

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 138 - OCT 2013

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Ruby Anniversary
1973-2013

TOWER OF THE QUARTER: ST PETER, HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, WORCS.



(Photo: Chris Povey)

Last time we had a tower from Gloucestershire. This time we're in Worcestershire – but only just, as the Glos/Worcs boundary is very close. In fact, prior to the County Boundary changes in the early 1930's, Hinton-on-the-Green was in Glos. The River Isbourne (supposedly the only river in the British Isles to run due north for its entire length) cuts through the middle of the village in a small but sharp valley, to form essentially two halves, which are known locally as the east village and the west village. St Peter's is on the east side.

The Church has roots from Norman times, as witnessed by the South and the (now blocked) North doorways. The Victorians did their bit. The present Chancel was added in 1895, to replace one that had disappeared centuries earlier. A window in the chancel arch sufficed during the interim. There are no aisles, merely a nave, chancel, tower and east porch. The tower is late C15th. Internally there is the vestry at ground level, a gallery ringing chamber with a view into the nave and beyond, the clock room, the belfry and then the roof.

There are 8 bells, tenor of 10-1-8 in G. Bell historians will know the back 5 here are a complete ring by the Evesham bellfounder William Clarke, who cast them in 1705. They are Clarke's first complete ring, he having cast single bells previously. Michael Bushell's name did not appear until 1706, when Badsey's back 6 were cast and his name was cast on one of those bells. He may have assisted with the Hinton bells, as the workload in casting a ring would have been considerable. The tenor of this ring has a chronogram in the inscription (as does the tenor at Badsey). The letters in the inscription equating to Roman numerals (M, V, I, C, D, L, X) add up to the date of casting.

Clarke's bells hung in Hinton's tower undisturbed until 1931, when the ring was augmented to 8 by the addition of 3 trebles and the ringing chamber moved upstairs. The village contained some proficient ringers and more bells were needed to extend their abilities. The augmentation was undertaken by John Taylor & Co. The eight bells served the team well, as in a short time they were ringing Surprise Major, DNCBM and Stedman Triples very competently. Many peals were rung by this band. Two significant ones were (cont bottom p.2)

Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

PRESIDENT

Mr John Nicholls

john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs Phyllis Brazier

The Rev Dr Peter Newing

Chaplain

The Rev Patrick Wooster

Accounts Examiners

Mr Michael Fairfax

Mr Trevor Hobday

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

Mr Peter Quinn

peterquinn22@gmail.com

Ringling Master

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

sophia.dady@btinternet.com

Hon Secretary

Mr Andrew Gunn

awgrf@hotmail.com

Hon Treasurer

Mr Michael Dane

landm.dane@btinternet.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Peter Kenealy

peterkenealy@btinternet.com

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Keith Murphy

Mr Chris Povey

CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

cmpovey@btinternet.com

Mr Keith Murphy

keith.murphy@btinternet.com

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

parker@bidford948.fsnet.co.uk

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Child Protection Officer

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

Mid-week Tours

General Contact

Mrs Isobel Murphy

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary

Mr Peter Kenealy

Health & Safety Officer

Mr Chris Povey

Newsletter Editor

Mr Chris Povey

cmpovey@btinternet.com

The FSG website is: <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (January 2014) is December 13th 2013

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.)

(Hinton; cont from front page) the first peal of Hinton Surprise Major (1933) and a silent and non-conducted peal of Stedman Triples (1953).

The band was well-blessed with very able ringers, particularly Joe Johnson and his sister Amy, who married Jack Thomas, a retired bellhanger who worked for Mears & Stanbank, plus the Newman family and the Hemming family from nearby Evesham. Hinton ringers became somewhat famous in national ringing circles for their abilities. However, the band started to fall apart in the 1970s because they didn't teach any youngsters. FSG member Viv Barnes is one of the last two of this illustrious band. A band from the village has recently been taught by Nick Frost, the new Ringing Master, and it is now progressing well. The Guild's meeting here is on **Saturday, 26th Oct**. Come and sample the bells then.

EDITORIAL

Sorry folks, you've only got the normal 14 pages this time! I wanted to get the Newsletter out as soon after the end of September as possible, so that updates to the AGM could be published in sufficient time for members to see them. I hope as many members as possible come to the AGM on 12th October (at Offenham, a pretty little village, where the bells are maintained to a high standard). Have you any words of congratulation to pass on to the Committee? If so, please come and express them – the Committee members will be pleased to hear them. Have you any criticism of the way things are done? If so, then please come to the AGM to express these, too. The Committee won't bite - and will listen! Please, please don't gripe to others about whatever it is that bugs you. If you let the Committee know, things could change. Grumbling about things on the quiet is unlikely to change anything. Oh yes, and if you want a free tea, because I expect the

food table will creak under the load, this is another good reason to come to the AGM!

Christina Ireland's account of the Guild Ringing Tour (p.8) was a delight to read, as it tells what it is like to attend such an event from the inexperienced side of ringing – and of the 'human' side, too; an aspect in which ladies seem to be way ahead of mere males. Helen does mention this to me regularly.... Thank you, Christina. I hope your humorous and insightful style of writing will grace these pages again.

Sharp-eyed readers of the quarter peal details will notice that Peter and Veronica Quinn have become grandparents again, with the birth of Helena Alice Quinn, born on 23rd September. Congratulations to all.

Lastly, the Government has altered the scheme that allows Listed Places of Worship to reclaim VAT on certain aspects of maintenance work undertaken to such places (which to all intents and purposes includes all the churches at which we ring). Many aspects of bells, bellropes and bellframes are now included again. PCCs should be aware that the new inclusions came into being on the 1st October, but if they don't, let them know.

Chris Povey, (Caretaker) Editor

(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.)

FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 3rd SEPTEMBER.

The Committee met on Tuesday 3rd September at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Sophia Lewis-Skeath, presented their apologies.

- 1) The Minutes of the June meeting were agreed.
- 2) **Matters arising** were:-
The Guild Annual Dinner details were confirmed: 1st Feb 2014 at the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh;
Striking Comp Winners' Shields: Andrew has paid for the required engraving and has been reimbursed this cost by the Treasurer;
Still no letter sent yet to the Oxfordshire towers who charge for ringing at them;
Guild artefacts database: Peter Q's input required;
Old Minute Book: apply to Gloucester Archives asap to determine their response. Do not include the later Guild docs at this stage. If Gloucester negative, try the other County Archives;
Guild EIG Insurance: this has not been as straightforward as expected. Agreed to approach NFU insurance: via Mike Fairfax?
Guild Walk on 28th Sept: Michael H is all set up for this;
Minimus Comp, 14th Sept, Wyck Rissington: judge organised. Comp 6.00-7.00pm and then short ring afterwards, say 15-20mins;
Inter-Shires Comp: John still to pursue Harvington (*now booked; see Notices*);
Offenham AGM arrangements: Sophia L-S to obtain judge(s); everything else booked and ready to go.
- 3) **Reports:** the following are highlights:-
Hon Sec: Andrew said the CC had asked whether the Guild has a PR Officer. We don't; and are happy to leave such duties to the territorial societies. There is to be another Ringing Roadshow next year at Newbury. Do we want to have a stand at it? It was agreed not to have one;

Treasurer: Michael D had submitted a written report beforehand. All happy with it;
Ringing Master: all OK. Evening meetings seem to be running well;

Fixture Sec: Stuart is steadily compiling the list for the next Newsletter. Chris said he would pass on details of contacts for Crophorne, Broadway and Stanton;

Newsletter Editor: Chris said the Oct issue is behind schedule again(!) but it will be on schedule for the agreed date for printing. Chris had earlier tabled a note about the Newsletter, which said he must have assistance on this, otherwise he will have to give up as Editor completely. The Committee suggested that there is sufficient information in the note to allow members to consider the contents carefully, and it was proposed and agreed that Newsletter production be on the agenda as a discussion item at the next meeting;

Website: it was reported that Roland has returned from his holiday and it updating this site as required;

Mid-week (Vice-President's) Tours co-ordinator: it was reported that £100 has been transferred from the operating expenses to the Guild account;

CCCBR reps report: Keith reported that the CC President's blog is now on-line and that it might be a good idea to draw members' attention to it in the Newsletter;

Bell Restoration Fund: Crophorne's grant money has now been paid. There are two projects on the skyline that might submit an application; these are Whichford (pulley refurbishment and ropes) and a possible augmentation;

Peal Sec: to assist, it was agreed that a chronological list of peals should be compiled in a spreadsheet, so they can be

checked for accuracy before being passed to the Peal Sec for writing up as required. Andrew has started this and will complete.

4) **Items for discussion:-**

Framed tea towel: as reported last time, it is of the Cov DG area. Should it be offered to them? Yes: determine their reaction;
Guild web access codes: should we have a copy of the website access codes for when Roland is away? Agreed as no, because all members receive a Newsletter, whether hardcopy or via email, so no member is left without knowing what the details of the Guild's activities artefacts at any time.

5) **Any Other Business:-**

Life Members: it was agreed to report at the AGM that, on further investigation, Viv Barnes of Hinton-on-the-Green is an Honorary Life Member of the Guild, and that this needs ratifying. Chris Povey passed on a suggestion from a Guild member that all the Founder Members of the reformed Guild (ie those who attended the initial meeting at the Church Rooms, Chipping Campden, on the 30th March 1973: there are just 6 survivors) be accorded Honorary Life Membership. As one of these he said he would take no part in any discussion on this. John Nicholls, another survivor, said the same. The remainder of the Committee discussed this. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Committee propose this at the AGM. It was also agreed that Mrs Phyllis Brazier, Vice-President, be proposed a Hon Life Member at the AGM.

Next Meeting: 3rd December 2013, at Ilmington. (*NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.*)

LIMERICKS AND OTHER POETIC PIECES

Tim Pinner's suggestion for a Limerick competition opened a flood-gate. I realised something was happening when Chris Righton wrote to me with a poetic piece, but, very cleverly I thought, wrote the accompanying letter poetically, too. It's got to be the first one on the page:-

*Come to the Church and help to ring,
Perfectly struck, the bells can sing.
Not too fast and not too slow,
Each tower has its perfect 'Go'.
Joyful music fills the air,
And call God's children
All to prayer.*

Dear Chris,

Tim Pinner's effort struck a chord,
Dreamt up above, so as not to get bored.
Am now too old to go out biking,
You won't be surprised I mention striking!

Best wishes,
Chris Righton
Ebrington

Trevor Hobday was close on Chris's heels, as his first came in only hours after:

*John Nicholls, our "El Presidente"
Knows bellringing methods aplenty,
So be it single or bob
He's up to the job
When he's asked to conduct a one-twenty.*

Trevor was clearly on a roll, as very soon another hit my screen:

*The bells of Long Compton, I sigh,
Are hard for our learners to try.
When the ropes become stretchy
Our ringers get tetchy,
And the headstocks are straight as a die.*

Yet another came off the Hobday poetry stocks due to an 'incident', as Trevor described:-

"At the Whichford practice last night, George from Norfolk nearly lost his trousers, and with much hilarity this reminded us of the quarter that Pam Copson called years ago when Rob Harvey's trousers fell down half way through. Rob carried on ringing in his boxers, while the rest of us tried not to crack up completely. As I remember, Pam's words were: "The striking has deteriorated. Pull yourselves together". And we did get it (with some difficulty). Afterwards Rob wore braces as well as a belt."

*As the end of the quarter we keenly awaited
We were by the conductor severely berated.
For Rob's trousers fell down.
And says she with a frown:
"I fear that the striking's deteriorated".*

Another poetic piece appears in Offenham's Ringing Room (and in the

Bell Tower's). It's by Robert Hall and records an amusing incident one Sunday morning at Offenham a few years back, when we went to ring as normal. We'd risen the bells and had rung for about 15 minutes or so when Phyllis Brazier (who arranged the ringing there then) asked us whether we were enjoying the ringing. The poem describes what happened:

A SERVICE TOUCH

*The Ringers of Evesham, a hardy band,
One of the best towers in the land.
After ringing for service at Evesham
They made the journey to Offenham
To ring for that Service was their intent
and that's the reason why they went.*

*Ian, Chris, Steve, Les, Phyllis and Bob,
They were the ones to do the job.
We rang the bells, the sweetest sound
So folks living all around
Would be reminded on this Sunday
to pause awhile and pray.*

*As it neared to 11am,
Phyllis with a polite 'Ahem',
said "Have you enjoyed ringing your bell?
There's something I must you tell.
It would appear that this Sunday
The congregation has gone away.
I forgot to read the Church Notice,
There is no Morning Service!"*

*The band all laughed as we lowered the ropes,
Although we felt like a band of dopes.
So if you ring at Offenham,
check whether it's Off or On!!*

Perhaps I can give you one of mine. It concerns Hastings stays, which are a variation of the normal stay-and-slider system. A number of rings were fitted with them by Taylors prior to the 1970s. When properly set up they are effectively frictionless and an utter delight, but in many cases their extra complication causes them to be misunderstood, with consequently dire results. Here is my contribution (with apologies to Longfellow's 'There was a little girl'):-

ODE TO A HASTINGS STAY

*There was a Hastings stay,
that in a belfry lay,
whose design its detractors thought too florid.
When it was good it was very good indeed,
but when it was bad it was horrid!*

Those having bells with Hastings stays will recognise the big contrast!

This has been a very amusing and delightful aside to the normal stuff about ringing in these pages. Come on folks, don't be shy. Send your work in! CMP

LA MODE À LA FRANÇAISE (or HOW THE FRENCH DO IT)

Helen and I went to France in August. We've been to France a number of times previously, but more recently it's been in our campervan, which has allowed us to see much more of the country.

What struck me – again – was the way in which (no pun intended) French church clocks strike. In a number of cases the hour is struck and then a few minutes later the strike is repeated. To be fair we've only traversed the northern half of the country, so can't truly confirm what happens in this way in the southern half, but, as the repeating strike seems common in the north, I guess it's the same down below: can anyone confirm? In addition, I have noticed that a bell is swung for a few minutes after the 7pm strike (or strikes) and in some cases after the 7am strikes. This swinging is almost certainly done electrically, and again the practice seems common. I am usually left wondering what comments would be made if the repeating strikes mode were to be adopted here, let alone a bell being swung at 7am and 7pm? I'm sure they would be 'interesting' – probably extremely!

I have also noticed that almost all French church clocks are, within a very reasonable number of seconds, correct. This seems to contrast very sharply with what happens here, where in many cases our clocks struggle to be within 2 minutes of correct time. Some of our clocks are way out and seem to stay that way. Some have just stopped; and some stay that way, too!

As we all know, the French (along with the rest of mainland Europe) don't ring bells like we do. To be honest this can be a right clatter to English-style ringers' ears, and one has to wonder why they don't do it in the clever way we do. But then they have church clocks that strike twice and daily tolling bells. All down to 'Vive la difference' no doubt!

There is one continental mode of sounding bells that has percolated to these shores and beyond. That is the carillon.

Before anyone pipes up to say their church has a carillon that acts on the ring of bells there, I have to say the use of the term carillon in such an instance is a travesty of the true meaning of the word. We just have what may be more-accurately described as outside musical boxes that activate hammers to strike the sound bows at the side when the bells are down. My predecessor at the Bell Tower, Geoff Hemming (Gerald's father) used to call the 'carillon' there the Juke Box! How did 'carillon' get used for such a way? Dunno, but it's quite incorrect.

OK, so what's a real carillon? It's rather similar to a piano with bells (hung 'dead') instead of strings. In a piano, the keys operate hammers that strike the strings, and in a carillon, the keys operate hammers that strike the bells. As a piano, too, there are bells that occupy the same notes in a piano, ie all the basic notes, plus all sharps and flats: a chromatic scale, rather than, as ring of bells, a diatonic scale. There are 13 notes (or 12 intervals) in a chromatic octave (for example, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C). An adjoining chromatic octave adds 12 notes.

The keyboard of a carillon is laid out like a piano, with the sharps (the black keys on a piano) laid out separately to the main notes. There are foot pedals, too, as in an organ layout. The biggest bell is referred to as the bass bell, and the whole playing assembly is called a clavier. However, the carillon keys are unlike a piano keyboard. They are wooden pegs that protrude from the clavier, and are struck by the sides of the carillonneur's fists, although he can play two keys with one hand using some fingers. The foot pedals are connected to the biggest bells.

The continentals (more particularly the Low Countries: Holland, Belgium and Northern France) have had carillons for over 300 years. Their carillons contain up to 67 bells, with bass bells varying between 10cwt and 5 tons. We have a few over here (about 20). The biggest numerically are Aberdeen and Bournville, both with 48 bells (basses 90cwt and 64cwt respectively). Then comes Loughborough War Memorial and St Helen's, Merseyside with 47 (basses 82cwt and 84cwt respectively). The minimum number of bells to form a proper carillon is 23. The United States caught on to carillons early

last century and, as expected, have some of the largest numerically (77 bells at Bloomfield Hills, Michigan) and the largest in weight (Riverside, New York, 74 bells with a mighty 18 ton bass). Chicago has a carillon only slightly smaller and lighter than New York's (72, 17 ton bass). This is only a small selection of the major carillons around the world. Anyone particularly interested in knowing where carillons are situated in the world and how many bells they have can access the internet for this information. Why has the UK so few? Probably because we have, and have had for over 400 years, our strong change ringing tradition.

OK, so why did I mention carillons? Helen and I parked up at a place called Bergues, which is a few miles inland from Dunkirk. We hadn't been there before. It is a very pretty, ancient, fortified town and well-worth visiting. In the Market Square stands a magnificent tower, which, it was plain to see, contained a carillon of some sort. The clock struck some very musical quarters on the bells, so it could just have been a rather elaborate electrically-operated chime.



The carillon tower, Bergues, Northern France.
(The bells are visible under the cupola)

Next day Helen and I went to the market to buy cheese, after which we went for a cup of coffee. Then the bells started playing tunes. 'Hah!' I thought, 'this doesn't sound like electronic playing, because there's some expression to the music. Perhaps it's a real carillon!' Then Helen saw some people walking round the parapet below the bells. 'Ah, the tower could be open. Let's see.' Further investigation revealed it was, so we paid a very reasonable 4 euros to ascend.

It was a long climb, but at the top was a carillonneur sitting in an enclosed hut under the bells, banging away on the clavier.



Jacques Martell, the Bergues carillonneur, at the clavier.

I waited until he'd finished a piece and then gave a handclap of congratulation. He came out to thank me, but as he did I pointed to the bell motif on my ringing sweatshirt (sorry, it was my Worcs & Dists one, not FSG). That did it; he was very welcoming and immediately invited us into his den. Helen's French, although rusty at the beginning of our holiday, had developed well by then, so she acted as the interpreter. Jacques Martell, the carillonneur, asked whether I played, but I indicated I was 'Anglais' and pulled bells. Jacques understood, as he said he's had a go at ringing in Birmingham a few years previously – and said it seemed dangerous! He told me the carillon had 50 bells, with a bass bell of 2½ tons. The 45 smallest bells had been cast by Paccard of Annecy (33 in 1961 and the remainder in 1973). The 2 largest had been cast in 1628 by Blampain of St Omer and the remaining 3 were cast by Crouzet-Hildebrand of Paris in 1880. He was very kind and again offered me a go on the carillon, but I politely declined his offer! I asked Jacques whether I could film him playing.

He was quite happy – and played 'Amazing Grace' for us. I have an excellent recording of this if anyone is interested to see how a real carillon works (the photo above of Jacques playing is a still from it).

Please remember: our churches don't have carillons: just 'carillons' (or even Juke Boxes!).

CMP

(It may be of interest to know that the carillon tower in Bergues was destroyed in WW1 and rebuilt afterwards. It was destroyed in WW2 – and rebuilt yet again. It's a beautiful and very imposing structure: superb brickwork. Hats off to the French for this, and for taking similar action on many other similar structures destroyed in this way. Belgium, too: for example, Ypres is a glory rebuilt from near total destruction after WW1.)

FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

The Old Minute Book records the following for the quarter 1st October to 31st December 1913:-

October 29th '13:

The Autumn Meeting of the Guild for the year 1913 was held at Willersey on Wednesday 29th Oct, 13, and the Secretary is again enabled to record another happy & successful gathering. Competitions took place in the afternoon in which Campden, Shipston & Moreton participated, and the Judge Mr F J Johnson, (Hinton) gave his award as follows.

Rising & falling

Moreton 97percent
Shipston 92 " "
Campden 90 " "

Round Ringing

Moreton V.G.I
Shipston V.G.
Campden G.

Call Changes

Campden 98per cent
Shipston 96 " "
Moreton 95 " "

Method

Shipston V.G.I
Moreton Bad striking
Campden did not compete

A Special Service was held in the Parish Church

at 4.30pm, which was well attended. An earnest and impressive Sermon was preached by The Rev W F Eliot, Vicar of Winchcombe.

The Members then adjourned to the Schoolroom, where they sat down to a splendid meat Tea kindly given by the Rev H Highley and other friends in the Parish.

Among those present to the number of about 50, were the Rector of Willersey (Rev H Highley), Rev Spencer Jones (Moreton) and the Rev O F Jacson (Campden).

Tea over, the Business Meeting commenced which was presided over by the Rev S Jones. The Hon Sec gave his Half-yearly Report, which showed an increased membership and a steady improvement in the Funds of the Guild.

Certificates won at the previous meeting at Blockley were then presented to the members of the Willersey Belfry by the Rev O F Jacson, who amid hearty cheers congratulated them on being the Victors on this their first attempt.

Moreton was selected for the next meeting in

April.

The Chairman proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev H Highley and all those who had assisted him in providing the members with such an ample repast that day.

This was duly seconded & carried by acclamation, being suitably responded to by the Rev H Highley.

The question of having larger Certificates printed suitable for hanging in the Church Porch was raised, and it was pro. by the Rev O F Jacson, sec by Mr H Evans that this should be done. Carried. After a Vote of thanks had been accorded the Chairman for presiding, the meeting closed. Touches were rung on the Tower Bells during the evening.

(Signed)

*Spencer Jones
Chairman*

FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

The following is the record of the first Annual General Meeting held by the reformed Guild. It contains the first set of Guild Rules:-

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th October 1973 at the Village Hall, Ilmington; Mr H O Hart, Chairman.

Apologies: Apologies were received from L C Dowdeswell, L Joynes, C Povey and R F Rothery.

Rules: the following rules recommended by the Committee were accepted:

The Rules continue down in much the same form as now, except for mild or interesting differences. For instance the requirement for Honorary Life Membership at that time was the following:-

(iii) Honorary Life Members. Persons who have reached the age of sixty-five years and shall have taken part in the activities of the Guild prior to 1940, are entitled to become Honorary Life Member, without payment of subscriptions upon application to the a secretary.

While this has been modified now, the Guild would still be very pleased to confer HLM on anybody who used to be a member of the Old Guild! The members elected at the time to various offices, the subscription to be levied, and the future ringing arrangements were outlined in the following Minutes:

Guild Master. Proposed by A J Brazier, seconded by C E Evans that H O Hart be elected. Carried unanimously.

Secretary & Treasurer. It was agreed that A J Brazier be elected.

Auditors: it was agreed that the nomination of Auditors be left to the discretion of the Committee.

Committee: it was agreed that the present Committee be re-elected.

Subscriptions: it was proposed by A S Dowden, seconded by M F Fairfax, that the subscription for 1974 be fifty pence for members, with a reduction to twenty-five pence for children aged sixteen years or less on 31st December 1974.

Regular ringing arrangements: after a general discussion it was agreed that weekly ringing arrangements should alternate between Saturday evenings and a weekday practice to coincide with the regular practice of local bands. In addition, quarterly ringing to be arranged:

i) for the first quarter Saturday – three towers during an afternoon;

ii) for the first half-year Saturday – and ringing competition as previously arranged by the Guild;

iii) for the second quarter Saturday – three towers arranged during an afternoon;

iv) for the year end Saturday – a ringing competition. The Competition to allow for awarding the silver cup and silver shield if available.

The Meeting was closed by H O Hart, who thanked the ladies for the tea

AN OLD FSG BADGE DONATED TO THE GUILD'S ARCHIVES

The Guild is fortunate to have been given an 'Old' Guild badge for its archive. It was donated by Hazel Davies. It used to belong to Wootton Wawen ringer, Jim Stockley. Here is the badge:



The hook at the top is likely to be the loop that originally attached a watch chain to the badge, in similar style to the badge that belongs to Phyllis Brazier. It's been bent round into a hook, possibly to hang the badge on something.

Wootton Wawen tower was relatively early joining the Guild. There are FSG Ringing Competition certificates in existence that show Wootton Wawen members took part in these activities.

I asked Hazel if she could provide some words about Jim Stockley. She has kindly written the following:-

I inherited this old Four Shires Badge from my husband Graham's Great Uncle Jim Stockley following his death in his mid nineties.

Jim rang at Wootton Wawen most of his life and was captain there in the sixties. During those years he taught many people to handle a bell including myself. He was never a great method ringer; however he was an excellent tenor man and rang the tenor to many quarter peals and several peals at Wootton.

He also showed us that there was much more to ringing than just your own tower. He took us to ringing meetings on the back of his old Sunbeam motor bike, shaft driven. He also showed us that supporting other towers was important –especially Aston Cantlow where we used to ring for Evensong for many years. Chris Pickford especially remembers that after this Sunday evening ringing several of us would chat for ages at the lych-gate about all sorts of things.

He was a good tower captain, always on time and courteous to all. He welcomed visitors and was a lovely man with a warm smile and a twinkle in his eye. He was a chain smoker of 'Woodbines', which gave rise to us being "permitted" to smoke in the belfry, as it had external door access.

I remember Jim telling us about the Four Shires Ringing Competitions that took place before the war. As many of you know there is a Four Shires Peal Board in the belfry at Wootton, however it does not have his name on it.

Some Ilmington ringers may remember him from the late sixties when he and I came to Ilmington to help the band teach some young recruits how to handle a bell. Some of the learners were so small that we stood them on piles of boxes. How Health & Safety would love that now.

Jim was also very keen on tune ringing on handbells, as Wootton had its own set of bells. We used to practice at his house and then have a wonderful time at Christmas ringing in as many homes as possible, but not pubs I recall. We didn't need to visit the pubs because we were always well supplied with refreshments at our hosts. I remember that as the evenings wore on the ringing was not quite so precise, Jim always rang the two heaviest bells and sometimes he had to have a nudge when it was his time to ring.

A peal was rung for his 90th birthday of Cambridge S Minor on 23 April 1994, 1. Michael Gray, 2. Hazel Davies, 3. Richard Danby, 4. Jill Danby, 5. Peter Bennett, and 6. Chris Pickford. Footnote "by past members of the local band to celebrate the 90th birthday of Jim Stockley"

Jim sat outside to listen to the ringing and lit up one of his favourite cigarettes in Graham's 'non smoking car' and much to our amusement Graham didn't have the nerve to stop him.

He is remembered with great affection, particularly by the band above, some of whom owe him a great debt of thanks not only for introducing us to ringing but for encouraging us to embrace the wider bell ringing community.



This photo of the band for his 90th peal shows from left to right Peter Bennett, Jill Danby, Jim, Michael Gray, Hazel Davies, Chris Pickford.

Hazel Davies

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NEWS

The President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, Mrs Kate Flavell, writes a monthly 'blog' about what her month as President and that of the Council in general consists of. Kate is the first CC President to write a

blog. It is worth reading. Her September blog can be accessed via internet link: <http://cccb.org.uk/blog/2013-09-09/> CMP

was tempting to unhitch, but this part of Ludlow is on a steep hill. Luckily Brian has had experience towing a horse trailer, so eventually he extricated us from the mess to cross the bridge again and turn right this time up towards the camp-site.

In contrast, the horror of trying get through the gate of the farm into the camping field was greeted with nobody about. A note in the window showed where three FSG caravans were to be placed, so I thought we would put ourselves in the middle and we'll be fully included hopefully. Not long afterwards Richard L-S arrived *en famille* with a little young dog, and greeted us. Then Peter Kenealy arrived with his large old dog and his dinky caravan, which was half the size of his car. As usually happens when camping, certain things don't work or fit, or are forgotten, so this is the time when you get to know each other. Peter's electrical lead wasn't long enough to reach the electrical hook-up point, but ours was, so he borrowed it. Other things were exchanged or borrowed. I'd forgotten to bring Brian's breakfast cereal, so he had some very fancy cereal from Peter.

We'd been booked to ring at Stanton Lacy that evening (Friday). I remember it as the church with the graveyard of nettles. A little notice said it was for green eco reasons. The tower was full of strange faces! I hadn't realised it was their practice night and we were just joining in. I nearly died when asked what would I like to ring? "Oh", says I casually masking my nervousness. "Just rounds and call changes, please." After this I scuttled out and offered to look after Peter's dog, so that he could go and ring. Later in the evening Sue Bacon arrived at the door. She was camping with her husband. Had we a match so she could make a brew? "Oh, I'll boil a kettle for you. Come in." We chatted and chatted, and chatted even more. It transpired her husband was going fishing (yes, literally): could she have a lift with us? I could now relax. Sue was not only an expert ringer, but an old hand at these events.

Saturday morning was so sunny! I could now see how beautiful it all was, being next to a field of buttercups, red clover mix and horses. There was a most majestic view of Ludlow Castle and the Church, surrounded by the old town. At around 8.30am we all set off for our first tower. I happily sat in the back with the dog and Sue found the first church and all the subsequent locations. We had coffee at Stokesay Castle café and another young lady bell ringer joined us. I was beginning to enjoy myself.

Lunch was a grand affair in the garden of the Sun Inn in Leintwardine. Fish and chips were ordered from the chip shop next door to the pub and were brought round to the garden in waitress-service style. Good beer, too. I really did feel amongst friends now.

After the last tower of the day, Ludlow, the 'day' ringers returned home, but for us 'weekenders' a meal had been booked at the pub in Ludlow by the Arch. As with all the best planning, incidents do occur. No electricity at the pub; nor, in fact, was there in the whole of Ludlow! One family did not stay because of paying by card worries, albeit we all said we would pool our cash. The menu was revised to suit cooking arrangements – and all in good humour. We had great laughs at the table and very good food, too.

We had the option to ring for Sunday Morning at St Laurence, Ludlow. Sue and I said we were going to ring then, even though it meant facing 138 steps to the ringing chamber. These steps are a cardiac exercise. My heart pounded alarmingly half way up. I thought that I was fit, so I guess that the resident ringers are very fit! I anxiously arrived at St Laurence's main door and was dismayed to find that the Vicar was saying goodbye to his parishioners. Then I discovered that the ringing takes place after the service, because the bell ringers are at their own Churches in the surrounding area beforehand.

The point of my article is to encourage any newcomer like myself to join such a weekend or other social ringing events. There is nothing to compare to a weekend away with those sharing the same hobby and interests. It brings together people of all age groups and backgrounds. Friendships and good company are not easily found these days. I went home wishing that there were several more weekends for this summer. But of course it all takes a lot of organising. Thank you Richard.

While I'm here I would like to thank the bell ringing teams at practice nights They have helped me along the way so patiently and cheerfully. They are Badsey, (Monday), Offenham (Tuesday) and Evesham Bell Tower (Wednesday).

Christina Ireland

THE GUILD WALKING AND RINGING TOUR

The Guild Ringing and Walking Tour took place on Saturday 28th September 2013.

The first tower was Moreton-in-Marsh. We had nine ringers and rang Plain Bob Doubles with 7 6 8 behind, call changes on 8 and Stedman Doubles on the back 6.

After ringing at Moreton eight of us walked to Longborough, where again we were nine ringers. We rang St. Clements Bob Minor, Little Bob Minor and call changes. After ringing down here two photographs were taken of the party by Stuart Cummings outside Longborough Church. Then eight of us went for some lunch at the Coach and Horses pub in the village.

After lunch seven of us walked to Bourton-on-the-Hill Church, where we rang touches of Plain Bob Minor, Plain Bob Doubles and Stedman Doubles. Near the end of the time here, Chris Povey, Matthew Kemble and Roland Merrick dropped in, as they were returning to Evesham after ringing for a wedding at Adlestrop, so this made ten ringers. We rang a plain course of Kent Treble Bob Minor.

Then seven of us walked back to Moreton-in-Marsh. The walk was six miles in total. We had twelve ringers take part at various times throughout the day. It was a very enjoyable day.

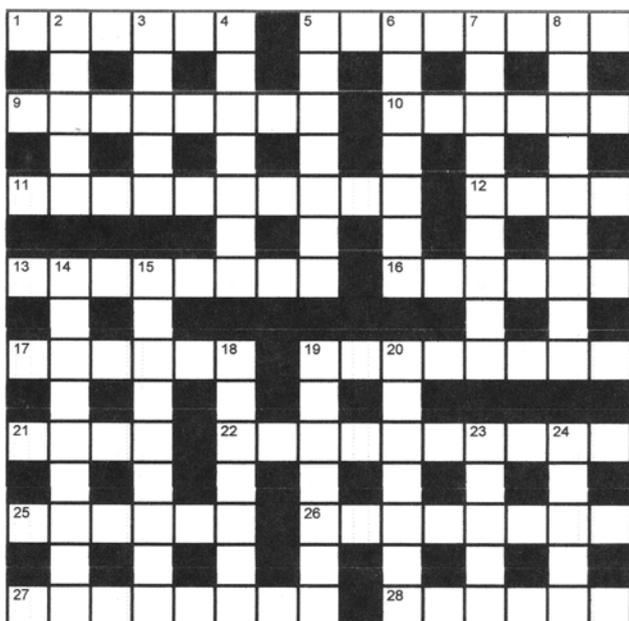
Michael Haynes (Organiser)



At Longborough, L-R: Jane Gilbert, Ginny White, Wendy Mace, Joanne Roberts, Michael Cummings, Jeanette Davey, Andrew Roberts, Michael Haynes, Stuart Cummings

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

How long can El Presidente hold out before including *cruciverbalist* in his clues.....??



Answers to the crossword in the July 2013 Newsletter



Across

- 1 The flow that is necessary for good striking. (6)
- 5 E.g. Ash or racing venue. (8)
- 9 A double piece of metal inserted into a bolt to stop its nut shaking loose in the clapper assembly. (5,3)
- 10 The town that held the Synod insisting English Christianity should follow the Roman traditions. (6)
- 11 We all measured angles with this. (10)
- 12 The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. (4)
- 13 To the uninitiated this describes the mysterious world of change ringing. (8)
- 16 Tempestuous. (6)
- 17 Allure or could be 'How's that?'. (6)
- 19 Could describe loud, unmusical bells. (8)
- 21 Short for the river assassin. (4)
- 22 The extent on four bells. (6,4)
- 25 & 28 The senior member of the FSG. (6)
- 26 Aka Germanic. (8)
- 27 The warship sunk in 1545 and raised in 1982. (4,4)
- 28 See 25 across

Down

- 2 More than usual. (5)
- 3 Swivel the old-fashioned tobacco. (5)
- 4 It fills the Stratford streets. (3,4)
- 5 Describes the way hereditary characteristics are passed on. (7)
- 6 The traditional way for Christian Soldiers. (7)
- 7 Home village of 25 & 28 across. (9)
- 8 He investigates complaints. (9)
- 14 An exploding star. (9)
- 15 Betrayal. (9)
- 18 What to do with the rope when the stay breaks. (3,2,2)
- 19 Baton emblem of Kingship. (7)
- 20 Improve a painting. (7)
- 23 Knock down! (5)
- 24 Bring together a team without a tail! (5)

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

Frank Spiers hasn't been quite up to the mark recently, so Sandra Parker and Isobel Murphy have kindly provided reports:

July's outing was arranged by Colin Lord. The day started with a ring of 8, 12cwt, at Byfield in Northamptonshire and what a lovely day it was: warm weather and sunshine. After this it was over the border into Warwickshire and to Farnborough a 6 cwt ring of 6. Here the space in the ringing room was at a premium and it was a question of 1 in 1 out. Next was the lunch stop up at Edgehill with fine views over the Warwickshire countryside. Here we were to be seen with sun cream and trying to find the shade. Lunch over it was down to Oxhill, a ring of 5, 8cwt. We are used to hearing Surprise methods being called for, so it was a change for all Doubles methods. Our final tower of the day was Tysoe, a 12cwt ring of 6.

Sandra Parker

Unusually both August and September's tours

were based in Northamptonshire, organised by Jill and Mike Harvey and Brenda Dixon and Alan Marks respectively. Both months involved ringers from a wide area with a mix of new and old faces and some who are only occasional participants.

August's tour was in the countryside surrounding Towcester, starting at Blisworth. The second tower was the estate church at Easton Neston and we were treated to the picturesque view of the Baroque manor house as we drove through the park to the church. Lunch was in the centre of Towcester and provided us with an opportunity to wander around the town before making our way to Pottersbury and Wicken for the afternoon ringing.

In September we travelled further into eastern Northamptonshire as Brenda and Alan had designed a tour around specific requests for 'grabs' from some of our regular attendees.

Apart from the 6 at Stanwick, the tour featured some heavy 8s at Finedon, Rushden and Raunds, and most of the towers presented differing challenges. One highlight was the immaculate ringing chamber with numerous wooden peal boards in Rushden, a testament to the quality of ringing in the area. For those interested in church architecture, Finedon and Rushden feature the only examples of decorative 'Strainer Arches' to be found in English parish churches. Lunch at Wetherspoons in Rushden provided excellent value for those of us who enjoy curry.

Thanks to all the organisers for providing interesting bells and good lunch venues and to all the participants for their good-natured companionship. All are welcome to attend and every effort is made to accommodate all standards of ringing.

Isobel Murphy

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: **PROPOSALS TO BE MADE AT THE 2013 AGM**

At their September meeting the Committee considered a suggestion made by a member that, in this 40th anniversary year, the six surviving Guild members who attended the inaugural meeting in March 1973 to investigate reforming the Guild should be accorded Honorary Life Membership of the Guild. The proposal was agreed (the two founder members at the meeting abstaining from the discussion and the subsequent vote). Accordingly, the following proposal will be made at the AGM by the Guild Master on behalf of the Committee:-

“The Committee proposes that Honorary Life Membership of the Guild be conferred on those surviving members who attended the inaugural meeting on 30th March 1973. These members are John Nicholls, Michael Fairfax, Clinton (Clint) Evans, Malcolm Stewart and Christopher Povey. The sixth surviving member, the Rev Frederick Rothery, is already a Life Member.”

In addition, a second proposal was considered and agreed, and will be made by the Guild Master:-

“That Mrs Phyllis Brazier, currently a Vice-President, be accorded Honorary Life Membership of the Guild.”

For these proposals to be passed the Guild Rules require at least 75% of those members attending and able to vote to be in favour. (If attending, those members to whom either of these proposals apply will be unable to vote. Their number will be deducted from the total of those members at the AGM able to vote.)

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GUILD LAPEL BADGES NOW AVAILABLE!



At long last, the new Guild lapel badge is here. It is slightly different to the previous version, as its design is now the same as the clothing badges (the 'standard' Guild badge). It is slightly '3D' too, as some features are raised.

£4 each from the Hon Sec.

(The original badges cost £1 in 1976!)

ADVANCE NOTICE **GUILD ANNUAL DINNER**

The Guild Annual Dinner will take place on **Saturday 1st February 2014**, at **The White Hart Royal Hotel**, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos.

Full details will be available in the January Newsletter.

GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14th

TO BE HELD IN WELLESBOURNE CHURCH HALL, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THERE.

**AS PREVIOUSLY, DRINKS AND EATS REQUIRED.
PLEASE BRING WITH YOU.**

NOTICES AND ADVERTS (cont)

FOUR SHIRES GUILD CLOTHING

A few people have asked about Guild clothing recently. It is still available. All items have the FSG badge embroidered on the left breast (except the reversible fleece, which is both sides) 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 June 2013 (notice the addition of the lambswool V-necked jumper):-

KK403 Polo Shirt £14.50

R16 Reversible Fleece with Waterproof Lining £27.50

SS50 Half Zip Fleece £21.50

SS24M Sweat Shirt £17.50

SS51 Full Zip Fleece £22.50

H730 Lambswool V-necked jumper £31.00

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 AND OTHER RINGING

Harbury, Warks, 1st July, 1250 Cambridge S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Julie Doyle 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Karen French 4, John Nicholls 5, Peter Quinn 6, Robert Reeves 7, Mark Sayers 8.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 8th July, 1280 Spliced S Major (Cambridge, Yorks, Lincs): Chris Mew (C) 1, Peter Quinn 2, Julie Doyle 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, John Nicholls 7, Mark Sayers 8.

ROYAL BIRTH RINGING AT CHERINGTON.

Sarah Scotter sent me this report from Cherington:

Please find attached a photo of the Cherington Ringers, who rang immediately after the announcement of the Royal Birth, at 8.30pm on Monday 22 July. We rang Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Doubles and Plain Hunt Minor. The Tower Captain is Paul Marriott, and the ringers that evening were: Cameron Townsend, Trish Holmes, Roger Cotter, Alan Turner, Peter Kenealy and Sarah Scotter. The photograph was taken by visiting ringer, 'Norfolk' George.

We think we may have been one of the first to ring out the good news, if not the first in Warwickshire!



From L-R: Peter Kenealy, Trish Holmes, Alan Turner, Cameron Townsend, Sarah Scotter, Roger Cotter, Paul Marriott

I'm sure you were first. Congratulations!! CMP

HOW TO RING A QUARTER PEAL AT STANTON.....

At the end of most months a band from the Vale meet to ring a quarter somewhere in the area. It was Matthew Kemble's idea that it should be a social occasion, too, so afterwards we go for a curry or something similar. I got the job of finding a tower for the July session and secured Stanton. This was relayed to the band, whereupon Claire said, 'I've never rung on an anti-clockwise ring before! Bags I ring the tenor.' 'Hmmm', said clever Matthew, 'perhaps we should ring Reverse methods.' That was a good idea, so we agreed to ring Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Doubles and Reverse St Bartholomew's Doubles, as some of the band had never ventured into such strange territory previously. To add to these methods we decided to ring Reverse Downham to start with and Reverse Uppingham to finish. It's what you do on a reverse (anti-clockwise) ring.....

Stanton, Glos, 26th July, 1260 Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles & Reverse St Bartholomew's Doubles: Andrew Gunn 1, Claire Penny 2, Martin Penny 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Chris Povey (C) 5, John Nicholls 6. To celebrate the birth of HRH Prince George of Cambridge. First Rev Cant: 2 & 4; first Rev St Bart's: 2, 3 & 4.

Afterwards we went to my place for the 'apres Q'. Matthew brought the curry and Claire brought the afters - 'upside-down pudding' of course! CMP

Halford, Warks, 5th Aug, 1296 Minor (3m): Chris Mew (C) 1, Karen French 2, Robert Reeves 3, Peter Quinn 4, John Nicholls 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6. Rung to welcome Jasmine Sara Wakeham, great niece of conductor, daughter for Richard and Louise.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 9th Aug, 1280 Superlative S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Michael Haynes 2, Peter Quinn 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Mark Sayers 6, John Nicholls 7, Richard Lewis-Skeath 8. First S Major: 2.

Middle Littleton, Worcs, 23rd Aug, 1290 Mixed Doubles: Christina Ireland 1, Tom Sandham 2, Claire Penny 3, Martin Penny (C) 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Roland Merrick 6.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 30th Aug, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Sue Bacon 2, Peter Quinn 3, Karen French 4, James Ingham 5, Michael Dane 6, Richard Lewis-Skeath 7, Mark Sayers 8. 80th birthday compliment to Sue's mother. First in method: 2.

Offenham, Worcs, 27th September, 1320 Doubles (St Simon's, St Martin's, Rev Canterbury, Southrepps, Plain Bob & April Day): Roland Merrick 1, Chris Povey 2, Matthew Kemble 3, Tom Sandham 4, Martin Penny (C) 5. First Q on the simulator. New methods for 3 & 4.

Harbury, Warks, 30th September, 1280 Yorkshire S Major: Chris Mew 1, Richard Lewis-Skeath 2, James Ingham 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Mark Sayers 6, John Nicholls 7, Peter Quinn (C) 8. To mark the birth of Helena Alice Quinn, born on 23rd September 2013, granddaughter of Peter & Veronica Quinn.

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES:-

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIEL AUSTIN

Belated congratulation to Guild member Daniel Austin of Hook Norton tower in Oxfordshire. Daniel rang his first peal at the first attempt at Steeple Aston, Oxon: details below. Well done Daniel!

Oxford Diocesan Guild

SS Peter & Paul, Steeple Aston, Oxon
Saturday 1st June 2013, in 2hrs 58mins (12-2-16)

5056 Plain Bob Major

- 1 Malcolm R C Hencher
 - 2 Heather Bletchly
 - 3 Claire E Tarrant
 - 4 Sally A Austin
 - 5 Daniel J Austin
 - 6 Martin J Saunders
 - 7 Alan J Griffin
 - 8 Graham J Clifton (Cond)
- Comp by: J R Pritchard

Rung for the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of HM The Queen.

First Peal at first attempt: 5

bearing housings. See photo. A new headstock will be required, together with new bearings and housings. As might be thought, there will be a fairly considerable bill for supplying and fitting the new stock and ancillaries, so it may be a little time before this is repaired. In the meantime Pebworth will have to revert to its pre-1995 status as a 6-bell tower, as the front 6 are, of course, a genuine 6, and they are unaffected by the tenor's troubles. Apparently a similar failure on a similar headstock at a church in Oxford occurred in the past.

A clock hammer head sheared off from its shaft at **Stow-on-the-Wold** recently when the 4th was being pulled up. The hammers had been pulled off, so there's something of a mystery about this. Luckily, no damage was done to the bell or its wheel.

Guild Vice-President the **Rev Peter Newing** has been unwell recently with a breathing problem following a 6-day Great Train Ride into and around Switzerland with Angela. This required 8 days in Gloucester Royal Hospital to prevent further complications. He hopes to be well enough to join us at Offenham for the AGM. You have our best wishes, Peter, and we look forward to seeing you at Offenham on October 12th.

CHRIS RIGHTON'S 80TH BIRTHDAY QUARTER

Ilmington, Warks, 26th July, 1260 Grandsire Triples: David Clark 1, Francis Chapman 2, Bill Sabin 3, Bill Nash 4, John Kinchin 5, John Nicholls 6, Michael Dane (C) 7, Jackie Hands 8. To celebrate the 80th birthday of Chris Righton, a ringer at this tower. (Congratulations on getting there, Chris!! CMP)

Pebworth's tenor has been investigated. Taylors looked at it and found the fabricated steel headstock had cracked badly (it is not a Taylor stock).



(Photo: John Taylor & Co)

This had forced the headstock to splay out, and damage the bearing and

NICK ALLSOPP'S 50TH BIRTHDAY PEAL.

Nick arranged to ring a peal with some friends at his home tower of Moreton-in-Marsh for his 50th birthday. The method was, appropriately, Fifty Surprise Major. He asked some of his old ringing colleagues from Hampshire to take part, along with Richard L-S, Chris Povey and Michael Chester from Coventry. The peal went well, with only an occasional trip, and was completed in 2hrs 41mins. The composition provided some good music.

Afterwards it was the usual case of 'Which association do we ring this for?' There were three FSG members, but four resident and one non-resident Winchester & Portsmouth Guild members, so ringing it for the W&P won. The non-W&P members were put up for NRLM and the peal was headed W&P for convenience. However, it was a significant event for a Guild member and involved other Guild members, so is mentioned here. The details are:-

Winchester & Portsmouth Guild

St David's, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos
Saturday 7th September 2013, in 2hrs 41mins (10-0-14)

5088 Fifty Surprise Major

- 1 Christopher M Povey
- 2 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 3 D Annabel Preston
- 4 Nicholas K Allsopp
- 5 John P Collis
- 6 Michael Chester
- 7 Roy LeMarechal (cond)
- 8 Stewart J Hearne

Comp by: Don Morrison

Rung to celebrate Nick's 50th birthday (02/09/2013)

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Oct 5 th	EVESHAM, Worcs	10, 14-2-26 in F#
Oct 12 th	GUILD AGM AND STRIKING COMPS AT OFFENHAM, Worcs. – SEE NOTICE BELOW	
Oct 19 th	STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos	8, 27-2-24 in D
Oct 26 th	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs	8, 10-1-8 in G
Nov 2 nd	TYSOE, Warks	6, 12-0-18 in F
Nov 9 th	ALDERMINSTER, Warks	6, 12-0-26 in F
Nov 16 th	INTER SHIRES STRIKING COMP, HARVINGTON, Worcs – <u>NO EVENING PRACTICE</u>	
Nov 23 rd	CROPTHORNE, Worcs	6, 10cwt in F#
Nov 30 th	MIDDLE LITTLETON, Worcs	6, 12-2-27 in G (GF)
Dec 7 th	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F
Dec 14 th	WELLESBOURNE, Warks, 8, 10-0-24 in G, <u>afterwards Guild Xmas Party (see details p.11)</u>	
Dec 21 st	<u>NO SATURDAY PRACTICE</u>	
Dec 28 th	<u>NO SATURDAY PRACTICE</u>	

2014

Jan 4 th	HOOK NORTON, Oxon	8, 20-2-13 in E
Jan 11 th	DUMBLETON, Glos	6, 11cwt in G (To be confirmed)
Jan 18 th	To be advised in the January Newsletter	
Jan 25 th	To be advised in the January Newsletter	

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.

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.

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:

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 12TH OF OCTOBER.....

STRIKING COMPS, AGM, TEA - THE LOT!!

AT OFFENHAM, WORCS: SEE JULY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL DETAILS

DID SOMEONE SAY THEY DIDN'T GET A NEWSLETTER?

**IF SO, ASK WHETHER THEY PAID THEIR 2013 SUBS BY THE END OF JUNE.
IF THEY DIDN'T, THAT'S WHY THEY DIDN'T GET ONE – NO SUB; NO NEWSLETTER.
(AND IF THEY DID PAY, CONTACT THE EDITOR)**

Events for 2013: book the dates:-

AGM & Striking Comps	Saturday 12th October at Offenham, Worcs. See Notices p.3 & above.
Inter Shires Comp	Saturday 16th November, Harvington. (Please offer help to John Nicholls)
Guild Xmas Party	Saturday 14th December at Wellesbourne Church Hall. See Notice p.11

Events for 2014:-

Guild Annual Dinner	Saturday 1st Feb at the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton: see Notices
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