

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central  Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 142 - OCT 2014

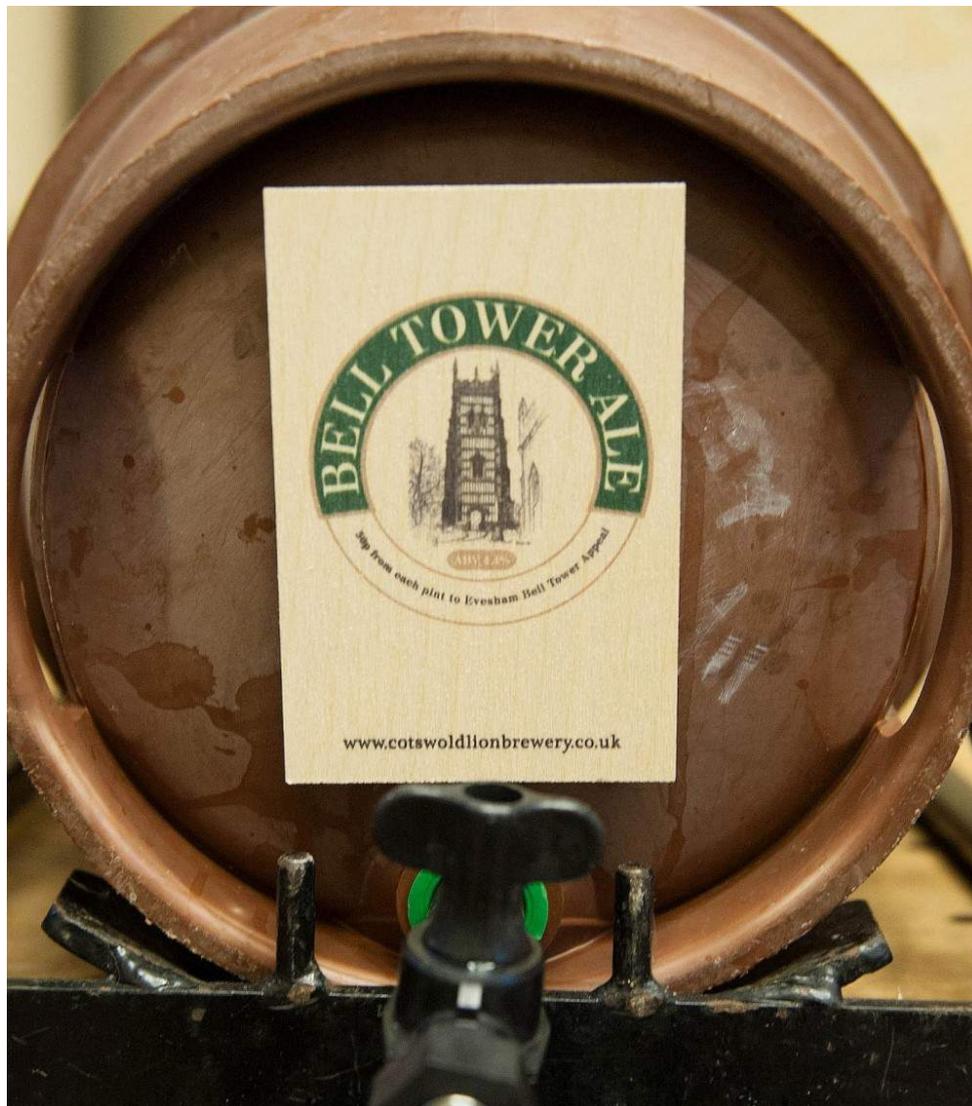


Founded Oct 18th 1909

CONTENTS

P.2	Officers & Committee members	P.9	Freda's birthday party, Mid-week outings
P.3	Notice of AGM, Guild Master's Report	P.11	CCCBR News, New Evesham Bell Tower!
P.4	Editorial; Committee meeting	P.12	Mickleton & Ilmington's new model bell
P.5	St George's Brailles Ringing Tour	P.12	Guild walking and ringing tour
P.5	The Minnie-Mouse Striking Comp	P.13	El Pres's crossword, Around the towers
P.6	Archives: 40 yrs & 100 yrs ago	P.14	Notices
P.7	Stumped!, Guild Ringing Tour	P.15	Peals, quarters and other ringing
P.8	Bell Tower Ale	P.16	Saturday towers, Tag End

FANCY A PINT?



(Photo: Rev Andrew Spurr)

I'm aware this is a very unusual front-page feature. Yes, ringing and having one or two down the pub afterwards is common, but this is a very uncommon event. I cannot argue this eclipses the great connection Hook Norton has with English Ale, but nonetheless feel it is worthy of bringing it to your attention: Bell Tower Ale. Not just any old Bell Tower, but **EVESHAM** Bell Tower Ale!! Now that could be difficult to beat – unless you know differently of course....

So how has this all come about? Read all about it on p.8

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

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

Mr Keith Murphy

Mrs Jackie Hands

Mr Stuart Cummings

Mr Chris Povey

Mr Michael Haynes

CCCBR Representatives

Mr Chris Povey

cmpovey@btinternet.com

Mr Andrew Gunn

awgrf@hotmail.com

Guild Peal Recorder

Mrs Sandra Parker

parker@bidford948.fsnet.co.uk

Programme Secretary

Mr Stuart Cummings

Membership Secretary

Mr Peter Kenealy

Child Protection Officer

Mrs Sophia Lewis-Skeath

Health & Safety Officer

Mr Chris Povey

Mid-week Tours

General Contact

Mrs Isobel Murphy

isobel.murphy@btinternet.com

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 2015) is December 13th 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.)

THAT TIME IS SOON TO BE WITH US AGAIN, FOLKS...

I AM OF COURSE REFERRING TO SUBSCRIPTIONS (SEE RATES ABOVE)!!

***YES, IT WILL SOON BE 1st JANUARY, WHEN ALL GOOD MEMBERS PAY TO CONTINUE BEING A MEMBER
– AND OF COURSE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING YOUR FAVOURITE NEWSLETTER!***

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)

ON SATURDAY 18th 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**

Evening ringing: if there are sufficient numbers to do so

FULL DETAILS OF AGENDA, ETC, IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER

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.

GUILD MASTER'S REPORT FOR THE 2014 AGM: YEAR 2013–2014

I am pleased to report again that your Guild in the year 2013 to 2014 has been very active again, and your committee, elected at the last Annual General Meeting, has again been working extremely hard on your behalf. Our Honorary Treasurer, Michael Dane, will make his report at the 2014 AGM. The Guild accounts have been published in the Newsletter. They successfully withstood the examination Guild Accounts Examiners Mike Fairfax and Trevor Hobday.

The weekly practices have again been very well attended. The Ringing Master, Sophia Lewis-Skeath, has either run them or appointed a deputy to do so, we must thank Stuart Cummings for the sterling work he has done in arranging all the towers.

Our Christmas social event was again held at Wellesbourne, where after ringing we moved over to the Church Centre for the Christmas Party. A good variety of food was laid on, and, having eaten, we again settled down for Carol singing, with accompaniment from Linda Dane on piano. A raffle was held during the evening with proceeds to our bell restoration fund.

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 1st February 2014 at The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton in Marsh. It was thoroughly enjoyed by 45 ringers and partners. Our guest speaker was one of our own members, Chris Righton, who was able to tell us and entertain us about his time in the hierarchy of the NFU. Chris was right at the top of the NFU based in London for a number of years; he was also the NFU and British farming representative at the European Union in Brussels. This position gave him the opportunity to visit many other countries, which included conferences in the USA.

At the end of his speech he spoke about the lack of younger ringers coming into the Exercise and in particular in the Four Shires Guild's area. He was very concerned that when the present generation no longer rang, bells would fall silent on a Sunday. He asked the Guild's Committee to consider some teaching facility such as that at Kinton and that he wanted to be the first to make a £100 donation towards it.

The Annual Ringing Tour for 2014 was again organised by Richard Lewis-Skeath. It took place in West Oxon around the Faringdon area and was a one-day tour this time. As before, it was well attended.

The website under the control Roland Merrick is keeping everyone well informed about Guild activities. It contains the Guild Newsletter to be read online. It also displays the latest information with regard to the availability of Guild clothing for purchase.

Chris Povey is editor (he says caretaker editor...) of the Guild Newsletter and our thanks must go to him for still producing an excellent product. The quality and content is outstanding. Guild members are still undertaking the printing.

An abridged version of the minutes of the most-recent Guild Committee meeting is always published in the Newsletter, so that all members are as up-to-date as possible with Guild business. They can then inform the Hon Secretary about any items they wish to be discussed at these meetings or request clarification about items already discussed.

Please do not forget our Bell Restoration Fund if you need financial help with your bells. Please make a written application to the Guild Committee, which will be considered at our quarterly meetings.

I would thank all members of the committee again this year for their commitment and continuing hard work, and for the time they have given to attending the committee meetings held during this year. Also to our CCCBR representatives in attending Central Council meeting in Kent and the various committee meetings. Finally I would like to thank Michael Haynes for organising the annual Guild walk, and Isobel Murphy for the hard work in coordinating the FSG monthly tours and for the contribution that is made from those tours via her to the Bell Restoration Fund.

Peter Quinn

EDITORIAL

Firstly, an apology: to Mrs Chris Seers, whose report of the April Mid-week tour appeared in the last Newsletter (July). Why the apology? Because I referred to Chris as 'he'. One might say that, in my particular case, the error was somewhat understandable. Nonetheless, it's sackcloth and ashes. So, what about compensation? Well, Chris, you have my full permission to refer to me as 'she' should you feel moved to do so – but that permission is only granted to you in case others feel similarly empowered.... I'm delighted to say Chris has provided another of her lovely reports on p.10. It's well worth reading. Please keep writing them, Chris!

This issue has had a large number of contributors, submitting a lot of copy, for which I thank them all. It's made a bumper issue again. Wonderful! I apologise for the many references to Evesham Bell Tower this time, but many things have happened.

There will be a number of vacancies to be filled at the AGM this year. Sophia is standing down as Ringing Master, and Andrew Gunn has indicated his wish to stand down as Hon. Secretary. Patrick Wooster has vacated the post of Guild Chaplain. The Guild continues – and successfully, too – because of input given by volunteers in the various posts. I believe it's a happy ship, so please consider joining the crew when the vacancies are considered on October 18th. Please don't stay away to avoid any chance of being pulled in, because that would be a shame; and please don't hide behind the pillars if you do come! The Guild needs YOU.

The Notes of the last Committee meeting record 12 new members. It is good to see, that some of them are attending Guild events already; and one, 'Roger de Flaedenburg', has contributed an article (and previous articles, too). Welcome to you all.

Hearty congratulations to Roland Merrick (1st peal) and Matthew Kemble (1st as conductor) at Offenham on September 13th (p.15).

Lastly, my youngest son was married to Kathryn (our first daughter-in-law) at Wormington on September 20th. Wormington Church doesn't feature in

Dove's Guide to Ringing Towers, because it has a 5cwt ring of 11! What does one do in these cases? A solution was devised: handbells! Helen and I, and Kathryn and Dom, are very grateful to Freda Cleaver, Martin and Claire Penny, and Matthew Kemble for doing the bizz on the day, both before and after the ceremony. I managed to 'augment' to 10 for a very brief spell before being whisked off to the reception. My own set of bells was used, still sparkly after refurbishment work a few years back. Here is a photo of that very select band:



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, 19th AUGUST.

The Committee met on Tuesday 19th August at the Hon Sec's home in Ilmington. Sophia Lewis-Skeath, Michael Dane and Keith Murphy presented apologies.

1) The Minutes of the December meeting 2013 were considered. The amendments from Chris were agreed and therefore the Minutes of that meeting. The Minutes of the last Meeting 18th Feb were agreed.

2) **Matters arising** were:-

2014 Ringing Tour feedback: all agreed this was another excellent event and a letter thanking Richard L-S for this to be sent;

Oxon tower fees: not yet done as the Sec has lost address data through his PC being hacked. He to retrieve and get the letter out;

Guild artefacts database: data reqd from Peter Q;

Old Minute Book: Chris had discussed with Steve Bowley. He recommended agreeing with Steve about depositing the book at Gloucester Archives. This was agreed on a vote;

Peal books: John checking data

Striking Comp certificates: Peter Q to supply for the forthcoming AGM and competitions;

3) **Reports**: the following are highlights:-

Hon Secretary: Andrew mentioned that Upper Slaughter had been cited as a Doubly-Thankful

Village in a Telegraph article about WW1. He also said he may wish to retire at the AGM
Treasurer: Michael D presented his quarterly report. As expected, all well!

Ringing Master: Sophia had reported that she wishes to stand down, as she has moved out of the area;

Membership Sec: 12 new members were reported to the meeting: A T Dean and G Fermor (both Ebrington); Bob Topp (Willersey), Roger Hunt, George Jelfs & Ray Waldron (all Bretforton); June Arran, (Sherborne); Ian Sturgess (Welford-on-Avon); Alison Merryweather-Clarke (N. Leigh), Michael Mellor, and Michael Probert & Neil Ephgrave (Freeland);

Fixture Sec: working on the next batch of towers;

Newsletter Editor: working towards the end of September deadline!

Bell Restoration Fund: an application from Pebworth for a grant towards a new tenor headstock. The papers were circulated and this will be considered at the November Committee meeting. Peter K said the new ropes from Taylors had come and that Whichford was pleased with them.

4) **Items for discussion**:-

Minimus Comp, Newbold Pacey: in hand;
Guild Walk: Michael H reported all in hand;

Guild AGM and Striking Comps at Whichford: Peter K reported that the church and hall for the teas are booked. Vicar and organist are booked. Need to find a place for the judges;

Retirements from posts at AGM: RM and possibly Hon Sec to retire. The Rev P Wooster wishes to cease being the Guild Chaplain;

Guild Xmas Party, 13th Dec: all arranged. To be at Wellesbourne;

Guild Annual Dinner, 7th Feb 2015: agreed to be at the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh, again. Peter Q to make the arrangements;

Non Resident Life Membership: agreed to monitor the demand for this and to discuss again if it is significant.

Next Meeting: **Tues 18th Nov 2014.**

Future Committee meeting dates: agreed as 18th Nov 2014, 17th Feb 2015, 18th May, 18th Aug and 17th Nov.

(NB: these notes do not supplant the formally-agreed Minutes.)

ST GEORGE'S, BRAILES, RINGING TOUR 4TH JULY 2014



On this day, which would have been the late Juliet Reynold's 50th birthday, Brailes ringers, Four Shires Guild members and ringing friends of Juliet went on a ringing tour to towers off the Fosseway in Warwickshire.

Juliet asked me to arrange a ringing tour on her 50th birthday, and her husband, Chris, would learn to ring for it. So, with her in our thoughts and Ian driving the mini bus, we set off up the Fosseway.

Our first ring of the day was at Harbury, where we were joined by other ringing friends of Juliet. At Harbury husband Chris had a short ring, as was her wish.

We then went to Radford Semele, a 6-bell ring that was gutted by fire several years ago and has been rebuilt and bells rehung. This was followed by ringing at Cubbington. By then we were about 30 in total in our tour!

We then had lunch at the King's Head at Cubbington, just over the road from the Church.

After lunch we then travelled to Wolston Church, and our final ring of the day was at Brinklow Church. These bells were augmented to a ring of 8 bells in 2011, the two new trebles being cast by John Taylor & Co. The work was completed at Easter 2011.

A lovely day was had by all, and we fulfilled Juliet's wish.

A sum of £435-00 was sent to Breast Cancer Research and a receipt received. Many thanks to all for this excellent sum raised.



Ringling at Wolston, L-R: Michael Cummings, Bill Nash, Chris Righton, Jackie Hands, Keith Chambers (Tower Captain) just out of sight behind Jackie, Michael Haynes, John Carroll & Richard L-S

Stuart Cummings.

THE MINNIE MOUSE (MINIMUS) COMPETITION

Six bands met at Newbold Pacey on September 6th to compete for the Minnie Mouse (Minimus) Striking Competition. Six teams took part, which is an indication that this event is not for anoraks (!) and that it really is fun. It was also interesting to see how much the hedges and trees had grown since I took the photo that appeared on the July front cover!

I'd not rung at Newbold Pacey since about 1996, so wanted to confirm that the bells – all cast by Michael Bushell of Evesham in 1707 – were as good as I recalled. Things fade or amplify with time! All the bells are maidens, ie never been tuned since being broken out from the moulds, so errors in note can be expected. It was very pleasing to hear that they sounded good, in fact very good. Yes, the treble sounded fractionally sharp, but it gives a bright start to the rounds.

As reported in the July Newsletter, there are plans to augment to 5. Hopefully the new treble will be cast to the same profiles as the others, and hopefully its note will be slightly sharp to coincide with the present treble. Perhaps the founder could try their hand at casting a maiden bell to fit.... Please, please do not retune the present four: please leave them as maidens as an excellent tribute to Michael Bushell.

'The Committee' team was again defending its position as winner of last (and previous) year's Competition. El Presidente was wheeled in to fill one of the slots in the team, so we knew things were going to be OK.

In the event, 'The Committee' team did win, but by only the faintest of whiskers, so we know the time is coming when we shall be toppled from this

position. It's about time it happened! The team led by Richard L-S came second. The judge was John Wheeler from Wellesbourne.

We don't know yet where next year's Minimus Competition will be held, but there will be a Competition. Please come to it, wherever it is, because (a) it really is a lot of fun, and (b) the 'Committee Team' is waiting for a team to knock it off its long-held perch!



The Committee team with Trophy L-R: Michael, John, Peter, Chris

It's a happy little event. Do give it a try next year.
Chris Povey

FROM THE ARCHIVES 100 YEARS AGO

In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee Meeting held on 25th September 1914 (as reproduced in July's Newsletter), no Autumn Meeting was held. There was no further meeting until 16th April 1915, when the Committee met to

discuss the future Annual Meeting at Campden, which was held on 20th May 1915. The Minutes referring to these meetings will be reproduced in the April 2015 Newsletter. These Minutes really do allow us to relive what was happening in our

area and to our ringing forebears in the light of 'The Great European War' as it was described then.
Ed

FROM THE ARCHIVES 40 YEARS AGO

Bumper crop of old Minutes this time, making up for the dearth of such 40 years ago last time.

Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 1974 at the Red Lion, Chipping Campden.

Present: H O Hart, Chairman, A J Brazier, C E Evans, M Fairfax, S C Holden, and Revd. R F Rother

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Minutes of previous meeting: the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th March 1974 were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Ringing Outing: The Secretary reported on the arrangements for the ringing outing on 12th October.

Ringing Competition: the Secretary reported that arrangements for ringing competition at Offenham on 26th October were in hand, and that they would broadly follow the previous programme. It was decided to ask the same judges to act for the two competitions held in the same year, and the Secretary was asked to contact Messrs Arthur and Andrew Jopp to request them to judge the October competition. Representatives of the only two teams to enter the April competition, H O Hart and S C Holden, agreed to put forward, for consideration by their teams, a suggestion that all teams entering for the 1974 October competition be eligible to compete for the silver trophy. Chipping Campden and Bledington would use the higher set of marks from the April or October competitions.

Annual General Meeting: Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting to follow the Ringing Competitions was discussed and approved.

Subscriptions: it was agreed to recommend the present subscriptions to continue for 1975.

Amendment to Rules: it agreed to recommend that the following addition to the rules be made. Membership – new class: (iv) Non-resident Ringing Member. A ringer normally residing outside the area covered by the Guild, otherwise to be eligible and elected as Ringing Members. Members in this class shall not exceed one-fifth of the current membership under class (i) and shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Guild.

Accounts: the accounts to be submitted for approval showed a balance in hand as at 31st December 1973 of £11-75 being mainly subscriptions for 1974 paid in advance.

Dinner: Arrangements were left with the Chairman and Secretary.

The meeting was then closed by the Chairman.

(Signed) Henry O Hart

4th Feb 1975

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 26th October 1974 at the Village Hall, Offenham, Mr H O Hart, Guild Master, Chairman.

Apologies: Apologies were received from S C Holden and Revd R F Rothery.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 27th October were read and confirmed, and signed by the Chairman.

Confirmation of Election of Members: the Secretary reported that there were forty paid-up Ringing Members of the Guild.

Secretary's Report for 1973: In a brief report, the Secretary recorded that Saturday practices had proceeded to the end of 1973 covering many towers and attended by ringers from both within the Guild area and the surrounding Association Branches. These practices were continuing during 1974.

Treasurer's Report for 1973: With the Guild recommencing activities from 1st January 1974, the main item to report is the receipt of 1974 subscriptions in advance amounting to £10-75.

Adoption of Reports: It was agreed that the reports be adopted.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents: It was agreed to leave these positions vacant.

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

Secretary & Treasurer: Proposed by H O Hart, seconded by J W Nicholls, that A J Brazier be elected. Carried.

Auditors: It was agreed to leave the appointment of Auditors to the Committee.

Committee: Proposed by R Canning, seconded by B Castle that the following Members be elected to the Committee: C E Evans, M J Fairfax, G R Harper, S C Holden, and Revd R F Rothery. Carried.

Subscriptions: It was agreed that subscriptions for 1975 shall be fifty pence, reduced to twenty-five pence for children aged sixteen years or less on 31st December 1975. A suggestion from R Canning that membership application forms be provided was accepted.

Addition to the Rules: Proposed by J W Nicholls, seconded by B Castle, that the following amendment to the Rules be made under the heading 'Membership' after '... to the Secretary'. (iv) Extra Terrestrial Members. Ringers normally residing and ringing outside the area covered by the Guild – and shall be elected on the Proposition of a Ringing Member, seconded by an Officer of the Guild. Such election shall be formally notified to the next Annual General Meeting. The number of Members elected under this class shall not exceed one-quarter of the number of current members in class (i) and shall be elected annually.

Badges: One of the existing Four Shires Guild badges was shown to the meeting and discussions took place concerning provision of badges. It was agreed to leave the matter for consideration by the Committee.

Votes of Thanks: Prior to commencement of the Meeting, the Guild Master thanked Revd and Mrs W A Bates for conducting and assisting with the Ringers' Service. Revd Bates thanked the ladies for providing the teas.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

(Signed) Henry O Hart,

25th October 1975

It seems very strange to see subscriptions at 50 pence and cash in the bank of £11-75. What piffling amounts, you might say. However, the internet says that amounts have risen exactly tenfold through inflation since 1974, so 50p is £5 and £11.75 is £117.50. The present subscription rate is £5, so that one matches inflation perfectly. The Guild has (thankfully) much more than £117.50 in hand, because the stripling Guild was starting from scratch in 1974 and the present Guild has more events and more liabilities (eg insurances and other overheads) than the Guild of 1974.

It's very interesting to see what happened in the past and the levels of subscriptions and other costs at those times. The financial impact of the present £5 sub is exactly the same as 1974 – and there was no Newsletter four times a year then either. Ed

Tales from a tower near you (1):

STUMPED!

Following on from my article on the refurbishment of Bretforton bells some readers may wish for further enlightenment on the subject of cast-in crown staples. Historically they have proved to be a well-engineered method of retaining (or hanging) the clapper in the bell but, having been conceived some two hundred years before stainless steel, their iron construction had one Achilles' heel– they could corrode easily causing material expansion and this was something that a bell, essentially made of an amalgam of copper and tin, could not accommodate, particularly when the staple was cast in creating a tight fit with the surrounding bell metal.

My accompanying photo of a complete staple (probably unused) clearly shows the square shaped 'prismatic' top which when cast in could not fall out or rotate no matter what the bells orientation.



In FSG Newsletter no 140 (April '14) the front cover featured Oddington (St Nicholas), where I assisted Arthur Berry with the bellframe decoration back in 1998/9. The 5-bell installation had been recovered from supposed dereliction and restored in 1973 by a reputable bellfounding company which involved a new frame, an additional treble bell, the recasting of two of the three remaining Rudhall bells of 1684 vintage (due to being cracked) and the retention of the last example of Rudhall's earliest bells (the present fourth in the ring) on a canon retaining headstock. The new frame was not galvanised, hence 25 years later the dire need to repaint.

Sadly upon cursory examination during cleaning down I noticed the 4th bell was cracked across the crown but fortunately due to the combination of current practice of not destroying noteworthy bells and the expertise of Soundweld, the bell was saved. It was welded following the removal of the cast-in stumps of the old staple (an exercise not carried out when the old clappers were replaced and the cast-in staples cut off as had occurred at Bretforton – by the 'other' bellfounding company I might add). Possibly the bell was already starting to crack in 1973 but undoubtedly not removing the stumps at that time together with fitting a headstock which completely exposed the crown of the bell to the elements (whereas a snug-fitting wooden stock offered some shelter from such) accelerated the end result! Fred Sharpe's Church Bells of Gloucestershire gives further history and a good photo of the newly kitted-out 4th bell.

The bell chamber at Oddington is not a cosy place, nor did the church have electricity. We shipped in a generator set for lighting which was chained and padlocked to the tower ladder as it ran during the day and the church door was left wide open to reduce the fumes – there was no objection despite the close proximity of the priceless wall paintings. A full tank would run out by 3.30 in the afternoon giving time for the set to cool and be loaded into my Astra estate car for overnight keeping.

And the other memories here? One afternoon we spotted what appeared to be a bank of fog rolling across the open countryside towards us. A few minutes later the snow was hurtling in the west louvre and exiting by the east louvre! No wonder the elements were unkind to the bells and frame. There was also a small crevice in one of the stone window reveals into which a Goldcrest was nesting (although they more usually nest in fir trees) – along with the Firecrest they are Europe's smallest birds.

'Roger de Flaedenburg'

(It is Roger de F's intention to write a series of these. I look forward to the rest of the series with great interest and anticipation. Ed)

THE 2014 GUILD ANNUAL RINGING TOUR, JULY 5TH.

Despite the somewhat cloudy and showery weather on Saturday morning, July 5th, a goodly number of members met at Longcot, Oxon, which was the first tower for the Guild's Annual Ringing Tour. Richard Lewis-Skeath had waved his magic tower tour wand and had arranged eight towers for our delectation. All were in the Faringdon and Bampton area of Oxfordshire. Not a million miles to travel, but far enough away to feel it's a different land.

Longcot are a ground floor ring of 8 with a tenor of 8-1-8. They were rehung and augmented from 6 in 1998 by Hayward Mills Associates, presumably as part of the nationwide Ring in the Millennium project at that time. They were pleasant to ring. Richard L-S called the classic touch of Stedman Triples here that includes Queen's, Tittums and Whittington's and very happily it was completed without fault. Nice.

I was very much looking forward to ringing at the next tower, Faringdon, which houses a complete Taylor ring of 1926, tenor 17-1-7 in E. These had the potential to be the star turn of the day, but sadly the ringing conditions there were a bit disappointing due to the nature of the tower,

which is central and short. This has the effect of causing the Ringing Room to be immediately under the bells. In addition there were two beams sticking up from the floor, one of which was where the 7th and tenor ringers stand. Lastly, there is a veritable spider's web of clock and carillon wires hanging from the fairly low ceiling. These wires get knocked frequently while ringing. (It is possible to avoid them by some very tidy bell handling – just - but this wasn't the norm.) There was one touch where the wires above the 6th bell weren't knocked, the striking was good and the beauty of these bells started to float down – oddly, another of Stedman Triples. Yes, they could be struck to give a Wow!, but they needed care.

The next tower was the nice little six, at Shellingford, where the rain came. But they are a ground floor ring, so everybody could happily shelter inside the church when it did. This ring were a four until 1998, when the aforesaid Ring in the Millennium project caused the augmentation, which in this case was undertaken by Nicholson Engineering. The tenor here is a handy 6-2-10 – sufficiently handy to allow most people to get them tapping away nicely.



Ringling at Shellingford L-R: Ian Stonehouse, Christina Ireland, Roland Merrick, Rosemary Cole, Ted Copson, John Hearne, Sandra Parker.

Unfortunately I had to leave the Tour after Shellingford, as I had to attend a somewhat-significant family gathering back at The Ranch. Bit of a shame, as the afternoon towers looked good, but..... orders was orders!

Chris Povey

Peter Kenealy takes up the story for the afternoon:-

An enjoyable lunch was taken at the Horse and Jockey in Stanford-in-the-Vale, where we met two visitors from the U.S.A., Bruce and Eileen

Butler from Philadelphia, and they joined us for ringing at the first three towers.

The first tower after lunch was at the church of St. Denys, Stanford-in-the-Vale, an 8cwt 8, where Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples and Yorkshire S Major were rung.

We then moved on to Buckland, the Church of St. Mary, with a 17cwt ring of 8 bells. Here Bob Major, Stedman, and Cambridge were rung.

After that we rang at the Church of St. James, Aston, the only 6-bell tower of the afternoon, with a tenor of 12cwt, where the methods were Grandsire Doubles, Bob Minor and Stedman Doubles.

We then moved on to Bampton, also dedicated to St. Mary, with a 23cwt 8. At this tower Original, Grandsire Triples, and Stedman Triples were rung.

We finished off the afternoon at St. Stephen's, Clanfield, an 8-bell ring, with a tenor of 12cwt. Here most methods foundered due to the 6th bell's sally having the disconcerting habit of snagging on the rope guide, and jumping the wheel. This seemed to catch most people out. Apart from this it was a most successful day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Peter Kenealy

(Yet another big success to add to your long line of big successes in the FSG Ringing Tours line, Richard. I'm sure all who went echo my thanks to you for arranging this enjoyable one. Ed)

BELL TOWER ALE (in fact, EVESHAM Bell Tower Ale!)

OK, what's all this Bell Tower Ale about, then? It's not every day this sort of thing happens, so why? Some of you will know that Evesham Bell Tower requires its occasional renovation, to ensure the stonework around its parapets and in other places is firstly safe (bits of stone falling onto the heads of people walking through the archway below is not good) and secondly that the eroded stone features are restored to their previous glory. The tower is not in danger of collapsing, even with the bells ringing (and nothing is being done to the bells). It's the 'sticky-out bits', the decorative features in most cases, that have suffered badly from erosion and frost damage during in particular the nasty winters of 2010 and 2012. The last renovation was undertaken in 1951, when the new 12 were installed. The present work will cost £0.5M. The Appeal has gone amazingly well, with 90% of that sum raised in just over a year. The last 10% is expected fairly soon. OK, where does Bell Tower Ale come in?

Nigel Smith, the landlord of The Fleece Inn at Bretforton (the National Trust pub), decided to help the Appeal by offering to have a new ale brewed and naming it Bell Tower Ale. He said he would give 50p to the Appeal for each pint sold. There had to be a big launch for such a venture and it was suggested that it should be in the Bell Tower. Wonderful idea! So such a thing was arranged.

Nigel brought a barrel up to the Ringing Room. To suit the occasion the Bell Tower ringers wore their 'official' Evesham Bell Tower Guild of Ringers strip of sweatshirts and tee shirts. The dignitaries attending included the Vicar Andrew Spurr, the Town Mayor Charlie Homer, the Appeal Chairman Sue Ablett and the Appeal Treasurer Stan Brotherton. As might be expected, it was quite an

occasion. One reads of the drunken goings-on in towers in the 18th and 19th centuries, and how the clergy of those times had difficulties in bringing these practices to a stop. Happily things did not get out of hand this time – although there was plenty of ale to do this! Indeed, Evesham's Vicar enjoyed his pint along with everybody else (he's a good 'un and you're not getting him!). I'm delighted and rather proud to say that he took the photo below: thank you Andrew.



So, I can only encourage all Guild members to get along to The Fleece for a few pints of this excellent stuff. You will enjoy it, Nigel will enjoy selling it to you and the Bell Tower Appeal will enjoy receiving 50p per pint. Got to be a good bargain!

Nigel is a ringer at Bretforton and he's also a Guild member, too, so another very happy outcome of this event is that Nigel rang along with us. He had never rung on 10 before, but he has now – and a good job he made of it. Bravo Nigel for the beer; and bravo Nigel for overcoming any worries in ringing on the bigger numbers. Bravo Nigel!
Chris Povey

FREDA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

It would normally be most ungentlemanly to mention the age of a lady, but, as this was mentioned in a footnote to a recent peal at Moreton-in-Marsh, I don't feel quite so guilty about doing so. To celebrate this occasion, which happened at the end of August, Freda laid on a party. This event brought back many memories of the similar event Freda organised 10 years previously, particularly as many there attended then. It is hard to believe that Freda has reached the present milestone, as she seems not to have changed in that time. She is certainly 80 years young. It is of course true to say that those attending are also 10 years older! I'm quite sure I've changed...

It was good to meet Freda's son and daughter again, together with their families. Freda's daughter had hardly changed, too; must be something in the genes.

Happily the weather stayed dry. Freda's garden was lovely, with gazebos erected to shield guests from rain if it started to patter, but thankfully it kept fine.



Freda doing the bizz, with Chris P, Nick Allsopp and Richard L-S.

Some of the ringers found a corner of the garden with seats and a table, whereupon Freda produced some handbells. This was too much of a temptation, so they were used. Freda joined in. We managed rounds and

some call changes, plus plain hunting on 6. We even tried Grandsire Doubles with one bell per ringer and managed a course.

Freda was presented with a crystal glass bell by members of the Welford-on-Avon band as a token of their appreciation for Freda's successful management of the ringing there. Understandably, Freda was most surprised and a group photo was taken of the event. It is very clear, Freda, that they wish you many years in that capacity!



The Welford band presenting the crystal bell to Freda, L-R: Stuart Formby, Ewart Harper, Sandra Parker, Freda, Rosemary Cole, Mavis Gray, Ian Sturgess. Maureen Wright and Edward Timmins were unable to be there, but Freda wishes them to be associated with this photo.

Again, as last time, there was a wonderful array of eats and drinks to cater for everyone's tastes.

This was another event to cherish in one's memory. Thank you Freda for the invitation to attend and we look forward to the next one in 10 years' time, which I'm sure will occur!
Chris Povey

RECENT MID-WEEK MONTHLY OUTINGS REPORT

THE JULY TOUR (the 297th)

It didn't bode very well as on the morning of Wednesday 16th July I received an email from Isobel saying that at least 7 regular attenders at the Midweek monthly meeting would be absent the following day. However I am very pleased to report that, although there were only 14 ringers, we had a most enjoyable and satisfying day! Obviously it was a day for quality and not quantity!

We were particularly delighted to be able to ring the following at Shrivenham (10): rise and fall on all 10(!); Plain Bob, Grandsire and Erin Caters – a new experience for a couple of the band; Lt Bob Royal; and 3 leads of Kent Royal.

At the other three towers of the day, Buckland, Faringdon and Longcot, several pleasing touches of Stedman Triples were scored, including a ladies' band at Longcot with Joy calling a lot of bobs – John rang the tenor for us! - and various S Major including 3 spliced (which was not very successful) and Double Norwich! It was a delight to be joined by Jill Roberts at Longcot, although she didn't ring.

A relaxed and friendly lunchtime was enjoyed by all at The Prince of Wales in Shrivenham.

Definitely a successful and happy day, on which the sun shone. It was tempered by a pleasant breeze and enhanced by the delightful Summerly scenery.

Hilary Aslett (tour organiser)

(‘Only’ 14 attenders? Under normal circumstances that would be seen as ‘very good indeed’ and an indication of a very successful and well-managed event! Ed)

THE AUGUST TOUR BETWEEN STROUD & GLOUCESTER: (the 298th)

Like many regular monthly tours, I believe this was arranged to accommodate the outstanding ‘ticks’ of the organiser - I'm not sure why else he would be prepared to leave Leicestershire at such an early hour. Getting to the first tower entailed a route through the less salubrious parts of Gloucester, a far cry from the Trollope-like

Cathedral Close familiar to many ringers and a reminder of what a diverse city it is.

Upton St Leonards proved an easy going 8 which enabled ringing from call changes to surprise major. The churchyard also included an interesting bellringing grave whose occupant was mentioned in numerous peal boards in the ringing chamber.

St Peter Haresfield was memorable more for its surroundings than its challenging bells – a serene, moated site some distance from the main village and the earliest settlement in the parish. After a difficult attempt at minor the remainder of the ringing was confined to doubles.

Apart from furnishing us with an astoundingly good value carvery lunch, Fromebridge Mill at Whitminster also provided interest from an industrial archaeology perspective. The mill had been in continual use from the Domesday Book to the 1990s, when it was converted to a pub. Apart from the mechanics of the mill still being visible, the names of all its owners were also recorded.

A recurring problem of locating the correct vehicles beset some people after lunch but everyone made it to Eastington on time apart from the local who was meant to open up. The presence of flower arrangers saved the day.

The journey to the final tower, the co-denominational church of St John Bapt in Randwick, illustrated the diverse geography of Gloucestershire. We travelled up narrow steep winding roads to the northwest of Stroud that were more suitable for goats than motor cars and were faced with some interesting parking along a narrow road.

Thank you Colin for organising a tour that provided good ringing, interesting bells and an opportunity to visit parts of Gloucestershire that we would not otherwise see.

Isobel Murphy

FOUR SHIRES OUTING 18TH SEPTEMBER, OXFORD (the 299th)

The City of dreaming spires beckoned, with a rare opportunity to ring in a few of them. Around 33 ringers gathered outside New College, many familiar faces, and some new from as far afield as Brighton, Bury St Edmunds & Lincolnshire to experience the delights of Oxford.

David Barrington, from The Oxford Society, who was our guide for the day as we were not to be let loose around the colleges without a guide, met us at the New College gates. On route to the tower we passed the original city wall and Chapel.

The New College 10, the ringing chamber a bit dusty round the edges, were a little slow to get going, like an old lady woken from an afternoon slumber. The striking was patchy, some of the members not experienced on rings of 10, although a very creditable half course of Cambridge Royal restored our reputation.

David advised a visit to the New College chapel, and we were not disappointed, despite some renovations & ongoing work. The atmosphere fairly crackled with the layers of history, like the patina on a piece of furniture. The astonishing painted windows with their unusual colours by Joshua Reynolds greeted you on the way in, and the 14th Century misericords had to be seen to be believed.

Onwards next to Lincoln College, greeted by David on his bicycle (really the only way to travel in Oxford) where the original church now houses the college library. The small garden, a tranquil oasis of calm amongst the bustle of the city was a lovely place to sit in the sunshine awaiting a turn to ring. The 8 bells crisp and sharp full of anticipation just like the dew in the

morning of a spring day. Some excellent Grandsire & Stedman, with Double Norwich were enjoyed.



Resting below Lincoln College (*the bells aren't that hard-going! Ed*)

Lunch at "spoons" (as my daughter calls it) located in the Oxford Castle enclave converted from the old Oxford Prison, but alas no time for a tour today. It was good to find reasonably priced food in Oxford and a place that could cater for a large number with aplomb.

Suitably refreshed we ventured out once more this time to Magdalen College, met once again by David on his bicycle to sign us in at the gate. You need to be a mountain goat to get up the stairs to Magdalen, as they are narrow and very steep. One of us quipped that they must have run out of space near the top and made the steps steeper to fit them in! The 1 & 2 were out of action so we rang the back 8. A lovely melodious ring, stately, and I thought the best ringing of the day, some excellent Grandsire and Yorkshire. The 8-spliced was going well until they hit a problem with Pudsey, well it was good while it lasted. David offered those of the mountain goat variety an opportunity to go up onto the roof, the one where the choristers sing on May 1st. Isobel had just one word to describe the experience "Divine".

Finally to Christchurch Cathedral where David gathered us together in the quad, describing the history of the tower and how the bells were supported in the small squat tower. This was amply demonstrated as we climbed over various beams to get to the ringing chamber. We were greeted by Martin the pig mascot on the table, and David advised us that air con had been installed as a result of the recent 12 bell competition to keep the ringers cool. After a quick burst of plain hunting, John Nichols proposed a vote of thanks to Isobel & Keith for arranging such a memorable day (not an easy task) and congratulated Isobel on her success in being accepted by the University to study a D.Phil. We then had to dash to pick up on the school run, but I am sure the remainder of the ringers did these majestic bells justice.

I would just like to add my thanks to Isobel & Keith for a day not to be forgotten, to all the ringers from far and wide who made the effort to make the day special, and who knows with Isobel a member of the University we might get to ring in some of the other dreaming spires sometime soon.

Chris Seers

Isobel received the following text from David Barrington afterwards:-
"Thank you Isobel and all of your delightful people for making my first opening-up such an easy and pleasurable job. Please come again to grab the other umpteen Oxford towers"



This is the 'Divine' view from the top of Magdalene College referred to in the report alongside. It is such a magnificent photo that I thought it well worthy of being reproduced in full-width glory.

CENTRAL COUNCIL NEWS: THE TOWER STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Central Council does many things other than hold a large meeting every year. It has committees that do the real work. They deal with all aspects of ringing.

One of these committees is the **Tower Stewardship Committee**. This Committee, which was formed in 2006, can be described as a 'One-Stop Shop' for towers and Ringing Masters/Tower Captains/whatever the leader is called. It deals with everyday items for running a tower and running a practice, and offers advice in the form of printed sheets on lots of things that happen, or need to happen, in towers. Here are examples of what this very-important Committee can provide:-

- a) insurance and ringing
- b) tower management
- c) child protection in towers
- d) tower safety and risk assessment
- e) church law
- f) fire risk assessment and protection
- g) noise, the law and the environmental health officer
- h) data protection and bell ringing
- i) a summary sheet

It is a truly useful Committee and well worth expending the time to find out what they can offer.

(Their website: <http://www.cccb.org.uk/towerstewardship/>)

NEW BELL TOWER AT EVESHAM!

In the light of the Appeal for £0.5M to cover stonework repairs, etc, it might seem improbable that we've decided to knock the old one down and build anew. The title is of course misleading. It's old, but it's new to the real Tower. Here it is:



Yes, one constructed from matchsticks many years ago. It is a truly excellent copy of the real thing. It was given for auction to raise money for the Appeal by the son of the maker. Robert Hall won the auction and donated it to the Bell Tower. CMP

MICKLETON & ILMINGTON'S NEW MODEL BELL

A replica church bell, commissioned and presented to St Lawrence Church, Mickleton and St Mary's church, Ilmington by Chris Righton, a ringer at both church towers, is for display and educational purposes at the two locations.

The model was constructed by Paul Keyte and the bell itself was donated by Bill Nash.

The photo alongside, taken outside Mickleton Church porch, shows L-R, Paul Keyte, Bill Nash, John Kinchin and Chris Righton.

John Kinchin (Mickleton Tower Captain)

A truly lovely model, correct in all detail. Paul Keyte is to be congratulated on producing it. Such models are excellent for showing non-ringers how things work upstairs, as in most instances it is impossible or unsafe to access the belfry when bells are ringing – and even if it were safe, it might not be covered on the Church's insurance cover. The other model bells of this size within our area – large ones are much better than small ones – are at Bourton-on-the-Water and Evesham. Please let me know if comparable others exist elsewhere. The public is remarkably ignorant of English-style church bell ringing, even though the technique is roughly 400 years old and very much peculiar to these shores. Pam Copson produced a small working model, which could be rung, and

many of these are seen in belfries. More education of the public is vital!

Is it intended to hang this bell on a bracket in one of the Ringing Rooms, so that it can be rung with the rope? The one at Evesham is hung in this way and can be used to show non-ringers how things work for real. Mind you, it's the hardest one in the tower to ring. Much bell control is required! Ed



THE GUILD WALKING AND RINGING TOUR

Eight ringers and Molly the dog met at Brailes Church (6, 29cwt) on Saturday 27th September to start the 2014 FSG Walk. We rang the bells up then rang rounds and call changes. After that an extended touch of Grandsire Doubles was rung, conducted by John Carroll. The bells were then rung down in peal.

After Brailes we walked to Cherington through Middle Little Hill and Middle Little Farm, and then down Cherington Hill to the Church (6, 6 cwt), where Allen Turner joined us. We rang the bells up then rang a touch of Grandsire Doubles conducted by Michael Haynes. Plain Bob Minor followed this and then Allen conducted a touch of All Saints' Doubles. There were eleven on the tour at this stage, including Molly the dog. Michael conducted a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor, after which John Carroll called a 120 of Stedman Doubles. The bells were rung down and Stuart took a photo outside. After this we went to the Cherington Arms for lunch.

Eight of us walked to Sutton-under-Brailes church (5, 9cwt) and rang the bells up. Then we rang 3-spliced doubles methods, Stedman, Grandsire and Plain Bob, conducted by Michael. Then John Carroll called Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Bob Doubles. Some St Simon's and St Martin's spliced Doubles was rung, called by John Carroll again, after which the bells were rung down. Then eight of us walked back to Brailes past Sutton-under-Brailes Methodist Chapel across Feldon Valley Golf Course. The walk totalled about five miles.



The walkers at Sutton-under-Brailes, L-R: John Tolley, Michael Cummings, Michael Haynes, Alison Merryweather-Clark, John Carroll, Sue Bacon, Stuart Cummings, Michael Probert, and Molly in the foreground.

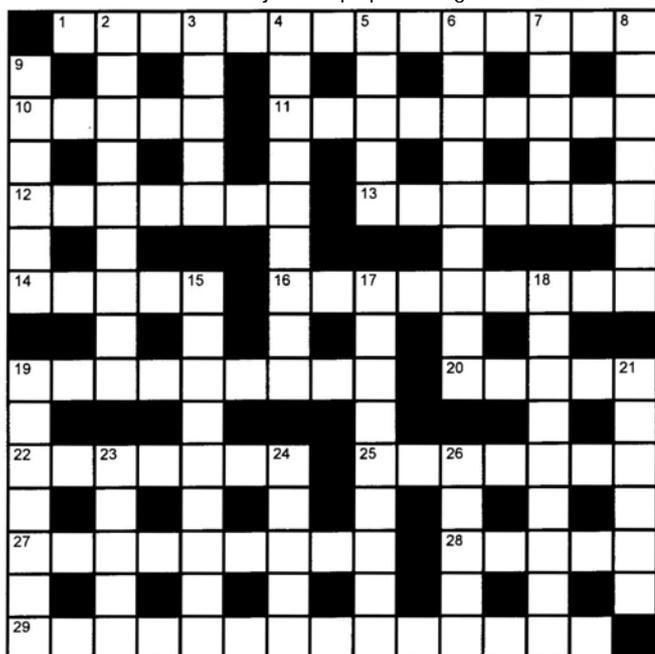
A good day out was had by. Many thanks to those who attended. They were Michael Haynes (walk organiser), Stuart and Michael Cummings, Sue Bacon, John Carroll and Molly the dog, Michael Probert, Alison Merryweather-Clark and John Tolley.

Michael Haynes

Life is not about learning to weather the storm; it's about learning to dance in the rain.

EL PRESIDENTE'S CROSSWORD

Yet another! El Presidente just keeps producing.



Across

- 1 Probably one's first attempt at splicing methods. (5,3,6)
- 10 A crazy clue. (5)
- 11 Below the treble but above the tenor. (9)
- 12 In 1632 he was put under house-arrest by the Pope. (7)
- 13 Rice cooked Italian-style. (7)
- 14 Egg shaped. (5)
- 16 Here they organise the Royal Navy. (9)
- 19 Disciples. (9)
- 20 Rodrigo diaz de Vivar. (2,3)
- 22 Consanguineous. (7)
- 25 Milk fermented by bacteria. (7)
- 27 The blessed union. (9)
- 28 A revel on the German river. (5)
- 29 Most of our towers are here. (5,9)

Down

- 2 The smallest of the British Strigiformes. (6,3)
- 3 A moment of bliss. (5)
- 4 Tied up in Alaska. (9)
- 5 Dismantle the drain for a Bosnian market purchase. (5)
- 6 Held back ready. (2,7)
- 7 The sign of the landlord. (2,3)
- 8 Financial system. (7)
- 9 Music in slow time. (6)
- 15 Worcestershire spa town. (9)
- 17 Reduced observation in a moving situation. (5,4)
- 18 Varnished. (9)
- 19 Old-fashioned term for Tower Captain. (7)
- 21 Shilly-Shally. (6)
- 23 Solve this in a while. (5)
- 24 Continental Cathedral. (5)
- 26 misprint got us great enthusiasm. (5)

Answers to the crossword in the July 2014 Newsletter



AROUND THE TOWERS

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Willersey. After 36 years as Ringing Master David Hammond has decided to hand over the reins. Robert Chadburn is the new RM and Bob Topp is to undertake the belfry maintenance. As many know, David has not enjoyed the best of health recently, and this and other reasons have very likely contributed to his decision. Thank you, David, for all the help and support you've given the Guild over many years.

Congratulations to Isobel Murphy on being accepted by Oxford University to study for a Doctorate (see Chris Seers' report in the Mid-week Tours article, p.10).

Pebworth. A faculty has been granted to replace the headstock, so things are in train now to have this 10 ringing as such again. They are an extremely useful little 10 and they've been missed.

Stow-on-the-Wold. Taylors are starting work at the beginning of October on major maintenance work here. This will include rebushing the clappers, overhaul of the pulleys, cleaning out the main bearings and re-greasing, and tightening the tie-bars in the bellframe to help make the massive pitch-pine structure more rigid.

There is exciting news about two towers in the area:-

Adlestrop. Things are starting to happen here on a rehang, possibly with an augmentation to 6.

Stanway. Simon Ridley (who reported on the state of Stanway a couple of years ago in the Newsletter) sends the following:-

Works at Stanway are scheduled to begin at the end of November this year. The existing ring of four bells is to be removed, tuned to a recognisable diatonic scale and rehung in the modified frame with new fittings. To add to their number a new treble bell will be cast at Whitechapel to augment the ring to 5.

Works should be completed by Easter next year pending no surprises. If anyone wishes to donate to the project or wishes to know more, please contact Simon Ridley on ringingsimon1980@btinternet.com

It seems very likely, therefore, that Stanway will emerge from this work as a very ringable ring of 5. Thank you for this update, Simon, and for your work in bringing this project to fruition.

NOTICES AND ADVERTS

FOUR SHIRES GUILD ANNUAL DINNER **Saturday 7th Feb at the White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh**

Starters

Tomato & Basil soup with fresh bread
Chicken liver parfait with warm bread
Smoked salmon and cream cheese roulade with beetroot compote and salad leaves

Main Courses

Roast beef with duck fat roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables and Yorkshire pudding
Pan-fried chicken breast, mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables
Mushroom risotto and parmesan shavings

Desserts

Sticky toffee pudding served with toffee sauce and vanilla ice-cream
Warm apple crumble and custard
Crème broulee with short bread biscuit

ORDERS (£22.50 PER PERSON) TO THE FOLLOWING BY 17TH JAN 2015 AT THE LATEST.

Peter Quinn: 01789-840827; peterquinn22@gmail.com,
Michael Dane: 01789-470491; landm.dane@btinternet.com,
Stuart Cummings: 01608-685576; stuartcummings@madasafish.com
John Nicholls: 01386-841084; john.nicholls18b@btinternet.com

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.

BELLFOUNDERS BELLHANGERS
CARILLON BUILDERS
Tower Bells Chimes Handbells Bell ropes
Design service Building work Access systems
Profile matching Restoration Augmentations
Wrought iron clapper repairs

See our website: www.taylorbells.co.uk for specifications services and the latest information.



The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 1AR, England
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305
Email: office@taylorbells.co.uk

GUILD **CHRISTMAS** **PARTY**

SATURDAY DECEMBER
13th

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

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

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 are in the Guild Rule Book, and application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary.

The oldest Bellhanging Company in the UK
combining Modern Technology with Traditional
Craftsmanship

WHITES OF APPLETON LTD



Church Bellhangers

(Established 1824)

Appleton, Abingdon, Oxon. OX13 5JJ
Tel: 01865-862549 Fax: 01865-864969

E-mail: bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk
Web site: <http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk>

Free inspections on the UK mainland
No deposit required with order

AROUND THE TOWERS

PEALS, QUARTER PEALS AND OTHER RINGING

NICK ALLSOPP'S BIRTHDAY PEAL.

As last year Nick arranged to ring a peal with some friends at his home tower of Moreton-in-Marsh for his birthday (+1 from the big one last year). The method this time was Moreton Surprise Major. Again some of his old ringing colleagues from Hampshire came to take part. Again, it couldn't be rung for the Guild, but, because it was rung for Nick and much more importantly for Freda Cleaver (see footnote), its publication here is considered entirely appropriate.

Winchester & Portsmouth Guild MORETON-IN-MARSH, Gloucestershire

Church of St David

Saturday 6th September 2014, in 2hrs 41mins (tenor 10-0-14 in G)

5024 Moreton Surprise Major

- 1 Christopher M Povey
- 2 Robert Tregillus
- 3 Janet L Morris
- 4 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 5 Michael Chester
- 6 Nicholas K Allsopp
- 7 John A Dodd
- 8 Roy LeMarechal (cond)

Comp by: Don Morrison

Rung to mark the 80th birthday of Freda Cleaver, tower captain at Welford on Avon.

FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

OFFENHAM, Worcestershire

Church of St Mary & St Milburgh

Saturday 13 Sept 2014 in 2hours 37mins (tenor: 10-3-2 in F#)

5040 Doubles

(5m: Grandsire, St Simon's, St Martin's, Plain & April Day)

- 1 Roland Merrick
- 2 Claire Penny
- 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 4 Martin B Penny
- 5 Matthew Kemble (C)
- 6 Nicholas K Allsopp

1st peal: 1

1st peal as conductor: 5

Offenham, Worcs, 5th July, 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Bob Topp 1, Robert Hall 2, Tom Sandham 3, Claire Penny 4, Matthew Kemble (C) 5, Martin Penny 6. First quarter peal on treble, 1. For the Offenham Flower Festival.

Mickleton, Glos, 14th July, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Andrew Gunn 1, Frances Chapmen 2, Bill Sabin 3, Chris Mew (President of the Central council, C) 4, John Kinchin 5, John Nicholls 6, Jackie Hands 7, Mike Fairfax 8. Rung as a tribute to the Rev Fred Dawson, who retired recently after seven years serving the Parish Churches of Mickleton, Willersey, Weston Subedge, Saintbury and Aston Subedge. John Kinchin (tower captain of Mickleton) and Bill Sabin (tower captain of Ilmington) presented gifts from the ringers to the Rev Fred Dawson and his wife Billie.

Crothorne, Worcs, 25th July, 1260 PB Minor: Chris Povey 1, Madeline Reeder 2, Roland Merrick 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny 5, Roger Hunt (C) 6. Rung as a compliment to the conductor and his wife Valerie, residents of nearby Fladbury, for their wedding anniversary (24 July).

Middle Littleton, Worcs, 22nd Aug, 1260 11m/v Doubles (Seighford, Old Bob, St Simon's, Cassington, Eynsham, Elford, St Martin's, St Leonard's, St Peter's, Austry, Plain): Madeline Reeder 1, Claire Penny 2, Chris Povey 3, Matthew Kemble 4, Martin Penny (C) 5, Paul Smith 6. Most methods/variants: 2 & 4.

RINGING TO MARK THE START OF WORLD WAR 1

WELLESBOURNE, Warks

Church of St Peter

Monday 4 Aug 2014 (tenor: 10-0-24 in G)

1348 Spliced Major and Triples

(Little Bob Major, Plain Bob Major and Grandsire Triples)

- 1 Christopher Mew (C)
- 2 Peter Quinn
- 3 Richard Lewis-Skeath
- 4 Karen French
- 5 Robert Reeves
- 6 Mark Sayers
- 7 John Nicholls
- 8 Michael Dane

Rung to mark the centenary of the commencement of WW 1

EVESHAM, Worcs

The Bell Tower

Saturday 23 Aug 2014 (tenor: 35-2-20 in C#)

1260 Grandsire Doubles

- 1 Christopher Povey
- 2 Claire Penny
- 3 Matthew Kemble
- 4 Roger Hunt
- 5 Capt (RAPC, Ret) Martin Penny (C)
- 6 Robert Chadburn

RUNG HALF-MUFFLED IN MEMORIAM

Private John Parr, 4th Middlesex Regt. The first British casualty of WW1, Obourg, Mons, 21st August 1914, aged 16.

Lieutenant Maurice James Dease VC, Royal Fusiliers, killed in action at the Battle of Mons 23rd August 1914, aged 24, and awarded posthumous Victoria Cross, one of the first two VCs of WW1(both awarded that day).

Both are buried at Saint-Symphorien Cemetery, Mons.

Wellesbourne, Warks, 8th Sept, 1264 Spliced Major (PB & Yorks S): Michael Dane 1, James Ingham 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath 3, Alan Hartley 4, Karen French 5, Robert Reeves 6, Chris Mew (C) 7, Peter Quinn 8.

Chipping Campden, Glos, 22nd Sept, 1344 Yorkshire S Major: Roger Hunt 1, Julie Lawrence 2, Richard Lewis-Skeath (C) 3, Robert Reeves 4, John Nicholls 5, Steve Bowley 6, Nick Allsopp John Gwynne 8. Rung to welcome Julie Lawrence to the area as she starts her new job.

Shipston-on-Stour (The Old Bakehouse, Sheep Street), Warks: 1368 Plain Bob Minimus: Richard Lewis-Skeath 1, 2, 3, & 4 (on handbells, size 14 in D). 1st Q of Minimus, 1st Q in hand, 1st Q on the bells. (*Interesting, Richard, interesting.... Ed*)

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

DIARY OF GUILD SATURDAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

OCT 4 th	WILLERSEY, Glos	6, 12-0-0 in G
OCT 11 th	COLD ASTON, Glos	5, 5-3-16 in B (GF)
OCT 18 th	WHICHFORD, Warks	GUILD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (SEE NOTICE ON P.3)
OCT 25 th	NORTON, Worcs	8, 12-3-26 in F# (GF)
NOV 1 st	TYSOE, Warks	6, 12-0-18 in F
NOV 8 th	HINTON-ON-THE-GREEN, Worcs	8, 10-1-8 in G
NOV 15 th	CHERINGTON, Warks	6, 5-3-22 in B (GF)
NOV 22 nd	SALFORD PRIORS, Warks	8, 15-0-14 in F# (GF)
NOV 29 th	MIDDLE LITTLETON, Worcs	6, 12-2-27 in G (GF)
DEC 6 th	MORETON-IN-MARSH, Glos	8, 10-0-14 in G
DEC 13 th	WELLESBOURNE, Warks	XMAS PARTY 8, 10-0-24 in G (GF) Details on p.14 and below
DEC 20 th	NOTE	(NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK)
DEC 27 th	NOTE	(NO SATURDAY EVENING PRACTICE THIS WEEK)
2015		
JAN 3 rd	LONG COMPTON, Warks	6, 12-0-22 in F
JAN 10 th	EVESHAM, Worcs	12, 35-2-20 in C# (12 BELL PRACTICE)
JAN 17 th	T.B.A. (SEE JANUARY 2015 ISSUE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS)	

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:

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 vacancies this year for key posts (see Editorial)

Firstly, please consider standing for these posts.

Secondly, please propose candidates

A Tag-end tip from Allen Turner:

I have noticed that while many ringers can shorten the tail ends of ropes with a figure of eight knot they seem to struggle to take them out at the end of the practice.

To push the rope through the knot you need to twist it anti-clockwise which make the rope tighten and therefore slightly thinner so it can then be pushed through the loop.

Events for 2014: book the dates:-

AGM & Striking Comps 18th October: at Whichford. Details are on p.3 and see July Newsletter
Guild Christmas Party 13th December at Wellesbourne

& for 2015:-

Guild Annual Dinner 7th February at (very likely) The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh