

THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELL RINGERS

(Affiliated to the Central



Council of Church Bell Ringers)

NEWSLETTER No 168 - April 1st 2021

CONTENTS

P2 Officers and committee members,

Recruitment leaflets.

P4 Minutes of the guild meeting,

Quiz questions.

P6 Archives from 100yrs ago,

NHS front line workers day.

P9 Archives from 40 yrs ago,

Guild badged clothing.

P3 Chaplains thoughts,

Bronze awards.

P5 AGM and striking competition,

Quiz answers.

P7 & 8 Learning methods, Double

Oxford.

P10 Part 2 Moreton in Marsh clock move.

P11 Adverts.



Founded Oct 18th 1909

NEW HONORARY SECRETARY REQUIRED FROM 2021 AGM

I intend resigning as the Guild's Honorary Secretary at the 2021 AGM in October. I shall have done the job for seven years, with some secretarial input prior to that. I have a few things going on in my life that I didn't have a few years back and I feel the need to off-load some things. This post is one of them. I believe I've 'done my bit for the Guild'. It's for somebody else to give it a go now.

The job is typically secretarial, and anyone who has done this sort of work previously will recognise it as such:-

arrange meeting venues, formulate the agendas, attend the meetings (4 per year) and take the Minutes, distribute the Minutes and act on any actions that arise from the Minutes that are the Hon Sec's to do;

arrange the venue of the AGM and the Striking Comps. Arrange the organist and preacher. Compile the agenda for that, take Minutes and distribute, undertake actions;

work in conjunction with the Master of the Guild to arrange the Annual Dinner;

receive grant applications to the Guild's BRF, distribute the details to the members, write letters to the applicants when their application has been considered;

receive incoming mail (email and by post), and reply on behalf of the Guild when answers are known;

liaise with the other Principal Officers of the Guild (Master, Hon Treasurer and Ringing Master) and the Newsletter Editor among others; and be a signatory to the Guild's two bank accounts;

anything else? Probably, but can't bring it to mind at the moment...

For further information contact me (01386-584388; chrismpovey@gmail.com).

Chris Povey

Editorial

As we head full steam into another ease of lockdown we can look forward to some cautious ringing again, one or two bells from members of the same household initially then suitably distanced with masks and more people as time goes on, oh how I long to get back to ringing properly again and the general community have been asking when will we hear the bells again ?

In the mean time ringing room and oth-

er online platforms continue to fill the ringing gap, if you haven't had a go yet there is still time to log on and give it a go and join in to zoom for some social chat with long lost ringing friends. Ringing room has now added the feature of a robot ringer so it is possible to conduct your own methods without any other people. His name is Wheatley and he and I have become good friends lately !

As we think about returning to ringing and realising we have lost a few band

members for various reasons we need some ideas to share on how to recruit, if you have any ideas please share so we have several useful resources that can be used by each tower as they wish, see page 2.

Please take note of the above advertisement NEW HONORARY SECRETARY required, if anyone has just a little time or inclination to give this a go, please get in touch with Chris Povey.

Alison Lee

The Chaplains Thoughts

Bells may be heard almost everywhere in England and so this has been described as one of the characters of being in England. Those who move abroad miss the familiar sound of the bells. Bells were silent during the second world war and were only to be rung if the country was invaded. I was born and brought up in Littlebourne a village of about 950 inhabitants. One day the bells were heard making a sudden noise because a man, who had mental health issues, had decided to go to the church tower. He knew nothing about ringing and pulled the sally of each bell leaving the rope swinging. The policeman, and others, went to the church to find the cause. The would be ringer was sent off back to St. Augustines hospital at Chartham where he spent a few weeks before coming home. When well enough he continued his work as a gardener.

Bells have been silent again during our periods of 'lockdown' and Of whole areas of the country in Tiers. We have to recruit many new ringers over the next months and years. No longer can we rely on the church to supply us with many recruits which worked after world war 2. Apparently as church attendance declines so does ringing the bells. We need to find new ways to recruit the next generation of ringers and we need to do it now. We are all in this together and must look everywhere to find one here and one there. Small numbers can and do add up.

Bell ringing provides good exercise for the hands and arms especially as we hold at back stroke and the development of the skill of controlling and placing our bell where we aim it to be in change ringing, Our coordination has to be good to catch the sally at hand stroke. Where else can we get such exercise? To ring plain hunt and simple methods is by nature an intellectual skill that is likely to be good for us all whether young or older, male or female. We cannot afford to be fussy who we recruit. Almost everyone is capable of learning to ring but they have to be enthusiastic and persevere in the learning process. The most successful towers do hold what may be classed as social events such as visits to the local public house, ringing outings to other towers and some hold an annual dinner. Some towers are very supportive of their district or association meetings. Let us pray for clergy that will help our revival to increased ringing.

As ringers we eagerly await the end of the present lockdown and hope and pray that Boris Johnson will be right when he says 'no more lockdowns.' It seems that we will have to learn to live with the virus and actually there is nothing new in that idea. The vaccination programme will be a great help to everyone. As we return to our towers we must see who is not there for some ringers and learners may be lost. We cannot, numerically, afford to lose any.

As we return to our towers may we all be enthusiastic whether ringing for church services or our practice nights Let us pray for clergy that will help our revival to increased ringing. May our ringing be richly blessed. Rev Dr Peter Newing.

	<p>Kathy McCarthy, Claire Penny and Pat Bell have been busy with ringing related 'things'. Well done to Kathy and Claire for achieving their bronze award in the virtual world.</p>
	<p>Pat continues to find ringing related things to work on with 50 Ringing Things Pat's Update on her progress since the start of lockdown in March 2020</p> <p>I have tried with some difficulty to continue with my 50 Ringing Things and am now only 2 short of achieving my silver award. (Coursing Order and maybe splicing)</p> <p>On the positive side with help from the internet and some very good ringing friends I have managed to add these items towards my 50 Ringing Things :</p> <p>I have whipped the end of a rope, learnt a method doing place notation, (Pebworth Bob Caters & P B Minor) studied the history of Pebworth bells and church and written a quiz. With the help of Mobel and zoom/ringing room I am almost there on learning a method from an app.</p> <p>I tried and failed to splice a rope via U tube. I am afraid I will have to wait until after lockdown and get help and advice first hand .</p>
<p>I will keep you all updated and hopefully report further progress next time.</p>	<p>Pat Bell.</p>

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2021 BY EMAIL SUBMISSION

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2020 by email submission

The Minutes were agreed.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Membership certificates: printing. Peter reported that they are currently being printed and should be with him in the next week.

He will report when they have been received.

The possibility of running a 2020 AGM in April was now considered very unlikely.

3 Financial Statement

Michael circulated two notes about the current financial situation with the General Account and the BRF account, one for the 2020 year end and one up to 3rd Feb. The General Account year end showed a profit of £275.

The quarterly position for the General Fund showed a balance of £1556.27 plus £177 waiting to be paid in. While a decision was made by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee in December to offer a subscription-free year to members who had paid 2020 subs by 31st December, future income is expected to cover this adequately. Michael reported that the BRF had £5,381.99 of unallocated funds after crediting the account with the £2000 donation (*although this will reduce by £200 after agreeing to raise the maximum grant from £600 to £800: see item 4 below*).

The donation from Rev Peter Newing of £2000 was allowed by the body overseeing charitable donations, as the Guild is seen to be operating in a charitable fashion. It took Michael some time to deal with this body, but it happened. Thank you, Michael! The donation was towards the Bells Restoration Fund. The Hon Sec has sent a letter of appreciation and thanks to Rev Peter.

4 Consideration of grant applications.

Update on grants:

Ebrington grant (£600): [work completed, inspected and grant paid](#);

Temple Guiting clapper rebushing: work completed, inspected and grant paid;

Moreton-in-Marsh clock move: Nick has supplied the following update: *The supporting metal work and wooden shelf are now installed. I'm not trying to contact the clock supplier about the move and auto-winding. Whilst waiting for this I'm hoping to have the weight shaft removed from the ringing room and the floor made safe.*

Aston Cantlow: no report on progress;

Didbrook: no report on progress (suspect fundraising on-going: will check);

Halford: letter offering grant (of £215) has been sent. No report on progress

New application, All Saints, Honington: all papers for this were sent out to all on 8th November. Chris made the following proposal: that a grant be given on our normal percentage rate to this project. Michael seconded. There was a majority agreement to this (none against). As the percentage amount exceeds the Guild's maximum, a sum of £600 will be offered: Chris to inform the applicants.

A proposal was made by Chris: that now having a greatly increased BRF account, our maximum for grants be increased to £800, and that all offered grants that were capped by our existing maximum (of £600) be increased to £800. Richard seconded. There was a majority agreement to this (none against). This will affect two grants: that agreed for Honington and a grant towards work at Didbrook. Chris will therefore offer £800 to Honington (*done; and a reply from Graham Nabb thanking the Committee received*) and inform Didbrook of the increase.

5 Items for discussion

2021 AGM: If this can be held, it was agreed that the location should be Alveston (and permission received from John Carroll). This will be held, with the Striking Comps, on Saturday 16th October.

A new Hon Sec will be required from 2021 AGM. The current Hon Sec is to retire from this post then.

6 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 10th May (Church House, Evesham, if we are allowed to meet for real). Otherwise email again.

Chris Povey, Hon Sec

(Please note: these Minutes are draft and therefore only indicative until agreed as a true record by the Committee at their next Meeting)

1	2	3	4	5	6	
2	1	4	3	6	5	
2	4	1	6	3	5	
4	2	6	1	5	3	
4	6	2	5	1	3	
6	4	5	2	3	1	
6	5	4	3	2	1	
5	6	3	4	1	2	
5	3	6	1	4	2	
3	5	1	6	2	4	
3	1	5	2	6	4	Bob
1	3	2	5	4	6	
1	2	3	5	6	4	
2	1	5	3	4	6	
2	5	1	4	3	6	
5	2	4	1	6	3	

Quiz questions

- Starting in rounds call changes to get back to rounds going through Queens, Kings and Reverse Rounds (in any order). Can it be done without repeating the order of the bells?
- What is:- an extent, a touch, a lead.
- The grid to the left shows what happens if a Bob is called the first time the treble leads in both Plain Bob Minor *and* Original Minor. Technically they are different, why?

Claire Penny.

ADVANCE NOTICE

AT THE FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD PLAN FOR AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS YEAR. THEREFORE (SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS ALLOWING):-

NOTICE OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STRIKING COMPETITIONS

ON SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER 2021

AT THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES, ALVESTON, WARKS

BELLS: 6, 7½cwt in A

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF THE DAY

2.00pm	Brazier Cup Striking Competition
3.00pm	Newing Shield Striking Competition
5.15pm	Service in the Church
6.00pm	Annual General Meeting (Chairman: the Guild President)

The **PROVISIONAL AGENDA** for the AGM [is:-](#)

- 1 Results of the Striking Competitions.
- 2 Apologies.
- 3 Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (*in January Newsletter 159*)
- 4 Matters Arising.
- 5 Guild Master's Report (*to be in the October Newsletter*)
- 6 Treasurer's Report for 2019 and 2020 (*2019 included in the April 2020 Newsletter and on website; 2020 to be in the July 2021 Newsletter*)
- 7 Election of President and Vice-Presidents to serve for 2 years. (*Note that Freda Cleaver wishes to stand down and a new Vice President is required*)
- 8 Election of Officers (Guild Master, Ringing Master, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer – (*Note the present Hon Sec will not be standing again and that a new Hon Sec will need to be elected*))
- 9 Election of Committee and Honorary Accounts Examiner.
- 10 Election of two Central Council representatives (to serve for 2 years)
- 11 Confirmation of new members since the 2019 AGM
- 12 Any Other Business (at the Chairman's discretion)

(The Agenda will be finalised and should be available for the July Newsletter)

Chris Povey, Honorary Secretary

Answers to quiz questions

1. Yes, here is just one example 4-5, 2-3, 2-5, Queens, 3-5, 1-5, 1-3, Kings, 2-4, 1-4, 1-2, 3-4, reverse, 3-2, 4-2, 5-2, 5-4, 5-3, 5-1, 4-3, 4-1, 3-1, 2-1, rounds,

2 An extent is ringing all the possible changes without repeating any.

A touch includes bobs and singles (rather than a plain course)

A lead (noun) is the changes between the treble leading full and the treble leading full again.

3. It's about which bells are affected. In Original the plain course is plain hunt so at the Bob it's the ones that don't plain hunt that are affected. In the PB6 plain course none of the working bells are hunting so the affected bells are the ones that do plain hunt at the Bob. Of course the bell making 4ths is making the Bob and affected in both!

Archives from 100years ago

April 30th 1921. The half yearly meeting of the guild was held at Blockley on Sat, April 30th 21.

The preceding's opened at 1:30pm, Shipston having drawn first place, commencing the competition. There was a special service in the church at 4:30pm, when an impressive sermon was preached by the Rev G.E.Hitchcock, (vicar of Campden).

Tea was provided in the Northwick Institute at 5:45 and the beautiful spread was greatly enjoyed at the business meeting which followed, the Rev Spencer Jones was voted to the chair. After the minutes had been passed, the secretary produced the balance sheet which showed a balance in hand of £6-16-6, and in his annual report stated that Mr Sam Bennett of Ilmington had joined the Guild as an Honorary member. Also he was pleased to report that Campden was receiving instruction on method ringing and that satisfactory progress was being made. The balance sheet report was adopted. The meeting confirmed the decision of the committee to hold the spring meeting on the last Saturday in April, in place of the last Thursday as hitherto. On the proposition of the Rev G.E.Hitchcock, seconded by Mr E.Pardon it was resolved to substitute it instead of in the first line of Rule 10.

The secretary and treasurer were both re-elected, the chairman duly presented the certificates won at Campden by Shipston and Moreton respectively. It was proposed by Mr C.Bird, seconded by Mr Faulkner that Willersey be the next place of meeting, but on Mr H.Terry putting forward a plea for Ilmington. Mr E.Harris stated that Willersey would give way to Ilmington provided the additional Bell they were endeavouring to secure, was hung in time for the Autumn meeting.

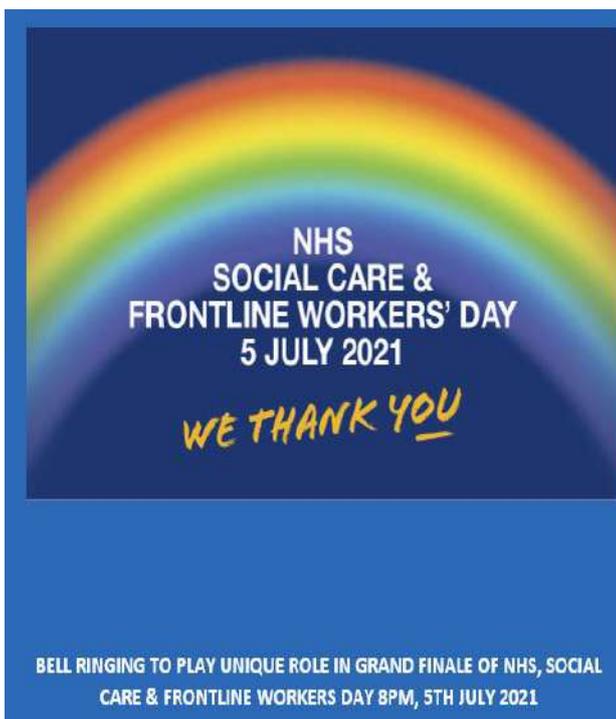
The judge was then asked for the result of the competitions, which he gave as follows:-

Rising and falling	Call changes	Method	Total	
Shipston 84%	94%	98%	276	The average of the whole competitions being 236. On the proposition of the vicar of Campden seconded by Mr Pardon it was decided to allow the days average to the non-competitive tower, minus the average for the method ringing for which Blockley was not prepared to compete, this reduced the total by 80, the figures thus being (156)
Campden 79%	94%	78%	251	
Willersey 86%	95%	68%	249	
Moreton 81%	89%	77%	247	
Ilmington 72%	85%	Did not compete	157	

In accordance with the resolution passed by the committee, the new trophy which had been on exhibition at Moreton, Shipston, Campden and Blockley and had been much admired by the general public, was therefore presented to Shipston as being successful in obtaining the highest number of points on the days competition, to which Mr H.Bird suitably responded.

It was proposed by Mr Bird, seconded by Mr E.Harris that the trophy be insured. Carried unanimously. Mr Sam Bennett made a few appropriate remarks on Bell ringing topics which was much appreciated.

Votes of thanks to the vicar of Campden as preacher, to the Lady helpers at the tea and to the chairman for presiding brought a highly successful meeting to a close. Spencer Jones. Chairman.



Bell ringers throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are being asked to ring a single bell 73 times at 8pm on 5th July this year, with each ring representing a year in the 73-year life of the NHS as the grand finale of the country's first celebration and tribute to the NHS, Social Care and those that work tirelessly on the frontline twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week without any thought for their own safety.

Those taking part are being asked to go to the **REGISTRATION PAGE** of the events website at www.nhsfrontlineday.org and register their involvement as soon as possible or no later than 1st July 2021, please.

Learning Methods - Complex Lines

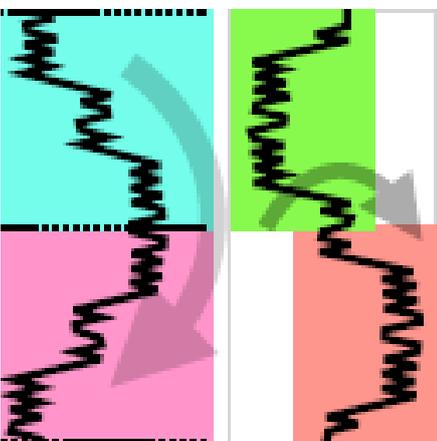
By Neil Garner

In the last article, we looked at how simple methods are based on plain hunting with minor adjustments around the lead end to extend the line.... This time, we will look at how you can take your hunting skills and the notion of place bells to move up a stage and start ringing the more 'complex' lines. Complex is perhaps misleading... it only looks complex. In practice, many of these methods are much more static and have patterns which are memorable... so perhaps it is a matter of conjecture? They do require a different approach to both the learning and ringing process, which is probably where most people get stuck! You will still need to use all of the basic skills when you learn or ring any new method... however, there are a number of extra techniques you can use to help you succeed when you put theory into practice. As an example we are going to look at **Double Oxford Bob Minor**. At a first glance, it looks horrific... a short version of the surprise methods the experts ring! In some respects this is true, so it offers a route to learning those lines, but on a smaller scale.... So, perhaps a good place to start!

Break the task down...

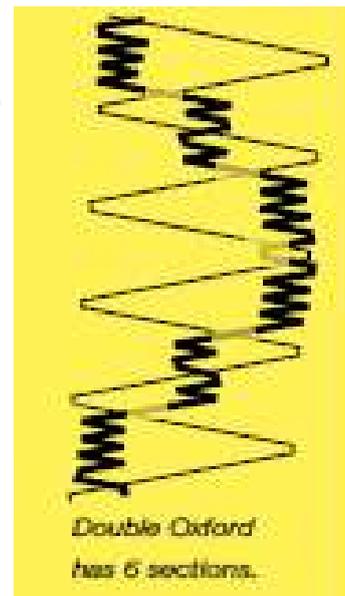
If you are ringing Plain Bob, then other than plain hunting and a dodge at the lead end which creates a place bell order, there is little else to learn or remember, however, as you move to more 'complex' methods, there will be more to learn and breaking things down will help you to remember what you need to do. Double Oxford looks complicated, but when you break it down it is actually remarkably simple and very easy to both remember and ring... It makes an excellent stepping stone towards the longer Surprise methods. So how would I analyse this method....

- Each bell only goes from front to back once.... spending six changes in each position. each is made up of a triple dodge (at the front and back) or dodge, place, dodge (in the middle).

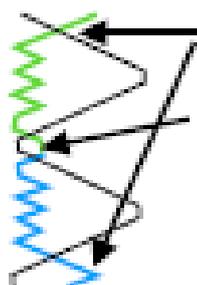


The treble marks the divide between sections. Look at each of these sections as it will help break down the pattern and make it easier to remember.

- Look at the symmetry across the whole line... This method is a 'double method', so it is has double symmetry.... Theoretically you could just learn a quarter of this method because...
 - the work in the second (pink) half is the reverse of the first (turquoise) half
 - and the work on the back (orange) is a mirror of the work of the front (green).



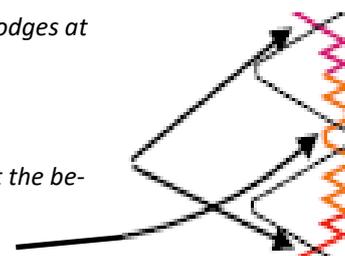
The Treble.

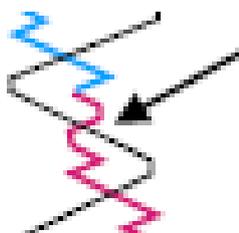


1. Where to I pass the treble? Look carefully and see how it holds clues to what to do next....

The treble is passed in 2-3 at the beginning and end of the two triple dodges at the front.

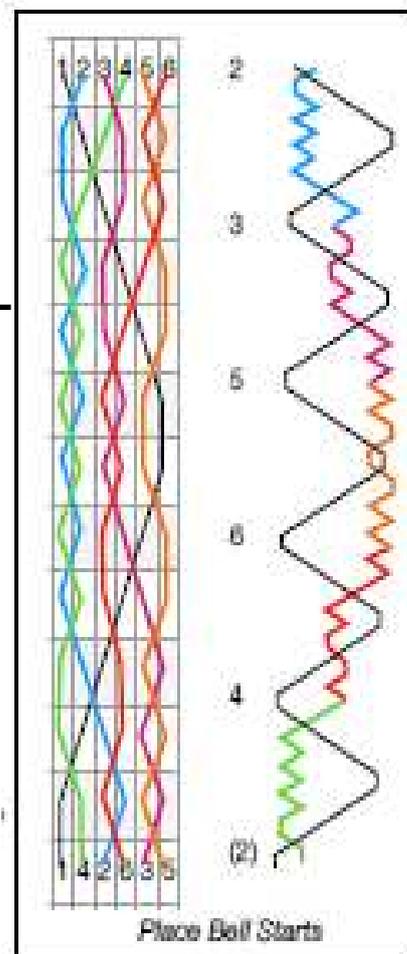
- It will also split the two sets by leading while you make 2nds.
- At the back it will do the mirror image.... so you pass it in 4-5 at the beginning and end of the triple dodges
- and it will split the two sets by lying in 6ths (you make 5ths)





In the middle work, the treble will pass through the centre of the places.

It also punctuates the divide between front and middle work and the same for back and middle work.



Place Bells and Starts

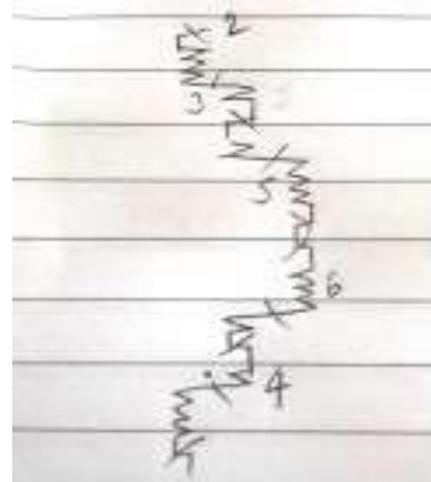
What order are the place bells? 3»5» 6» 4» 2»(3).... *This is the reverse of Plain Bob.*

What are the five starting positions.

2. Just made seconds in the middle of front work... so lead then dodge till the treble returns.
3. Just done 3/4 up... so straight into places and remember to let the treble through the middle.
4. Just completed 3/4 down... so pass the treble and triple dodge until the treble returns.
5. Half way through triple dodge up... so one more dodge, then lie and make 5th under the treble. This place bell is symmetrical.. so now you go back the way you came!
6. Half way through triple dodge down.. so dodge until the treble arrives, then down to the middle work.

Mental note for all bells.... keep dodging until the treble turns up. If it does not take you off lead or turn you from the back, then head into the middle work!

Mental note.... the treble will be in the middle of the places... (Middle places are the hardest things to see)



A quick and dirty drawing will help you remember... Repeat till it sticks!

Committing it to Memory...

Having a good map in your mind will help, so try drawing out the line on a piece of scrap paper. Do it quickly and if you can't remember all of it, do the bits you can remember and leave gaps. Try to add in the treble crossing points and the starting positions too. Check, correct it and then try again!

Try writing some breakdown notes... this will help you to do the drawing!

Once you have that map in your mind, it will help you when you are ringing.

As your repertoire grows, you will also see similarities and parts you recognise from other methods. This is how the peal brigade manage to learn a method a week and then ring it without any practice at all!

If it is a long line, do it a couple of times then go away and have another go later. you might need several tries.

For really tricky lines... try drawing the pictures for 5 minutes before bed... things on your mind at sleep time get committed to deep memory. You will probably dream the line all night, but by morning it will be there for keeps!

Next time we will look at learning longer lines.... the world of Surprise, Delight and Treble Bob. We now have all the tools, so we will be repeating these processes and looking at how to build a kit of parts which you can use to help the learning process get even quicker!

Archives from 40 years ago:-

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at Honeybourne on 1st June 1981 at 7.30pm

Present: MF Fairfax, AJ Brazier, D Hammond, Mrs Pat Linsdell, J Nicholls, P Harmer.

Apologies for above. A Turner, Miss J Taylor

1 **Minutes** of the last meeting were read, accepted and signed.

2 **Matters arising.**

Restoration Fund: Mr Fairfax agreed to provide sponsor forms.

3 **Open Afternoon.**

Mrs Linsdell suggested this should be a regular feature.

Mr Brazier suggested this should be a 6-bell tower

After discussion Shipston-on-Stour was suggested. Date: Saturday 12 September 2.00-4.00pm

Mr Brazier agreed to mount an exhibition. He suggested we might sell copies of a bellringing handbook (one of the Discovery series - Bells and Bellringing was suggested).

Mr Brazier then suggested a supply of self adhesive labels to be attached to sale items to be purchased.

4 **Outing.** Date: Saturday 26th September.

Itinerary:	Cirencester (Watermoor)	1000-1100
	Tetbury	1130-1230
	Minchinhampton	1330-1430
	Woodchester	1435-1545
	Stroud	1600-1700
	Randwick	1715-1815
	Charlton Kings or Prestbury	1900-2000

Travel by car. Minimum donation £1.00

5 **Competition**

Mr Fairfax commented that the competition be closed owing to lack of support. Mr Hammond suggested the requirements were too stringent for the average tower ringer. Mrs Linsdell proposed a letter to all Four Shires tower captains reminding them of the competition and a copy of the rules. Mr Fairfax suggested a revision of the rules to cater for novice bands. There was a discussion of the needs of ringing bands in the competition. It was suggested no change be made this time but a meeting be convened to discuss the detailed requirements for next year. Suggested towers: Offenham, Willersey.

6 **Todenham.** A donation had been received from Stratford-on-Avon. Mr Fairfax agreed to arrange a treasure hunt for next year.

7 **Saturday practices.**

Mr Hammond said Saturday Practices should be 'method specific'. This should be included in the diary beside the tower for each meeting. This will need to be qualified by an explanation that other methods will be included. Mrs Linsdell suggested a list of methods to be included. Mr Brazier suggested the wording 'special methods for this evening...'

8 **Newsletter.**

Mrs Linsdell agreed to have a drawing of Todenham tower made for the Newsletter. The Newsletter should include donations and details of the treasure hunt.

9 **Next meeting.** Tues 11th August at Ebrington Arms Hotel 7.30pm.

(Signed) Pat Linsdell, 11th August 1981

GUILD-BADGED CLOTHING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE:-

Polo shirts:	£15.00	Full-zip ladies fleece:	£25.00
Sweatshirts:	£17.50	Half-zip fleece:	£22.50
Full-zip fleece:	£25.00	Lambswool V-necked sweater:	£35.00

In the first instance please email your order to **Kathy McCarthy**-khmccarthy@fastmail.fm There are no extra carriage charges on the prices above. All profits from the sale of clothing go to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund.

Colours: The range of colours can be seen on the Guild's website, which is <http://www.fourshires.org.uk>

Some idea of sizing can be gauged from the following:-

(Chest size in inches)	Small	Medium	Large	X-large	XX-large
Polo shirts	36-38	40	42	44	46-48
Sweat shirts	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Men's full zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49
Half zip fleece	35-37	38-40	41-43	44-46	47-49

Dress size:

Ladies' full zip fleece	10	12	14	16	18
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Clock move part 2. Moreton in Marsh

In the last update we had managed to install the metal work and were waiting on the wooden shelf to be installed.

The good news is that the shelf is now installed, as can be seen in the first picture. The original intention was to have the shelf spanning the whole width of the tower but on consideration it was decided to make it just large enough to hold the clock case. Although the shelf is quite high having it across the whole space would make the underneath seem quite dark. Luckily in the faculty the metal



work was defined but the size of the shelf was not. Therefore, this is still compliant.

You can also see that the lime mortar filling the sockets has dried very well and is ready for painting. The painting of the room will probably be done in the summer when the lock down has been relaxed.

This will allow more of the team to make artistic decisions such as colour of walls, location (and yes height) of coat hooks, position of peal boards, etc.

The next picture shows the clock frame with pendulum attached sitting on the shelf. The clock frame was remarkably heavy, but the chain hoist made light work of putting it into position.

At this point the original shelf had been removed and the sockets in the wall have been filled. You can just make out a plumb line (string with a few metal washers on the end) coming down from the shelf towards the gears on the back of the clock face. This was to aid the design and fitting of the additional sprocket needed to re-attach the mechanism to the hands.

With the new mechanical section fabricated it was fitted behind the hands to enable the clock to be reconnected. This next picture shows the new frame, painted grey, with sprocket in position.

With this fabricated and placed into position it allowed the rest of the clock mechanism to be cleaned and reinstalled into its base on the high-level shelf.

The picture above shows, the installed clock which is now reattached to the hands along with the striking hammer. It is now ready for working. So, what's next I hear you ask?

The auto-winding mechanism has been ordered. Presently it is being fabricated and under test. Once that is completed it will be supplied and fitted. I'm hoping in the next couple of weeks. At that point the clock will be up and running again.



There are a couple of electrical power sockets needed to drive the auto-winders. This will be installed by an electrician. At the same time, we are thinking if possible of having an efficient (and quiet) room heater installed high on the wall with a timer to come on 30 mins before ringing. I know what luxury.

I've added this last picture for your amusement.

Jane insisted you all should see me in my "finery" during the Covid-19 shutdown. The hat is to hide the home cut hair style. It does show the chain, to my right, which is for silencing the clock hammer whilst we are ringing.



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The Guild has a Bell Restoration Fund, from which the Committee is 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 me. (These forms are emailable.)
Chris Povey, Hon Sec

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