

Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

2pm Sunday 30th June 2019 at Stowupland Church Hall



Minutes taken by Neal Dodge

1) Welcome

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 14:06 and welcomed members.
- b) Members present:
 - I. **Officers;** Chairman Rowan Wilson (RW), Treasurer Stephen Cheek (SC), Ringing Master Tom Scase (TS), Chairman of the BAC Winston Girling (WS).
 - II. **NW District;** Neal Dodge (ND), Jed Flatters (JF), Maureen Gardiner (MnG), David Steed (DS).
 - III. **NE District;** Philip Gorrod (PG), Jonathan Stevens (JoS), Kate Gill (KG).
 - IV. **SE District;** Mary Garner (MyG), Mark Ogden (MO), Eric Brown (EB), Jenny Scase (JS), Jonathan Williamson (JW).
 - V. **SW District;** Pam Ebsworth (PE).

2) Apologies

- a) Apologies were received from Richard Knight, Sarah Plummer, & Gordon Slack.

3) Absent friends

- a) The meeting stood and remembered **Sue Lucas** of Huntingfield. Sue had been a member of the Guild since 2009. PG commented that he taught her to ring and that she did a great deal for her village.
- b) The meeting also remembered John Newson who rang at Easton.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) The minutes from the meeting on Saturday 9th February had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) No amendments were proposed.
- c) SC proposed they were signed as a true record of the meeting, PG seconded the proposal. The committee unanimously agreed.

5) Matters arising from the previous minutes

- a) Action Log from last meeting

| | Item | Action | Action Holder |
|---|-----------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 7.a.VII.C | To clarify the situation with East Bergholt regarding the new insurance policy. | RW & SC |
| 2 | 7.a.VII.D | To provide clarification to WG on the cover for BAC members. | SC |
| 3 | 8.a.II | Email around the website's privacy policy to GMC members. | Chris Garner |
| 4 | 8.e | Organise a meeting between BAC and R & T members to discuss grant conditions | RW & WG |
| 5 | 11.b | Send out an invite to all members for the AGM including a link to a copy of the annual report | RW |
| 6 | 11.c | Specifically invite members who are due to be awarded a 50 years of membership certificate to the AGM | District Chairmen/ Peter Harper |
| 7 | 15.b | To start a three/four monthly email to the membership highlighting the excellent resources available on the website. | RW |

- b) **Action 1-** SC said he was unclear on what there was to clarify as the previous policy did not mention East Bergholt and so neither does the new policy. The meeting agreed that the matter was closed.
Action 2- SC had sent an email to WG regarding cover.
Action 3- Chris had emailed the policy to all GMC members.
Action 4- Meeting was organised and RW attended.
Action 5- RW sent out an invite.
Action 6- All members due to be presented with certificates were invited to the AGM.
Action 7- This will be tied into the release of the R & T meeting minutes.
- c) PG gave an update on the policy subcommittee which was formed at the last meeting. A list of policies that will be developed has been identified. The work will commence later this year. PG will provide an update at the next meeting.
- d) After a discussion about the number of vacant Guild positions **Kate Gill was proposed as Guild Secretary by PG and seconded by MyG. The committee unanimously approved Kate's appointment.**

6) Correspondence

- a) No specific correspondence has been received.

7) Officers' Reports (*The reports are attached to these minutes.*)

a) Treasurer's Report (SC)

- I. No comments.

b) Ringing Master's Report (TS)

- I. There was a discussion around encouraging a wide range of teams to enter the striking contests as there was no representation from the NE district this year nor a SW 8 bell team. TS commented that in terms of numbers, the 6 bell contest cannot cope with many more teams entering though he would like to see a greater representation of the Guild present.
- II. *Note: striking contests were also discussed in item 16*

c) Belfry Advisory Committee report (WG)

- I. SC asked whether a motion is required to rescind the £10k Lt Cornard grant which is no longer required. The meeting agreed that no motion was required and the grant would count towards the unallocated fund total.
- II. SC commented that last BAC minutes on the website were from Feb 2018. **Action- WG to ask Chris McArthur (BAC secretary) to pass all previous BAC minutes to Chris Garner to put on the website.**

d) Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer (MyG)

- I. MnG commented that since she wrote her report another person has joined the Guild meaning that 23 new members have joined since the beginning of 2019.

e) Public Relations Officer (ND)

- I. ND corrected one item in his report that Suffolk Day in 2020 will fall on a Sunday rather than a Saturday.
- II. ND also told the meeting that Katharine Salter had been interviewed by the diocese regarding Suffolk Day which he would include in his updated report. He also thanked all the towers who rang for Suffolk Day.

f) Webmaster's Report (MyG on behalf of Chris Garner)

- I. JW commented that he felt that the Privacy Policy is missing a number of items. **Action- JW will email MyG & Chris Garner some suggested amendments to the policy.**
- II. MO reminded the committee that when visiting the website if we see something that's out of date or doesn't work to let Chris Garner know so he can correct it. RW asked for all corrections to be sent to her so they can be collated rather than inundating Chris with lots of small requests.
- III. **Action- All committee members to review the website especially sections that are familiar with and send their correction to RW.**

- g) The officers' reports were proposed for adoption by JS & seconded by JoS. The meeting unanimously approved.

8) Applications for grants and grants outstanding.

a) Combs

- I. The project involves using an 18cwt Warner ring of eight from the closed church of Hunslet near Leeds (https://dove.cccbr.org.uk/detail.php?DoveID=LEEDS_HUNS) with two new bells and a new frame to create a ring of ten lower in the tower. The existing four bells will be retained as clock chimes. The work will be carried out by Taylors.
- II. A grant of £8,000 was proposed against a total cost of £97,717. This is made up of £85,274 for the work for the ring of Eight from Hunslet, £19,515 for the two new bells, and £7,072 less for local labour.
- III. A debate ensued regarding the sustainability of this project as some members felt that if the bells went well then they would be a good tower for ringing peals and teaching given it's remote location. Other members felt that as no current band exists, no engagement to recruit new ringers has been made, and that a new ten would require a large amount of ringers to sustain the tower it would be unwise for the Guild to spend its limited resources supporting this project.
- IV. WG mentioned that he had recently heard there's a possibility that the Hunslet bells may now not be available for this project. JF commented that if they are not certain on their approach that we shouldn't support it at this stage. JS reminded the meeting that this information had not come directly from the project and unless we officially hear otherwise we should proceed with their application.

- V. **The meeting approved the grant with seven members in favour, three against, and six abstentions.** This was approved with the caveat that if the bells from Hunslet aren't available, and therefore the project has to be delivered in a different way, the grant will have to be reapplied for and any changes approved in line with condition 6 of the standard Guild grant conditions.

b) Hitcham

- I. The project is to restore the current ring of six derelict bells. The existing pre-reformation oak frame will be retained with a new 8 bell steel frame being installed below. The work will be carried out by Taylors.
- II. A grant of £6,700 was proposed against the cost of eligible work of £67,116. The total cost of the project is £85,957 including discount for local labour £8,614, chiming mechanism £8,306, and a new floor below the old frame £1,921.
- III. **The meeting approved the grant with two abstentions.**

c) Yaxley

- I. The project is a BAC led initiative to stabilise & repair the bearing housings on the back two bells and install new ground pulleys on the back five as they go very poorly to the extent that the tenor was unringable.
- II. A grant covering the total cost of materials for this job including new bearings, sleeves, and reworked pulleys is proposed totaling £454.18.
- III. **The meeting approved the grant unanimously.**

d) Hintlesham

- I. The project is being led by Neville Whittell, and involves major work to the bearings and other components on all six bells at Hintlesham as they go very poorly and have people interested in learning to ring. WG told the meeting that the church said that they did not require a faculty for the work.
- II. Correspondence on this grant and the work had been received from Katharine Salter and the Churchwardens of Hintlesham.
- III. The total value of grant proposed came to £742 made up of £582 of materials that had receipts and £160 that did not.
- IV. The meeting felt that because the work involved lifting bells that a faculty was probably required and that it was uncomfortable in awarding grants against costs that could not be accounted for with receipts.
- V. **As such a proposal for £600, a rounded figure of those materials that had receipts, was proposed and approved by the GMC unanimously with the condition that clarification was sought to confirm that a faculty was not required for this work.**

e) Minor Grants

- I. The meeting had concerns that for both the Yaxley & Hintlesham grants the Guild was being asked to foot the whole bill for work that had already been completed.
- II. The committee resolved that clear lead and oversight is needed by BAC on such projects that require minor grants (<£1,000) rather than individual parishes carrying out work and then expecting to be paid for it.

9) Non Resident Life Members.

- a) Three NRLMs require ratification: Ian & Jane Grandfield (Diss), and Andrew Kelso (Essex).
- b) The meeting unanimously ratified these three NRLMs.
- c) SC said that Ian Hill, a NRLM who rang in a SGR peal in February, still has not paid his NRLM fee. *Post meeting clarification: A fee for Ian Hill has been received and he will be ratified at a later date.*

10) Unpaid subscriptions

- a. RW & SC raised the issue of the volume of unpaid subscriptions. SC said that the NW & SW districts are now fully paid for 2019 but a large amount is still outstanding for the NE & SE districts.
- b. MyG commented that now people can pay direct via bank transfer it was difficult for her as a tower captain to monitor whether people have paid. **Action- SC will send MyG a list of unpaid members for her tower.**
- c. The committee concluded that collecting subscriptions from members is a big challenge, more communication & collaboration was needed, but ultimately it is role of the District Treasurers to keep track of members who have paid and follow up on those who haven't. **Action- SC & RW to formulate a plan to improvement the promptness of subscription payments.**

11) Donations to other bodies

- a) SC introduced the topic. For a number of years the Guild has made donations to outside bodies namely the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, The Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and The Friends of St Peter's Sudbury.
- b) SC found that up till around ten years ago the donations were voted on at the AGM. PG interjected that this had stopped under his tenure as chairman to save time during meetings as they were small amounts that could be dealt with by GMC or the Executive rather than the Guild at large.
- c) SC said that none of charities had contact him asking for payment and the committee felt that given the Guild's financial position we shouldn't be giving money to other organisations especially ones that do not align with our objectives. In the case of St Peter's Sudbury the Guild already had a fund to cover expenses associated with the bells there.
- d) SC proposed & ND seconded that the **Guild ceases payment of these donation indefinitely**. The committee unanimously approved the proposal.

12) AGM 2019 Review

- a) JW gave an overview of the arrangements for the day. The committee was very complimentary of the organisation of the AGM day, RW's chairmanship of the meeting, and use of the sound system which was manned by a paid resource. The committee agreed that it was well worth the outlay to have someone control the sound system and would recommend that, where possible, it is provided at future AGMs.
- b) JW said with the car park donations and fees for tea, a profit of £54 was returned to Guild after donations were made to St Matthew's Ipswich for hosting the event, the towers that had ringing in the morning, and payment to the sound system attendant.
- c) The meeting discussed the 2020 AGM which will be held in the SW District, the location is yet to be determined. RW emphasised the point that the whole district team is involved in the organisation rather than just the secretary. **Action- RW to collate and send 'top tips for hosting the AGM' to PE**

13) Guild Social 21st September 2019

- a) KG ran through the plans for the Guild Social which this year is hosted by the NE district. It will be an afternoon treasure hunt with ringing followed by a 'sausage and spuds' supper at Holton village hall including a bar.
- b) KG distributed some posters for the committee to display in their towers. Tickets will be £10 per head and £5 for children. KG estimated that around fifty attendees are required to make a comfortable profit.
- c) JW clarified the legal position around alcohol licensing at the event. **Action- JW will email KG with the licensing requirements for running a bar at the Guild Social.**
- d) The NE district is also hosting a ringing taster day in morning at Halesworth and would appreciate any help from other Guild members. **Action- Guild members who can help out with the taster day at Halesworth to contact PG**

14) Recruitment Taster Days

- a) RW said that R & T committee had been developing proposal for ringing taster days which would align with local or county wide events like Heritage Open Days or Suffolk Day to draw people in. Plans are in progress.

15) Improving the sustainability of bell restoration projects

- a) RW attended the last BAC meeting to discuss the topic with the BAC. It was established that the training and recruitment element of a restoration project needs to be written down and presented to the Guild in the same way the technical elements are presented to the BAC.
- b) PG commented that if parishes and PCC knew the true cost in terms of effort and time required to recruit, train, and retained a band of ringers up front many may not embark on restoration projects in the first place. So therefore we need to educate and work with parishes to engage with them early in the life of a project.

16) Guild Striking Contests- time for a rethink?

- a) RW noted that at this year's striking contest the six bell was well attended and had a good atmosphere but then very few people went on to attend the eight bell contest in the afternoon and that this was typical in previous years too.
- b) ND commented that attendance at the eight bell contest often depended on whether the lunch was held at the six or eight bell venue, as attendance at the eight bell had been a lot higher in years when it had also hosted the lunch.
- c) The meeting also discussed the issue for judges that the call change and method teams are interspersed in the six bell contest.
- d) JoS in reply said that any separation of method and call change bands would create a division between teams and not foster the Guild-wide feeling that the current six bell contest has.

- e) TS said that mixing of teams was not an insurmountable challenge as although previous judges had commented on the mixing none of them had found it impossible to judge or objected to it outright.
- f) **Action- GMC members to bring proposals for changing the format of the Striking Contest to the next meeting**

17) Mitson Shield replacement

- a) ND informed the meeting that Mitson Shield had only a couple of spaces left so would need replacing in the next couple of years. He had previously spoken to DS regarding asking the family of the late Hubert Mitson if they would like to commission a new shield in his memory.
- b) **Action- Members to consider options for a replacement six bell shield ready for the next meeting.**

18) Young Ringers' Event

- a) MO promoted the Young Ringers' event on the 25th July and asked members to do the same.
- b) SC noted that he had received a £50 donation which was to be used for the benefit of Young Ringers so he proposed that any expenses for the YR event be met by this donation.

Action- Members to come to next meeting with proposals around the timing of GMC meetings

**Meeting closed at 16:13.
Date of next meeting: Sunday 27th October 2019**

Action Log

| Item No. | Action | Action Owner |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 7.C.II | To ask Chris McArthur (BAC secretary) to pass all previous BAC minutes to Chris Garner to put on the website. | WG |
| 7.F.I | Email Mary & Chris Garner some suggested amendments to the privacy policy | JW |
| 7.F.III | Review the website and send corrections to RW to collate. | All members |
| 10.B | Send Mary Garner a list of unpaid members for her tower. | SC |
| 10.C | Formulate a plan to improvement the promptness of subscription payments. | RW & SC |
| 12.C | Collate and send 'top tips for hosting the AGM' to Pam Ebsworth. | RW |
| 13.C | Email Kate Gill with the licensing requirements for running a bar at the Guild Social. | JW |
| 13.D | Guild members who can help out with the taster day on the morning of 21 st Sept at Halesworth to contact Philip Gorrod. | All members |
| 16.F | GMC members to bring proposals for changing the format of the Striking Contest to the next meeting. | GMC members |
| 17.B | Members to consider options for a replacement six bell shield ready for the next meeting. | All members |
| AOB | Members to come to next meeting with proposals around the timing of GMC meetings both in the day and throughout the year. | GMC members |
| | | |

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting

30th June 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

1) Financial summary as at 19th June 2019

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | 7773.25 |
| Restoration Fund | 35077.57 |
| Restoration Grants Allocated | 28850.00 |
| Library Fund | 291.22 |
| Handbell Fund | 780.00 |
| The Golden Bottle Trust | 4858.00 |
| Jubilee Fund | 2115.00 |
| The Pipe Family Trust Fund | 1054.22 |
| St. Peter's Sudbury Fund | 2083.99 |
| TOTAL | 82883.25 |

At the end of 2018 most of our immediately unrequired money was on deposit with the CCLA/CBF Deposit Fund, because our CAF/Principality Bonds had reached maturity and no suitable new bonds were available (only inappropriate long-term issues). CAF have subsequently made available a new 12-month issue (with Shawbrook Bank), and £15000 has been invested here (with higher interest than CCLA/CBF). Depending upon when existing approved grants will need to be paid, and any new grants made, it may be possible to increase the CAF investment.

2) Grants

| | Approved pre-2019 | Approved 2019 | Date Approved | Grants Paid | Grants unpaid | Date Paid |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Ipswich, St Clement | 500.00 | | 22/10/2017 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 16/08/2018 |
| Little Cornard | 10000.00 | Cancelled Feb 2019 | 17/06/2017 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Stowmarket | 11000.00 | | 17/02/2018 | 0.00 | 11000.00 | |
| Laxfield | 12000.00 | | 17/02/2018 | 0.00 | 12000.00 | |
| Fornham St Martin | 5600.00 | | 17/02/2018 | 0.00 | 5600.00 | |
| | 39,100.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 28,850.00 | |

£28850 is currently held in readiness for grants already approved for Stowmarket, Laxfield, and Fornham St Martin. The £500 grant approved for Ipswich, St Clement, has been part-paid as work progresses. Since Katharine Salter has been carrying out this work herself, David's recent illness has meant that she has had little time over recent months. She does hope to resume activities soon.

The cancellation of the grant for Little Cornard has resulted in a significant increase to the amount now available for further grants – currently £35077.57

3) Banking

Following the change of Officers at the AGM, the retiring Secretary (Carl Melville) has been removed as an authorised signatory at Barclays Bank and CCLA/CBF. He has been replaced by the Ringing Master (Tom Scase).

We currently make all our outgoing payments by cheque, with two signatures being required for amounts greater than £1000 (the bank call this a 'complex' arrangement). The financial world is moving towards electronic payment methods, and we already accept and encourage incoming money via this means. I believe that we should consider being able to also use electronic banking for payments out (the day may come when cheques are no longer used!). I already use Barclays internet banking facilities to daily check on the Guild's account activity, so setting up payments would present no problem. I have discussed this possibility with Barclays, and they inform me that since we have a 'complex' arrangement, the highest level of authorisation would always be required for electronic payments i.e. two people to authorise.

There does not appear to be anything in our rules precluding electronic banking, although the procedure requiring two signatories for cheques greater than an amount agreed by GMC is stated in Rules E.12 & E.12.1. When was the threshold of £1000 for two signatures last revised?

4) Independent Examiners

Following the motion carried at the 2019 AGM, Larking Gowen have now been notified that we will no longer be using their services as independent examiners. A letter of thanks has been sent, thanking them for their many years of *pro bono* work for the Guild. Because of a change in their policy towards charities we had to pay them £540 for their work on our 2018 accounts, and this fee would have been increasing by 2% per annum. Our newly appointed examiners, B.A.S. Accountants will charge £200, thus giving us a substantial saving. They are in appropriate communication with Larking Gowen in order to hopefully ensure a smooth transition.

5) Subscriptions

Subscriptions still continue to trickle in, despite being due on 1st January! The District Treasurers from the NW and SW both report that all expected subs have now been received.

Total subscriptions received to date amount to £6218, compared with a total of £7419 in 2018 (84%), so it would appear that there are still quite a few members to pay.

6) Insurance

Our Personal Accident insurance has now been moved from AmTrust to Ecclesiastical, giving a saving of about £400, albeit with slightly lower amounts of benefit. On the positive side, blanket cover is now given to all members 16-80 years of age. A revised summary of all the Guild's insurance policies has now been published on the website, and is also attached as Appendix I at the end of this report.

7) Proposed donations

The GMC needs to make a decision regarding whether we should continue to make annual charitable donations to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, Friends of St Peter's Sudbury, and Friends of the Cathedral. These have each been receiving £50, and up until 2007 these amounts were formally proposed and agreed at the AGM. Since then, they appear to have been paid without any endorsement. This item was deferred from the February 2019 meeting.

8) HMRC & Charity Commission

The Rule changes, as approved at the 2019 AGM, have been notified to the Charity Commission. Also, in order to rectify a long-standing omission, a copy of the resolution which was passed to authenticate the Guild's Objects has also been registered with the Commission.

Carl Melville has been removed as a Trustee, and has been replaced by Tom Scase.

Tom Scase has also replaced Carl Melville as an "Authorised Person" on our HMRC account.

Stephen Cheek –

Treasurer 19 June

2019

Appendix I

THE SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

Insurance Summary

The Guild has insurance for numerous items, activities and occurrences, and this document is intended to give a general summary of the main cover provided. It does not constitute a legal document, and as with all insurance matters there are numerous exclusions as well as the usual 'small print' and voluntary excess amounts.

Public Liability

Insured for £5,000,000

Products Liability

Insured for £5,000,000

Reputational Risk

Libel, Slander & PR Crisis

Communication Insured for

£25,000

Trustees' & Management

Liability Insured for

£100,000

Personal Accident

Covers all members 16-80 years of age whilst participating in Guild activities.

Death £5,000

Loss of one or more limbs £5,000

Loss of one or both eyes £5,000

Loss of Hearing £5,000

Permanent total disablement £5,000

Temporary total disablement £200 per week

Temporary partial disablement £80 per week

Handbells

These are insured for £30,000 on an "all-risks" basis.

Personal Accident cover is also provided for persons 16-65 years of age whilst using the handbells:

Death £10,000

Permanent total disability £10,000

Loss of limb £5,000

Loss of sight £5,000

Loss of hearing £5,000

Vestey Ring

(Mini-ring)

Insured for £5,000

If you need further information please contact the Treasurer treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk

Ringling Master's Report – 17 June 2019

As usual, the Guild Striking Competitions were held on the third Saturday in May. We were pleased George Vestey joined us to draw the teams for the six bell competitions at Polstead.

Congratulations go to Pettistree on winning the Mitson Shield and Great Barton on winning the Lester Brett Trophy. Although there was a reasonable turnout for the six bell competitions, it is disappointing we had no representation from any North East towers and only one tower from the South West.

At the eight bell competition at Lavenham, there were four entries, with representation from only two districts: the South East and North West. Congratulations go to the North West district on winning the Rose Trophy.

I hope the North East and South West Districts enter teams next year; it's a shame to hear reports of apathy – we need District committees to be motivating and encouraging members and towers to enter.

Our thanks go to Andrew Kelso and Brian Meads for judging both competitions; it's always a big ask to judge all morning and afternoon. Our thanks also goes to Sue Freeman and her team for providing the lunch at Polstead.

The Suffolk Guild entered the Ridgman Trophy on Saturday 15 June 2019, with the competition held at The Norman Tower, Bury St Edmunds. With home advantage, we took the opportunity to arrange a number of practices on the bells in the run up to the competition.

The Suffolk Guild was placed third out of eight entries. In the competition, we produced a competent piece of ringing; indeed the difference between third and first was only four percent (results being a percentage score of accuracy). Despite this, I, and I think other members of the band, too, have an awareness of missed opportunity; a sense of what if. We could, and perhaps should, have done even better and finished first or second.

We must, however, look at the positive: our ringing was considerably improved, compared with what we produced at St Albans last year, where we came fourth, with a disappointing number of faults between us and first place.

Next year, the competition will be held at Boston, Lincolnshire, with the test piece Grandsire Caters. If we want to improve again, we need to be planning now.

I would like to thank Rowan Wilson for all her hard work in co-ordinating arrangements on the day, ensuring a very successful event.

Tom Scase

Technical Advisor Report to BAC and GMC June 2019

Cotton

Now up and running again. Faulty beam has been plated and supported into tower wall. New ropes fitted, much work carried out. Some still remains to be done but bells can be rung and can be restored to condition 7.

Stowupland

Technical Advisor has fitted a new intermediate pulley to this single bell. This has improved things as far as chiming is concerned.

Little Cornard

Restored bells inspected on 22nd February, 2019 and were found to be in order. This Parish has returned an offered grant to the Suffolk Guild as they no longer need the money. Thank you letter has been sent by Technical Advisor.

Bredfield

28th February 2019. Visited and installed headstock returned from Taylors to treble bell. This was necessary because a gudgeon sheared on this bell and Taylors fitted new gudgeons on both sides and included new bearing housings and bearings to their pattern. This has already been done on the second bell which failed similarly a few years ago (Gillett installation)

Barnham

Reported on four bell installation. Three of these chiming bells must not be used because the supporting gear is in a very poor condition. Recommended remedial action which the Church will consider.

Yaxley

Tenor is now going so badly that it cannot be rung in full circles. I have agreed to do some work on this installation. Your Technical Advisor with help from Carol Girling, Chris Davies and Zoe Gray will rehang bells five and six with new, steel bedplates, new bearings and new ground pullies made by ourselves to bells two – six. The treble already has a new pulley.

Brome

Inspected after request for these bells to be rung for a wedding in August. Tower roof has serious leaks and the bell chamber is full of jackdaws nests almost up to frame height. Tower roof repairs to commence in August and builders to be asked to clear bell chamber and make louvers bird proof. Once done the bells can remain condition 7.

Hacheston

Technical Advisor attended re problem with second bell binding. Examination revealed that a new stay had been fitted which was rubbing on the slider run. Some adjustment and planing should cure this problem (tolerances in this tower are minimal because of the severe lack of room)

Oakley

Problems with treble bell which has stay loose in socket (Hasting stays) Incorrect stay bolts have been fitted at some stage and will be replaced in due course. Also a broken dingler on the fifth stay has now been repaired. Installation (Taylors steel 'H' frame) is extremely rusty and urgently requires cleaning and painting.

Winston S. Giring
Hon. Technical
Advisor

Membership Report to GMC June 2019

Since the GMC meeting in February nineteen people have been elected to membership: 2 Associates and 17 Ringing Members. This brings the total elected so far in 2019 to 22.

NE 4: FTE, 1; Full, 1; Associate, 2

NW 3: All full

SE 10: FTE, 5; Full, 4; 65-74, 1

SW 5: FTE, 1; Full, 3; 65-74, 1

I have been advised that two members have died since the beginning of the year, Douglas Pope from Southwold and Graham Ferris from Haverhill.

I have also been advised that Graham Bradshaw from Polstead has not renewed this year.

Safeguarding Report to GMC June 2019

A C2 Safeguarding Course was held St Margaret's Centre in Ipswich on the morning of the AGM, which was attended by 31 Guild members. Unfortunately I was unable to be there but the reports I received afterwards were very favourable, that it was an interesting morning, with a great deal of frank and open discussion.

I have received no other communications regarding Safeguarding.

Mary Garner
June 2019

PRO Report Feb-June 2019

Suffolk charities 22nd Feb

Back in February Radio Suffolk invited me to speak to them as part of a series of pieces on charities that operate in Suffolk. It was great to be able to share some of the great things we've achieved over the past few years both in terms of restoration of our county's oldest instruments and work we do in keeping our cultural heritage alive by safeguarding its future. I was even amazed myself to learn that since just 2012 we have given over £75k towards £700k worth of restoration work, to say nothing of the thousands of hours our members give each and every week.

Ringling for Notre Dame 18th April

Following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral back in April, a call was made for solidarity with the people of Paris by ringing at churches across England by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Yet again Suffolk rose to this very short notice call and 80 performances were recorded on BellBoard with plenty of other towers taking part. It was most pleasing to see many 'non change ringing' towers included in the

list. <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=10685>

We had great coverage of the ringing from Radio Suffolk who spoke with me in the morning of the 18th, then Kate Gill of Beccles in the afternoon who gave an excellent interview. Well done Kate!

Over the past couple of years it's been great to develop the Guild's relationship with Diocese through their communication manager Leonie. This has been assisted by Guild member Lesley Steed who works with Leonie at the Diocese office, thank you Lesley. It certainly paid off with the ringing request Notre Dame being sent out to all members of the Diocese through their weekly newsletter, and they also gave good coverage of Suffolk Day both this year and last.

US Ambassador's Reception 9th May

In February was lucky enough to be invited to a bellringer's reception hosted by US ambassador to the U.K. 'Woody' Johnson. It was held on Thursday 9th May at the ambassador's private residence, Winfield House, in Regents Park. Around 120 Ringers from across the U.K. attended, I went in place of Rowan as she couldn't be there. It was nice for the ringing community to be recognised for the work it does in this way.

The ambassador spoke of the shared connection between our two countries and his admiration for bell ringing. The reception came about after he spoke at a service at St Paul's Cathedral, heard the bells ringing, and went to find out more. The St Paul's Ringers then told him about ringing and even gave him a go! The official photos of the event can be found here www.flickr.com/photos/usembassylondon/albums/72157705027861242/

Striking Contest 18th May

Great weather and great locations for this year's Guild Striking Contest, ably hosted by the SW District at Polstead and Lavenham.

George Vestey, the Guild's Patron, joined us at Polstead to open the contest by saying a few words to those gathered and to take the draw. He spoke with admiration of our achievements over the past year since he attended the last contest at Earl Stonham,

particularly Armistice 100, while encouraging members to step up and fill the number of vacant officer posts at both a Guild and District level. George stayed and listened to the excellent ringing that we had that day and chatted at great length about the state of the Guild with the members present including Guild officers and new ringers alike. He enjoyed it so much so that he stayed several hours longer than planned! The best anecdote of the morning came from Maurice Rose who remembered to George the 1958 AGM when his Grandfather Ronald Vestey was first elected patron. I'm very pleased to have rekindled this connection between the Vestey family and the Guild which George is greatly fond of, as such I've already booked him in for the contest next year!

Ridgman Trophy 15th June

On Rowan's suggestion I set up an interview with Lesley Dolphin from Radio Suffolk as the Ridgman Trophy 10 bell striking contest was being hosted by the Norman Tower. Rowan did a great job in explaining to the listeners the intricacies of the contest and ringing in general while promoting the event and the Guild as well, good job Rowan!

Suffolk Day 21st June

Now in its third year, Suffolk Day has certainly established itself as part of the Guild's ringing calendar, as such 25 towers rang out across the county (and beyond!) including eight quarter peals, one peal, and the SW District Striking contest! A big thank you to all those who took part and arranged special ringing.

Thank you to Katharine Salter who was interviewed by the diocese. You can watch her interview here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jTsf-gPvwU> Unfortunately due to a timings clash I didn't speak on Radio Suffolk in person though the list of towers ringing was well publicised by the presenters. Next year Suffolk Day falls on a Sunday, so it'll be a great opportunity to host a tower open day and take advantage of some extra publicity, plenty of promotional materials are available on the website. <https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/PRMaterial.php>

Neal Dodge
Public Relations Officer

Webmaster's Report for the GMC June 2019

Security Certificate

During May there was a hiatus for about a week when 123reg failed to renew the SSL certificate, although they had taken the money. After several emails, a long phone call and an extended *Live Chat* everything is back to normal and the money has been refunded. (The only way out of the problem was to buy a new certificate.)

Guild emails

I have sent out 40 emails since the last meeting, which include four *What's On*.

Chris Garner
20/6/2019