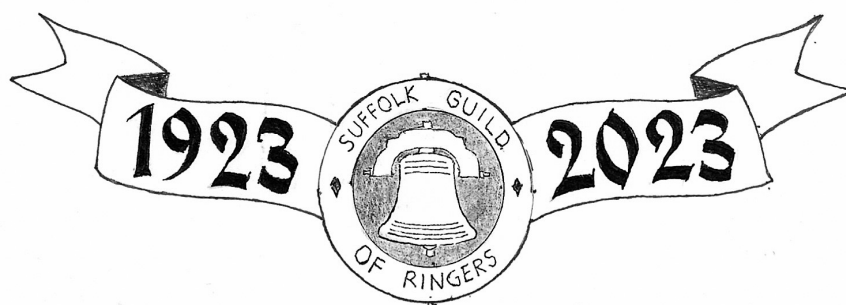
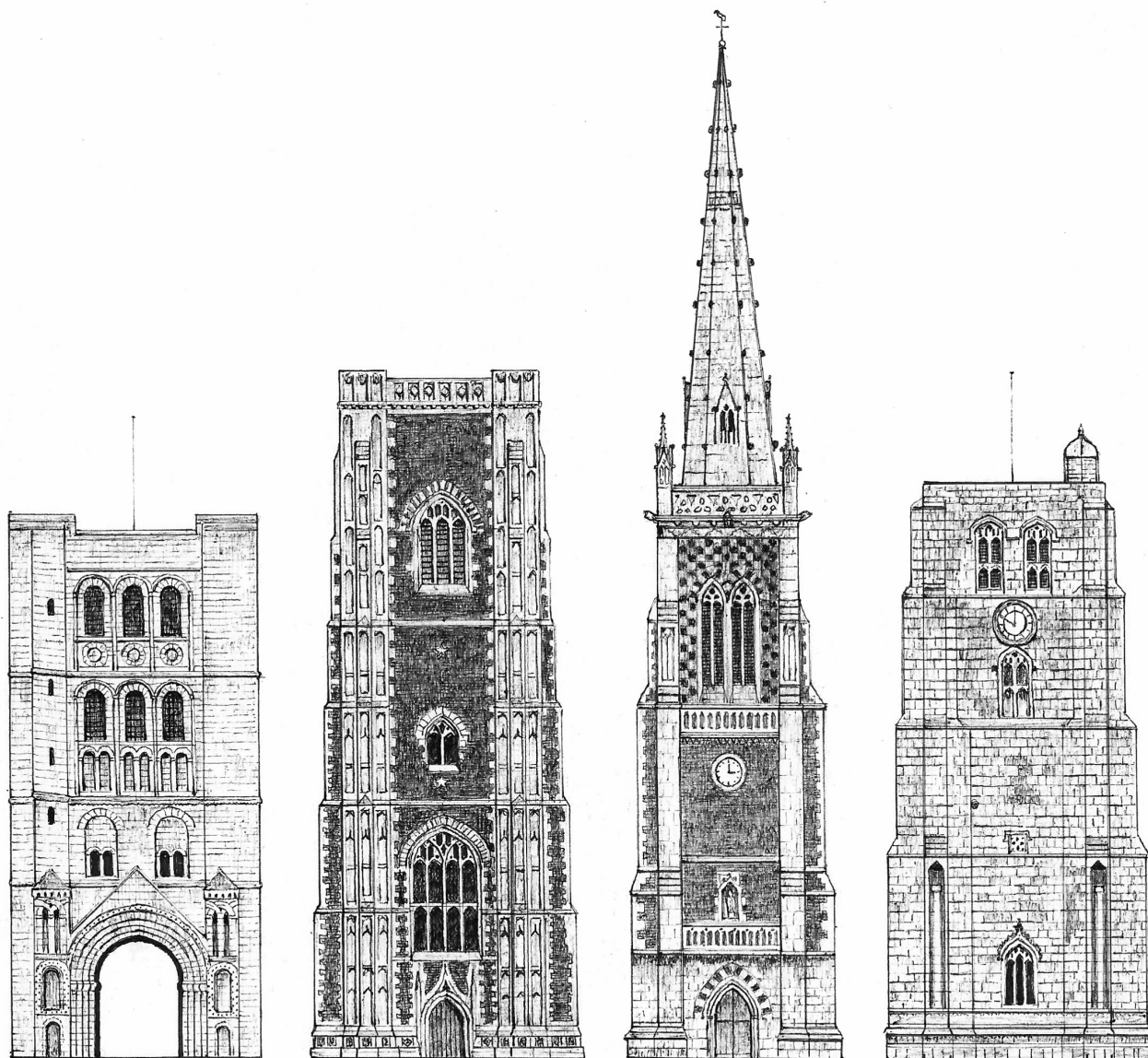


SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

CENTENARY DINNER



TOAST LIST

Master of Ceremony Rowan Wilson (Chairman)

The Loyal Toast

Proposed by Katharine Salter (Ringing Master)

The Church & Guild

Proposed by George Vestey (Patron)

Response by The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
 The Rt Reverend Martin Seeley (President)

Our Visitors

Proposed by Philip Gorrod (Past Chairman 2008-13)

Response by Will Bosworth (Editor of The Ringing World)

The Future of the Guild

Proposed by Richard Munnings (Past Ringing Master 2006-11)

Response by Lesley Dolphin & Mark Murphy
 Radio Suffolk

The evening will also include handbell ringing and a 50 years of membership award.

MENU

Opening Course

Plum Tomato and Basil Soup with Parmesan Croutons

Smoked Haddock and Stilton Mousse

Fan of Cantaloupe Melon with Fresh Fig and Raspberry Sorbet

Smoked Meat Platter with Fresh Olives

Middle Course

Seared Halibut with Sweet Potato Mash

Fillet of Pork with Stilton and Cream Sauce

Roasted Sirloin of Beef with Horseradish

Roast Stuffed Aubergine with Ragout Sauce

Served with Chef's selection of seasonal vegetables

Turning Course

Orange and Ginger Cheesecake

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Tropical Fruit Pavlova

Assorted Cheese with Celery and Grapes

Final Course

Coffee/Tea and Petit Fours

A POTTED HISTORY OF THE SUFFOLK GUILD

- 1923** The Suffolk Guild was formed, after much wrangling between the east and the west, nine years after the formation of The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (in 1914). Initial membership was over 800 and the leading peal towers were St Mary le Tower, Ipswich (maximus) and Leiston & Helmingham (major)
- 1930s** In 1932 the founding Master, C J Sedgley, is reported to have expressed a wish to retire from the post, he eventually achieved this in 1957. Annual peal totals exceeded 100 in 1932, 1937 and 1938, with the Leiston and Helmingham bands being prominent once again. In 1934 subscriptions went up to 1/6d from 1/-d.
- 1940s** This was a decade interrupted by war. Cecil (Jim) Pipe was elected to be General Secretary (which included Treasurer duties). Subscriptions were raised to 2/6d in 1946 and in 1947 the Guild Restoration Fund was launched with a donation of £50 from Ernest Pye.
- 1950s** Annual peal totals exceeded 100 in three of the decade's years 1953, 1954 & 1957 and the 2500th peal was scored. At the end of the decade the district structure was reorganised to six.
- 1960s** The post of Chairman was created and John Blythe held the post for 10 years. George Pipe took over from Leslie Brett as Master.
- 1970s** John Girt became Secretary, a post he would hold for 15 years. The Objects, Constitution & Rules underwent a major revision and The Guild became a registered charity. Districts were reduced from six to four on a deanery basis. The Jubilee Fund was set up in 1974.
- 1980s** An all-time high of 211 peals was recorded in 1988 and annual peal totals exceeded 100 in all years, bar 1980. Lawrence Pizzey became Chairman, a post he would hold for 16 years. Early in this decade the 5000th peal was achieved.
- 1990s** At the end of the decade, the 5-year rule for executive officers was introduced and the Objects, Constitution & Rules underwent further revisions. The Guild website was created and subscriptions reached £10. The 7500th peal was also achieved.
- 2000s** The Guild hosted the Central Council of Church Bellringers' Annual meeting. Quarter peals were rung in 187 different Suffolk Guild towers for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee over an 18 week period in 2002.
- 2010s** The Guild acquired the Vestey mini-ring and won the High Sheriff's Suffolk Heritage Award (2018) in recognition of the Guild's role in cherishing our county's history and heritage. Annual membership exceeded 700 in all years but didn't quite reach the 1920s level of over 800.
- 2020s** Covid decimated general ringing as a whole at the start of this decade and peal ringing was slow to recover but the 10,000th peal for the Guild will be recorded in the 100th anniversary year when the Guild will also host the Central Council Annual meeting again. Subscriptions reached £20. The Restoration Fund has now made grants of over £300,000.

With thanks to Ben Keating for the front page artwork, Brian Whiting for the potted history and Simon Rudd for coordinating the handbell ringing