

# THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers)



## NEWSLETTER No 141 - JULY 2014



Founded Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 1909

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### TOWER OF THE QUARTER – ST GEORGE, NEWBOLD PACEY, WARKS.



*Photo: Chris Povey (taken a long while ago!)*

This church is pure Victorian for very good reason. The old church suffered an extensive fire and was rebuilt in 1880-82 by Architect J L Pearson. Everything is dressed coursed limestone with ashlar mouldings, which provided a good quality, sturdy, all-of-a-piece building.

Luckily, very luckily, the bells survived intact, because they are rare. Yes, there are only 4 (tenor about 7cwt), but they form a complete ring by the Evesham bellfounder Michael Bushell. He cast them in 1707. What makes them even rarer, is that the bells themselves are still in totally original condition. They retain their canons, their cast-in crown staples and they are all maidens, ie they have never been tuned. The sound they give when struck is the same as when they came from the moulds. (Badsey back 6, from the same Evesham bellfoundry in 1706, are maidens, too, but their canons were removed when they were rehung in 1950.) St George's bells are hung on one level in the tight-for-space belfry.

There are plans to augment these bells to 5 and I understand much progress with the necessary finances has been made. *(Can I make a personal plea? While it is eminently sensible to remove the cast-in crown staples, please retain the canons and please do not retune them; or perhaps gift them to Evesham and have a lighter ring of 5 all on one level.....! Ed)*

The Guild has its **Minimus Striking Competition** at this tower on Saturday September 13th (see Notice, p.11). Form a competing band (it's all good-hearted fun) and come along and ring on these bells while they are still in their original state.

# Officers and Committee Members of the Guild

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## **PRESIDENT**

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

Subscription rates: £5 adult; £2 Junior

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## **The deadline for the next issue of the FSG Newsletter (October 2014) is September 13<sup>th</sup> 2014**

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.)

**DID SOMEONE SAY THEY DIDN'T GET A JULY NEWSLETTER?**

**IF SO, ASK WHETHER THEY PAID THEIR 2014 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)**

# NOTICE OF 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

AT THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, WHICHFORD, WARKS  
BELLS: (on the back 6), 12-3-23 in G (GF)



(Photo: from Mike Chester's website)

**ON SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

## ORDER OF THE DAY

- 2.15pm** Brazier Cup Striking Competition
- 3.00pm** Newing Shield Striking Competition
- 4.45pm** Service in the Church
- 5.30pm** Annual General Meeting in the Church or Reading Room  
(Chairman: the Guild President)

**Evening ringing:** if there are sufficient numbers to do so

## The AGENDA for the AGM is:-

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting  
(published in the Jan 2014 Newsletter, no 139, pp.4 & 5; and on website\*)
- 3 Matters Arising.
- 4 Guild Master's Report (to be included in the October Newsletter)
- 5 Treasurer's Report (included in April Newsletter: p.4; and on website\*)
- 6 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer).
- 7 Election of Committee and Honorary Independent Examiner(s).
- 8 Confirmation of a Life Member
- 9 Confirmation of new members
- 10 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)
- 11 Results of the Striking Competitions.

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

Andrew Gunn, Honorary Secretary

Light refreshments will be available in either the Church or, more likely, the Church or Reading Room nearby from about 2.00pm.

As usual, donations of food will be gratefully received.

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

## EDITORIAL

This is my 20<sup>th</sup> Newsletter. The first of that run, number 122, appeared in October 2009, the Guild's centenary year. That issue was put together in a very big hurry, to get it out in the minimum acceptable time prior the AGM. It had 12 pages of well-spaced wording in large-ish font size. The font is now smaller and the wording has tighter spacing. The layout has stabilised. There are now 14 pages as a norm, and this regularly increases to 16 pages and on one occasion 18. This all means there is either much more going on in the Guild, or more is being reported; or both. Whichever: it is all to the Guild's good and keeps it in the ringing spotlight nationally. Keep the information coming in. However, as mentioned last time, I would like more reports/submissions from the eastern-southern parts of the area.

The **Old Minute Book's** entry this time is worth reading. There is a lot of archive information about the First World War being published at the moment, but here is our own local account by our own ringing forebears. The Minute Book provides amazing snap-shots in time.

**Chris Seers'** account of the April Mid-week tour is a sheer delight to read. You can feel what he's describing. I'd not thought of rings of bells having culinary parallels before, although I have to admit to thinking some rings have 'colour' in their sound; and with the music of certain methods, too (the

glory of Bristol Major, for instance). Thanks Chris; I hope you will rise to putting your fingers on the keys again.

It should be noted that the **Mid-week tours 300<sup>th</sup> tour** is due soon, in October. To say this activity of the Guild has been successful is a profound understatement. I believe there have been only two months when a tour has not occurred (Feb 1991 and March 2001). The first tour, organised by Tony Brazier, was on October 19<sup>th</sup> 1989. Twenty-five years and one month later I believe there are plans to return to the general area of that first tour, north-west Worcestershire, for the anniversary.

**Dear Rob Harvey** gives us another birthday to celebrate, his 96<sup>th</sup>. The ringing celebrations have been with quarter peals in the past, but this year Nick Allsopp felt it should be a peal, so arranged one. Happily it was successful. Does this mean that peals will be the order of the day from now on? Just keep going, Rob.

**The AGM this year** has moved from the second Saturday in October to the third Saturday (the 18<sup>th</sup>). Why? The second Saturday seems always, for some reason, to be crowded with ringing events. The third

Saturday is not so crowded. By sheer coincidence, the AGM this year is the exact 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Guild, on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1909. Perhaps we could mark the importance of this date at the AGM by remembering those pioneer ringers (particularly Walter Large) and clerics of vision of 105 years ago.

**Lastly**, yes, the 2014 AGM is upon us. There is always the chance that posts will be vacated, which can happen for a number of reasons. You will find a proposals form attached to this Newsletter, which is to propose someone – or yourself – for a particular post. The Guild cannot function properly without people to run it. Please consider whether you can give the Guild some time. It is considered a successful little Guild - please help it stay that way. And someone can take over from me if they wish – just let me know, day or night!

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.)

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## FSG COMMITTEE MEETING, 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.

The Committee meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> was postponed, as many members were unable to attend. Subsequently some items of business have been dealt with outside of the meeting. This and

the fact there was nothing really pressing caused the decision to leave everything until the meeting booked for August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Future Committee meeting dates: agreed as 19<sup>th</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> November, location to be announced.

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## THE (LITTLE) FSG JUDGES THE (MIGHTY) OXFORD D GUILD'S STRIKING COMP.

Two members of the Guild were invited to judge the Oxford Diocesan Guild's 8-bell Striking Competition on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The location was Witney and the test piece was a plain course of Cambridge Surprise Major. Chris Povey and Richard Lewis-Skeath went along to do the bizz. The ODG is one of the largest ringing organisations. It was founded in 1881 and has some notable ringers among its many members. No pressure on the judges then....

The weather was lovely that day. Alan Marchbank's organisation for the event was superb (Alan came along as the ODG's representative on the judging panel for the FSG's Inter-Shires Competition last November. Perhaps this was his revenge....).

As might be imagined there was some excellent ringing. The big problem is that the front-runners have little or no difference between them. Unless one of them has an uncharacteristic 'crunch', half a mark can be significant. In these events it is vital to have two judges. National events (eg, the 12-bell comps) have at least three.

The results showed that even half a mark was too large, as only a quarter of a mark separated the top two teams! Was it nerve-racking? Well, yes it was – there are a lot of very good ringers to face: 24 in the first three positions at least! Did we get it right? We believe so, particularly as there

were no howls of derision when the results were announced.  
CMP



Patricia Newton of the High Wycombe team accepting the winner's cup from Richard L-S and Chris Povey. (Photo with thanks to the ODG for permission to publish)

## TRY THIS IN THE UK?

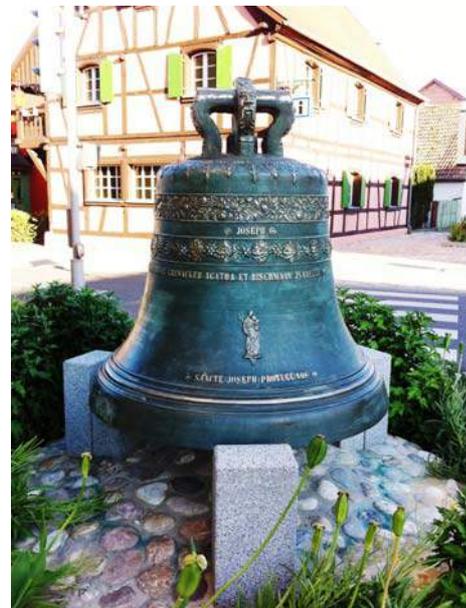
Helen and I chugged off to France in May. We stopped at a small village on the French side of the French-German border. The Church was on the main drag through the place, its entrance door opening out to the pavement. Outside on a stand for all to view was a bell. Not a small one, but a decently large one of (I guessed) about 7cwt: see photo.

How is it that a big lump of bronze can sit happily in a public area in France next to passing cars without being carted away in the middle of the night by scrap metal thieves? Doing that here would amount to sheer lunacy and downright irresponsibility, as we have thieves taking roadside manhole tops and climbing onto church roofs to take the lead. The bell (scrap value £2-3k) would be taken almost immediately.

Perhaps we have something to learn from our continental cousins. CMP

(This may be an ideal time to remind all those who have the responsibility of any sort for bells in our churches - ringers and PCCs - that there are naughty people out there who remove such things if left unsecured. They seem able to overcome most barriers in their quest to remove such items; and seem to have no qualms about taking from a church.

I expect we all know of redundant bells sitting in churches, completely unsecured. In many cases they are historic bells of great age. Don't think that, because they are heavy, no-one will take them away. Sadly, thieves are very clever and generally find a way to undertake removals quickly and efficiently. A bell might be there one day, but not the next... Please secure.)



## BRETFORTON BELLS REFURBISHED



*St Leonard's Church, Bretforton*

Easter Sunday arrived with the sound of bells in Bretforton once more. The short but important refurbishment to the eight bells that commenced in early March had been completed on Maundy Thursday enabling ropes to be refitted and the local ringers to sally forth on Easter morn.

The refurbishment in total comprised the fitting of new ball bearings to the existing headstocks (replacing the original plain type bearings fitted to the back six bells in 1909 and, surprisingly, the plain bearings also fitted to the

new treble bells in 1949), the removal of the remnants of the old iron clapper staples ('stumps') inside the crown of the back six bells, pulley box and incidental clapper refurbishment and the complete redecoration of the frame and bell fittings. Removal of the clapper staple 'stumps' ensures that the bell does not run the risk of cracking should the iron corrode severely and try to expand within the crown of the bell (see photo above).



*The stumps that existed in each of the back 6 bells: nasty!*

As with all such bell related work there is a need to obtain a faculty. The Worcester Diocesan Advisory Committee's Bells Advisor came to visit in early 2013 following the application submitted by the PCC and the faculty eventually received approval in January this year.

The PCC had agreed to the schedule of work being handled in part by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough and where appropriate by local labour (in this instance entrusted to me as I had some 16 years experience of bell related projects working alongside Arthur (Bill) Berry, the bellhanger, of Malvern). Taylors were to take care of the bearing conversion and stump removal and I would apply the TLC to the frame etc. As things transpired I stripped down the bells, including wheels, and assisted Taylor's bellhanger with the headstock removal, stump removal and rehangng of the eight bells which enabled some worthwhile savings for the church in not having to pay for two bellhangers from Taylors.

The project ran quite smoothly with the headstocks being despatched to Loughborough on the afternoon of the second day of Taylor's presence on site and the stumps were all accounted for at the end of the fourth day (see photo next page).



*Happiness is removal of those stumps: even nastier-looking things!*

Then followed a tiring period of relentless elbow grease to clean down the iron and steelwork within the bell chamber of encrusted rust - the frame last having seen a lick of paint in 1949 - together with commencing application of industrial standard primer and gloss paints.

All too soon, after just 4 weeks, Taylors were ready to return to rehang the bells and this was achieved in the four days of Holy Week. Final painting (at a more leisurely pace for me!) is now complete.

Bretforton bells are somewhat unique in that the back six were cast by, or are attributed to, Jasper and Nathaniel Rees Westcott of Bristol in 1823 and are the only known ring of tower bells from them although a number of smaller clock bells exist. Taylors retuned and rehung them in an H frame in 1909 and returned in 1949 to add two trebles hung in lowside A frames above the others.

This latest chapter in the history of the bells has been achieved largely at the resolve of the late tower captain, Graham Hall, who courted the support of the PCC. They in turn provided the funds to achieve a thorough refurbishment of both the bells and the complete installation - there is a noticeable improvement in the 'go' and handling of the bells.

For me it has been a rewarding project tinged with both sadness and fond memories. A sadness that Graham Hall did not live long enough to see the project come to fruition and have a ring on them.

One special memory is of sitting on the foundation grillage in the middle of the tower at 3pm on the 191<sup>st</sup> birthday of the tenor bell with snowflakes circling around my face.



*Roger with the tenor, dated in the inscription March 25 1823.*

Roger Hunt – Tower Captain  
(All photos R H Hunt)

*(Thank you for this interesting article, Roger. It's not often we get an in-depth account of the 'heavier' aspects of bell maintenance/hanging – particularly the photos of the stumps and the description of their removal. Many old bells still have the roots of the cast-in crown staples in them, the tops of the staples being merely cut off at surface level. As Roger so rightly says, the roots, or the stumps, can lead to bells being cracked in the crown when corrosion of the iron occurs. Bretforton's stumps were particularly untidy. It would be a huge loss if these very rare bells became cracked. Having rung on the refurbished bells, I can confirm they are very much better for this work. Ed)*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

As I transpose the following from the Old Minute Book, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination incident that sparked the First World War has just passed (28<sup>th</sup> June). The following entry in the Book is three months on from this date in 1914, during which Britain had declared War on Germany (on 4<sup>th</sup> August) and fighting had started. Note that it is referred to as 'the Great European War'.

*25<sup>th</sup> September, 14.*

*A Committee Meeting was called for the purpose of arranging the programme for the usual Autumn meeting was held at The Rectory, Moreton, on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 14. The Rev Spencer Jones was voted to the Chair, the proceedings commencing at 8pm. Although the attendance was small, unusual interest attached to the*

*meeting, owing to the Great European War and to the effect it would have on our future proceedings. Letters were read from Saintbury and Willersey in which the opinion was expressed as representing the said towers, that it would be inadvisable to hold the Competitions this Autumn. After considerable discussion this proved to be the feeling of those present, and it was proposed by the Rev O J Jacson, seconded by Mr C Bird that, "owing to the War, the Half-Yearly Competitions be postponed indefinitely". This was carried unanimously. It was felt necessary to hold the Annual (sic) meeting for the purpose of transacting all the Business of the Guild, with exception of the Competitions, whereupon The Rev O J Jacson very kindly invited the members to hold the April meeting at Campden, when he should be pleased to provide*

*us with a Tea. This was thankfully accepted on behalf of the Guild by those present.*

*The next item of business was the further consideration of the new Rules as drawn up at the previous Committee meeting. Various alterations and amendments was (sic) proposed and accepted, and it was resolved to have a few specimen copies of the new Rules printed, so as to be submitted to the members at the Annual (sic) meeting. This concluded the meeting, after the usual votes of thanks had been passed.*

*(Signed)  
Spencer Jones*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

There were again no meetings held between the beginning of July and the end of September 1974 (the next two meetings were held in October).

## CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS NEWS

Your Central Council representatives attended the 2014 Council Meeting at Maidstone on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Yes, it's a long drag down there, but Helen and I returned from France that morning and Maidstone was en-route from the Channel Tunnel! There are various activities and associated meetings apart from the council Meeting itself that weekend, but I attended just the main event.

The Council Meeting opened at 9.30am with a prayer. The Hon Sec gave an outline of the representation making up the Council: 66 affiliated guilds/associations/etc (2 hadn't paid their fees), 196 representatives with 5 vacancies, 4 Life Members, 10 Additional Members and 8 ex-officio members. Just as the FSG did four years ago, another guild (the Guild of St Agatha) was requesting to affiliate. They were successful in the vote and their rep took a seat.

A Welcome to New Members came next and this year was something of a record in having 46 new representatives, of which one was Andrew Gunn (although a returning member, having filled the seat when the FSG was admitted initially). There were a number of very young representatives this year: one aged 16, two aged 17 and two aged 18. They reduced the average age of the delegates by many decades, let alone years!

The Minutes of the 2013 Meeting were accepted without amendment and there were no Matters Arising. After this we had the Annual Report of the Council, which was adopted, and then the Accounts. Derek Harbottle (from the G&BDA), the CC Treasurer, has had an amazingly long run of Accounts accepted with little or no comments, and this was again the case. What a treat to know the money has been in such good hands. However, Derek has elected to take a well-earned break and was to hand over to his successor after the Meeting.

Occasionally members are proposed for Life Membership of the Council, but those accepted must have made an outstanding contribution to the Council, and at least 80% of the eligible votes is required to give this honour. There were two people proposed this year: Alan Frost, CC member, who has given significant support technically and managerially over many, many years, and David Kelly of the Keltek Trust. Very pleasingly, both received much more than the minimum vote required.

The election of the CC's Officers followed. The appointments are for 3 years (the 'Triennium'). Chris Mew (a Guild member) was elected President, Christopher O'Mahoney Vice-President, Mary Bone continued as the Hon Sec, Carol Franklin became the Hon Asst Sec on the retirement of Robin Walker (also a Guild member) and Andrew Taylor took over as Hon Treasurer from Derek Harbottle. The newly-elected Officers took their posts at the end of the Meeting. Please doff your caps, bow, scrape or curtsy to Mr Mew when you meet him next, as I surely shall....

The Council allows a certain number of non-reps to be members. These are ringers who are extremely useful to the working committees through their past work. They, too, have to be voted in with at least 50% of the eligible vote. There were 6 and they were all successful. Their appointment is for 3 years.

We then got down to the Proposals. In many cases these are mild amendments to the Rules, and this is what the first Motion was all about.

The amendments as proposed were successful. The next Motion was the one that was expected to be (a) very technical and (b) way above the average ringer. There had already been correspondence on the subject in

The Ringing World - how to categorise some strange/unusual methods that have appeared in peals throughout the previous 12 months - and whether to accept them as 'proper' performances. To be honest, this stuff affects a very tiny percentage of ringers and peals, being generally confined to 'specialist' 12/14/16-bell ringing. You are unlikely to be affected. The average ringer/representative is inclined to 'turn off' when discussions of this type occur; and I guess this happened in many cases again. Not to me of course....

The next part of the meeting is the acceptance or otherwise of the reports by the various working committees. This is the chance to ask the Committee Chairman any questions on their reports, which appear prior to the Council Meeting in The Ringing World and on the CC web-site. There is the report of the Admin Committee, which covers the general running of the CC, then the 15 'specialist' committees that deal in detail with particular aspects of ringing. Reports are given by the Stewards of very specialist and individual items, in particular the Carter Ringing Machine, the Dove database and the Rolls of Honour. Finally the CC runs a Rescue Fund for Redundant Bells, which is a registered charity, and report came from this body. A report was given about the 'Change Ringing for the Future', which is a recent CC initiative. The allotted time for these reports includes voting to include members on the committees. Voting for members to serve on these committees used to be for the full number of members once every three years, but that particular meeting was also a very long one for that reason. Voting for new members is now divided up, with a third of members retiring every year. I serve on the Towers & Belfries Committee. As a new member of Council Andrew Gunn said he'd been advised to wait a year to see how the Council works before becoming a member of a committee.

The 2015 CC Meeting will be in or around Beverley, Yorks.

As part of the Council meeting, The Ringing World Ltd (a company wholly owned by the CC) holds its AGM. This is traditionally held first thing after the lunch break. Although the Company had undertaken various steps to reduce expenditure, there was some disquiet about the size of the loss that had occurred during the year. This is in tandem with a reducing reader base in this digital age. Three directors retired after a 3-year term and three more were voted in. While the main thrust of the next trading year will be to reduce outgoings further, there will be a campaign to attract new readers.

You may wonder what effect the Central Council has on you. Is it a talking shop, as has been suggested on occasions, or does it push forward change for the benefit of all? It has been said that the Church of England has the power of a lawnmower engine and the brakes of a juggernaut. Although there are some parallels, the CC is not that bad. The large proportion of the commonality and order that exists in ringing today comes from the work of the CC over the last 100 years or so - but occasionally that progress is hard won! Chris Povey, CC Rep.

### THE CC PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY BLOG

Chris Mew is continuing Kate Flavell's practice of writing a monthly blog, to let people know what is happening. His blog for June can be found on: <http://ccbr.org.uk/blog/2014-06-25/>

### **!THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER RINGING ROADSHOW THIS YEAR!**

It is to be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September at Newbury Racecourse, the location of the last one.

Full details can be found on its web-site: <http://www.ringingroadshow.co.uk/>

## 'STILL LEARNING.....'

During a recent relaxing holiday in Burgundy I excelled – reading two paperbacks. I seldom read books, but daily read almost every page of two national newspapers.

I thought it unwise to commence a third book (our holiday was coming to an end), so I chose to browse a Readers Digest very large volume: 'The Origins of Words & Phrases'. Naturally I focused on words relevant to campanology!

### RING:

In Anglo-Saxon times a gold ring was a symbol of wealth and status – the work comes from the same root as RANK. In Wagner's opera 'the ring of Nibelunges', a ring is an object of power, an idea reinforced by JRR Tolkien's fantasy 'The Lord of the Rings'

### BELFRY:

Although you will find bells (as well as bats\*) in a belfry, the Old English work bell is NOT related to belfry – surprisingly.

A belfry was originally a mobile wooden tower used in the Middle Ages by armies besieging a fortification. The word originally had an 'R', not an 'L' in the middle and came from the Old French 'berfrei'. The first part probably meant 'to protect', and the second 'peace and protection'.

The first belfry connected with a church was a separate bell tower. The word began to be used for a room or storey where bells were hung – in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### ROPE:

One of the Old English words recorded as early as 725AD. A way of dealing with a person who is causing problems is to 'give them enough rope' – give them enough action that they can bring about their own downfall. Similarly, someone who is in a desperate position or a state of near collapse may be described as 'being on the ropes'.

To 'show someone the ropes' is to teach them the established way of doing things. The theme developed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the days of sailing ships – skill in handling ropes – 'learn the ropes' and 'know the ropes'.

'Ropey', meaning not very good, is RAF slang from the early 1940s. It probably derives from the phrase 'money for old rope', although another idea links to the old biplanes festooned with 'ropes' or supporting wires that were then being replaced by more modern Spitfires and Hurricanes.

### CLOCK:

Like cloak, clock is derived ultimately (via Dutch, Northern French, and Medieval Latin) from the Celtic words *clagan* and *clocca*. The original word meant bell, later taking on the sense of 'the striking mechanism of a watch'. Gradually clock came to be applied not to the sound made by the instrument, but to the instrument itself.

John Kinchin.

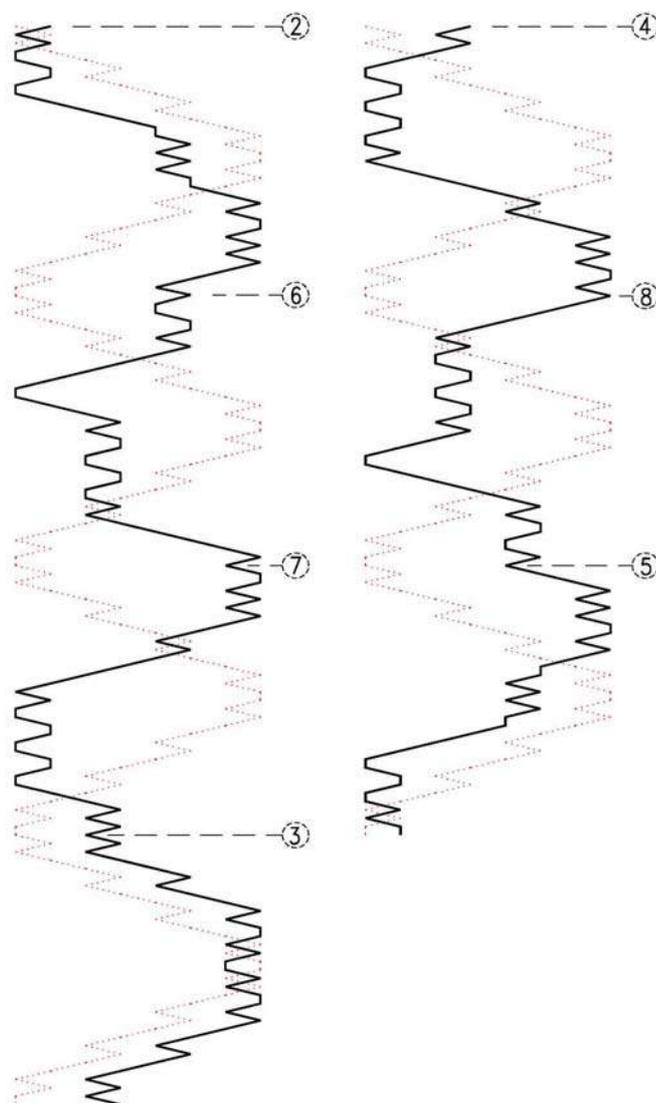
*(\* Evesham Bell Tower was recently inspected by an ecologist as part of the work that it to be carried out to its stonework. His inspection showed no bats at all. He was interested to hear that we'd had a bat in the Ringing Chamber many years ago, which fluttered around among 12 ropes going up and down without being touched by any of them. I contacted the Worcestershire bat lady next day and asked how to get rid of it. She cautioned against touching a bat without a licence, because very heavy fines can apply. She did say they don't like noise, and if it's got in, it will get out on its own – and so it did, because we never saw it again. Yes, the Tower has a clock that strikes the quarters throughout the day and night, so that might be the best way to keep bats away! Now squirrels; they are something else..... Ed)*

## METHOD OF THE QUARTER

Did Wolford and Whichford Surprise Minor methods get tried? It would be nice to think so. What have we this time?

I resisted the temptation to offer Evesham S Royal for the 10-bell practice there on September 6<sup>th</sup> (lovely method though it is). Instead I offer **Bretforton Surprise Major** for the practice on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Most 'standard' Surprise ringers will see it is essentially Pudsey S Major altered a bit: 'bastard Pudsey' perhaps? It is all right-place except for the 5-6 places of 2<sup>nd</sup>'s place bell and 5<sup>th</sup>'s place bell.

### BRETFORTON SURPRISE MAJOR



CMP

(Please don't let me stop those who would like to have a go at Evesham S Royal at the practice. The blue line is readily available – see the following website for a print-out:-

<http://methods.ringing.org/cgi-bin/simpleh.pl?title=evesham&titlex=contains&pagesize=25&action=Search>

and here is here is the place notation if you don't have a computer.

x50x16x1270x1238x14x58x16x70x18x70, lh12

It really is a perfect extension of the Major.)

## RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

### THE APRIL TOUR (the 294<sup>th</sup>)

A beautiful spring day brought out a great turnout of around 29 for the day. It was good to have a 5 included, Stratton Audley, to be treated with respect, not hurried, with a little going a long way, a bit like dark chocolate.

Magnificent white cherry blossom greeted us at Steeple Aston, the only 8 of the day. Smooth and crisp, like a good dry white wine, they lived up to expectations, with some creditable ringing, including Lincolnshire & 8-spliced.

Lunch at the Red Lion, good bellringers fare of Ham Egg & Chips, or for me a hearty Tuscan Bean Soup with Tomato & Mozzarella Salad: delicious.

A grab for many, recently augmented Weston-on-the-Green, gave us a real assault on the senses. Louder in the tower than out, making you pay attention to your striking. Shouting rather like a bright orange fluorescent jacket (or a very hot curry): a memorable tower, I am sure soundproofing will come.

And finally the smooth tones & easy handling of Bletchington (or is it Bletchington?) like a velvety full red wine, to finish with some excellent mixed minor, and Cambridge amongst others.

Thank you Pat for organising a lovely and memorable day.  
**Chris Seers**

### THE MAY TOUR (the 295<sup>th</sup>)

Here in Bidford on Avon the day started nice and bright but the forecast was advising cloud moving across the Midlands. Oh well! we'll wait and see what it brings to Leicestershire.

Our first tower of the day was the 8 at Whetstone with a tenor weight of just over 8cwt. Pat organised the ringing here on this very nice ring in a well kept ringing room. Amongst the methods rang here were Yorkshire, 3 leads of Bristol, Grandsire and Plain Bob. It was also suggested that there was a ladies band and so Stedman was rung by the ladies. This seemed to set the order of the day as at most towers we seemed to have an all female band for a method.

Countesthorpe was our next stop and parking here was a little awkward but we all managed to park and enjoy this 10cwt ring. Geoff looked after the ringing here and Grandsire, Stedman, Yorkshire and Kent were successfully rung. The attempt at London for some reason did not want to go and it was abandoned.

Lunch was for most a carvery at The Shires Inn in Peatling Parva. It was a popular spot but table had been reserved for us and we had a room to ourselves. Michael and Cath Brown were able to meet us here for lunch.

A short walk from the pub brought us to our next tower, Peatling Parva. This is a ground floor ring of 6 with a tenor weight of just over 9 cwt. The sun was shining and Robin had to work hard to encourage us to come in

and ring. We did obey and here amongst the methods rang were Primrose and Norwich besides Plain Bob, Cambridge and Stedman.

Our final tower of the day was an 8cwt ring of 6 at Bitteswell. These bells did not go quite as well as the other 3 towers. The third bell did not really want to go up but eventually had to give into the fight. We all had to battle with long ropes but none the less Brenda guided us through Grandsire, Cambridge, Stedman, London and Alnwick.

Thank you Joy, for not only organising the lunch, the towers but also the warm sunshine which was with us for the day.  
**Sandra Parker**

### THE MARCH TOUR (the 296<sup>th</sup>)

The 296<sup>th</sup> Mid-Week Outing on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014 was arranged by Jenny Ball. Twenty two ringers ventured into Northamptonshire to enjoy seeing a very pretty part of the country.

As it was Ladies Day at the Ascot races that day it was decided the men-folk should have a rest from organizing and let the Ladies take over! The first tower at Moulton was a bit adventurous, being a light twelve with new ropes and access involving a short vertical ladder. We managed rounds and call changes on the 12, then worked our way up from Grandsire Triples to Stedman Caters and Little Bob Maximus, finally ringing the back ten down well in peal. Our co-ordinator, Isobel Murphy was very pleased to score this as her thousandth tower.

We then headed for Oringbury ,a delightful sounding six; which were easy to ring. Here we rang a wide range of methods, which included London and Little Bob.

The day was a bit cool and dull but our enthusiasm wasn't dampened as we walked from the tower to the local hostelry of The Queens Arms for lunch. This was a really good choice with a wide range of food at a reasonable price and more importantly for the men, good beers.

Next was Mears Ashby, a charming village, with good ring of six where Cambridge, London and Norwich were among the methods rung .Our last tower for the day was Earls Barton with a good ring of eight. However the access to the ringing chamber was up an old wooden stepladder; not for the fainthearted, but very interesting to see with a bend in it at the top. We managed not only Grandsire Triples, Erin and Double Norwich, but also eight spliced Surprise Major.

Our thanks go to our "Ladies of the Day"; Jenny for arranging the day, Brenda Nixon, Joy Pluckrose, Pat Halls and Sandra Parker with Ruth Border for running the ringing.  
**Margaret Pratt**

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## SUNDAY TRADING....plus!

The introduction of Sunday trading and general freedom of carrying out sports, etc, on Sundays was greatly frowned upon by many, but to no avail.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May we bellringers left the Church of St Mary's, Ilmington, and the congregation members were arriving. There, in full view, a grave digger was busily at work. *(I can imagine his answer if questioned about gravedigging on a Sunday: "They dies on Sundays, so I reckons I can dig holes for 'em on Sundays...!" Ed)*

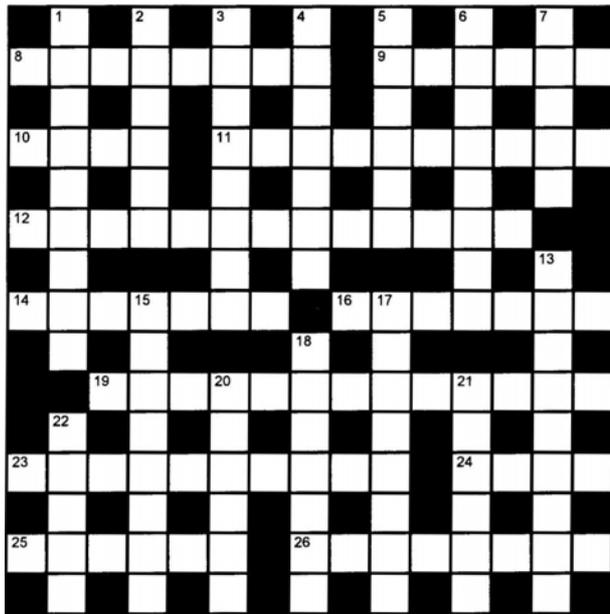
On the following Sunday at St James, Chipping Campden, no sooner had

the bride entered the Church than a big lorry backed up to the steps and the driver commenced collecting Portaloos from the rear of the building. They had been used for the Music Festival. When informed that a wedding ceremony was taking place he responded simply: 'I shall have to hurry then.'

He duly completed the task, at double speed, shortly before the Service concluded. Heaven knows what the dozens of visitors waiting to enter the Church thought!  
John Kinchin.

# EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

No cross words from El Presidente for providing yet another crossword!



Answers to the crossword in the April 2014 Newsletter



## Across

- 8 Form of address to a white lady in the Indian Raj. (8)
- 9 Count seven and find a Gas Giant. (6)
- 10 Bit of an eyesore! (4)
- 11 The accepted term for pieces of work in a method. (5,5)
- 12 Latin name for a tinkling bell. (13)
- 14 E.g. vacqueros or gauchos. Nowadays a term for swindling fly-by-nights. (7)
- 16 Describes a catastrophic end to a peal attempt. (4,3)
- 19 The place where we joined our religion. (3,6,4)
- 23 The location of the renowned St Martin's Society of Bellringers. (10)
- 24 Remuneration. (4)
- 25 Go somewhere along the lines. (2,4)
- 26 Old Fashioned address to a noble. (8)

## Down

- 1 List pet to create the airborne pioneer (4, 5)
- 2 Adapt a fragrance and up we go! (6)
- 3 You understand when this drops. (3,5)
- 4 & 18dn The originator of the famous Gloucester bell foundry. (7,7)
- 5 A desk. (6)
- 6 The Eskimos' dog. (8)
- 7 Valveless brass instrument. (5)
- 13 The Bells' instruction to Dick Whittington. (4,5)
- 15 A traditional term now more likely to be called hippie. (8)
- 17 Legal term for In Private. (8)
- 18 See 4dn
- 20 Taper. (6)
- 21 Eg, 1250 changes for a quarter-peal. (6)
- 22 Used to make gramophone records. (5)

## THE MICKLETON & ILMINGTON RINGING TOUR

The Mickleton & Ilmington campanologists enjoyed a splendid mini-tour through beautiful countryside to visit three churches, each with a ring of 6 bells. The event was organised by Chris Righton, our stalwart member, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Torrential rain did not dampen our enthusiasm, though our anticipated travel time to the first venue was extended due to much road water, spray, etc. What a welcome we had at St Mary's, Bibury. A wedding was to take place in the early afternoon and the floral displays were already being placed. The quantity and the smells were just unbelievable – the likes of which I have personally never experienced over 70 years.

St Mary's bells are a light six, tenor only 9cwt (Mickleton's tenor is 15½cwt). We quickly grasped the 'pulling weight' and rang a good selection: call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire, April Day and St Simon's Doubles, and Plain Bob Minor. The bells were cast and hung by Abraham Rudhall II in 1723, and were rehung on ball bearings in a cast-iron bellframe in 1997.

A most enjoyable lunch followed at The Sherborne Arms, Aldsworth, which stands just off the Burford/Bibury road. The food from a wide menu was excellent and only two ventured into a sweet (one declared afterwards he wished he hadn't – not because of quality but of quantity!).

Our second tower was at Chedworth, the village of Roman Villa fame. The church itself stands in an isolated area on a hill. The approach was well maintained, whereas the rear had been left to nature. Surprisingly, this area did look good, with nature's wild plant flowers and bushes. Chris had

organised the sequence of ringing at Bibury, whereas here Bill Sabin (Ilmington tower captain) ably carried out these duties. Again it was a light 6, the tenor just over 10cwt. The smallest bell had been cast, and presumably hung, by John Rudhall in 1831. The other five were by Abraham Rudhall I in 1717. Of particular interest here was displayed the following extract from the Domesday Book: *There were 15 hides of wood and plain and meadow and 7 ploughs in the time of King Edward, and 16 villains and 3 borders with 6 ploughs and 3 mills of 14 shillings and 2 pence and a toll of salt which was brought to the hall. The headman added thereto 8 villains and 3 borders having 4 ploughs.*

Our final destination was Lower Slaughter. The tenor here is a mere 6cwt! They are not the best sounding bells and our ringing didn't help a lot. Maybe it was due to tiredness. Yours truly officiated here and concluded the ringing with a word of thanks to Chris for such an enjoyable day.

### Footnote:

We travelled in a five-car convoy. It was not without incident. On one occasion we ended up in a cul-de-sac; on another we could not gain entry to our objective due to locked gates; and finally we had a somewhat lengthy detour due to a road closure.

John Kinchin

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS

### GUILD MINIMUS STRIKING COMPETITION FOR THE 'MINI-MOUSE TROPHY'

**TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014, AT NEWBOLD PACEY, WARKS, (4, 7cwt)**

The 'Mini-Mouse' Striking Competition is to happen again this year. Remember, it's intended to be **F U N**, so come along to have some fun. Yet again, it will be held on a genuine 4, so no messing about with a tenor covering.

It's an early evening event, with the competition just before the evening practice, so the programme will be as below.

**6.00-7.00pm:** Striking Competition

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

**7.30-8.15pm:** evening practice ringing for those who haven't rung in the competition.

Teams can be associated with a tower, or any four FSG paid up members can form a team with a name. No ringer can ring for more than two teams. All teams get a warm-up practice of 3 minutes. A maximum of about 10 whole pulls of rounds before the test piece, which is to be of at least 96 changes in any Minimus method. Rounds before and after not marked. No rising and falling in this event. That's it for the Rules!

Names of teams and ringers names in them to me by Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August if possible; otherwise turn up on the day and 'fit in'.

Organiser (*to whom all thanks, Ed*): Peter Quinn 01789-840827 (peterquinn22@googlemail.com)

(The 'Committee' team won it – yet again - last year, but only just. Surely there must be some team who can knock them off their perch? It's about time.)

### ADVANCE NOTICES

#### Guild Xmas Party

The Guild's Christmas Party will take place at the Village Hall, Wellesbourne, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. (Gone past the longest day now. Have to start preparing for Christmas .....)

#### 2015 Guild Annual Dinner

Will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Very likely to be held in Moreton-in-Marsh once again.

### 2014 GUILD WALKING TOUR

Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Start at **Brailes**, ringing 10 - 10.45am,  
(please park carefully and considerately in this area)

Walk to **Cherington** and ring 12 - 12.45pm

Followed by Lunch at 'The Cherington Arms' pub (Hook Norton Ales) or bring your own sandwiches (approx 1 - 2 pm)

Walk to **Sutton-under-Brailes** and ring 3 - 3.45pm

Return to cars by about 5 pm

As always this day is intended for anyone to enjoy: non-ringers who enjoy a walk and looking around our lovely churches and villages; ringers who prefer to drive between towers rather than walk; and of course those who enjoy both walking and ringing. The total distance walked is not great, around 5 miles and there are hills. The organiser is Michael Haynes, who will lead it. If anyone has any queries please get in touch with Michael on [hynmicha6@aol.com](mailto:hynmicha6@aol.com).

### 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](http://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](http://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 [peterquinn22@gmail.com](mailto:peterquinn22@gmail.com)

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

## NOTICES AND ADVERTS (cont)

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### GUILD LAPEL BADGES



The new Guild lapel badge is available. It is slightly different to the previous version, as it 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!)

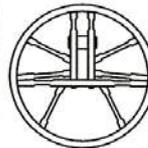
### FOUR SHIRES GUILD BELL RESTORATION FUND

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.

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### AROUND THE TOWERS

#### QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

**Middle Littleton, Worcs**, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Roger Hunt 1, Tom Sandham 2, David Roskelly 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Claire Penny 5, Martin Penny (C) 6. For Shakespeare's birthday and St George's Day.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1272 Plain Bob Minimus: Stefanie Whittle 1, Martin Penny 2, Claire Penny 3, Matthew Kemble (C) 4. 1<sup>st</sup> Q of Minimus for 1, 3 & 4. (*Ahhhh, what some people will do to get noticed, but I'm told it's all part of a plan. I was threatened with inclusion in this, but 'unfortunately' my wife took me off to France..... Ed*)

**Salford Priors, Warks**, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1288 June A Major: Sandra Parker 1, Peter Quinn 2, James Ingham 3, Karen French 4, Robert Reeves 5, Richard Lewis-Skeath 6, John Nicholls 7, Chris Mew (C) 8. Rung to mark the forthcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings.

**Wellesbourne, Warks**, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1260, Stedman Triples: Chris Mew (C) 1, Mark Sayers 2, James Ingham 3, Karen French 4, John Nicholls 5, Michael Haynes 6, Mike Chester 7, Peter Quinn 8.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1320 Mixed Doubles (Grandsire, St Martin's, St Simon's, Plain & April Day): Roland Merrick 1, Claire Penny 2, Chris Povey 3, Martin Penny 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Stefanie Whittle 6.

**Harbury, Warks**, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1280 Cambridge S Major: Chris Mew (C) 1, Julie Doyle 2, John Gwynne 3, F Sage 4, Robert Reeves 5, Michael Danes 6, John Nicholls 7, Peter Quinn 8. Rung in memory of John Banham, ringer at St Peter's, Leamington, prior to his funeral of 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Evesham, Worcs**, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1260 Plain Bob Royal: Chris Povey 1, Claire Penny 2, Freda Cleaver 3, Roger Hunt 4, Nicholas Allsopp 5, Martin Penny 6, Matthew Kemble 7, Paul Smith 8, John Nicholls 9, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 10. A birthday compliment to Chris Povey - 65 today! First Q of Royal: 2 & 7. First Royal as conductor.

**Offenham, Worcs**, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Bob Topp 1, Robert Hall 2, Tom Sandham 3, Claire Penny 4 Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Martin Penny 6.. 1<sup>st</sup> Q on treble: 1. For the Offenham Flower Festival.

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

## ROB HARVEY'S BIRTHDAY PEAL

To celebrate Rob Harvey's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday it was decided instead of ringing the usual quarter that we should ring a peal. To make the peal that bit more special it was going to be 5096 changes long instead of the usual 5088 for a surprise method on 8 bells. The next decision: which method to ring? Looking at various method name databases it was decided that as we were ringing at Whichford the method would have to be Whichford Delight Major, which was first rung to a peal on tower bells on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Whichford. (Place notation: -38-1456-1256-18-14-18-12.56.78, lh12)

Coventry Diocesan Guild  
St Michael, Whichford, Warwickshire  
Saturday, 21 June 2014 in 2h 53m (13)

5096 Whichford Delight Major  
Composed by D F Morrison

1 Keith R Murphy	5 Robert Tregillus
2 Richard Lewis-Skeath	6 Mark W Sayers
3 John W G Gwynne	7 Simon E Adams
4 Nicholas K Allsopp	8 Michael Chester (C)

Rung as a 96<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Robert Harvey,  
a ringer at Whichford for 85 years.



Photograph of the band just after the peal. Front r-l: Keith, Richard, John, Nicholas. Back: l-r: Robert, Mark, Simon, Michael.

Before the peal Rob came and was introduced to the band and listened to the striking. Despite the unusual start the band quickly settled into a good rhythm and the peal was scored in just under 3 hours. Afterwards the band, along with Rob's family, retired to the Norman Knight Inn for refreshments and lunch.

The composition was specially created to give 5096 changes. For a typical Surprise/Delight method there are 32 changes per lead end, so with ringing 159 lead ends you get 5088 changes. To get the extra 8 changes the band started the method on the 25<sup>th</sup> row of a lead end. This is shown in the composition below.

Composed by D F Morrison  
5,096 Whichford Delight Major  
(432156) B M W H

134256	2*	-	
53246		-	3
34562	-		
56342	3	-	-
52643	2	3	-
65243		3	-
43265	3		-
36452	-		3
45362		-	-
23456	4		-

2\* = t -.

t = 34.

Start with rounds the 25<sup>th</sup> row of a lead, the 4<sup>th</sup> acting as the treble. Calling the t at Middle eight blows later, makes the treble begin its proper work for the rest of the peal.

The band would like to thank: Peter Kenealy for helping with the arrangements and ensuring the ropes were in excellent order; also, to Rob for kindly providing the refreshments and lunch. We wish him many more years of happy life.

Nicholas Allsopp

*(Glad the peal was successful. I think we all wish Rob many more years of happy life to come. Ed)*

### PEOPLE AND PLACES:-

**Pebworth.** Things are now happening here with the replacement of the cracked headstock. An assessment of the two quotations received was undertaken, which showed that John Taylor & Co should be engaged to undertake the work. The PCC is at present applying for a faculty and will soon be applying for grants for this work. As soon as the faculty is received, Taylors will fabricate the new stock and will fit it soon after. The tenor will once again be ringing in, probably, September, after which the ring can be used as a 10 again – a lay-off of nearly 2 years.

**Moreton-in-Marsh.** Ringing is still suspended here, due to work on the top of the spire. Hopefully this can be completed soon and ringing can restart.

Taylors will soon be undertaking refurbishment work at **Stow-on-the-Wold**. The work is essentially to clappers and pulleys. The bells will be lifted slightly to enable the bearings to be dismantled. These will be checked over and re-assembled with new seals and grease. In addition the tie-bolts in the pitch pine bellframe will be tightened to stiffen it up. Even though it's a

mighty frame, the mighty ring of bells gives it some exercise!

**Lower Quinton** bells may still be out of action due to a piece of masonry falling from inside the spire, making the spire unsafe in that area. The lump of masonry broke the wheel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (?) bell. Nothing can be done to the wheel to make the bells ringable again until the problem with the spire is attended to. I understand there may be an 'internal problem' in progressing the work. Let's hope this does not develop into another long-term unringable situation as happened at Pebworth. Does anyone have an update?

**Adlestrop:** finance to allow this project to go ahead might soon appear. There are encouraging noises in this respect from that direction, but nothing is ever firm until the ink is dry on the paper.... The proposal is to discard the tenor and use the treble, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> as the back three (retuned) of a lighter ring of 5, or possibly 6. Let's hope something can happen there.

# DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JULY 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>NO PRACTICE. GUILD RINGING TOUR</u></b> (Full details in last Newsletter)
JULY 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SAINTBURY</b> , Glos 8, 11-0-24 in F (GF)
JULY 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TREDINGTON</b> , Warks 6, 16-1-20 in D (GF)
JULY 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BLOCKLEY</b> , Glos 8, 16-0-27 in F
AUG 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>BUTLERS MARSTON</b> , Warks 6, 14-0-20 in G (GF)
AUG 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BRETFORTON</b> , Worcs 8, 8-3-11 in F# (GF) <b>Note: 7.00-8.30pm</b>
AUG 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TODENHAM</b> , Glos 6, 12-2-10 in F (GF)
AUG 23 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER</b> , Glos 8, 12-1-22 in F#
AUG 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BROADWAY</b> , Worcs 6, 18-1-16 in E (GF)
SEPT 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EVESHAM</b> , Worcs 10, 14-2-26 in F# (10-bell practice)
SEPT 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>MINIMUS COMPETITION IN THE EVENING, NEWBOLD PACEY</u></b> , Warks (4, 7cwt) See p.11
SEPT 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ILMINGTON</b> , Warks 8, 12-3-26 in E (GF) <b>Note: 7.00-8.30pm</b>
SEPT 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>bledington</b> , Warks 6, 8-0-13 in G <b>Note: 7.00-8.45pm</b> Also <b><u>GUILD WALKING TOUR</u></b> in the Brailles area. See Notice for details on p.11
OCT 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WILLERSEY</b> , Glos 6, 12cwt in G (Take care with the tricky steps)
OCT 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>COLD ASTON</b> , Glos 5, 5-3-16 in B (GF)
OCT 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GUILD A.G.M. AT WHICHFORD</b> (See Notice of all details on p.3)
OCT 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBA

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:

### **ELECTIONS REQUIRED AT THE 2014 AGM**

Every year the Guild Rules require that members are elected to the posts of Guild Master, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and Ringing Master (the Guild Officer posts). In addition, six members are elected to serve on the Committee. There are no elections this year for President, Vice-Presidents and Central Council representatives

It helps greatly if the attached proposal slip is used to put candidates forward. It means the candidate doesn't have to be there, as his/her permission is already signified.

**Firstly, please consider standing for these posts.**

**Secondly, please propose candidates**

(and please use the slip!)

## **Events for 2014: book the dates:-**

<b>Guild Ringing Tour</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> July: Faringdon area; full details were in the April Newsletter</b>
<b>Minimus Striking Comp</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> September: at Newbold Pacey (details p.11)</b>
<b>Walking tour</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> September: Full details are on p.11</b>
<b>AGM &amp; Striking Comps</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> October: at Whichford. Full details are on p.3</b>
<b>Guild Christmas Party</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> December at Wellesbourne</b>