



Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Sunday 24th October 2021 2 pm via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

1) Welcome

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 2.00 pm and welcomed all members.
- b) Members present:
 - i) **Officers;** Chairman Rowan Wilson, Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Ringing Master Katharine Salter, BAC Chairman Chris Davies
 - ii) **NW District;** Neal Dodge, Cath Colman
 - iii) **NE District;** Philip Gorrod, Dave Goldstone
 - iv) **SE District;** Abby Antrobus, Jenny Scase, Mark Ogden
 - v) **SW District;** Pauline Brown

2) Apologies

Mary Garner, Kate Gill, Sarah Plummer, Maureen Gardiner, Tracey Scase, Tim Forsey. Liz Christian had been invited to attend and had sent her apologies.

Rowan explained that the GMC was due to have been held in person, but due to the postponement of the Absent Friends' service, is now being held via Zoom. This decision to postpone the event at Laxfield was taken by the Executive following the outbreak of Covid-19 infections at the recent NE District event at Reydon.

Philip outlined the circumstances, where 6 ringers, out of 15 present, tested positive for Covid, with one ringer's spouse also being infected. This involved strenuous efforts tracing everyone involved and caused considerable worry about who might be infected. It was thought that the necessary precautions had been taken but reinforced the need for caution and good ventilation.

3) Absent Friends

Hazel Judge, Pettistree.

David Salter, member for over 50 years, Guild's leading peal ringer, Vice-President, 2 terms as Ringing Master and CCCBR representative.

4) Minutes of meeting held on 20th June 2021

- a) The minutes from the meeting on 20th June had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) A couple of typos were identified in the minutes: Treasurer's report second line should read '...it was *decided* that Kate Gill....'

Webmaster's report first line should read '....with Chris to resolve an issue *where* members' emails.....'

Item 7b – heading should read 'Membership', not Safeguarding.

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Katharine Salter and seconded by Stephen Cheek and accepted unanimously.

5) Matters arising from the previous minutes

ACTION LOG

Item	Action	Action Owner	Update at this meeting
7a iv	Audit of members after lockdown	Mary Garner	Not done yet as still not out of Covid recovery period. To be done after ADMs.
7a	Safeguarding report to be regular agenda item	Rowan Wilson	Completed
7c i	Matthew Higby to be chased for payment of debt	Kate Gill	Debt has been paid
7e	Suffolk Day events on Bellboard	Neal Dodge	Done. There were 6 performances
9a	Action comments about website	Rowan Wilson	Chris still to action. Free up tab for BAC 7th Nov now completed
10	Links to be added on website to 'Return to Ringing' videos	Neal Dodge and Chris Garner	Completed
10	Mark Ogden to be added as 5 th Recovery Champion	Neal Dodge	Already had been added
10	Each district to be asked to view Return to Ringing videos	Rowan Wilson	Rowan received very little response and didn't pursue
10	Recovery Towers to be made available	Katharine Salter	Not followed up but see below re Norman Tower
10	Norman Tower to become Ringing Hub	Rowan Wilson	NW district attended 3 practices in July. Ringing Gym held in September and October, some uptake.
10	St Lawrence as ringing hub	Katharine Salter	No uptake yet but still available
10	Felixstowe and Southwold simulators		Southwold is up but needs fine tuning. Some wireless issues.

Other matters arising:

- a) Rowan reported that 80 people had attended the HOD taster day at the Norman Tower, and there were around 50 to 60 people at an Open House session later that week. Both of these events were successful.
- b) The Service of Celebration has been postponed from 24th October for the reasons already discussed. This may now form a part of the traditional AGM service on 23 April 2022, to be held in SW district. Another alternative is to hold it as an outdoor event later in the year.
- c) The 6 bell striking competition will be held in the NE in 2022, the 8 bell and Social in the SE.
- d) Succession planning. Liz Christian has been identified as Mary Garner's replacement as Safeguarding Officer from August 2021. A shadow for Stephen is to be considered as his term of office ends in 2023.

6) Centenary celebrations (suggestions and update) – item moved up from agenda item 10.

a) Centenary Dinner. 25th March 2023

- i) The date is in the Bishop's diary, but only provisional at this stage. Rowan reported that David Everett thinks it is unlikely to be changed. The Masonic Hall at Bury St Edmunds has been booked.
- ii) The small 'Dinner Committee' consists of district secretaries at the present time. Abby is happy to remain on the committee although stepping down as SE secretary. It was suggested that membership should be 'locked' as David Everett NW, Kate Gill NE, Tim Forsey SW and Abby Antrobus. Rowan will ask if anyone else wishes to volunteer.
- iii) 50 year certificates can be given out at the dinner (instead of the AGM) as relating to the total years' membership as at the previous year.
- iv) A brief to be given to the committee by Rowan as to what is required.
- iv) Dinner Committee to identify a speaker for the dinner. They can also go and sample a meal in advance at the venue and check room size etc (Alan Mayle is the link person for this).

b) Ringing World centenary edition

- i) GMC discussed ideas for this, including extracts from Katharine's book on the Guild history, ongoing progress etc. Cornwall had a celebratory edition earlier this year. Katharine is willing to take the lead on this.
- ii) Districts to be asked to become involved, including some people not normally involved in Guild activities.
- iii) Rowan to check amount of material required, and lead in times for publication and to pass correspondence onto Katharine.

c) 2023 Calendar

- i) This was originally planned to be a Ringing World publication, but thoughts are now moving to self-publishing. However, we need to be aware of the potential to lose money. Mike Cowling had been approached about leading, but Neal reported that Mike now seems keener on a coffee-table type book.
- ii) Rowan will contact Mike to discuss further. It may be possible for a Suffolk Guild publication still to be promoted by the Ringing World.
- iii) Rowan to let Will Bosworth of Ringing World know that we will not be going ahead with a RW calendar.

d) Radio Suffolk soundbites

- i) Neal and John Loveless have discussed. The soundbites could be divided into 5 or 6 short interviews to be broadcast in the months leading up to the dinner. Neal will continue to liaise with John.
- ii) A Suffolk 'Bells on Sunday' series of recordings could be run. In general, BBC Radio Suffolk seem keen on any bell-related material and are supportive of the Guild.
- iii) Katharine has been interviewed this morning about the Ridgman Striking Contest and is going to be a Lesley Dolphin 'sofa-guest' early next year.

e) Recordings of Suffolk bells

- i) Neal is working with Mike Cowling on a project to record all ringable towers in Suffolk. Rowan to confirm with Mike if he is willing to lead on this. GMC recognised that not all striking will be of competition standard and also reinforced the need to obtain consent from bands before their ringing is broadcast or otherwise publicised.

f) 100 challenges during centenary year

- i) It was agreed that, for simplicity, this should run over the full calendar year in 2023, starting 1st January.
- ii) The challenges could comprise 100 QPs, with 100 different conductors, 100 first quarter peelers etc.
- iii) Guild to attempt to ring 100 peals and 100 QPs.
- iv) Rowan to ask districts to suggest other ideas, including some personal challenges along the lines of the ART '50 ringing things'.
- v) Progress on the challenge could be reported periodically during the year in Ringing World.

g) Other ideas

- i) Cath asked if there will be a centenary service. If so this, needs to be booked soon. It was agreed it would be a good idea to get the Bishop involved at an early stage. Ipswich was suggested as the venue as the dinner is being held in Bury.
- ii) The CCCBR AGM will be held during the first weekend of September 2023 in Ipswich.
- iii) A commemorative pint glass or a specially brewed beer could be considered.

7) Correspondence

Simon Linford had contacted Guild re structure of CCCBR and asking for suggestions for improvement. After obtaining comments, Rowan replied to effect that there is lack of clarity about CCCBR role and too many committees. She has since heard that CCCBR will not be actioning this year.

8) Officer Reports

a) Safeguarding Officer

- i) Rowan read out Liz Christian's report. She became safeguarding officer in August 2021 and her appointment is to be ratified later in the meeting.
- ii) New online safeguarding courses are now available, which are much improved on the previous versions.
- iii) Members felt it is the responsibility of individual parishes to check safeguarding training has been undertaken and is not something the Guild can enforce.
- iv) Rowan to invite Liz to the next GMC meeting.

b) Treasurer

- i) Stephen queried whether a separate interest-earning account should be opened for the Jubilee Fund. The St Peter's fund is much smaller but has its own interest account.
- ii) The Jubilee Fund was set up as a capital fund to accumulate interest for the benefit of the Guild. GMC agreed that a separate Jubilee Fund should be set up, and this will also receive donations in memory of David Salter.
- iii) The purposes for which the St Peter's Fund can be used are currently stated as for running costs, minor repairs and fittings, but not decoration. GMC agreed that whilst a new set of ropes would come within the current terms, Stephen and Rowan should investigate whether the fund can accommodate the current work at St Peter's, including redecoration of the ringing chamber. This may require a rule change.
- iv) There are some newly elected members who have not paid subscriptions. It was reiterated that election as a member is subject to the subscription being paid, and that people delaying paying to try and get some months of grace is not acceptable. Stephen to liaise with Mary Garner. Rowan will remind District Treasurers of the need to be pro-active about the collection of subscriptions.
- v) It was agreed that the insurance of the handbells will continue, to be met out of the General Fund.

c) Ringing Master/Recruitment and Training

- i) There were no questions arising out of the reports. Rowan asked that R&T meetings are held in advance of GMC wherever possible.

d) Belfry Advisory Committee

- i) The reference to the St Gregory's Sudbury application for grant was discussed at length. The main issue centred around the amount of BAC assistance as compared to the local help available. Pauline Brown said that she was very willing to pay BAC volunteers mileage at 20p per mile and lunch allowance and had funds put aside for this. The St Gregory's congregation is elderly and younger members mostly work full time.
- ii) There was a lengthy discussion about equitable process in awarding grants, especially around the use of BAC assistance, which can reduce the overall cost of the work.
- iii) The decision on whether to award the grant will be held over until the appropriate agenda item.

e) Membership Secretary (Mary Garner not present).

- i) Concerns were expressed about the reduced number of members. 473 members is the latest figure.
- ii) It was agreed that reminders will be sent out to members, as part of reminders about ADMs. District Treasurers to be asked to follow up.

f) PRO Report

- i) Neal reported on events since he wrote the report, including the launch event for Westthorpe, and the offer of support of ringers from Christine Knight to help keep Stradishall church open.
- ii) He and Lesley Steed will attend diocesan meetings about the Queen's Jubilee next year. He asked that ideas for this be sent to him.
- iii) St Peter's, Sudbury, was discussed further. The CCT has said there are no funds dedicated to the refurbishment of the ringing chamber. A rule change to the St Peter's fund is to be considered.
- iv) Katharine queried whether the listed building consent covers work to the ringing chamber, and whether any asbestos has been found in the old ceiling. Abby will investigate the position regarding the listed building consent.

v) GMC agreed no issue in principle in releasing money from the St Peter's fund for the ringing chamber if the rules of the fund permit it, or the rules can be changed.

g) Webmaster Report

i) Incorrect advice had been given to Chris Garner regarding reducing the number of forwarding addresses to 200, which had entailed considerable work. He will be seeking compensation from our web host.

Mark Ogden proposed that the officer reports are accepted, seconded by Chris Davies. GMC accepted the reports.

9) Applications for grants (St Gregory's, Sudbury)

a) Estimates for work

i) Chris Davies reported that four estimates were received for the work, narrowed down to Taylors and Nicholsons. The technical adviser and diocesan advisor both believe the Warners headstocks to be too heavy. The Taylors estimate includes replacement with modern, lighter headstocks.

ii) Overall cost is £69,692, less a self help allowance of £10,577, reducing the cost to £59,115. However, Taylors suggest a 10% contingency is also included in the budget.

b) Amount of grant to be awarded

i) BAC has recommended a grant of £2955.75 (approximately 5% of estimate) rounded up to £3000. St Gregory's currently holds £55,987 in savings and grants. However, BAC is concerned about the apparent total reliance on BAC for the self help element.

ii) Rowan wishes to ensure that the terms and conditions (5d) around there being a viable band of ringers are met. Pauline responded that are 10 accredited members of the band.

iii) Additionally, the installation of new bearings, headstocks and wheels will make the bells much more suitable for training learners.

c) Additional information requested before grant decision is made

i) R&T needs to see the written evidence of the plans for recruiting, training and developing a band of new ringers. R&T would also like BAC to consider the heritage implications of the installation and whether the current headstocks are of any historical interest.

ii) Chris pointed out that the Guild is not a heritage organisation and such consents will need to come as part of the faculty.

iii) After R&T consideration, the grant application is then to be passed back to BAC to reconsider.

iv) The grant application was not put to GMC vote because of the additional information requested. GMC members were asked to submit any further questions they wish considered to BAC for its consideration, to prevent further delays in making a decision. The application request then to be returned to GMC after further review by R&T and BAC.

v) Pauline wished to make it clear she hasn't already been asked for further information and had done her utmost to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant. Rowan emphasised to Pauline what a good job she has done so far.

10) Ratification of NRLMs and new Safeguarding Officer

i) Graham Firman and Katharine Firman were elected as NRLMs prior to the handbell peal in Leiston. GMC ratified their election.

ii) Liz Christian, who has a background in sports safeguarding, was ratified as the Guild Safeguarding Officer.

11) Any Other Business

i) Neal queried whether policies require review, as their review date is shown as every October. Neal proposed, and Stephen seconded, the policies remain unamended. This was approved by GMC. Chris Garner to be asked to update review date on policies to October 2022. Philip still has one policy to consider further, following comments from Maureen and Kate and will check which one this is.

ii) Katharine reported that David had maintained a database of Guild peal records and compositions. Stephen and Katharine are currently working to restore this database, which is corrupted. It was agreed that it will be best for the team who currently compile the records (Christine, Brian and Katharine) to decide on how the records will be maintained in future. They are mostly stored on Pealbase as well.

- iii) Further consideration was given to whether Microsoft Cloud storage or additional Guild website space should be used as a digital repository of Guild records. The website is the preferred option, for ease of access. Chris Garner to be asked to investigate cost of buying additional website space.
- iv) After discussion, it was agreed to hold St Edmund's clapper competition in abeyance this year. Donations can still be made to it if desired.
- v) Ideas for someone to shadow Stephen for a year prior to his term of office as Treasurer ending in 2023 were requested.
- vi) Katharine outlined her current plans for an event to celebrate David's life. It will be held over the weekend of 30 April/1 May next year, which coincides with Guild Peal Week. Peals and QP attempts will be made, together with some social events. She emphasised that this will be an event wider than the Suffolk Guild.

12) Date of next GMC

Sunday 13th February 2022. 2.00 pm, hopefully in person at Stowupland.

ACTION LOG FROM 24TH OCTOBER 2021

Item No.	Action	Action Owner
6a ii	Check whether current district secs willing to remain on Guild Dinner Committee and ask for additional volunteers	Rowan Wilson
6a iv	Brief to be given to Dinner Committee on activities required, including identifying speaker, visiting venue beforehand etc	Rowan Wilson
6b iii	Check lead in times for publication of Guild RW Centenary edition and pass material to Katharine Salter	Rowan Wilson
6c ii	Contact Mike Cowling to discuss 'coffee table book' – Guild centenary	Rowan Wilson
6c iii	Advise Will Bosworth of RW that we are not doing 2023 RW calendar	Rowan Wilson
6e i	Continue to liaise with Mike Cowling (leading) re recordings of Suffolk bells and check consent requirements for recordings in public domain	Rowan Wilson & Neal Dodge
6f iv	Ask districts for ideas to celebrate Guild centenary	Rowan Wilson
6g	Consider centenary service (Ipswich?) and involve Bishop at early stage	?
8 b ii	Set up a separate interest-bearing Jubilee Fund	Stephen Cheek
8b iii	Check terms of St Peter's fund and whether a rule change is needed	Stephen Cheek
8b iv	Liaise with Mary Garner re chasing up unpaid subscriptions	Stephen Cheek
9c i	Further evidence to R&T on recruitment and training plans for St Gregory's band. R&T then to consider.	Pauline Brown/Katharine Salter
9c iii	BAC then to reconsider St Gregory's grant after R&T consideration. Application then to be returned to GMC if BAC recommend approval	Chris Davies
11 i	Review date on Guild policies to be changed to October 2022.	Chris Garner
11 i	Check which Guild policy requires amendment following comments	Philip Gorrod
11 ii	Decide on team to action ongoing collation and storage of Guild peal records and compositions	Rowan Wilson/Katharine Salter
11 iii	Investigate costs of expanding Guild website to digitally store Guild records	Chris Garner

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Safeguarding Report to the GMC 24th October 2021

No safeguarding issues have been raised with me since taking on the role in August 2021.

A link to the latest Summary Ringing Guidance [England] version 2.2 updated on 25th August from CCCBR, is on the Guild website.

The Guild Safeguarding Statement and Policy revision was completed in consultation with the Diocese, at the end of June.

Basic Awareness Training continues to be available online until Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted. In-person events will then make a return, for anyone who cannot access an online course.

Elizabeth Christian

Safeguarding Officer

October 2021

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting 24 October 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds summary as at 12 October 2021

General Fund	11785.66
Restoration Fund	35457.68
Restoration Grants Allocated	31050.00
Library Fund	237.22
Handbell Fund	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3264.52
Jubilee Fund	4125.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1117.96
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2174.81
TOTAL	90145.35

Overdue Accounts

After timely prompting from Kate, Matthew Higby has now paid his advertising bill. There are now no amounts outstanding.

Grant Payments

No payments have been made since the last meeting, and a summary of the grants approved/paid out follows:

	Approved	Approved	Date	Date of	Grants	Grants	Date	
	<u>Previous Years</u>	This year	Approved	Expiry	Paid	unpaid	Paid	Notes
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2022		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		11000.00		
Laxfield	12000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022	12000.00		20/04/2021	
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	31/12/2022		8,000.00		
Barham								
	200.00		8/06/2020	1/12/2022		200.00		
	43,300.00	0.00			12,000.00	31,050.00		
			=					

Progress has been made with the Barham grant, and we do now have the signed acceptance of the T & Cs. We are just awaiting formal request for payment and bank details in order to complete.

The Golden Bottle Trust Fund

Payments totalling £881.80 have been made in connection with the installation of simulator equipment at Felixstowe (SE District). At Southwold (NE District) the simulator costs to date have been £711.68. Judging by these amounts, the £3264.52 balance in the fund will be more than adequate for installations in the other two districts.

The Pipe Family Trust Fund

£44 has been spent from this fund for the purchase of 1000 "Learning to Ring" leaflets.

The Library Fund

The Library has purchased a copy of John Loveless' biography of George Pipe "*Shake my hand and I'll show you the ropes*". Cost £16

Jubilee Fund

The Jubilee Fund is a capital fund from which no withdrawals are made, and from which any interest is transferred to the Restoration Fund. It will shortly be receiving a boost, as Katharine Salter has asked for any *in memoriam* donations for David to be put into the fund. I also believe that there may be further significant input, from a source which I have been asked to keep confidential. With this in mind, I would like the GMC's agreement to open a separate interest bearing account for this fund.

Subscriptions

Subscription payments received to date total £7195, broken down as below, with yearly comparisons:

Year	NE	NW	SE	SW	NRLM	TOTAL
2021	1805	1675	2280	1415	20	7195
2020	1840	1795	3325	2040	40	9040
2019	1531	1917	2609	1717	56	7830

Because of late payers, and those who generously pay in advance, it should be noted that these are actual amounts received, and do not necessarily relate to membership for the year in question.

Fundraising Initiatives

Further payments have been received from both of the fund-raising initiatives currently running. £8.61 from AmazonSmile and £21.82 from EasyFundraising

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer

12 October 2021

Belfry Advisory Committee Report for 24 Oct GMC Meeting at Laxfield

The BAC held a meeting at Preston St Mary on 11 August. At that time, there had been no grant applications, and an enjoyable evening was spent catching up on the work which had been completed during the 18 months of lockdown.

Subsequently, a grant application was received from St Gregory's, Sudbury. Our technical advisors had been closely associated with this project, and both recommended that the existing Warner's headstocks are too heavy for the bells and need replacement. St Gregory's currently hold £55,987 in savings and grants. Taylor's are St Gregory's preferred bidder, whose estimate for the work was £69,692, less a self-help allowance of £10,577 (including cost saving measures such as refurbishing the existing wheels), reducing the cost to £59,115. However, Taylor's also suggested that they include in their budget a 10% contingency allowance. This matter was addressed by the BAC by email/post. The BAC suggested a grant in the order of 5% of estimate. This would mean a Guild grant of £2,955.75, which we would like to see rounded up to £3,000. This would bring their fundraising total to £58,987, some £128 short of the Taylor's estimate (but still requiring £5,911 contingency).

However, the BAC Chairman was concerned that St Gregory's planned to rely entirely on the BAC help to achieve the "self help allowance". They do not plan to undertake any help from the parish/ringing band at all, and this sat uncomfortably with a number of BAC members. The Guild rules clearly state that any expenses for helpers are the responsibility of the parish. Were the Guild to recommend a grant to St Gregory's, I would ask that a conditional caveat be added, to the effect that volunteers be offered a mileage allowance of 20p/mile. Given that the project is likely to require at least 28 man-days of help, all from BAC resources, I feel that is the least helpers should expect to defer the personal expense of travel.

During the summer, the BAC's work has continued helping and advising parishes throughout the county. These included:

Barham. The refurbishment at this church is now complete. The Guild T&C's have finally been signed off by the parish, allowing our grant to be paid.

Broome. The BAC Chairman and the two Technical Advisors carried out an inspection of the 5 bells at this church, after questions were raised about their state and suitability for ringing. The technical advisers report has yet to be received, but it was clear that although the bells could not be described as 'easy going', they were safe to ring, with an acceptable amount of frame movement. In reality, the fittings, especially the bearings and gudgeon pins are worn and ready for replacement. However, the difficult access to the ringing chamber, up a vertical steel ladder is likely to deter all but the most determined campanologist, so they are unlikely to be used a great deal. There is no plan to refurbish the fittings at the current time.

Buxhall. Taylor's have completed the installation of two trebles to the existing 6 bells. Although the BAC helped with the initial preparation of this project, the parish raised sufficient funds, such that Taylor's were able to complete the work unassisted. Reports suggest that they are an excellent new 8bell ring. No Guild grant was associated with this project.

Combs. Three of the four bells, in the first part of this project, have been removed and lowered to the floor, with the fourth bell to follow asap. These bells will be returned to Taylor's for refurbishment and the fitting of an electronic chiming apparatus. These bells will not be rung again full circle. The parish has funding for this part of their project but is still raising funds for the eventual plan to augment to ten bells (8 bells from Hunslet via the Keltic Trust plus 2 additional bells).

Drinkstone. The village have formed a committee to spearhead their project, which is in the early stages. Alan Moulton has been helping the parish with their plans.

Little Blakenham. The parish requested assistance from the BAC after a quintennial inspection questioned the safety of one of their two chiming bells. The BAC Chairman inspected the bells and found the headstock attachments to the bell to be badly corroded/missing. The chiming rope was removed to stop the use of the bell. The Technical Advisor plans to inspect the bell and to make recommendations of how best to bring the bell back into use.

Oakley. The BAC Chairman and the two Technical Advisors carried out an inspection of the new grillage, placed just above the steel H frame, housing the 6 bells. The grill does restrict access to the bells making routine maintenance more difficult. The installation was inserted without reference to the Guild or local ringers.

Stowmarket. Nicholson's plan the rehanging of the Stowmarket 10 bell ring, starting midJanuary 2022.

Westhorpe. The village plan to augment the existing 5 bells to 6 by the addition of a Keltic bell, and rehang the 6 in a new frame, and have just submitted for a faculty to undertake the work. We can expect a grant application for this project in the future.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Membership Report to the GMC
24th October 2021

Since the June report I have received applications from 5, now elected, members. I have sent welcome letters and information to each but no certificates at present.

I have recorded the passing of one member since June, David Salter. He died on September 10th, aged 65. David was an LHM and past Master who was awarded a fifty year certificate of membership at the AGM in April.

Currently there are 478 members.

Mary Garner
Membership Secretary
October 2021

Public Relation Officer Report July to October 2021

Women's Tour

The final stage of the Women's Tour cycle race was held in Suffolk between Haverhill and Felixstowe on Saturday 9th October. I contacted the 12 towers along the route especially those in the large villages/towns where crowds of spectators were expected.

Most towers did respond positively though for some I had no reply at all. On the day Clare, Cavendish, Glemsford, Long Melford, Great Finborough, Ashbocking, and Wickham Market rang as the cyclist sped past with a quarter peal of Tour of Britain Bob Minor (a variation on Double Oxford) being scored at Finborough. The sound of bells really added to the festival occasion of the day, thanks to all those that rung.

Sudbury ringing festival

After possibly a 100-year absence, the Sudbury ringing festival was held on the 15th August with around 30 ringers taking part in ringing at the three towers in the town finishing up at Little Cornard. The positive response from the townspeople was overwhelming both in person and on social media, and great day for the ringers as well. An article was in the Suffolk Free Press and I wrote one for the Ringing World which appeared as a double page spread in issue 5760 p850.

Sudbury St Peter

Preparations for the regeneration project have continued with the church closing on the 13th Sept. A quarter peal was arranged as part of the closure events, which like the ringing festival received a huge amount of positive praise. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1460726>

The project team from the CCT have budgeted for little to no enhancements to the ringing room/bells however they are sympathetic to our aim of improving the appearance of the ringing chamber and we'll continue to work with them to make this happen. Money to enable this may be required from the St Peter's fund. The CCT plan to install a rope guide to enable the front six to be rung from the new gallery.

Both the festival and the quarter were organised with the Friend's of St Peter's who are very appreciative of our ringing and count us as a valued partner in the life of the St Peter's.

Guild Eight Bell Striking contest

This element of our art continues to attract great intrigue; I spoke with Radio Suffolk before and after the event and the winning test piece was published online.

Festival of Suffolk/Queen's Jubilee

The Suffolk Community Foundation in conjunction with the Lord Lieutenant is organising the Festival of Suffolk 2022 which is planned to be a 'celebration of Suffolk during the Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee.' Plans are being developed with various events throughout the year. I've pledged the support of Guild though made no commitment as to our exact involvement.

There's no more detail on the national ringing for the Jubilee weekend (4th/5th June) but the CCCBR are in contact with the relevant Government team. I would appreciate people's thoughts on what ringing we should do to commemorate the occasion and tie into the festival plans.

Westhorpe

I supported the launch event for their restoration project by giving a presentation on ringing and the history of their bells. The project will see the derelict five rehung and augmented to six. They have a passionate team in place and strong support in the village and church community.

Leaflets

An order of 1,000 learning to ring leaflet were printed primarily for the Felixstowe open tower day however the spare copies are available for other towers to use.

Bailey Brother's anniversary

To commemorate 100 years since the Bailey Brothers first rang a handbell peal of Stedman Cinques John Loveless organised a similar attempt and organised a great deal of coverage including an interview on Radio Suffolk along with newspaper articles. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/handbell-ringers-peal-in-memory-of-bailey-brothers8289224>

A tower bell peal was also attempted by Suffolk ringers and attended by a relative of the Bailey brothers. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/granddaughter-hears-bells-ring-forleiston-brothers-8273772>

Katharine Salter organised for an article covering both attempts to be published in the EADT including photos of the brothers. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/leiston-churchrings-bells-to-mark-centenary-8270066>

Thanks to John and Katharine for their work in promoting this occasion.

Covid guidance update

With the relaxing of restrictions on the 19th July I distributed the updated guidance to members and tower contacts and passed on any queries received.

Neal Dodge PRO

Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 24/10/2021

Email forwarders (e.g. aldeburgh@suffolkbells.org.uk)

In July we had 236 email forwarders. 123-Reg emailed their customers informing them that we needed to bring the number down to 200. I queried this and it was confirmed that we did indeed need to bring the number down to 200.

I removed the tower forwarding address from all unringables and 4 and 5 bell towers that didn't have a practice and added an Email Contact of the appropriate District Secretary (e.g. [Bedfield](#)). This was not a quick job – firstly deciding what to do and then changing over 30 web pages and deleting the forwarders.

Subsequently Mark Ogden found that 123-Reg's website said 300. I am still in contact with them to find out the true position. I suggest that even if the true limit is 300, we leave things as they are!

Guild emails

538 people are subscribed to the Guild email system, 507 of these are "members".

I have sent out 27 emails since the last meeting (up until 17/10/2021).

Chris Garner
17/10/2021