

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 132 - APRIL 2012



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TOWER OF THE QUARTER – SS PETER & PAUL, BLOCKLEY, GLOS



(Photo: Chris Povey)

SS Peter & Paul, Blockley is very dear to the Guild, because the Old Minute Book records the very first Guild ringing meeting took place here on 28th April 1910. While Sherbourne was originally booked for the Saturday practice on 28th April (2012), it was thought worthwhile to substitute Blockley because of this noteworthy anniversary (please note the changeover). Come to Blockley exactly 102 years after that first historic meeting!

SS Peter & Paul's Church has Saxon origins, as a monastic church was established by the Bishop of Worcester in about 855 (Blockley was in Worcestershire until the boundary changes of 1931). By 1131 later Bishops had a Palace there, and this importance prompted rebuildings of the earlier church. Evidence of the Norman church exists inside the Chancel, and outside, where there is superb tracery work in the eaves. Although greatly important religiously, the prosperous wool period never rewarded Blockley in the way it rewarded Campden, whose church benefited richly. Storm damage to the Norman tower in 1703 prompted the Bishop to order it be replaced. In 1725 the Vestry contracted with Thomas Woodward, stonemason of Campden, to dismantle it and build a new one. The present tower was completed by 1727. It is a well-built and very noble structure, and is certainly one of the finer towers in the area. The lower level of the old Norman structure was retained and can be seen inside.

The church is fairly large and lofty, and contains a number of interesting features. There are many fine memorials to past owners of Northwick Park. A number of pews are new, and, in light oak, add brightness to the interior. It has one very unusual feature: there is no internal access from the church to the tower! The church's guide book is an excellent production and is (*cont overleaf*)

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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 2012) is June 13th 2012

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 don't worry if you think your handwriting is unintelligible. It can normally be translated. Just send the stuff in!

(Caretaker) Newsletter Editor: Chris Povey Postal and email addresses above

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.)

TOWER OF THE QUARTER, SS PETER & PAUL, BLOCKLEY- cont. from front cover

well worth a read. The bells (8, 16cwt) and fittings remain largely as they were when the Guild first visited. Some of these fittings are coming to the end of the lives, and the bellframe (an unusual arrangement using two separate units: a steel girder one by Bond of Burford on which the bells hang; and the other, the sills of a much earlier wooden structure, is used to mount the pulleys and sliders) ought to be replaced, too. This work is expected to cost in the order of £70,000 and will be required in about 3-4 years time. Anne Bourne will be pleased to hear from anyone that can help financially with this when the time comes. In the meantime, the bells are being used sparingly.

EDITORIAL

Phew! Back to a Newsletter of 14 pages again. January's, at 18 sides, was something of a marathon, but it seemed to go down well, as I received a number of congratulatory remarks about it. Thank you for all those comments (particularly the note from HDB); they are appreciated.

We have some significant events coming up, but some significant events have happened recently. I refer to some 'significant birthdays' for three well-known Guild members. First up was a 40th for Richard Lewis-Skeath on 17th January, followed by a 50th for Andrew Gunn on 24th January, and then last but by no means least was a 50th for Jackie Hands on 23rd February (I am allowed to give Jackie's age, as it is specified in the footnote of the quarter rung to celebrate it). Congratulations to all three – and please have many more of them. There is a very significant birthday (the numbers include 8 and 0) coming up on Monday April 30th for El Presidente. Let's ring something to mark this auspicious occasion. Of course, any birthday for Rob Harvey is always a significant one. June 19th is the day for him.

The significant events coming up: there are two national ones. The first is of course the Queen's Diamond Jubilee over the long weekend June 2nd - 5th. Bells are to play a big part in these celebrations, particularly on the Sunday (the 3rd) with the river pageant, which is due to occur down the Thames. I give more information about this and what is expected of church bell ringers in the article on p.9. While I recommend ringers obtain permission from incumbents to ring for the Olympics (see below), I doubt there will be objections from incumbents for Jubilee ringing!

The second significant event is the London Olympics, and bells have been brought into this. It's not just church bells in this case, but all sorts of bells. The idea of the organiser of this part of the event is that bells (of all sorts) will be sounded as loud and as fast as possible at 8.00am in the morning of the opening day. I have mentioned previously that there have been some differences of opinion between the CCCBR and the event organisers as far as church bells are concerned, but some sort of agreement has been reached. It has been said the CCCBR were reluctant to

embrace this initiative in the beginning, because the event organisers made no contact to discuss how church bells could be used in this way. It is clear to me, though, the organisers' intentions, while laudable, displayed a profound ignorance of the way in which church bells are rung in this country, such that their requirements were mostly unworkable. Unfortunately, the organisers had gone too far down the road to alter those requirements. I think the CCCBR's recommendations are the best that can be done in the circumstances and I commend them to you. The article is on p.6.

The Guild is running a Summer BBQ on Saturday June 9th. Robert Hall of Evesham suggested it at last year's AGM, and he and Sophia L-S have arranged it. All the details are on the notice of p.11. It promises to be a pleasant event.

This year's Guild Ringing Tour has a major difference: it is to be a weekend event. We have to thank Richard and Sophia L-S for this inspiration and Richard in particular for its organisation. The tour will start on the Friday evening, run through the Saturday and finish with a tower on Sunday morning. It has been cleverly located, too, such that it's convenient for members to attend just on the Saturday as normal. An elegant arrangement! See the notice on p.12.

I hope the conductors among us enjoy the article about 240s of Grandsire Doubles on p.8. It is clear this simple little method is well able to provide touches ranging from the delightfully easy through to the mighty complex. Plain Bob Doubles can't get anywhere near; and the best you can get with Stedman Doubles is four Singles per 120. There is of course one other 'method' on a par: Original Doubles..., but it's fiendishly complex obtaining just a 120 of that stuff! (I heard talk of Grandsire Surprise being rung at Mickleton. John Kinchin will happily supply the details.)

Lastly, I hope readers will permit me to share my thoughts on Stuart Cummings' comments

at the FSG Committee Meeting regarding some towers charging the Guild to practice on Saturdays. I am well aware that towers are fully able to take such decisions in this respect and that no criticism of any actions in this way is intended. However, I manage what is probably the most expensive tower to run in the Guild's area, and have done so for a long time, so my thoughts probably have some substance. The Evesham ringers try to cover the maintenance costs of the bells. We spend an average of about £400 annually on ropes alone. Other items increase this. A clapper repair (the large ones break occasionally) can be £500; and clapper rebushings, too. We have a 'rope fund', into which donations, peal fees and a proportion of wedding fees go. We make no charges for visitors. The only time money is demanded is when a peal has been rung. When asked if we have a charge for visitors I say donations aren't mandatory, but are welcomed. I believe we get more in the box that way than making a charge. Neither the Worcs & Dist's CRA nor the FSG are charged for their practices, and I would not consider doing so. I believe we (ie, ringers local to this area) are here to help our neighbours in this respect. The W&D have helped out in the past with donations from their Belfry Repairs Fund, and the FSG's Bell Restoration Fund is also there when required. Please consider applying for a Guild BRF grant when work is required and there's no money in your pot to pay for it, rather than charging for practices. Perhaps this subject might encourage some letters to this august publication on the pros and cons of charging. I shall be delighted to include any that reach me.

Chris Povey

(The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Four Shires Guild or its Committee. The Guild endorses no products or manufacturers advertised within the Newsletter – but would not allow such advertisements where the goods or services are knowingly questionable.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES (100 YEARS AGO)

The Old Minute Book records the following for April 25th 1912:-

The 1912 Spring Meeting was held at Campden on April 25th, when a good attendance of members resulted in a very successful meeting. As usual, Competitions took place in Rising & Sinking, Round Ringing and Change Ringing. A special service was held in the Parish Church, the Vicar of Campden being the preacher. After Service, tea was served in the Northwick Arms Hotel, and a short business meeting then took place. Certificates were handed to the winners of the previous Competitions. In the absence of the President (Canon Houghton), the Rev O F Jacson took

the Chair. The Hon Sec, Mr F D Case, handed in his resignation, as he was leaving the district. Mr A White was elected Sec in place of Mr Case & Mr H Janett continued to be Treasurer. It was agreed that the 1912 Autumn meeting be held at Longborough. With votes of thanks to the Chairman and best wishes to the late Secretary in his new work, the meeting closed.

(Signed as a true record at the following meeting)

Spencer Jones,
Chairman

THE 2012 GUILD ANNUAL DINNER

A very select group of Guild members attended the Annual Dinner on Saturday 4th February. The selection process was simple and had nothing whatsoever to do with ringing ability. In fact, it had nothing to do with ringing at all. It was merely whether you could reach the White Hart Royal Hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh that evening, as the forecasted snow came exactly on time (as predicted by our very own local weatherman, John Hammond, on the BBC). Helen and I pressed our old Range Rover into service to get there; and I'm glad we had it, as the snow 'over the top' and particularly the road down through Bourton-on-the-Hill seemed entirely to have escaped the attention of a gritter or snowplough. Moreton's High Street was fully white and had only the very occasional vehicle along it. If the R-R was very desirable down Bourton's hill, it was essential up it. A number of members booked for the Dinner phoned in to say they had decided not to tackle the journey, or had tried but discretion overcame valour. It was unfortunate, of course, but if accidents were avoided, then this was by far the best outcome.

Luckily the President and Pat were transported by 4WD. The Guild Master, Peter Quinn, successfully negotiated his route from Wellesbourne, as did the new Guild Treasurer, Michael Dane, with his wife Linda. The Hon Sec, Andrew Gunn, arrived from a similar direction (perhaps north of Moreton wasn't quite so bad?), so, with the Ringing Master, Sophia L-S, living literally 'just round the corner', the Guild Officers were all present. Luckily, too, our Speaker, Guild Vice-President Rev Peter Newing, had arrived earlier in the day, as he was staying overnight, and had therefore avoided the transport chaos. The final tally of those attending was 26.

The White Hart again looked after us. Moreton is an excellent venue: central to the Guild's area of operation; and of course the Guild was founded in the town.

John Nicholls formally introduced us to our Speaker, Peter Newing, but of course this was only a courtesy, as he is well known to the Guild. Yes, he is one of our Vice-Presidents, but more than that he lived and rang in the area when he was a curate at Blockley. Beyond that, he has been very generous to the Guild, having donated the Newing

Shield to replace the 'old' Shield that has never been found.



The President introducing Peter Newing Peter regaled us with a potted history of his 'bell-broking' exploits. This is a charitable pursuit, which, he says, it is to prevent at least some part of his Estate going to the tax-man. Peter said he's generally been lucky in not losing any money over the deals he'd done, and this success had allowed him to donate many bells. The most exciting tale was about the time he went to the London area in his Morris 1000 pick-up to collect a bell he'd just purchased. This equalled the vehicle's carrying capacity and was loaded with all the weight was over the rear wheels. When chugging along, everything appeared OK, except that the steering was a little lighter than normal. Unfortunately he turned onto the motorway to expedite his return, but the necessary speed increase had a marked and terrifying effect. It caused the slightly light steering to become horribly light, such that the vehicle weaved around alarmingly! Happily Peter eventually reached his destination without major mishap.

The President asked Peter to present the silverware to the intended recipients. First on the list was the Newing Shield presented to the winners of the Striking Competition, Moreton-in-Marsh, for which band Sophia L-S received it. The Spencer Jones Cup is traditionally presented to the team that came second in this competition, which was Welles-

bourne, and Peter Quinn collected this trophy on behalf of that band. The last item awarded was for the Minimus (Mini-Mouse) competition held at Temple Guiting. 'The Committee' team were victorious in this. Andrew Gunn received the trophy from the President on behalf of his team.



Sophia L-S receiving the Newing Shield



Peter Q receiving the Spencer Jones Cup



Andrew G receiving the Minimus Trophy A raffle for various donated prizes was drawn after the trophy presentations, and this raised £43.75 for the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund. After this, because of the weather, most thought it prudent to return home without delay. CMP



The assembled company (those successful with the arduous selection process).



FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 28th FEBRUARY.

The Committee met on Tuesday 28th February at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Peter Kenealy and Jackie Hands gave their apologies.

1) The Minutes of the September meeting were agreed with only one very minor amendment.

2) Matters arising were:-

Peter Q had made no progress with locating the missing post-'74 Minute books;

Andrew reported on his investigations with having more Guild badges made. Tower Trophies from near Evesham offer a better deal economically, but this will depend on a good enough quality sample being made. This is the case with the Striking Competition Winners shields, too. Andrew wondered whether there would be any interest in having some of the badges used by the Old Guild (*see article Newsletter 124. Ed*). It was agreed that an idea of price be investigated;

It was decided to decline the kind offer of 12 handbells, as the refurbishment would cost the Guild at least £1000. Their use is likely to be small, and therefore the cost is unjustifiable at this time;

The Guild Summer BBQ was discussed. This has been booked for Saturday June 9th, but some final details are still to be worked out before the notice appears in the April Newsletter.

3) Reports: the following are highlights

Guild Master: Peter Q gave a report of the 2012 Guild Dinner, which was hampered by snow (*see article p.4 – Ed*);

Treasurer: Michael D said he had completed the 2011 accounts as far as he was able and that the figures are at present with Mike Fairfax, Accounts Examiner, for his attention;

Ringling Master: reported that designating others to run practices is working well;

Child protection: no changes required yet;

Membership Sec: 143 paid so far (pp PeterK)

Fixture Sec: Stuart said he was on track to have

all the Saturday practice venues in time for publishing in the Newsletter. He reported that Blockley had been substituted for Snitterfield on April 28th, as the very first Guild meeting took place there on that date in 1910 and the anniversary was thought to be worth marking. (*See front page. Ed*)

Health & Safety: Chris reported that he had reviewed the Guild policy and saw no need for change. He will annotate the document accordingly. This was agreed;

Newsletter Editor: the April issue was coming together and the printing date was agreed as Tuesday 3rd April. He said he was concerned that the costs found to be attributable in 2011 to the Newsletter skewed the real cost of printing the four issues during that period. The skewing had occurred for two reasons: the purchase of two printers to undertake the work, which was a 'capital' cost and designed to be paid off over 8 print runs; and that some 2010 costs had rolled into 2011. It was essential to distinguish what costs were relevant to the cost of producing the 2011 Newsletters. It was good practice to know what the operating costs were anyway. There was some difference between the results of a 'materials consumption' exercise in January and what the accounts figures indicated. He reminded the committee that he is only responsible for writing the Newsletter. The costs and method of production are the Committee's responsibility. It was left that he and Michael D will liaise on reconciling these figures to obtain a representative cost;

Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours co-ordinator: tours continuing successfully;

CCCBR reps: Keith reported that he is building on the initiative of the Wellesbourne Conference by advertising for people who wish to learn to ring. He has started teaching

at Todenham and possibly Moreton; Bell Restoration Fund: no applications at this time. Keith asked whether Wyck Rissington could apply, as they were intending to rehang the bells there. It was agreed that they could, as the village is within the 'area of operation';

4) Items for discussion:-

Future events 2012: Minimus Comp to be at Ettington if poss; Walking tour to be either last Sat in Sept or 1st Sat in Oct; AGM/Striking comp, some progress made with the NT at Chastleton, but need to approach the church (Stuart agreed to do this); John agreed to organise another Inter Shires Comp. These details would appear in the Newsletter's 'Tag-End'; New Rule Book: Chris hadn't progressed; Andrew reported the Merit Award had been found;

Donations to towers: Stuart reported that more towers are requesting donations for the Saturday practices and it's getting more difficult to obtain towers without this. It has not been the Guild's policy to donate, as the practices are meant to help the local ringers. Chris suggested that such towers should be made aware of the Guild BRF, as this might be considered a reasonable alternative for donations to towers that needed money for maintenance costs.

5) Any Other Business:-

Ringling for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics was mentioned. Chris said there would be details in the April Newsletter. (*See p.9. Ed*)

Next Meeting: 19th June, Ilmington. (*NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.*)

ONE TOWER'S RINGING STATISTICS

John Kinchin wondered whether tower captains keep records of the number of times their bells are rung during the year. He keeps records of Mickleton's use and thought readers might firstly be interested in seeing the amount of use in 2011; and secondly whether it might encourage others to keep records in this way. It is certainly an indication of the 'health' of a tower and of the band there. Here are St Lawrence, Mickleton's statistics:-

Sunday am Services	19
Glos & Bristol NorthCots Branch practices	6
Tower practices	7
Warwick & District ringers quarters peals	7
Four Shires Guild practice	1
Weddings	3
Visiting ringing bands	4
Outdoor Carol Service	1
Christingle	1
Christmas morning	1
TOTAL	50

Comparable stats for previous years are:-

2005	56
2006	53
2007	52
2008	55
2009	54
2010	41

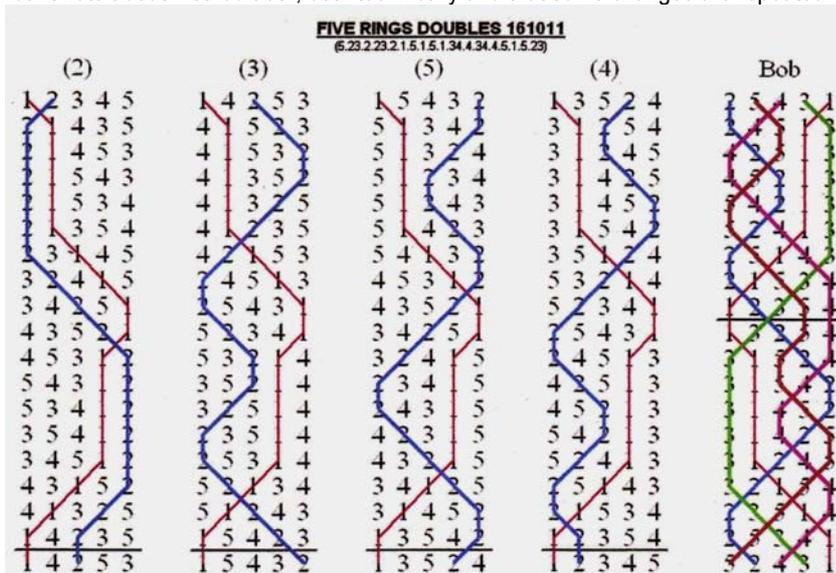
(Mickleton's bells get used on average about once a week, which has been the norm for the last few years except for 2010, when there was a slight dip. It is fair to mention that Mickleton and Ilmington ringers collaborate, and therefore some of the ringing by the combined band occurs at Ilmington. On this basis is probably reasonable to assume that Mickleton's ringers have taken part in something approaching twice the number of local ringing events indicated above, which amounts to roughly 30 extra. A healthy band! Are there similar statistics from elsewhere? Ed)

RINGING FOR THE OLYMPICS

There must be few people in this country who don't know the 2012 Olympic Games are being held in London in July. There's a lot of razzmatazz and hype surrounding this event as might be expected, but it's probably unexpected that we ringers are being asked to contribute to it. 'What's going on?' you might say. 'Church bell ringers don't normally get included in this sort of thing!' That's true, although we are asked to ring for great national events. There are plenty of instances of this in the past – for great events and even not-so-great events. It is thought the Olympics are a 'great national event', so some influential people are anxious to have bells ringing. Bells, after all, are loud and noticeable!

Before I go any further, I have to say I don't know (at the time of writing) what the Church authorities think about this. The bells belong to the Church and the Incumbent has full control over when his or her bells are sounded. If an Incumbent disagrees with the bells being rung and won't grant permission, then I guess there's little to be done. Sometimes the high-up Church authorities give a general OK to bells being rung on these occasions, as four years ago with St George's Day ringing. Perhaps that will happen again in the Olympics case, to clear up any 'greyness' in this respect.

For the purposes of this article, let's assume the Church authorities support ringing for the Olympics. So, what's being requested of us? Firstly, a new 'method' has been produced. I use parentheses purposely to describe it, because, strictly speaking, it's not a change-ringing method in the true sense. It's a piece of music. Come again: a piece of music? It's been designed to sound particularly pleasant to the general public. Surely change ringing sounds 'particularly pleasant'? Well, yes – but generally only to ringers. In most cases the public can't fathom the 'tunes' produced by our rather mechanical change-ringing. However, trying to ring proper tunes is effectively impossible, so the new piece of music referred to above is something of a half-way house. It follows change-ringing principles in that no bell moves forward or backward ('up' or 'down') more than one place at a time, but it breaks the rules by allowing a bell to stay in one place longer than the proper method rules dictate. The Olympics 'method' is called Five Rings Doubles, after the five rings that form the Olympics logo. Here it is, with the attendant note about method truth, both technically and that some changes are repeated:-



NB This is a piece of music. It is not a true "method" in view of the five treble blows in one place. Also in this doubles version, there are repeated rows in the plain course. Ringers at five and six bell towers may wish to ring this as part of Olympic celebrations, or just for fun.

The operative word in the note underneath is 'fun'. Yes: fun. We can do largely what we wish – but don't ring this method in a peal, because it won't be accepted as a true performance. However, you may ring it at any other time: a quarter peal if you feel moved to do so, as there are no 'heavy' Central Council rules about those (and even in the FSG Striking Competition if you wish, Bill, as the repeated changes would be intended and therefore entirely acceptable!). Just as a matter of interest, there is a Triples version, too, but we'll stick to the simpler stuff at the moment

OK, having supplied us with a 'method', when do they want us to ring? There are two principal occasions: as the Olympics torch travels through a location on its way round the country; and the day the Olympics officially start, which is Friday 27th July. The request from the Olympics organisers of this part of the ringing is that it should be at 8.00am on that day for 3 minutes. However, the Central Council disagrees with some of this, for what appear very good reasons, and I reproduce the note written about it by the CC President (Kate Flavell) here:

The Martin Creed Project

This is another Olympic-related ringing project that I have referred to briefly before, where there is a move to have all the bells in the country ringing as loudly and fast as possible for three minutes at 8 am on*

Friday 27 July 2012 to mark the opening day of the Olympics. We have been involved in some very detailed discussions with the organisers, during which we tried to persuade them to have the ringing at a different time rather than 8 am, or to leave ringers free to choose the best time for them and for their local area on that day. These discussions were not successful as too much had already been irrevocably decided before we were invited to become involved, although it was agreed that ringing for longer than three minutes would be acceptable. I am aware that they are now contacting associations directly. It may help you to know that the Council's position is as follows:

- *We are very aware of this project and have been involved in extensive but ultimately unsuccessful discussions with the organisers to try to enable their objectives to be more aligned with ringers' views and practices.*
- *Our view on ringing for any aspects of the Olympics is that all ringing should be encouraged and bands should look for reasons to link ringing to the Olympic events. Especially the Torch Relay, as this covers the whole of the UK. Friday 27 July is clearly likely to be a popular day to ring for the opening.*
- *We are not able to work closely with this project as we believe it is misconceived and we were invited to become involved in its design too late to be able to help make it more workable for ringers.*
- *We think 8 am is not the right time for ringing in very many towers and for very many ringers, although it is an improvement on the 4 am time they originally suggested, to mark the flame arriving in the UK.*
- *We do not believe ringing for three minutes nor ringing as fast as possible is really suitable for church bell ringers. We have been very involved with the New Music 20X12 project for some time now and this is the main focus of our Olympic work, although we are also encouraging ringing along the route of the Torch Relay.*

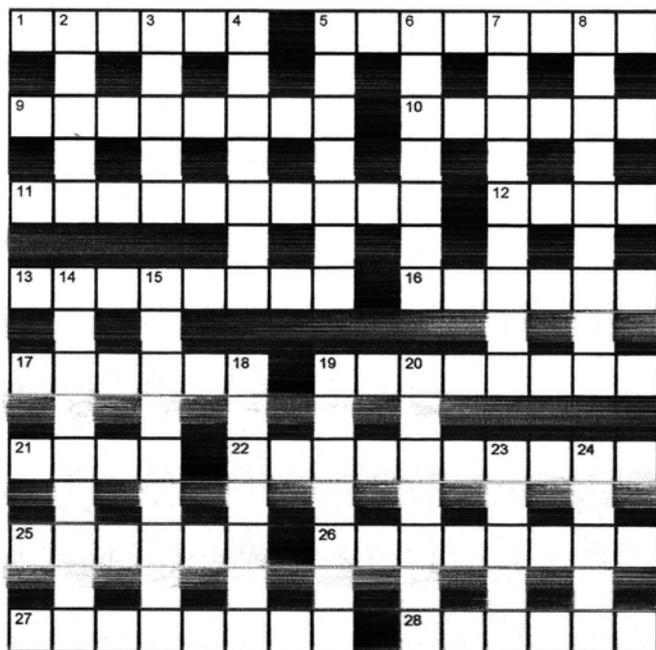
* There has been an update (Mid March) on this aspect of 'loudly and fast'. The Olympic ringing organisers have written to the CCCBR: "We would like to encourage your members to ring their bells in their usual style, and to ring a peal of their bell tower team's choosing. Bells can certainly be rung for longer than three minutes if teams so wish."

So there you have it: ring at 8.00am on 27/7/12 if you wish, but there's no shame in ringing at another time that day. However, do obtain your incumbent's permission beforehand!

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

El Presidente continues to excite the crossword aficionados – and this Editor is hugely grateful that he does so. Once again, his printer seems to be losing the lead in its pencil; and we hope this malady doesn't spread to El Presidente himself, or horror of horrors, came from.....!

Down



- 2 and 25 across Young wizard (5)
 3 Elevate (5)
 4 Ends joined or got married (7)
 5 These towers make less progress (7)
 6 Modern publishing (7)
 7 Like the French, this is us (9)
 8 Upon Tyne or under Lyme? (9)
 14 Originally made of timber to hold the canons, now usually of metal (9)
 15 With one exception, a description of the Committee at the last AGM (2-7)
 18 Japanese warriors (7)
 19 Often describes the treble (7)
 20 The usual reason for improvement in the 'go' of the bells (7)
 23 Organise (3-2)
 24 Go away. Possibly without permission (5)

Across

- 1 Our Four (6)
 5 The steel pins which turn inside the bearings (8)
 9 Features or accounts in a magazine (8)
 10 E.g. Astute, perceptive (6)
 11 CP is pretty in its use. (anag) (10)
 12 Not less than 5000 changes (4)
 13 Practice at Blockley, Hook Norton and Willersey, etc (8)
 16 Sows (6)
 17 Manages all nine places (6)
 18 Non-conformities. Minor with a tenor behind is an exaggeration (8)
 21 It's said I will go to Skye (4)
 22 Secular ring at the Town Hall (10)
 25 See 2 down (6)
 26 One cannot drive off without it (8)
 27 A Winter hazard (8)
 28 Meal before retiring (6)

Answer to crossword in the Jan 2012 Newsletter



RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY TOURS REPORT

The last three Monthly outings have been very successful and enjoyable, with an average of 35 ringers attending.

The January Outing, organised by Chris Seers, took us into Gloucestershire initially. The first tower was St Peter, Windrush, an anti-clockwise 6 (7cwt). This ring was rehung in 1995 and had the rare distinction of being rehung anti-clockwise, as previously, as the local ringers requested it. The next tower was St Mary, Great Barrington (6, 8cwt), after which we entered Oxfordshire for lunch at The Carpenter's Arms, Fulbrook. In the afternoon we rang at the lovely church of St John the Baptist, Burford, on the 8 (18cwt) there. We ended the day at St Mary, Shipton-under-Wychwood (8, 15cwt). (*This was the tower where Walter Large taught as an Oxford Diocesan Guild instructor after the tower was augmented to 8 in 1893: see article in January 2012 Newsletter. Ed*)

The February Outing, organised by Barbara Howes

and Ruth Border, took us to East Warks/West Northants. The first tower was St Mary the Virgin, Staverton (6, 11cwt). The bells here, a complete ring of 6 by Taylors, 1938, were an excellent start to the day. The next tower was St Lawrence, Napton-on-the-Hill (6, 11cwt). What a lovely view from this church on the top of the hill! Lunch was taken at The Bowling Green in Southam, from where it was a short walk to St James' Church (8, 15cwt), the first tower of the afternoon. We ended a lovely day on the 5 (10cwt) at St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Itchington; and, as we started, we finished on a complete ring by Taylors, but not of the same vintage (1874).

The March Outing, organised by Robin Green, took us to the border between Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. The first tower was the 5 (10cwt) at Holy Trinity, Charwelton, where the 4th is dated 1510. The next tower was St John Bapt, Upper

Boddington (6, 11cwt), where the previously-unringable 5 were rehung and augmented in 2010. We had a good lunch at The Wharf Inn, Fenny Compton. In the afternoon we rang on the 8 (16cwt) at St Mary, Cropredy. The final ring of the day was the home of the Bagley bell founders, Chacombe, where four of SS Peter & Paul's bells (6, 14cwt) were cast by William Bagley. Most of the churches were in the Peterborough Diocese. Monuments in some of the churches dated back to the 15th Century, but all very interesting. We would never normally go into these lovely towns and villages with all the different Cotswold yellow coloured stone. Northants is more goldy-yellow; Warks and Worcs more greyish. All lovely and interesting.

Frank Spiers

MORE INTERESTING TOUCHES OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES: 240s

Grandsire Doubles continues to provide fascinating and fun-packed callings. Luckily, it is one of our staple diets, so we can get a lot from it. It's likely most conductors know there are 240s of Grandsire Doubles, where a style of calling gives all the 120 changes twice over in one chunk of calling and the first rounds can appear at any lead-end. Why, you might ask, do we have these, when you can call two different 120s? There is no good reason other than being able to get away from standard callings of the 2-parts and 3-parts. These are based on the 3rd and 5th being the observation bells. The 240s mix the bells up much more. There are generally no observation bells (although there are honourable exceptions), so it's more exciting for those two bells.

I expect most conductors of Grandsire Doubles will have heard of 240s by Leslie Morris, Albert Pitman and Brian Price. They're the ones that seem to have been published widely and therefore have become the 'regulars'. It may not be widely known that Brian Price composed two 240s, so there's four in total. Trawling the internet, as you do, revealed there are a fair number of 240s. Some of these give all the changes once at handstroke

and backstroke, but it's not a 'legal' requirement for composition. For instance, of the four cited above, only Morris's and Price's have this property, although I may be wrong on this. I managed to find a total of 15 (including the four above). Most can be called cyclically, in that they can be started at different points in the composition – the same as the basic 120s, when started in different places, give either 3rd's or 5th's observation, or different work in the 3-parts. If cyclic calling is applied, then this increases the 240s total significantly: probably to mid 20s, or beyond, ie a large repertoire to play with. This is, of course, far more than the total of the 120s, which, with all the cyclic calling possible, is still only 10.

The 240s I found come in all shapes, sizes and complexity. I did find one gem (by Eddie Martin) in which the 3rd or the 5th are the observation bells throughout the whole thing, which is unusual, and it's certainly worth having a go at it. I did find another one with this property, but it's rather basic and it had me wondering whether it really was a 240, but I concluded it was and have included it here.

240 Grandsire Doubles (1)	240 Grandsire Doubles (2)	240 Grandsire Doubles (3)	240 Grandsire Doubles (4)	240 Grandsire Doubles (5)
Albert Pitman	Unattributed	Unattributed	Unattributed	Unattributed
<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>
15423 S	12534	15423 S	12534	14523 B
13254 S	12453	15342	12453	14352
14532 S	13524 S	14253 B	13524 S	12543 S
14253	12435 B	14325	12435 B	13425 S
13542 S	15324 S	12543 B	15324 S	15234 S
14235 B	15432	12354	15432	15423
15342 S	12354 S	14523 S	12354 S	13254 S
15234	12435	12345 B	12435	14532 S
14352 S	12543	15423 S	13524 B	13245 B
15243 B	13425 S	12354 B	13452	15432 S
13452 S	12534 B	14523 S	12534 S	12354 S
<u>13245</u>	<u>14325 S</u>	<u>14352</u>	<u>14325 S</u>	<u>12435</u>
14532 B	14532	12543 S	12543 B	15324 S
12345 S	13245 B	13425 S	13425 S	14253 S
14523 B	13524	12534 B	15234 S	15342 B
14352	13452	14325 S	15423	12453 S
12543 S	15234 B	15243 S	13254 S	13524 S
14325 B	15423	15324	13425	13452
15243 S	13254 S	14253 S	13542	12534 S
15324	13425	13542 S	14235 B	14325 S
14253 S	13542	14235 B	14523	15243 S
15324 B	14235 B	15342 S	13245 S	15324
12453 S	14523	12453 S	14532 B	12453 B
<u>12345</u>	<u>12345 B</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345 S</u>	<u>12345</u>
(One part)				

240 Grandsire Doubles (5 & 6)

Edward W Martin

<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>
14523 B	<u>12534</u>
14352	13425 B
12543 S	13542
12354	12435 S
15423 B	12543
15342	14325 B
12453 S	14532
15324 B	12345 S
14253 S	14523 B
14325	13245 S
<u>15243 S</u>	13524
14352 B	<u>14235 S</u>
<u>12453</u> repeat 'A' above	<u>13542 B</u>
<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u> repeat 'A' above
(3rd the observ'n)	(5th the observ'n)

240 Grandsire Doubles (7 & 8)

two by Brian D Price

<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>
15423 S	12534
15342	13425 B
12453 S	13542
13524 S	13254
12435 B	15432 B
15324 S	15243
14253 S	13452 S
14325	15234 B
12543 B	14352 S
12354	14235
14523 S	14523
<u>13245 S</u>	<u>13245 S</u>
Repeat (2 part)	Repeat (2 part)
(These comps repeat at hand & back)	

240 Grandsire Doubles (9 & 10)

Unattributed

<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>
12534	14523 B
13425 B	14352
13542	15243 B
14235 B	15324
14523	12453 B
12345 B	12345
12534	14523 B
13425 B	14352
13542	15243 B
14235 B	15324
14523	14253 S
<u>13245 S</u>	<u>14325</u>
Repeat (2 part)	Repeat (2 part)
(3rd the observ'n)	(5th the observ'n)

240 Grandsire Doubles (11)	240 Grandsire Doubles (12)	240 Grandsire Doubles (13)	240 Grandsire Doubles (14 & 15)
Unattributed	Unattributed	E Maurice Atkins	Leslie W G Morris
<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>	<u>12345</u>
15423 S	12534	15423 S	15423 S
15342	14325 S	13254 S	13254 S
12453 S	14532	15432 B	14532 S
15324 B	13245 B	12354 S	13245 B
14253 S	13524	12435	15432 S
14325	12435 B	15324 S	12354 S
15243 S	13524 B	12453 B	14523 S
14352 B	13452	13524 S	<u>14352</u>
12543 S	15234 B	13452	Repeat twice (3 part)
12354	15423	12534 S	3 rd the half-hunt
14523 S	12354 B	13425 B	Repeat twice (3 part)
<u>14352</u>	<u>12435</u>	<u>15234 S</u>	5 th the half-hunt
12543 S	12543	15423	These comps repeat at hand & back
14325 B	13425 S	12354 B	
15243 S	13542	14523 S	
15324	13254	14352	
14253 S	15432 B	12543 S	
15342 B	15243	14325 B	
12453 S	14352 B	15243 S	
12345	14235	15324	
15423 S	13542 B	14253 S	
12354 B	14235 B	15342 B	
14523 S	14523	12453 S	
<u>12345 B</u>	<u>12345 B</u>	<u>12345</u>	

That's probably enough to digest at the moment! There are a few other wonderful compositions of Grandsire Doubles - 840s and 720s - I will give at another time.

Some of the 1-parts have rather 'wild' formats, but I've started no. 5 at the last lead as shown on the 'net, to make it largely palindromic about the half-way point for easier memorising. Number 12 has an entertaining layout of almost all bobs.

Might we see some Qs (or peals) of Grandsire Doubles that include these 240s? CMP

RINGING FOR THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE, 3rd JUNE, 3.00pm.

If you haven't heard this year is the 60th anniversary of HM The Queen acceding to the Throne, then you must have been hiding away somewhere underground for many, many months. We ringers need to do our bit for this! The Queen is, after all, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

It seems ringing for this event was mentioned in Parliament just recently, as the extract from Hansard (below) indicates. There is full support for ringing. I doubt any incumbent will refuse to have their bells rung for it (but it might be courteous, though, to mention that ringing will occur).

HANSARD: 1 March 2012

3. Andrew Stephenson (Pendle) (Con): *What steps the Church Commissioners are taking to promote bell ringing. [97365]*

Tony Baldry: *A general fund provides grants to enable the repair and maintenance of historic bell towers. The Church of England is delighted that bell ringing in church buildings is taking centre stage this year during the diamond jubilee and Olympic celebrations.*

Andrew Stephenson: *Over the past few years, the bell ringers of the 12th century St Mary-le-Ghyll church in Barnoldswick have raised more than £60,000 to increase the number of bells at the church from three to six, a project that was completed and dedicated by the Bishop of Bradford in January 2010. They are now in the process of raising a further £17,000 to add a final two bells. Will my hon. Friend join me in congratulating them on their efforts?*

Tony Baldry: *That is a fantastic achievement by St Mary-le-Ghyll and I hope that all those six bells will ring out at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on 3 June, when churches throughout the country are being encouraged to ring out their bells to coincide with the river pageant on the River Thames. I am glad to report to the House that the lead barge—the herald barge—will contain a floating belfry, the first of its kind with a new ring of eight bells cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Each of the royal jubilee bells will have the royal arms cast on it and will be named after a senior member of the royal family. The bells will go down the Thames and ring a quarter peal on the river, with the church bells along the route providing a musical response. It is hoped that at 3 pm on 3 June bells throughout England will ring out to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee.*

Mr Speaker: *No one could accuse the hon. Gentleman of providing the House with insufficient information and we are grateful to him.*

Jake Berry (Rossendale and Darwen) (Con): *Living in the house directly opposite St Thomas, Musbury, church in Helmsford, I am a real fan of campanology. Will my hon. Friend join me in congratulating our congregation at St Thomas's for the fundraising we have done to restore our bell tower so that bells can be rung again on Sunday morning?*

Tony Baldry: *Absolutely, and that demonstrates that communities throughout the country are very keen to keep their church bell towers in good order.*

The date and time of the requested ringing is therefore Sunday 3rd June, starting at 3.00pm.

There will be other things happening on Sunday 3rd June, the most significant of which will be a river pageant on the River Thames. This will be a big affair, with reportedly 1000 vessels taking part and stretching about seven miles along the river. Heading the flotilla will be a barge carrying a ring of 8 bells, on which members of The Ancient Society of College Youths will attempt a quarter peal. As you might imagine, this could be tricky! The pageant will start at 3.00pm, which is to coincide with church bells generally being rung. There are full details about the event on various web-sites. The best of these is probably that of the CCCBR. See <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/jubilee/>.

There will be ringing at churches along the river pageant route. These include: Putney, Fulham, Battersea, Chelsea, Pimlico, St Clement Danes, St Paul's Cath, Southwark Cath, St Magnus the Martyr, Rotherhithe and Greenwich.

METHODS NAMED AFTER LOCAL TOWERS

Claire Penny (Offenham) started all this off! She asked me whether any local towers had methods named after them. I was able to give a few, but then thought there may be more. There are; and here is a list of the towers within the FSG area that have methods named after them. Some tower names were used purely for the convenience of finding a name (eg, Ettington: try ringing Ettington LB Major there, unless Graham Nabb finds and installs some more bells. Likewise Crophorne Cinques at Crophorne; and even more difficult, Bengeworth S Major at Bengeworth). However, a number can be rung at the 'home' tower. Some will have been named after other towers with the same name, eg Hampton S Major was named after Hampton in Middlesex, but Hinton S Major was named after the first peal in the method rung at Hinton-on-the-Green (in 1933!). Here are as many names/methods as I can find. If a tower isn't there, I couldn't find a method named after it. But if you think it has one, let me know. Should you wish to obtain the details of any of these methods, I recommend an internet program called <http://methods.ringing.org/index.html>. Just type in the name of the place you're interested in and the program will display all the methods of that name. The blue-line can be downloaded via 'diagram'.
CMP

Ashton-under-Hill: Surprise Minor	Clifford Chambers: Delight Minor	Honington: Place Doubles	Norton: Bob Doubles	Stratford: Bob Minor
Badsey: Surprise Major	Cold Aston: Doubles	Hook Norton: Alliance Minor	Doubles	Surprise Major
Barford: Surprise Maximus	Crophorne: Bob Cinques	Manor Surprise Major	Surprise Major	-on-Avon Surprise Royal
Alliance Maximus	Delight Minor	Surprise Major	Delight Major	Stow (-on-the-Wold): Surprise Major
Bengeworth: Surprise Major	Surprise Major	Treble Bob Major	Treble Place Major	Sutton (-under-Brailes): Surprise Minor
Brailes: Delight Minor	Dumbleton: Surprise Minor	Ilmington: Delight Major	Oddington: Bob Cinques	Alliance Minor
Alliance Minor	Delight Minor	Kingham: Surprise Major	Surprise Major	Toddington: Delight Minor
Bretforton: Surprise Major	Ebrington: Bob Major	Littleton: Little Bob Doubles	Offenham: Delight Minor	Welford (-on-Avon): Bob Doubles
Broadway: Surprise Major	Ettington: Bob Major	Delight Major	Surprise Major	Surprise Major
Buckland: Doubles	Little Bob Major	(Little/Long) Compton: Surprise Minor	Saintbury: Surprise Major	Delight Minor
Surprise Major	Evenlode: Surprise Major	(Lower) Quinton: Surprise Major	Surprise Major	Treble Place Minor
Butlers Marston: Surprise Minor	Evesham: Delight Minor	Delight Minor	Salford (& Priors): Bob Triples	Hybrid Major
Cherington: Hybrid Minimus	Surprise Major	Bob Doubles	Surprise Major	Wellesbourne: Surprise Royal
Childswickham: Surprise Minor	Surprise Royal	Treble Place Minor	Delight Major	Delight Major
Delight Minor	Surprise Maximus	Alliance Major	Alliance Major	Alliance Major
Chipping Campden: Alliance Major	(and S. 14, 16, 18, etc!)	Mickleton: Surprise Major	Snitterfield: Slow Course Minor	Whichford: Surprise Minor
Churchill: Little Bob Royal	Fladbury: Surprise Minor	Surprise Major	Surprise Minor	Treble Place Minor
Little Bob Maximus	(Great) Hampton: Bob Major	Moreton (in Marsh): Surprise Major	Stanton: Bob Major	Delight Major
Surprise Major	Bob Caters	Alliance Doubles	Bob Caters	Willersey: Delight Minor
	Surprise Major	Naunton: Surprise Minor	Surprise Major	Winchcombe: Surprise Major
	Surprise Royal		Minimus	Delight Minor
	Hinton (-on-the-Green): Bob Doubles		Stanway: Hybrid Minimus	Alliance Minor
	Surprise Major			Wyck Rissington: Hybrid Minimus

PS: good to see that Whichford Delight Major was rung to a quarter peal at Whichford recently by Chris Mew's band. See 'Around the Towers'.

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

FOR SALE – BELL ROPES

Full rope: red/white/blue sally; 10'-6" tail; 42ft flax top rope and includes leather garter hole tube. Suit top of sally to garter up to 25ft. Good condition, some pulley wear on top rope. For bells 6-10cwt. £45

Top rope (flax): 41ft long; gauge suitable for bells 10-20cwt. Superb cond. £25

Top rope (flax): 48ft long; gauge suitable for bells 3-10cwt. V. good cond and has been treated with Ellis's 'Rope-Treat'. £25

Untreated flax top ropes can be treated with 'Rope-Treat' for £5 extra per rope.

CHRIS POVEY: 01386-584388 or email me

OLD 'RINGING WORLDS'

John Bolton (of Badsey) has come across some old RWs in the tower and would like to dispose of them to someone for free. They date from about 1992 to about 2004 and are mostly complete. If interested contact John on 01386-830246.

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 towards 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.

Rules and Constitution of the Fund and application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

SUMMER BARBEQUE AND RIVER BOAT TRIP
SATURDAY 9th JUNE 2012

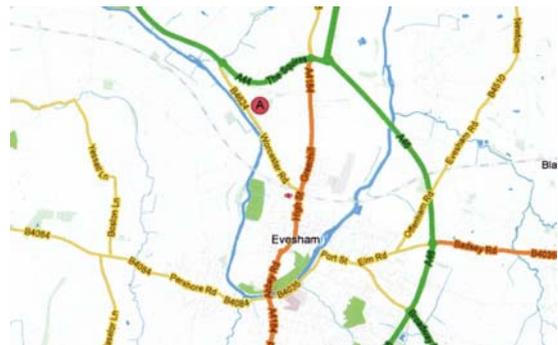
Venue:- Sankey Marine Club, Old Worcester Road, Evesham. WR11 4TA

There will be ringing at Evesham Bell Tower from 4pm until 5pm. All welcome.

The boat trip on the Handsam Too, (which is weather protected) will commence at approximately 5.30pm from Sankey Marine's premises.



'HANDSAM TOO' (at Evesham's Workman Bridge)



Sankey Marine is located at 'A'; on the plan

The BBQ will follow at approx. 7pm.

The cost is a reasonable £10 per head for BBQ (half price for children under 10).

The Boat Trip (optional) will cost £4 per person and £2 per child. The Handsam Too is owned and operated by Tom Sandham, who is a Guild Member. Tom has agreed a special rate for this trip. The boat trip is limited to a maximum of 55 passengers.

Sankey Marine Club lies beside the River Avon (see map above). Parking is available and will be signposted for this event.

In the event of inclement weather, the club room has been made available.

£5 deposits are required to book places for the BBQ. Cash or cheques made payable to the Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Michael Dane, 28 Newbold Road, Wellesbourne, Warks. CV35 9QE.

Closing date for bookings is 27th May 2012 as numbers are required for catering. Any further information required please contact Sophia on 01608 652789 or Robert Hall on 01386 49617

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 8th.

More details in July Newsletter

2012 GUILD WALKING TOUR

This event will occur on **Saturday October 6th.**

The walk is planned for the Brailes, Sutton-under-Brailes and Cherington area.

Full details will appear in the July Newsletter.

GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR FRIDAY 6th - SUNDAY 8th JULY 2012

The Annual Ringing Tour this year is a different format: it is a weekend event. Richard Lewis-Skeath has organised it around Abergavenny, so that those who do not wish to stay the Friday and Saturday nights can attend the Saturday towers without having to travel a great distance. All very clever organisation!

The (provisional) itinerary and other details are *(THESE ARE THE ONLY DETAILS SENT THROUGH TO ME PRIOR TO PRINTING: Ed):-*

PROVISIONAL DETAILS AT TIME OF PRINTING

Saturday 7th July 2012

Llantilio Pertholey	6 (12-0-18 in F#)	(0930 start)
Abergavenny	10 (25-0-18 in D)	
Llanarth (Lunch)	8 (12-2-4 in F#)	
Usk	8 (14-1-7 in F#)	
Trellech	6 (7-1-8 in A)	
Monmouth	8 (16-3-1 in Eb)	

Evening meal at Wetherspoon, Monmouth.

There is a campsite within walking distance of Monmouth town centre for those with tents/caravans/motorhomes. (We will be making a weekend of it & two or three others have expressed an interest so far)

There are also several B&B's in the town & a Travelodge about 5 miles away for those who may like to stay over as well. (I will provide full details on request).

Some may wish to come just for the tour or stay for the meal as well and go back home after that.

If there is sufficient interest I may arrange a tower and/or pub meal on the Friday night. RL-S

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 thanks.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD CLOTHING

This is a reminder that FSG clothing is still available. All items have the FSG badge embroidered on the left breast and come in many colours. More detailed descriptions of these products are available on the FSG website: www.fourshires.org.uk.

Clothing with Guild Logo Prices at 1st October 2011 (notice two styles have been added):-

KK403 Polo Shirt £13.50	SS24M Sweat Shirt £15.50
R16 Reversible Fleece with Waterproof Lining £25.50	SS51 Full Zip Fleece £20.50
SS50 Half Zip Fleece £19.50	

If choosing colours from the web site www.fourshires.org.uk just hover the mouse over the colour, otherwise I can email you the colours.

Payment is cash/cheque with order to:

Peter Quinn, 22 Mountford Close, Wellesbourne, Warwick. CV35 9QQ
Tel 01789 840827; Mob 07785793500; Email peter@quinn22.fsnet.co.uk

Please make cheques payable to The Four Shires Guild of Bell Ringers

AROUND THE TOWERS

QUARTER-PEALS:-

Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos, 16th Jan 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Peter Quinn 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, John Nicholls 5, Michael Dane 6, Clive Sparling 7, John Gwynne 8. 40th birthday compliments (17 January) to Richard Lewis-Skeath.

Ilmington, Warks, 22nd Jan, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Nicola Amphlett 1, Bill Sabin 2, John Kinchin 3, Jackie Hands 4, Michael Dane (C) 5, Mike Fairfax 6. Congratulations to Nicola on her first quarter peal!

Pebworth, Worcs, 22nd Jan, 1296 Grandsire Caters: Andrew Baker 1, Charles Wilson 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Michael Haynes 4, Rosemary Hemmings 5, Martin Penny (C) 6, Simon Head 7, John Hearne 8, Simon Adams 9, Graham Allman 10 Rung in memory of Alistair Haynes, the father of 4, who passed away one year ago the previous day.

Harbury, Warks, 23rd Jan 1280 Groombridge S Major: Jonathan Tallis 1, Robert Reeves 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Annie Hall 4, Chris Mew (C) 5, John Nicholls 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath 7, John Gwynne 8. 40th quarter peal and 1st Treble Bob on 8: 1

Bidford-on-Avon, Warks, 27th Jan, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Martin Penny (C) 1, Sandra Parker 2, Matthew Kemble 3, Tom Sandham 4, Sam Precious 5, Roland Merrick 6, Chris Povey 7, Andrew Gunn 8. First Grandsire Triples inside: 3 & 5; first tenor to triples: 8.

Badsey, Worcs, 29th Jan, 1260 Grandsire Doubles (with 768 cover): John Bolton 1, Tom Sandham 2, Claire Penny 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, John Cleveland 6, Gordon Hill 7, Paul Green 8. Thanks to John Cleveland for standing in for Tony Hartwell at the last minute. Golden Wedding (on 20/1/12) compliment to Hilary & John Bolton. Rung before Evensong with a Blessing, followed by refreshments.

Salford Priors, Warks, 30th Jan, 1260 Oxford Bob Triples: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Mark Sayers 2, Lucy Gwynne 3, Robert Reeves 4, Michael Danes 5, John Gwynne 6, Chris Mew (C) 7, Peter Quinn 8. A thanksgiving for the life of Doreen Patricia Mills, 13/10/1924 to 10/01/2012, a resident of Salford Priors for over 60 years.

Hanbury, Worcs, 18nd Feb, 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Michael Gray 2, Michael Haynes 3, John Nicholls (C) 4, Jonathan Tallis 5, Peter Kenealy 6. To mark the beginning of Lent (on 22nd Feb).

Pebworth, Worcs, 20th Feb, 1260 Stedman Triples: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 2, Robert Reeves 3, John Nicholls 4, John Gwynne 5, Chris Mew (C) 6, Jackie Hands 7, Michael Fairfax 8. 50th Birthday compliment (23 Feb) to Jackie.

Pebworth, Worcs, 25th Feb, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Mike Fairfax 1, Andrew Baker 2, Michael Gray 3, Michael Haynes 4, John Carroll 5, John Nicholls 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Graham Allman 8. Rung in memory of the comedian Frank Carson, who died 22/2/2012, aged 85.

Swerford, Oxon, March 5th, 1260 Doubles (3m/1p): 1 Michael Gray, 2 Michael Haynes, 3 Rosemary Hemmings, 4 John Hearn, 5 Colin Meaks (C). Rung in memory of Alan Donaldson from Bloxham, who died 27th Feb of a suspected heart attack.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 5th March, 1280 Healey Surprise Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Peter Quinn 2, Sophia Lewis-Skeath 3, Richard Lewis-Skeath 4, Robert Reeves 5, John Gwynne 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8.

Temple Guiting, Glos, March 17th, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Peter Newing 1, Bill Nash 2, Michael Dane 3, John Nicholls 4, Mike Fairfax 5, Chris Povey (C) 6. Rung to celebrate the winning of the Cheltenham Gold Cup by 'Synchronised' the previous day. The horse was trained by Jonjo O'Neill, whose stables are near the village. The first quarter on the augmented ring, all the band being members of both the FSG and the G&B, the two grant-giving organisations involved. Peter Newing donated the bell, and was able to ring it on this special occasion. The ringing was indeed 'synchronised'!

Whichford, Warks, March 26th, 1280 Whichford D Major: 1 Clive Sparling 1, 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, 3 Sophia Lewis-Skeath, 4 Robert Reeves, 5 Chris Mew (C), 6 Mark Sayers, 7 John Nicholls, 8 John Gwynne. In memory of Joyce Margaret Sparling, mother of Clive, who died on Saturday 24 March aged 88 years.

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

TOWER NEWS:

Wyck Rissington: having lain unringable for a period, these four bells are to be rehung. The PCC is contracting with Whites of Appleton to undertake the work, which involves the provision of new bell fittings, new tie-bars in the bellframe to stiffen it and accurate retuning of the bells. The latter is to be welcomed, as, from the tonal analysis, the bells are 'musically challenged' in their present form. Grants for the work are being sought from the G&BDACBR and from our own Bell Restoration Fund. It's understood that removal of the bells will take place in May, although a completion date is unavailable at present. The PCC has just expended something like £300,000 on having the church roof repaired recently, so it is to be congratulated on moving forward with the bell work so quickly. An augmentation to 5 was considered, as initially it was thought the large tower with its small ring of bells would have sufficient room to install another bell pit easily. Sadly, further inspection revealed the existing wooden bellframe takes up a much greater than normal amount of room, leaving insufficient for a straightforward extension for a new treble. It seems Wyck Rissington will remain the only 4-bell tower in the North Cotswolds.

Adlestrop: this project isn't dead! There has been a delay in getting an acknowledged expert to undertake an historical survey of the bellframe, which will allow a decision to be made on whether it can be removed and replaced by a modern metal one (at one time a 'rip-out' was a simple thing to get agreed, but no longer!). This survey work should be undertaken fairly soon, after which the necessary comments regarding removal or whatever can be invited from the relevant parties that contribute towards the faculty process.

Temple Guiting: no, there's not another augmentation in the offing! A plaque has been put on the Nave wall to commemorate the new bell being placed in the tower. It records for posterity those to whom the bell is a memorial and those who contributed to the cost of the project. Along with Peter Newing, who donated the bell, and the contributing families, the Four Shires Guild and the Gloucester & Bristol DA are mentioned.

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Apr 7 th	CHERINGTON , Warks (Easter Saturday)	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF)
Apr 14 th	WELFORD-ON-AVON , Warks	8, 9-3-1 in G#
Apr 21 st	WHICHFORD , Warks	8, 12-3-23 in G (GF)
Apr 28 th	BLOCKLEY , Glos	8, 16-0-27 in F - <u>NOTE CHANGED DATE</u>
May 5 th	HALFORD , Warks	6, 7-2-16 in A (GF)
May 12 th	SHERBOURNE , Warks	6, 11-1-17 in F# - <u>NOTE CHANGED DATE</u>
May 19 th	NORTON , Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
May 26 th	TODENHAM , Glos	6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
Jun 2 nd	BOURTON-ON-THE-HILL , Glos	6, 11-1-27 in F
Jun 9 th	<u>NO PRACTICE: GUILD SUMMER BBQ. FOR DETAILS SEE NOTICE p.11.</u>	
Jun 16 th	ODDINGTON , Glos	6, 9-2-20 in G (GF) – <u>NOTE, 7.00-8.30pm</u>
Jun 23 th	SAINTBURY , Glos	8, 11-0-24 in F# (GF)
Jun 30 th	BUTLERS MARSTON , Warks	6, 14-0-20 in G (GF)
Jul 7 th	<u>NO PRACTICE: GUILD RINGING TOUR. FOR DETAILS SEE NOTICE p.12</u>	
Jul 14 th	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER , Glos	8, 12-1-22 in F#
Jul 21 st	PEBWORTH , Worcs	10, 11-3-9 in F#
Jul 28 th	BLADINGTON , Glos	6, 8-0-13 in G - <u>NOTE, 7.30-8.45pm</u>
Aug 4 th	SALFORD PRIORS , Warks	8, 15-0-14 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>). 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.

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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:

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2012 SUBSCRIPTION YET?

Guild subs for 2012 became due on 1st January. If you haven't paid yours yet, please do so as soon as possible – the Guild could do with it now, not half-way through the year or beyond! As reported in the last Newsletter, the rates were increased at the 2011 AGM to £5 (£2 for Junior members).

REMEMBER!

DIAMOND JUBILEE RINGING – Sunday, 3rd June at about 3.00pm – (see p. 9 for details)

OLYMPICS RINGING – Ideally 8.00am on Friday 27th July, but any time that day (see p.6)

And remember, too: obtain your Incumbent's permission to ring on these occasions!

Events for 2012: book the dates:-

Summer BBQ & river trip	Saturday 9th June. Evesham (see notice p.11)
Guild Ringing Tour	Friday 6th – Sunday 8th July around Abergavenny (see notice p.12)
Mini-Mouse Striking comp	Saturday 8th September. Possibly at Salford, Oxon. Details tba.
Guild Walking Tour	Saturday October 6th: location to be confirmed (see notice p.11)
Guild AGM	Saturday 13th October. Possibly at Chastleton, but details tba.
Inter Shires Comp	Sat 17th November. Details tba