrupt in a short time if this clause remains, as a large proportion of members are now eligible to pay nothing! Additionally, the Guild wishes to recognise exceptional service through the amendment.)***
- ~~(iv) **Extra Territorial Members:** ringers normally residing and ringing outside the area covered by the Guild shall be elected upon the proposition of a Ringing Member and seconded by an Officer of the Guild. Such election shall be formally noted to the next Annual General Meeting. The number of members elected in this class shall not exceed one quarter of the current members in class (i) and shall be elected annually. *(Reason: this category is now considered unnecessary.)*~~

Subscriptions:

shall be due and payable on the first day of January in each year. A new member joining in November or December shall be deemed to have paid for the following year also. Membership shall cease if subscription is more than one year in arrears, but may recommence upon payment of all arrears. The amount of the annual subscription shall be approved at an AGM.

President & Vice-President(s): ~~Persons elected annually at an Annual General Meeting~~ **A President and a Vice-President, or Vice-Presidents, shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting. Such appointments shall stand for three years, after which these persons may be eligible for re-election if so desired. Any person appointed to these offices may resign the position within the period if they wish, at which point an election to appoint a successor will be for the outstanding term of office. *(Reasons: need to recognise the validity of two VPs as at present; also, the extended duration of office provides more stability and reflects Central Council practice.)***

Officers: The Officers of the Guild shall be:

- (i) **a Guild Master** – whose duties shall be to control the activities of the Guild at meetings and other occasions as may be provided for in these Rules, or as directed by the Committee;
- (ii) **a Ringing Master** – whose duties shall be to co-ordinate ringing activities by members of the Guild at meetings and other occasions as may be provided for in the Rules, or as directed by the Committee. **The Ringing Master may if so desired devolve to suitable Guild members the responsibilities of controlling ringing activities at meetings, without reference to the Committee; *(Reason: to reflect the recent agreements by the Committee for managing Saturday and other ringing meetings.)***
- (iii) **an General Honorary Secretary** – who shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Guild, maintain a complete register of all members, issue notices of all **business and similar** meetings, and carry out other such duties as may be required for the advancement of the Guild; *(Reasons: name change to reflect more common usage. Excludes ringing practice meetings.)*
- (iv) **an Honorary Treasurer** – who shall receive all monies on behalf of the Guild, paying them into the Guild's banking account. He/she shall keep such accounts as the Guild desires, and pay all official expenses connected with the Guild's activities. He/she shall invest Guild funds on instructions from the Committee. At the AGM of the Committee he/she shall present an audited statement of accounts made up to the previous 31st December. All cheques shall be signed by the **Honorary Treasurer and the General Honorary Secretary**, or other such persons as shall be authorised by the Committee. *(Reason: name change to reflect more common usage; no male exclusivity.)*

Auditors/Independent Examiners: There shall be two ~~Auditors~~ **Independent Examiners**, elected annually at the AGM on the recommendation of the Committee. They shall examine ~~and audit~~ all accounts of the Guild and report on the same to the Committee. **They need not be members of the Guild. *(Reason: Independent Examiners more relevant; to comply with the decision made at the 2010 AGM.)***

Committee: The affairs of the Guild shall be managed by a Committee. ~~Such Committee~~ **, which** shall consist of the Officers of the Guild together with six other elected members, ~~not more than two of~~

which shall be Associate Members. The Central Council representative(s) shall also be deemed members of the Committee. The Committee shall meet annually in advance of the AGM to consider reports submitted by the Officers, and the Guild accounts, together with and other relevant business. Other meetings of the Committee meetings shall be called by the General Honorary Secretary after consultation with the Guild Master and the Treasurer. The Chairman at such meetings shall be the Guild Master, or, if he/she shall not be present, the members attending shall elect a chairman for that meeting. There shall be at least two committee meetings in any calendar year. (Reasons: simpler wording, no male exclusivity, inclusion of CCCBR reps.)

Central Council Representatives: The Guild is, for the time being, able to send two representatives to attend the annual meeting of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Two such representatives are to be elected at the Guild AGM prior to the start of the CCCBR Triennium, the three-year period of each Council, their appointments being for that three-year term. (Reason: to include these new positions.)

Elections to posts: where there are more nominations for a post than the number of people required to fill it, an election will be held. This will be by secret ballot. Each candidate and their proposer will be invited to give a short speech as to why the candidate is best fitted to the duties of the post. Where a candidate's proposer is not present, the Chairman will, with the candidate's approval, invite anyone else present to speak on the candidate's behalf. (Reason: to formalise the election process.)

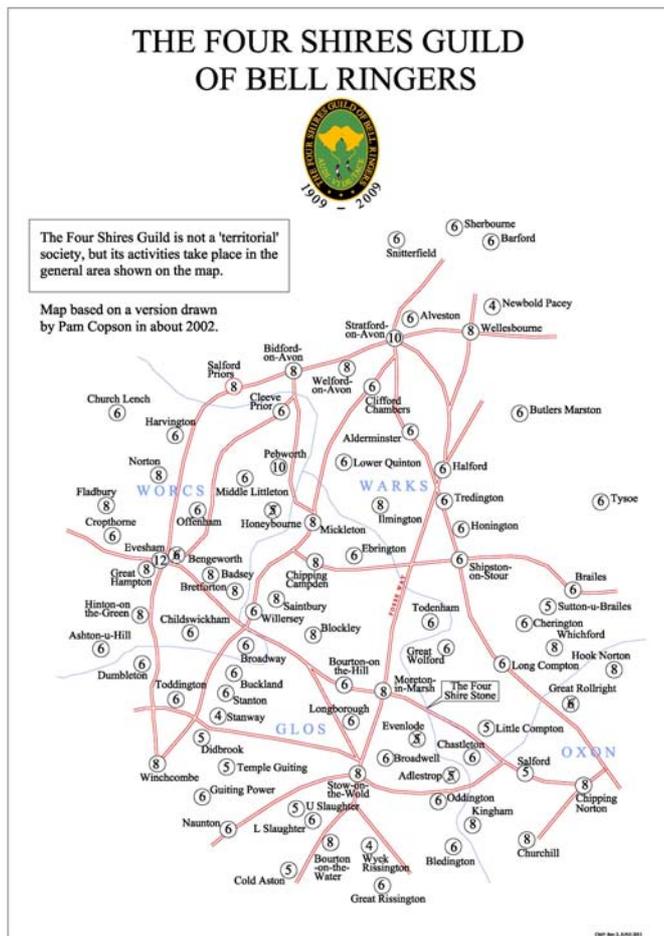
Co-option to posts: where a holder of a post wishes to resign from that post mid-term, the committee may fill the vacancy by co-option, such co-option remaining valid until the next AGM. The Committee may co-opt any Ringing Member to the committee on a temporary basis when there is a specific reason to do so. (Reason: to allow the committee to fill mid-term vacancies without an election and to allow flexibility.)

Annual General Meeting: The AGM of the Guild shall be held in April/October each year. The business to be transacted at such an AGM shall consist of the election of the President, Vice-President(s), Officers of the Guild, Auditors Independent Examiners, Committee members, CCCBR Representatives, Ringing Members and Associate Ringing, Associate and HLF Members, and other such business appropriate to an AGM. All nominations for Officers, signed by the nominee and the proposer, shall be received by the General Honorary Secretary in writing and signed by the nominee not later than two weeks before the date of the AGM. Only fully Fully paid-up members only shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Guild. The Chairman of the Annual or other General Meeting of the Guild shall be the President, or in his absence a Vice-President; or if there is no Vice-President who is prepared to take the Chair, the Guild Master. Should none of the foregoing be present then the members attending shall elect one of their number to act as

Chairman for that meeting, providing those voting to elect are eligible to do so and the person elected is a fully paid-up member of the Guild. (Reason: need to correct AGM date; clearer wording; also need to ensure a substitute chairman is fully eligible.)

Alteration to the Rules: No alteration, deletion or addition to the Rules shall be made except at an AGM or Special Meeting of the Guild, of which not less than four weeks shall have been given.

* Currently agreed as the four counties, viz. Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire area commonly known as the North Cotswolds and its immediate surrounding area, which encompasses parts of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. This 'area of operation' is shown by the tower map that appears at the front of the Rules booklet. (Reason: the area as previously defined is too widespread and greater definition is required. This map is shown below:-)



NOTICES AND ADVERTS

FOUR SHIRES GUILD NEWING TROPHY STRIKING COMPETITION AMENDMENT TO RULES

To resolve the confusion over the unintended false touch that occurred in the 2010 Newing Shield Striking Competition and the lack of direction regarding this in the present Rules, the Committee agreed on the following additional rule at its meeting on June 9th. The new rule will have immediate effect and will become number 10 in the list of rules. It will therefore be in force at the 2011 Striking Competition at Barford:-

'The method ringing part should not include unintended duplication of changes and the conductor should minimise this if errors occur. Should unintended rounds be rung in the middle of the test piece, the band will forfeit this part of the competition unless they start the test piece again, in which case the whole of the method ringing will be marked (unless it occurs within the first 30 changes, when the faults within that length will be cancelled: see rule 6ii).'

NOTICES AND ADVERTS - cont

NOTICE OF PROPOSALS TO THE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following proposals will be made on behalf of the Guild's Committee at the AGM on October 15th 2011 by those shown below:-

Agenda item 12 (to be proposed by Peter Quinn, Guild Master):

'That the Four Shires Guild's Rules be amended, to reflect the changes that have taken place since they were last considered and amended in April 1992.

The amendments and other changes proposed are outlined on pages 10 & 11 of this Newsletter (July 2011, no 129), a copy of which is distributed to all members.'

Agenda item 13 (to be proposed by Mike Rees, Hon Treasurer):

'That the Four Shires Guild's annual subscription be raised from £3 to £5, the increase to take effect from 1st January 2012. An increase is required, because the annual expenditure exceeds the annual income. This situation has been reported to the membership at the last three AGMs. The Committee believes an increase now is preferable to a further delayed but consequentially much larger increase.

The reduced rate for junior members (those at school), presently £1.50, is proposed to rise to £2.00.'

GUILD MINIMUS STRIKING COMPETITION FOR THE 'MINI-MOUSE TROPHY' TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 10th SEPTEMBER 2011, AT TEMPLE GUITING, 6.00pm START

The 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition is to happen again this year. Remember, it's intended to be fun, so come along to have some fun. As last year, it will be on a 5, ie Minimus with tenor covering, but if you want to ring just the back 4, that's entirely OK, too.

It's an early evening event this year, with the competition just before the evening practice, so the programme will be as below.
(This may be the last chance to ring on Temple Guiting's bells as a 5, as the augmentation work starts soon after.)

6.00-7.00pm: Striking Competition

7.00-7.30pm: results in the church (or churchyard if nice), with cheers and groans as appropriate

7.30-8.30pm: evening practice ringing

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

Names of teams and ringers names in them to me by Monday 9th August if possible; otherwise turn up on the day and 'fit in'.

Organiser *(to whom all thanks, Ed):* Sophia Lewis-Skeath 01608-652789 (sophia.dady@btinternet.com)

FOUR SHIRES GUILD ANNUAL WALKING TOUR SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER 2011

This year's walking tour will centre around the villages of Willersey, Broadway (Old Church) and Saintbury. Although this is primarily a 'walking tour' and thus towers are chosen that can provide a realistic route, it is always a benefit to have at least some of the ringers travelling by car between towers, so, walkers, non-walkers, ringers, non-ringers, this is a day for all to enjoy.

The day will start with ringing at **St Peter's, Willersey (6, 12cwt)** at **10 am for 45 minutes**. Leave cars at village hall car park. We then walk to **Broadway** to arrive around 12 for an early lunch and a drink at one of the pubs or cafes. 'The Crown and Trumpet' is on our route out of Broadway towards the Old Church (St Eadburgha's) and may be a good place for a drink. If bringing sandwiches they can be eaten on one of the many benches in the town or in the churchyard of St Michael's, which is next door to the pub.

Our next tower is **St Eadburgha's, (6, 18cwt)**, a little further past St Michael's, where the bells are rung from the ground at the Chancel Crossing. Aim to ring **from 2 to 2.45pm**. We then walk back to Broadway by a different route across the fields and across country to **St Nicholas's, Saintbury (8, 11cwt)** arriving at around **4pm**. We then walk back to Willersey and should be back at the cars by 5.15pm.

The total route walked is 6 miles, most of it on very pleasant footpaths. Non-ringers are most welcome to join us. There is an opportunity for non-ringers to spend around 2 hours looking around Broadway if the walk to St Eadburgha's is avoided.

If you plan to walk you will need stout walking shoes or preferably boots. I recommend you come prepared with waterproof clothing and of course flask and packed lunch. Even if you plan to visit the pub it is always a good idea to carry at least water and some food items with you.

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

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

NOTICES AND ADVERTS - cont

HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE'N'STRIDE EVENT.

This year's event is being held on Saturday 10th September in each of our four Shires. As mentioned here last year, it is an enjoyable event that has the added satisfaction of knowing that the money raised by your efforts on a bike or on foot will go to good causes, which are very much associated with our Art: no church, no bells! The following web-sites provide the information required:-

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

(Warwickshire event details available from Trustee & Ride Co-ordinator William Hawkes, hawkes01@btinternet.com, or tel 01789-266415)

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FOUR SHIRES GUILD BELL RESTORATION FUND

At the 2010 AGM the Guild established a Bell Restoration Fund, from which the Committee are empowered to offer grants to suitable aspects concerning rings of bells within the Guild's area of operation. Such aspects may include a range of needs, from maintenance to augmentations. Application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary.

A grant has already been offered to Temple Guiting for their augmentation.

AROUND THE TOWERS

QUARTER-PEALS (see also pp. 5 & 9):-

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 3rd April, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Andrew Gunn 1, Jane Gilbert 2, John Nicholls (C) 3, David Adams 4, Peter Kenealy 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6. 39th wedding anniversary compliment to David & Maureen Adams. 1st Grandsire Doubles inside: 4.

Pebworth, Worcs, 16th April, 1260 Grandsire Triples: James Trewin 1, Richard Hartwell 2, Rosemary Hemmings 3, Angela Roskelly 4, Michael Haynes 5, David Roskelly 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Graham Allman 8. Dedicated to the memory of Rod Pipe.

Salford Priors, Warks, 9th May, 1280 Whilton Hybrid Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Diana Reeves 2, Peter Quinn 3, Karen French 4, James Ingham 5, Robert Reeves 6, John Gwynne 7, Mark Sayers 8. First of Hybrid for all.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 23rd May, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Veronica Quinn 1, Peter Quinn 2, John Gwynne 3, Diana Reeves 4, Robert Reeves 5, Mark Sayers 6, John Nicholls 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 8.

Mickleton, Glos, 6th June, 1250 Furbarn S Major: Diana Reeves 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Annie Hall 3, John Gwynne 4, Richard Lewis-Skeath 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, Robert Reeves 7, Peter Quinn 8.

Offenham, Worcs, 19th June, 1260 Doubles (St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain, Grandsire): Tim Pinner 1, Claire Penny 2, Chris Povey 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Roland Merrick 6. For Fathers Day, especially remembering the father of the treble ringer, who would have been 100 today. First as cover. First multi-method: 4.

(Please let me have details of quarters. I cannot guarantee to see them on Campanophile or wherever. I do some, but probably not all. If I have left out a quarter or other special ringing, please let me know and I will include it in the next issue. Ed)

TOWER NEWS:

Temple Guiting: St Mary's PCC formally agreed to order the augmentation work from Berry & Co (Arthur Berry) at their meeting in early June. A confirmatory letter was sent in mid-June, so the bellfoundry work can start. This work includes fitting the bell with a new cast-iron headstock, providing a new clapper assembly, removing the old inscription and incising a new one. The foundry work is to be undertaken by John Taylor & Co, who cast the existing 5 bells and who rehung the bells in a new bellframe with new fittings in 1971. The PCC's vision of a ring of 6 bells will therefore have taken exactly 40 years to materialise! As readers may recall, the new treble bell is a second-hand one, sourced through the Keltek Trust. Not only was it cast by Taylors (in

1967), thereby ensuring the complete Taylor ring continues, but it was the right diameter, right weight and, amazingly, the right note (it is not being retuned). It was a very lucky find! Readers will recall that the bell itself is a gift to the Church by Guild Vice-President Peter Newing.

Arthur Berry is to make the wheel and will provide the slider system and stay, plus other necessary fittings. Taylors' wheels in the 1970s had no chamfers on the spokes, so Arthur will replicate this style to ensure everything matches. He will hang the bell, which is expected to take two days (probably in mid September).

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Jul 2 nd	GUILD RINGING TOUR TO WILTSHIRE - <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>
Aug 6 th	CHURCH LENCH, Worcs	6, 13-3-26 in G (GF)
Aug 13 th	BADSEY, Worcs	8, 15-0-4 in F – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
Aug 20 th	TREDINGTON, Warks	6, 16-1-20 in D (GF)
Aug 27 th	SHERBOURNE, Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F#
Sept 3 rd	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs	8, 10-1-8 in G
Sept 10 th	MINI-MOUSE COMP AT TEMPLE GUITING (5, 11-3-17 in F#) – SEE NOTICE, p.12	
Sept 17 th	HARVINGTON, Worcs	6, 8-1-14 in A – <u>NOTE: 7.00-8.30pm</u>
Sept 24 th	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E
Oct 1 st	TYSOE, Warks	6, 12-0-18 in F
	GUILD WALKING TOUR (WILLERSEY/BROADWAY/SAINTBURY) – SEE NOTICE , p.12	
Oct 8 th	CHIPPING CAMPDEN, Glos	8, 22-1-18 in Eb (care with bottom step of the tower!)
Oct 15 th	GUILD AGM AT BARFORD (6, 4-3-22 in B) – SEE NOTICE ON P.3 FOR DETAILS	
Oct 22 nd	ILMINGTON, Warks	8, 12-3-26 in E (GF)
Oct 29 th	KINGHAM, Oxon	8, 12-0-14 in F# (GF)

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:

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, or even afterwards if required.

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, tact, 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?

NOTE: dates set for events in 2011 are:-

Mini-Mouse Striking Competition Saturday 10th September, Temple Guiting. See details, p.12
Guild Walking Tour Saturday 1st October: see details, p.12
Guild AGM & Striking Comps Saturday 15th October at Barford, Warks. See Notice p.3
Inter-Shires Striking Competition Likely to be in Nov at Cherington. Details in Oct Newsletter