

Annual District Meeting - Agenda
Saturday 7th December 2024
17.10hrs start in Framlingham, St Michael & All Angels North Chancel

1. **Welcome:** 32 members had been present on the day, from 15 towers across the district
Thanks: to Rev Canon Chris Davey for leading our Suffolk Guild of Ringers Christmas Service and to members of the Framlingham Band for servicing us with refreshments
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from John Girt, Shirley Girt, Roger Coley, Joanna Crowe, Janet Looser, Mervyn Scase, Jill Adam, Peter Harper, Jane Harper, Linda Sager, James Smith, Claire Haynes, Katharine Slater, Ralph Earey, Lesley Barrell, Elizabeth Christian.
3. **Absent Friends**
The District Remembered 5 members - Muriel Page [Stonham Aspal], Adrian [Arnie] Knights [SMLT], Helen Brookes [Hacheston], Robert [Bob] Foster [Badingham], Dr Peter Ernst [Bredfield][with a minutes silence.
4. **Minutes of the 2023 ADM held on 2nd December**
A discussion was held around the accuracy of the minutes. Two points were raised.
No. 9. An Area Representative found their report wording was not as submitted to the SE Secretary.
No. 10. Omission - Miles Ellis was elected by the room in the role of Area Representative. He chose not to take up office.
Proposed: Jenny Scase [Debenham] Seconded: Tracey Scase [Debenham]
Amendments accepted by those present and the SE Chair will sign a copy of the Amended Minutes of 2023 ADM
Proposed: Chris Garner [Pettistree] Seconded: Mary Garner [Pettistree]
5. **Matters arising from the minutes**
No matters arising
6. **Election of new ringing members to the Suffolk Guild of Ringers**
There were no new member applications
7. **Reports**
District Officer Reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Ringing Master, Guild Management Committee [GMC] member had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting and are on the The Suffolk Guild of Ringers website listed under guild Information/SE District/SE District Reports.

The following questions were asked
SE Chair Report
Mark Ogden [Pettistree] enquired as to why no Suffolk Guild of Ringers, SE District Centenary Recognition Certificate and SE District Centenary Achievement Certificate presentations had been make this year?
SE Ringing Master [HM] expressed his apologies as thought they were for the Centenary Year [2023]. SE Chair [SJC] concurred.
Mike Whitby [Ipswich SMLT] asked for this matter to be progressed and a plan to be put in place at the next committee meeting.
This report was taken as read

SE Treasurer [MG] shared additional information to support the Interim Statement - SE District Ringing Events have been held in 17 towers in 2024. Donations were £20 in January [Hollesley], February to December were £15. SE District membership is 39% of Suffolk Guild membership total. The SE District Pot funds are used to support the ringing in the SE District.
This report was taken as read

SE Ringing Master Report and 10. 2025 SE District Ringing events programme [HM]
Jonathan Williamson [Ipswich SMLT] expressed his appreciation for all the efforts from the SE Ringing Master, Hal during the year. It is not an easy position.

SE Ringing Master [HM] shared the following information on the 2025 SE District Ringing Programme
 - First Saturday of each month: SE District Ringing Event
 - January: Orford St Bartholomew [8] Focus: Getting to grips on 8
 - February: venue TBC Focus: Plain Triples
 - March: Grundisburgh St Mary [12] Focus: Basic 12 bell
 - April: Falkenham St Ethelbert [6] Focus: Grandshire Masterclass
 - May: Easton All Saints TBC Focus: Listening Workshop
 - June: Easton All Saints TBC Focus: SE District Striking Competitions

- Monthly Surprise Major Practices [variety of days] and ART Foundation Skills/Kaleidoscope Sessions [4th Fridays] have been organised. Locations are in the process of being finalised

Mary Garner [Pettistree] questioned the reason for a given focus on SE District Ringing Events and could they include general ringing. HM response: the focus gives an idea of what to expect and general ringing is included for a third/half of the session.

Jenny Scase [Debenham] asked for this to be made clearer in the publicity

Jenny Scase [Debenham] felt there have been a lot of early stage practices in 2024.

Jenny Scase [Debenham] requested there to be Ringers Teas now and then. Mary Garner [Pettistree] added that at Pettistree AGM the ringers voted for hosting a Ringers Tea

Mark Ogden [Pettistree] suggested Theory Sessions are held before a SE District Ringing Event focus ie Grandshire bobs/singles. HM response: stated this might be possible using Zoom

Mike Whitby [Ipswich SMLT] commented that years ago general ringing was first, whilst theory went on outside of the ringing chamber and the theory focus was then rung during the second half

Tom Scase [Debenham] asked as to timing of the SE Striking Competitions in 2025. HM response: afternoon

This report was taken as read

Tower Report 2024 Time for some news! had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting and is on the The Suffolk Guild of Ringers website listed under guild Information/SE District/SE District Reports.

This report was taken as read

GMC Report

Mark Ogden [Pettistree] [Guild Chairman] agreed the GMC Report was a fair representation. GMC are currently reviewing points that are unclear/outdated in the Rules

A discussion took place related to the safeguarding bullet point

This report was taken as read

8. Election of SE District Officers for 2025

The following individuals were elected

2024 SE Chair [SJC] stepped down.

Mark Ogden [Suffolk Guild Chairman] stepped in until 2025 SE Chair was elected

role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconders
SE Chair	Stephen Christian [Henley]	Linda Garnham [Clopton]	Jenny Fairburn [Henley]
SE Secretary	Elizabeth Christian [Ashbocking]	Elizabeth Tydeman [Stonham Aspal]	Jenny Fairburn [Henley]
SE Treasurer	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	Peter Harper [Hollesley]	Christopher McArthur [Brandeston]
SE Ringing Master	Hal Meakin [Ipswich SMLT]	Amanda Richmond [Ipswich SMLT]	Stephen Christian [Henley]
			Up to 10 positions
Member Representatives - completed Nomination Form for 2025	Elizabeth Tydeman [Stonham Aspal]	Elizabeth Christian [Ashbocking]	Roy Newson [Stonham Aspal]
	Ray Lewis [Wickham Maket]	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	Chris Garner [Pettistree]
Member Representatives - Nomination from the floor	Robert Scase [Debenham]	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	
	Abby Antrobus [Ipswich SMLT]	Mike Whitby [Ipswich SMLT]	
			Up to 2 positions

A member from SE District on Recruitment & Training [R&T]	Hal Meakin [Ipswich SMLT]	Amanda Richmond [Ipswich SMLT]	Stephen Christian [Henley]
	Elizabeth Christian [Ashbocking]	Elizabeth Tydeman [Stonham Aspal]	Jenny Fairburn [Henley]
			Up to 5 positions
A member from SE District on Guild Management Committee [GMC]	Stephen Christian [Henley]	Linda Garnham [Clopton]	Jenny Fairburn [Henley]
	James Smith [unattached]	Amanda Richmond [SMLT]	Stephen Christian [Henley]
	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	Kate Eagle [Pettistree]	Peter Harper [Hollisley]
A member from SE District on Guild Management Committee [GMC - Nomination from the floor]	Jenny Scase [Debenham]	Mark Ogden [Pettistree]	Mary Garner [Pettistree]
	Tom Scase [Debenham]	Jenny Scase [Debenham]	Mary & Chris Garner [Pettistree]

SE Chair shared that if anyone would like to become a Member Representative District Officer during the year [2025] to ask the ringers at the practices they attend if they would be happy to complete a nomination form as proposer and seconder. Make sure you list on reverse of the form the towers you have regular contact with and whose band members you would represent within this role. Scan and forward the completed form to the SE Secretary.

David Stanford [Clopton] voiced an idea of SE Tower Captains to be invited to a Zoom meeting where the District Officers could share information directly with them.

Mary Garner [Pettistree] suggested that a Tower Captains meeting be held as part of a SE District Meeting,

SE Chair [SJC] informed meeting he will look into this

Mike Whitby [Ipswich SMLT] suggested that the SE District Committee discuss the idea

SE Chair [SJC] introduced **SE Technical Adviser on Belfry Advisory Committee, Chris McArthur**

Chris shared some aspects of his role, including assisting with the Bell Maintenance Workshops the Bell Advisory Committee held in 2024 and installing new/updating rings of bells.

SE Chair [SJC] responded to a question about the SE Technical Adviser on Belfry Advisory Committee [BAC] being a District Officer role. Guild Members are personally invited by BAC for their skills.

SE Chair [SJC] responded to a comment as to the need for 'younger blood' being encouraged to look at bell maintenance. Those on Bell Maintenance Workshops will get younger if they are encouraged. The workshop was informative, interesting and increased my confidence in what I already did or highlighted what not to do.

SE Ringing Master [HA] asked if the Bell Maintenance workshops could be on a different day to the Striking Competition

9. Safeguarding

The following report was read out by SE Chair [SJC] on behalf of the Guild Safeguarding Officer, Elizabeth Christian

At the last GMC meeting in October, the Guild Ringing Master included in her report the following text

It appears that some members are still struggling to understand how safeguarding practice relates to adults.

The Church of England does not use the term vulnerable adults because we can all become vulnerable at any time for a variety of reasons. At its core, Safeguarding is about treating others with respect. Sunday service ringing, practice nights, quarter peals and peals are not more important than someone's health and wellbeing.

Safeguarding is something we need to address as a Guild.

Safeguarding is about what we do and how we treat each other, it is not simply ticking the box of doing the e-learning.

To follow this up within your towers where any aspect of ringing takes place, SE District have produced you the 'Code for Ringing' to have on view in your ringing chamber as a checklist summarising the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers.

The Code for Ringing was produced by CCCBR and agreed by Suffolk GMC at the start of the year.

Now it is time to help spread the word and demonstrate the 'Always' behaviours to create a safe, welcoming environment, and banish the 'Never' behaviours.

Everyone will welcome your support with this.

Thankyou

Towers who had a member present at the ADM received their tower 'Code for Ringing' poster. Others will be distributed as bands are visited and/or band members participate in SE District Ringing Events and ART Foundation Skills/Kaleidoscope Sessions in 2025.

10. 2025 SE District events programme

SE Ringing Master [HM] shared the outline programme for 2025 as part of his Ringing Master Report [no. 7]

11. Christmas Ringing in Ipswich 2024

Information shared as to be found on the ADM Agenda and suffolkbells.org.uk What's On

date: Saturday 14th December

time/venue: 09.30 - 10.15 St Matthews

10.30 - 11.15 St Mary le Tower

11.00 - 11.45 St Margarets

12.05 - 12.35 St Clements,

12.35 refreshments and handbells in St Clements church

12. Any Other Business

- First SE District event of 2025 - Saturday 4th January: Orford St Bartholomew [8]
focus: Getting to grips on 8
time: 14.00 - 16.00hrs
- SE ADM 2025 – Saturday 6th December: Coddensham St Mary [8] time: 14.00
- Abby Antrobus [Ipswich SMLT] extended thanks for SE Secretary, Liz's hard work preparing everything for the meeting.
- Mark Ogden [Guild Chairman] stated there is currently no Peal Secretary or Report Editor. The interest that has been expressed has not resulted in anyone being elected.
- Robert and Jenny Scase [Debenham] requested more information as to the venue for 2025 Suffolk Guild AGM. SE Ringing Master gave an update.
JS Raised a point about the fact the bells have not been booked
SC stated good point
HM other aspects of the day need to be taken into consideration too and confirmed that a request of the bells will be made soon.

The 2025 Chair declared the meeting closed at 18.13hrs