

The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Saturday 2nd April 2016, Hadleigh Church

1. Welcome, Thanks and Apologies

The Chairman expressed the meeting's thanks to The Very Revd Martin Thrower for leading the service and to the Church for its hospitality.

The Chairman then expressed his thanks to Derek and Penny Rose and the whole team for an excellent tea.

Thanks were given to Philip Gorrod for demonstrating handbells this afternoon and to members of the BAC who were on hand to give advice.

£191 was raised for the Young Ringers to enter RWNYS 2016 in the raffle.

There was an excellent response to the subscriptions tabletop survey that Ralph Earey organised for the 2015 AGM which showed that responders would be largely supportive of a reduction / removal of age related concessions. Results and analysis are on the website

82 members signed the attendance book. 27 gave their apologies.

2. Absent Friends

The meeting stood for a minute's silence to remember: Matthew Warner, Benedict Powell, Jack Bennett, Mike Warren, The Rt Revd Clive Young, the Ven Terence Gibson, Dr John Blatchly, Sal Burrows and Peggy Mayle.

3. Election of New Members

Terry Langland (Hadleigh), proposer Richard Finch, seconder Derek Rose.

Judith Raven (Wenhaston), proposer Michelle Williams, seconder Philip Gorrod.

Duly elected.

4. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

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The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true account of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes

None

5. Officers reports

Maurice Rose proposed and Carl Melville seconded that the reports appearing in the annual Report be adopted by the meeting. The Chairman thanked all the officers in advance, especially to those stepping down and those taking up new roles within the Guild.

i. **Ringing Master** Annual Report page 13

ii. **Secretary** Annual Report page 15

iii. **Guild accounts** Annual Report page 17

The Guild accounts were accepted by the meeting.

Proposed Maurice Rose, seconded John Girt. All in favour.

iv. **Technical Adviser/Belfry Advisory Committee** Annual Report page 11

v. **Public Relations Officer** Annual Report page 16

vi. **Magazine Editor**

Thank you to all those who have sent contributions to the magazine in the last year. I apologise if your piece has not yet appeared –sometimes it is not possible to fit everything in, or your piece has arrived after the copy deadline.

We have produced three issues since the last AGM and kept to much the same format each time. This means that the districts in turn are asked to provide the front and back pages, the chairman is given a slot and all the districts are invited to

contribute some news of their ringing activities. On page 2 you will always find information about the deadline for the next issue and details of how to submit your articles.

After that we are keen to receive any other bell related stories, preferably with photographs. We are particularly interested in covering news of training events and of the activities of our young ringers. We would also like to congratulate bands or individuals on notable performances. Ideas for future articles would be gratefully received.

Especially thanks to our cartoonist who never fails to produce another episode in the lives of those well known ringers Bob and Sally.

I apologise for the unfortunate timing of the latest issue, which was delivered to the District Secretaries just after they had finished distributing the Annual Reports. This means that it is quite likely that some towers have not yet received the spring issue. Many thanks to all those who assist in distributing the magazine. Sue Freeman.

vii. Librarian Annual Report page 15

viii. Peal secretary Annual Report page 48

ix. Mini-ring and Handbell Trustee Report

The Guild has four sets of handbells. 25 bells by Taylors size 20 in C (2 chromatic octaves), 16 bells generally by Shaw size 19 in F (diatonic 13 + 3 semitones), 13 bells by Warner size 20 in E (diatonic 12 + 1 semitone), 13 bells by various founders size 20 in F (diatonic 13).

They have been used intermittently during the year and currently the sets of 25 and 16 are back with the trustee. The two sets of 13 are in the NE and NW districts respectively. The bells remain in good order.

The Vestey Ring is sought after in the Guild and beyond and is used about 12 times a year.

Details of its visits are on the Guild Website. There were signs of some wear and tear because of transportation etc. This was to be expected but ongoing maintenance would be needed.

Brian Whiting.

x. Webmaster Annual Report page 16

xi. Report Editor

Hopefully by now you will all have had time to familiarise yourselves with the 2015 Guild Report. Production has been a labour of love, particularly with an early Easter bringing tight deadlines for completion.

For the first time, tower and correspondent details are provided together in one place. We have also made a good start on providing @suffolkbells.org.uk email address contacts for those towers with an email-able correspondent and ringable bells. Information has been cross checked against the website, but is still very much a work in progress.

If you know of additional correspondent email details, or have any other amendments to give, then please do let me know, so that details can be changed.

There are so many of you who helped make the Report possible this year. To everyone that contributed, even in the smallest way – thank you. Special thanks are due to District Secretaries and Treasurers, the peal team of Christine, David and Brian, to Neal for quarter peal data, Winston for tower details and to Chris Garner, our webmaster, for the massive task of setting up the Guild tower email addresses. I have a final thank you to my ringing friends and family for proof reading the Report endless times and for putting up with me being grumpy. The Report is a true team effort. Thank you all; I couldn't have done it without you! Michelle Williams.

John Girt asked that postal addresses be re-instated. Some debate ensued and the chairman asked that John put his views to the GMC through Ralph Earey so that the GMC could discuss and provide direction to the Report Editor.

John Girt further pointed out to the Report Editor that elements of information had been omitted not only in the 2015 report but also from the 2014 report. The Chairman interjected to inform the meeting that there had been no proper handover to the Report editor and that under those circumstances he felt she had made a good job of a very difficult task.

xii. Young Ringers

Following a lacklustre start to the year, we are now in the process of organising a band and entering the Ringing World National Youth Contest. We are also now proud to have Ruth Suggett as our co-ordinator who will run the Young Ringers and give us some much needed expertise.

This band, who will be representing Suffolk in The National Youth Contest, will be travelling down to London and will be put through their paces in the heats. The successful teams from the heats will then go into the final and compete for the trophy.

With promising new ringers in each districts, particularly in the South West and North East Districts, we hope to produce some Young Ringers and this will give us a good boost, both in terms of numbers and the presence of Young Ringers in the Guild.
Ambrin Williams.

7. Trustees' Report

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8. Central Council Report

As seen on the website.

9. Subscriptions and Peal Fees for 2017

Fees this year remain unchanged. However, the results from the AGM 2015 survey show that removing age concessions to increase subscriptions revenue would be acceptable to respondents. The Chairman went on to remind members that one way to avoid future increases in subscriptions would be to recruit new members.

10. Election of Officers for 2016/2017

The Chairman thanked all the officers of the Guild, particularly those stepping down this year and to those who work behind the scenes.

The chairman made specific mention of Jed Flatters' contribution as Ringing Master and that of Richard Munnings as Public Relations Officer for five years immediately following his five years as Ringing Master.

There were single nominations for each of the following and the officers were appointed without the need for election

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Alan Stanley	Kay Lucas	Carl Melville
Ringing Master	Tom Scase	Jed Flatters	Maurice Rose
Secretary	Carl Melville	Alan Stanley	Winston Girling
Treasurer	Owen Claxton	Ralph Earey	Brian Whiting
Chair of the BAC	Winston Girling	Carol Girling	Neal Dodge
Technical Advisor	Winston Girling	Neal Dodge	Carol Girling
PRO	Neal Dodge	Richard Munnings	Carl Melville
Report Editor	Michelle Williams	Philip Gorrod	Alan Stanley
Magazine Editor	Sue Freeman	Rollie Whiting	Richard Gates
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Maurice rose	Alan Stanley
Peal Secretary	Christine Knight	Carl Melville	Maurice Rose
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Janet Sheldrake	Gordon Slack
Mini ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Gordon Slack	Janet Sheldrake

Webmaster	Chris Garner	Mike Whitby	Jonathan Stevens
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11. Election of Trustees

Maurice Rose proposed and Jed Flatters seconded that the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer be Trustees for the Guild. All in favour.

12. Election of Central Council Rep's for 2017 -2019

Name	Proposer	Second
Veronica Downing	Ed Rolph	Lesley Steed
Stephen Pettman	Ed Rolph	Lesley Steed
Neal Dodge	Mary Garner	Philip Gorrod
Vacant		

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ian Webster from Larking Gowen would remain Independent Examiner. Proposed Maurice Rose, seconded Diane Pipe.

14. 50 Year Membership Awards

Certificates for 50 years membership to the Guild were presented to Ernie Bishop. Ernie was unable to attend the meeting today due to ill health, but Maurice Rose would get the certificate to him.

15. Guild Social Event 2016

This year will be held in the NW district. 3rd Saturday of September. Gislingham area, Ring and Ramble in Thornham Walks with a picnic. Details to follow soon.

16. St Edmund's Clapper competition

Three contestants: Sproughton £200, Offton £440, Millbeck ring £50. Awarded to Offton. Jed said the field is open for more competition next year as Offton would not be entering. Funds raised by Offton would go toward their own project.

17. Any Other Business

Mary Garner has had over 500 membership forms back. It has gained more email addresses to aid Guild communications. There have been 90 or so amendments to Gift Aid. Mary asked that we make use of the membership secretary.

John Girt has brought with him a Guild report collection for people to take home if they wish. They date from 1971- present.

David Stanford asked that ringers make use of Clopton bells over the bank holiday weekend of May 30th, which is Clopton Church flower festival. They would like the bells rung all three days. Offers of peals and quarters welcome.

Mike Whitby said that Richard Munning's blog was interesting and useful to the Guild. Will he carry on? Richard said he would!

18. Date of next AGM: Saturday 22nd April 2017 in the NE District