

**Meeting of the  
Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee  
2pm Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Via Zoom virtual meeting  
Minutes taken by Neal Dodge**



**1) Welcome**

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 14:02 and welcomed members.
- b) Members present:
  - i) **Officers**; Chairman Rowan Wilson, Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee Chris Davies, Secretary Kate Gill, Ringing Master Tom Scase.
  - ii) **NW District**; Neal Dodge, Cath Colman.
  - iii) **NE District**; Sarah Plummer, Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod.
  - iv) **SE District**; Jenny Scase, Abby Antrobus, Mark Ogden, Tracey Scase.
  - v) **SW District**; Pauline Brown, Richard Knight, Tim Forsey.

**2) Apologies**

- a) Apologies were received from, Tony Read, David Steed, Mary Garner, Maureen Gardiner, and Jed Flatters

**3) Absent friends**

- a) There were no absent friends to remember since the AGM.

**4) Minutes of the previous meeting**

- a) The minutes from the meeting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Kate Gill and seconded by Stephen Cheek.

**5) Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- a) Action Log from last meeting

Item No.	Action	Action Owner	Update at this meeting
6a	To review policy drafts with a view to adopt them at the Oct GMC	GMC Members	<i>Item 12 below</i>
6a	To speak with Diana Pipe on the future of the Suffolk Guild history project.	Philip Gorrod	Philip has spoken to Diana regarding the Salter family taking on the work.
6a	The Suffolk Guild history documents to be collated and transferred to the Salter family	Philip Gorrod	Most documents have been given to the Salters with the last documents to be collected by Philip shortly.
7b	A proposal to clearly state the commitment made by parishes to whom we award grants will be brought to the next meeting.	Neal Dodge/GMC members	Discussed under item 6 below
10aii3	Write to Framsdon stating that their application for grant was not considered because of a lack of both	BAC chair/secretary	<i>Post meeting note: This has been actioned</i>
10aiii5	Write to Barham confirming the approval of their grant along with the standard conditions	BAC chair/secretary	<i>Post meeting note: This has been actioned</i>
10aiv4	Write Exning stating the GMC decision not to consider a grant because the work has been completed	BAC chair/secretary	<i>Post meeting note: This has been actioned</i>

## 6) Amendment to the Grant Terms and Conditions

- a) It was proposed by Tim Forsey and seconded by Cath Colman that this section be added at the end of the Grant Terms and Conditions:

**"Declaration:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf

of \_\_\_\_\_ agree to the terms and conditions set out above, and acknowledge that any breach of these terms and conditions may require that the grant to be repaid to the Suffolk Guild of Ringers in full.

I confirm that the governing body/members of the organisation to which the grant is to be awarded have authorised me to agree to the terms and conditions on their behalf and are fully aware of their resulting obligations.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant value as agreed by the BAC & GMC: £ \_\_\_\_\_ "

- b) The committee approved this change unanimously.

## 7) Other Correspondence

- a) A thank you note was received from Dick Stannard's family for the donation in lieu of a wreath.

## 8) Officers' Reports (reports are attached to these minutes.)

### a) Treasurer's Report (Stephen Cheek)

- i) Mark Ogden asked how many reports had been sold separately, Stephen said one had been sold to the CC library. The meeting agreed to increase the price for reports to £5 in line with Stephen's recommendation.
- ii) Stephen asked if members have any knowledge of the circumstances around the receipt of sales of the Howell papers CD. Neal added that sale of these is organised through Chris Pickford and as the papers belong to the Guild we receive a share of the proceeds.
- iii) Neal asked when the CAF bond was maturing as two months are listed in the report. Stephen confirmed this would mature in August.
- iv) Stephen asked whether the meeting thought it would be good idea to set up an Amazon Simile account which gives us 0.5% of all purchases made using our link as a charity. The meeting agreed and a link would be distributed to Guild members.  
<https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/FundraisingAndShopping.php>

### b) Ringing Master's Report (Tom Scase)

- i) No comments

### c) Recruitment and Training (Rowan Wilson)

- i) Rowan explained that a virtual meeting had been held and they focused on the Golden Bottle fund.
- ii) The aim is to install the simulator on a single bell for the moment rather than the whole ring, with the first being at Felixstowe.

### d) Belfry Advisory Committee report (written by Winston Girling)

- i) No comments

### e) Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer (Mary Garner)

- i) Kate Gill explained that Mary's reference to discussions on safeguarding referred to a clause in our insurance from Ecclesiastical which claims to require annual safeguarding training of members working with vulnerable people. Kate has spoken to the Diocese who are adamant that every three years is sufficient despite the majority of churches in the diocese using Ecclesiastical with this clause as well.
- ii) **Action: Kate will speak to Mary Garner about clarifying the safeguarding insurance clause with the diocese.**
- iii) Philip commented on Mary's statement that 72% of members had paid for this year (at 19<sup>th</sup> Sept), and that this was quite low. Stephen said this was similar to previous years.

- iv) A discussion ensued on how to encourage on time payment of subscriptions. The committee concluded that most people who hadn't paid just needed a reminder to do so and this has been more difficult to give during this year. However, reminding and collecting subscriptions from members who hadn't paid was a basic responsibility of district officers especially the treasurer. It was felt that the push we had last year to get people to pay their subscriptions on time was successful and we should look to run a similar campaign this year.
- v) **Action: Stephen will draft a note to district treasurers regarding collecting subscriptions and run this past Rowan before sending it out.**

#### f) **Public Relations Officer (Neal Dodge)**

- i) Rowan added that the Norman Tower will do some form of ringing for St Edmunds Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- ii) Neal shared images of the restored bells from Hitcham including the headstock of the tenor which has cast onto it our Guild logo. The mould has been made by Malcolm Currie who is part of the Hitcham team, a copy is with both Taylor's and the Guild for use on future projects. A letter of thanks was sent to the project team.

#### g) **Webmaster's Report (Chris Garner)**

- i) No comments
- h) The reports were proposed for adoption by Pauline & Mark and were unanimously approved.

### 9) **Applications for grants and grants outstanding.**

#### a) **New grants**

- i) No new grants were proposed

#### b) **Grants outstanding**

- i) In line with the terms & conditions Stephen highlighted that the grants for **Fornham St Martin, Laxfield,** and **Stowmarket** will expire in February and **Ipswich St Clement** will expire after the short extension granted at the last meeting. Each church will need to apply for extension. **Action: BAC to contact each tower and enquire regarding an extension.**
- ii) Stephen also highlighted that the flow chart at the front of the T & Cs slightly contradicted the actual wording. **Action: Kate Gill will look at updating the flow chart**

### 10) **Non-Resident Life Members**

- a) No NRLMs have been elected since the last GMC.

### 11) **Officer roles and responsibilities**

- a) Rowan explained that the matrix is now complete and has been uploaded to the website. [https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/GuildOfficerPostsTasksAndResponsibilities\\_Final.pdf](https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/GuildOfficerPostsTasksAndResponsibilities_Final.pdf)  
[https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/DistrictOfficerPostsTasksAndResponsibilities\\_Final.pdf](https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/DistrictOfficerPostsTasksAndResponsibilities_Final.pdf)

### 12) **Guild policies**

- a) Philip explained the work was materially complete and thanked those who had provided comments. Most have been incorporated but there was a few major comments around the structure of the policies so Philip proposed, seconded by Stephen C that the GMC adopt the policies as they stand with the understanding that they are under review.
- b) It was agreed on a long term basis these would be reviewed at Oct GMC meetings. Any proposed changes would be brought to that meeting and require a simple majority of the GMC for approval.

### 13) **Handbell Insurance**

- a) Rowan explained the GMC needed to decide whether to renew the insurance for the Guild handbells. With the issue being that cost of insurance (~£270) far out strips the donations we receive for use of the handbells even this year when the handbells have been used more frequently than normal.
- b) Neal highlighted the fact that these handbells were all given to the Guild and that given the number of sets we have if they were damaged or stolen, we would be unlikely to want to replace them.
- c) Rowan said that maybe part of the reason why they are not used to any great extent is that there are a large number of handbells already available to people whether that be personal sets or sets owned by individual towers.
- d) Stephen said that the handbell fund currently stands at around £800 and perhaps that should be used to cover some of the costs.

- e) Philip commented that the ideal scenario would be exchange the current sets for some in better condition and suited for change ringing as the existing bells are quite large and designed for tune ringing instead. When he borrowed a set, the tenor of an eight is a size 16 and there's a large number of bells across the 5 sets that are never used.
- f) It was pointed out the handbell fund balance wouldn't cover the refurbishment of even one whole set however it would probably cover a set of 8 for change ringing. **Action: Rowan will look into the possibility of refurbishing eight of the handbells into a good quality set.**
- g) Dave asked whether some of the existing handbells could be sold to fund the refurbishment of the remaining sets. Rowan said that was tricky as the sets had been donated to the Guild but she wanted to explore the possibility of doing so by asking for member's thoughts on the matter. **Action: Rowan to contact members explaining the situation with the handbells and asking for their thoughts on reducing the number of sets to fund improvements to the other sets.**
- h) Tracey suggested that we look at just having fire & theft insurance which would cover us if a whole set or more were lost at a lower premium with any other damage being absorbed by the handbell fund if needed. **Action: Kate will explore fire & theft cover for the handbells.**

## 14) Guild events

- a) **2021 AGM**
  - i) Rowan said she had received several positive comments on how the AGM was run.
  - ii) The normal date for the AGM would be Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Rowan said there was a likelihood that we still wouldn't be able to hold an in-person event. The 2019 Guild social and 8 bell striking contest has been rolled over to 2021 so the hall is already booked for September.
  - iii) As Tom's term as ringing master will end at the next AGM the meeting discussed, if the AGM was to be held in September, whether it would be best to appoint a replacement via the GMC rather waiting until the end of the year. Rowan confirmed that a willing candidate had agreed to stand as ringing master.
- b) **ADMs**
  - i) Rowan confirmed that all ADMs had been put on What's On and would be held via Zoom.
  - ii) Mark highlighted that as a charity we could get access to unlimited free video conferencing through Microsoft Teams and their 365 package. **Action Mark to speak with Chris Garner regarding Microsoft's offering for charities.**
- c) **St Edmund's Clapper**
  - i) Rowan asked members to promote this
  - ii) Mark highlighted that most charitable giving is not done through BACS payments as we do and other methods might relieve us of some of the work required for claiming gift aid.

## 15) Covid-19 ringing guidance

- a) The meeting discussed issues around the Covid-19 guidance and ringing in Suffolk
- b) Members agreed that there are various 'loop holes' and 'get out clauses' in the legislation but we should look to comply with the spirit of the guidance.
- c) Members also agreed that the Guild is not an arbiter of the legislation and it is our role to provide guidance and support to ringers and towers in the Guild not to police ringing in general.
- d) The meeting agreed that the guidance is very detailed and has changed a number of times so a reminder and practical interpretation of the guidance wouldn't go amiss and this would be done through the ADMs.

## 16) Virtual events

- a) Rowan encouraged members and tower captains to keep in contact with their ringers and to share different things they were doing with their bands on the Guild Facebook group or other methods to give other bands ideas.

## 17) Sudbury St Peter

- a) As the restoration project had now been approved Richard asked whether we should look into establishing greater certainty over the role and availability of ringing at St Peter's with CCT, given that the ringing room is to be moved to the new gallery and therefore open to the church. Neal confirmed that he was in contact with the architect and CCT along with Alan Moulton (Guild technical advisor) regarding issues with the proposed design and would ensure the Guild's interests are protected.

- b) Richard asked whether a person should be appointed as a Guild/District role for St Peter's. Rowan replied and said that could be something to consider at a future meeting but would need to come from the SW district.

## 18) Annual Report

- a) Neal asked whether there was going to be an annual report produced for 2020, Rowan confirmed that there was. Neal also asked about the inclusion of virtual QPs in the report, the meeting confirmed that they would like to see them included.

**Meeting closed at 16:39.**

**Date of meetings for 2021: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 31<sup>st</sup> October,  
all on Sundays at 2pm.**

### Action Log

Item No.	Action	Action Owner
5	To assist the Salter family with the Guild history project by sharing their request for stories and memories to members especially those who aren't on email.	GMC members
6.e.ii	Clarifying the safeguarding insurance clause with the diocese.	Kate Gill/Mary Garner
6.e.iv	Draft a note to district treasurers regarding collecting subscriptions and run this past Rowan before sending it out	Stephen Cheek/Rowan
9.b.ii	Update grant T&Cs flowchart	Kate Gill
9.b.i	Contact Fornham St Martin, Laxfield, Stowmarket, and Ipswich St Clement regarding an extension to their grants	BAC/Chris Davies
13.f	Look into the possibility of refurbishing eight of the Guild handbells into a good quality set for change ringing.	Rowan
13.g	Send out an email to members explaining the situation with the handbells and asking for their thoughts on reducing the number of sets to fund improvements to the other sets.	Rowan
13.h	Explore fire & theft cover for the handbells	Kate Gill
14.b.ii	Speak with Chris Garner regarding Microsoft's offering for charities.	Mark Ogden

# Officers' reports

Guild Management Committee Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Financial summary as at 04 October 2020

#### Current Assets

CAF 12mth bonds	40,000.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	48,832.45
CCLA/CBF St.Peter's a/c	2,150.57
Barclays Current Account	6,548.51
District Cash in hand	300.16
	<u>97,831.69</u>

#### Representing

General Fund	9,359.72
Restoration Fund	32,003.20
Restoration Grants Allocated	43,550.00
Library Fund	281.22
Handbell Fund	862.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	4,858.00
Jubilee Fund	3,615.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1,151.48
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2,150.57
	<u>97,831.69</u>

The funds of the Guild and their respective allocations are shown above. Notes:

- The £25,000 CAF Bond which matured in August has been re-invested for a further 12-months. We also hold a £15,000 CAF Bond maturing in March 2021
- The sum of £48k + in our CCLA/CBD Deposit account is available without notice if required.
- All advertisers in the Annual Report have now paid their invoices and nothing is outstanding.

### Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2020

At the 2020 AGM held on 19 September, B.A.S. Accountants were approved to be the Independent Examiners for 2020. They have confirmed acceptance, and have indicated a fee of £250.

### Grants

No grant payments have been made since the last GMC meeting, and the situation remains the same. The table below shows grants approved but not yet paid

	Approved pre-2020	Approved 2020	Date Approved	Grants Paid	Grants unpaid	Date Paid	
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018		11000.00		
Laxfield	12000.00		17/02/2018		12000.00		
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019		8,000.00		
Hitcham	6,700.00		30/06/2019		6,700.00		
	<u>43,800.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>43,550.00</u>		

The Restoration Allocated Fund stands at £43550.00. In addition to this, there is £33,003.20 available for new grant applications.

The grant for Ipswich St Clement, which would normally expire (under the 3 year rule) on 22 October 2020, was extended at the last GMC meeting.

It should be noted that the grants for Laxfield, Stowmarket and Fornham St Martin will also expire in February 2021 unless extensions are authorised.

### **Banking**

The recently introduced paying in cards issued to District Treasurers are not working as advised by Barclays. The cards are uniquely numbered, so that the payee should be identifiable on the statements. However, the bank are not generating this identification, resulting in detective work for me whenever they are used. I am in dialogue with the bank to try and resolve, but if a solution is not forthcoming then I may need to withdraw them and revert back to the old paper paying-in slips.

### **Insurance**

Management for the Guild's insurances has now been passed back to the Guild Secretary, having been temporarily looked after by the Treasurer from 2015 because of other calls on the duties of the Secretary at that time.

### **Subscriptions**

Subscription income for 2020 stands at £7,455, compared with the year total of £7,774 for 2019. Interpretation of these figures should be treated with caution as there was quite an influx of early 2020 subscriptions in December 2019. Late payers will need chasing by the District Treasurers, as there is an understandable reluctance to pay whilst no ringing is taking place because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I have previously mentioned the fact that we are unable to claim Gift Aid on subscriptions where these are paid for by the church (even if the individual ringers have made GA declarations), and it had been my intention to circulate a note about this. However, in view of the current 'non-ringing' conditions I do not consider it timely to do so, and think it best to hold off for the time being.

### **Sale of CDs**

In September I unexpectedly received £25 form Chris Pickford, relating to the sale of "Bowell" CDs.

### **Sale of Reports**

We currently sell copies of the Guild annual report for the advertised price of £4. With postage for them now costing £1.40, I recommend the price is increased to at least £5 per copy.

### **Amazon Smile**

I have received a communication from Amazon to participate in the AmazonSmile programme, whereby anyone purchasing goods from Amazon can alternatively direct the purchase through AmazonSmile (at no cost to themselves), and we would then receive 0.5% of the purchase price. We have been contacted by Amazon as a result of a trawl through the Charity Commission. Registration costs nothing.

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer  
04 October 2020

## **Ringling Master's Report – 17 October 2020**

Since the last GMC meeting, the resumption of ringing, albeit in a very limited way, has been possible. Ringing limited to 15 minutes and often on an unusual combination of bells to maintain social distancing, is not normal. It is, however, one in step in what, undoubtedly, is going to be a long journey towards the freedoms prior to Covid-19. In the meantime, as much as we may find the guidance limiting, and in some cases difficult to accept, I think we need to resist the temptation to push the boundaries too far. There have been instances in Suffolk where this may have happened; we do not want to be responsible for a wider setback in what is allowed. I am confident the Central Council is working in the interest of ringing and we need to follow their guidance.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September, I was re-elected for what will be my last 'year' as Ringing Master. This will be a shortened year as the 2021 AGM is likely to return to its usual weekend after Easter. It is also likely ringing and the usual events between now and then will continue to be curtailed.

I hope to attend the virtual District ADMs, although it seems the NE and NW meetings may be on the same day.

Tom Scase  
Suffolk Guild Ringing Master



## **Recruitment and Training report – 17 October 2020**

Our latest meeting was held on 4 October 2020, via Zoom. The main focus of the meeting was to make progress with the Golden Bottle simulators. Progress this year, for obvious reasons, has not been as intended. For the Golden Bottle section, we were joined by Tim Hart. Tim has agreed to help us and with his knowledge (he set up and maintains the Norman Tower simulator) is well placed to do so. We agreed to modify our initial plans and will now look to set up a single bell as the first step. This differs from the original plan of setting up a simulator to work on all bells – the restrictions with teaching and the need for social distancing means this is less beneficial at the moment. Felixstowe is likely to be our focus for the first installation. Progress, though, depends on Covid-19; at the time of writing, restrictions look perhaps more likely to increase rather than be relaxed.

Full minutes of the meeting will be on the Guild Website in due course.

Tom Scase  
Suffolk Guild Ringing Master

**Report from Belfry Advisory Committee for**  
**Guild Management Committee**  
**October 2020**

Because no BAC Meeting was scheduled for October, the following report has been completed by Winston Girling. The BAC Chairman, Chris Davies, has recently undergone an operation and is now recuperating at home.

At Bacton, the fourth wheel was found to be rotten on the sole plate and wheel shrouds and the whole wheel assembly was weak. The wheel has now been re-rimmed by Nicholson's and replaced. The bolts securing the bearing housings to the frame were also in a poor state and were also replaced at the same time.

Hitcham restoration and augmentation to eight was due to commence on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. These bells have been re-hung in a new steel frame lower in the tower, leaving the old mediaeval frame in place. Much work has also been done in the church as part of the bell restoration.

Laxfield and Barham restorations are due to be completed before the end of 2020. Laxfield to be hung in a new steel frame and augmented to eight, and Barham to be augmented from four to six and also hung in a new steel frame and to be rung from the porch. All three towers by Taylor's of Loughborough.

Stowmarket bells are still with Nicholson's. It was discovered that the third and the fourth of the old eight were both cracked in the crown, the fourth not too badly but the third crack involved some bolt holes. There were nine bolt holes in total and it was decided that a new bell should be cast to replace this bell, the old bell being preserved in the tower at Stowmarket (Darby Bell, 1699) the fourth has welded successfully and permission obtained to minimally tune this mediaeval bell and the 1622 tenor.

This now means that we will have four brand new bells, all contained in the front 6. The replacement for the old 3<sup>rd</sup> has been cast in Holland. A new service floor has been installed at Stowmarket and the pockets cut into the walls to receive the new steel bell frame supports. It seems likely that the bells will be back early in the New Year. The proposed peal of ten bells will now contain eight modern bells and the 1622 tenor (Miles Graye) and circa 1450 original fourth (John Danyell, a Londoner)

Winston S. Girling  
(on behalf of Chris Davies)

## **Membership Report to the GMC**

October 2020

Unsurprisingly I have received no application forms for the election of new members since the last report made in June.

Sadly I have to report that 4 members have passed away since the June meeting:

26<sup>th</sup> June Mrs Barbara Newson, Stonham Aspal, SE District, aged 68  
4<sup>th</sup> August Richard (Dick) Stannard, Bury St Eds, NW District, aged 91  
8<sup>th</sup> Sept Alan Munnings, Sproughton, SE District, aged 75  
15<sup>th</sup> Sept Richard (Dick) Pegg, Grundisburgh, SE District, aged 92

Altogether I have recorded the passing of ten members since the beginning of the year.

In this strange year approximately 72% of the membership had paid their subscriptions by the AGM on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Whilst the Guild is keen to collect as many as possible, we must be aware that although many unpaid will be because members simply have not met together, others will be because of the economic situation they find themselves in. I urge sensitivity in trying to collect outstanding subs. Far better that subs are paid when the situation for ringing improves, hopefully in 2021.

On a positive note, our attempts to inform all of last year's members of the AGM last month resulted in many updates in contact details, including email addresses. I would like to record my thanks to all the district secretaries, area reps and other members for their input.

Mary Garner  
Membership Secretary  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **Safeguarding Report to the GMC**

October 2020

There is nothing to report with regard to safeguarding from the membership at this time.

However discussions between the Treasurer, Secretary and me have taken place recently regarding the apparent requirement for safeguarding training by our Insurers.

Mary Garner  
Safeguarding Officer  
19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **Webmaster's Report for the GMC**

October 2020

### **Guild emails**

I have sent out 30 emails since the last meeting (up until 18/10/2020).

Chris Garner  
18/10/2020

## Public Relations Officer report June to October 2020

The focus for the last few months has been around the limited return to ringing. The guidance created by the Central Council has been distributed to all members and the diocese.

Several other Guild members and I have been helping John Loveless promote the sale of the George Pipe biography. Thank you to the district coordinators for stepping forward to take orders for members.

We've had three features on Radio Suffolk, the first was when I was interviewed just before the initial return to ringing by Mark Murphy, then on 30th August Rowan Wilson and Glenys Fear spoke with Luke Deal on difficulties faced on returning to ringing, and most recently Fiona Shuttle and I spoke with Lesley Dolphin on the restoration of Laxfield and the Guild's work in supporting projects across the county

I've been in contact with the Suffolk Community Foundation regarding the next round of applications to their Sapphire Fund, which is partly devoted to the restoration of church bells in the Mid Suffolk District. We hope to assist some towers to make an application or apply on their behalf.

The Dove steward has been provided with the information on all the ongoing restoration projects in the county. I encourage all members to ensure the entries for their towers are up to date as there is some discrepancy between Doves Guide and the data we hold whether that be practice night or whether a tower is ringable.

The Suffolk Archives have partially opened their new building in Ipswich known as 'The Hold.' One of the building's features is a series of recordings played out loud from their collections including some of change ringing.

Jonathan Williamson and I were featured in the August and September episodes of ART's podcast series 'Fun with Bells'. Both episodes covered unusual towers with Jonathan and I speaking about East Bergholt and Gt Livermere respectively.

<https://funwithbells.com/weird-and-wonderful-towers-1-of-2/>

<https://funwithbells.com/wierd-and-wonderful-towers-2-of-2/>

The major project at Sudbury St Peter has been awarded £1.67 million in Heritage Lottery Funding. The project will involving lowering the ringing chamber to an open gallery. Planning permission was granted in March and we're in contact with the scheme coordinator to ensure our concerns are taken into consideration.

There's been several Suffolk entries into the Central Council monthly YouTube competition. <https://cccb.org.uk/youtube-competition/>

Tim Hart of Bury St Edmunds, won the hotly contested July contest for most unusual or interesting ringing video with his handbell robot entry. [https://youtu.be/0rIfZroE\\_4k](https://youtu.be/0rIfZroE_4k)

I've passed the Guild's data on quarter peals onto the 'Women in Ringing' project to provide some information on gender balance in Suffolk. <https://www.womeninringing.info/suffolk-qp-data-analysis> Interestingly the percentage of women conducting quarter peals in Suffolk is just over 6% higher than the figure for the rest of the exercise.

One project I'm working on is to improve the completed restorations section of website to give greatly visibility to the grants we've awarded and support we've given to projects across the county. I've receive some content for Little Cornard and St Margaret's and looking to cover the other projects over the next few months.

For the Central Council meeting in 2023 I've enquired with several venues and found Jerwood Dance House, in the marina area of Ipswich, to be the most suitable, certainly for the main meeting with a view to make a provisional booking.

**Neal Dodge**  
**Public Relation Officer**