

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS
BELFRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Ten Bells public house, Stonham Aspal, at 8.0p.m. on Thursday, 8th October, 1998.

Present: R. Clouston M.B.E. W. Girling (chairman) C. McArthur A. Moulton G Pipe and D. Salter.

Apologies for absence: R. Coe J. Colman Dr. S. Harrison C. Nunn and N. Whittell.

The Minutes of the previous Belfry Advisory Committee Meeting, held on 19th May, 1998, which had previously been circulated to all members of the Committee, were agreed and signed as a true record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: TROSTON - C. Nunn (absent) had previously reported that these bells were on the ground and drilled out 12 years ago, and there may have been a ring beam in the tower. At that time a local person was spearheading the restoration of these bells but is believed to have now left the area. G. Pipe - nice to see representatives from Troston at the seminar at Orford a while back. R. Clouston - a good few years ago the architect took the frame out and didn't put anything back. Assistance by the nearby airbase to make a new frame was offered but could well have involved unskilled fitters, and again we need a local person to spearhead. D. Salter - important that the Guild took a pro-active and high level approach, possibly through a local tower. **RINGING FOR THE MILLENIUM ON 1st JANUARY 2000** - D Salter - we should achieve 80% coverage of Churches, and there will be a clearer picture shortly. G. Pipe - The Revd. Simon Pettitt, Communications Officer for the Diocese, has agreed two mailshots which should cover the remainder. D. Salter - the Deanery Lay-Chairmen are being written to which may give us some more contacts. The Bishop is very much behind this project.

DISTRICT REPORTS

NORTH EAST: BEDFIELD - D. Salter - Walter Chapman has been in touch. Myself and R. Allum will attend shortly to tighten where necessary. G. Pipe - frame will need tightening properly, believed very loose. **BURGATE** - W Girling - approached by Tony Baines of B.T. Engineering, apparently problems and seeking advice. M. Rolph has been asked to attend.

NORTH WEST: ELMSWELL - W. Girling - Rev. Perrott has asked G. Pipe whether Sunday School members at risk in ringing chamber. M. Rolph has been asked to report as he was the last person to report on the 5 bells and their gear which are in a very poor condition and have been unringable for a considerable period of time. **OLD NEWTON** - W. Girling reported that the previously cracked treble bell has now been welded at Lode. R. Clouston has said that a replacement clapper must be fitted as the present cast iron 'sledgehammer' type clapper is unsuitable. Work to bring the 5 bells up to full circle ringing condition is to be carried out by the Guild maintenance team. **THURSTON** - W. Girling - recent trial ring, report by R. Clouston and now visit by B.T. Engineering to give a quotation for restoring the 5 bells, including extra frame supports as at Palgrave, stabilizing frame and turning and re-hanging bells with new gear. All bells badly worn in

soundbow, tenor up to 12%. **WETHERINGSETT** - R. Clouston had reported that a local band wanted to ring there but there was lot of rumbling from the bells and they needed attention. **STOWMARKET** - W. Girling - new bearing fitted to treble and sound flaps now in place to increase the volume outside when needed.

SOUTH EAST: **HACHESTON** - C. McArthur - are about to investigate first contract for tower work. Will not proceed with bell work yet. Enthusiastic band ringing at Marlesford until bells ready. R. Clouston - millennium money running out? C. McArthur - confident they will be O.K. as timescale runs to 2005. **EASTON** - C. McArthur - grant has failed, some ringers have packed up, down to 3 or 4 at times. £5000 in bank but project may not go ahead. Bells are still ringeable but support from District not too good. **WICKHAM MARKET** - C. McArthur - consolidation cracks in the tower. Architect wants to stop ringing there. Tower also pulling away from the Church. **IKEN** - R. Clouston - discussions still going on, frame supports beams rotten because of damp. **IPSWICH, ST. CLEMENTS** - G. Pipe - some of us have visited St. Clements, first visit since the fire, everything is in good order, louvres have been re-wired, we will have a clean up, bells oiled and ropes adjusted, hope to ring once a month and gradually build up, bells and ropes hopefully OK. D. Salter - mentioned that perhaps a claim should have been made for the ropes after the fire. **IPSWICH, ST. MARY AT ELMS** - G. Pipe - Father Toll has asked if we could chime these bells for the Millennium. S.M.L.T. has provided some ropes which will be fitted shortly. **FALKENHAM** - G. Pipe - bells are an excellent job, peal rung there on Monday. D. Salter reported on the following:- **TUNSTALL**, terylene top ends put on the ropes, guide boxes are grooved. **BADINGHAM**, asked to look at problems with the 4th, and **MARTLESHAM**, has looked at the 1631 Miles Graye 3, swing chimed, organ has been installed at the bottom of the tower. **FRAMLINGHAM** - C. McArthur said that he had received a report that the bells were lumping. D. Salter - they are a little loose, the ropes are poor. R. Clouston - there were problems when they were put in.

SOUTH WEST: **BOXFORD** - A. Moulton - Ann Jessup had mentioned that she was rather disappointed with the bells. Will go over with W. Girling on 5th November to have a look. **MONKS ELEIGH** - N. Whittell had reported that a floor has been installed under the bells and this is much better.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th February, 1999, at 8.0p.m. venue to be arranged.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: G. Pipe said that he had just come from an 'Update Reception' at Ipswich School which he had attended with Diana and the one million still required for the Cathedral tower has now been reduced to £900,000. He hoped that the Guild and every Parish would add their support to this venture.

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.