

**South-East District of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Annual District Meeting
Saturday 4th December 2021, 4.30pm – meeting held via Zoom**

1. Welcome

27 members joined the meeting (Mary and Chris Garner, Abby Antrobus, John and Shirley Girt, Katharine Salter, Jane and Peter Harper, Mark Ogden, David Stanford, Mervyn and Tracey Scase, Joanna Crowe, Robert and Jenny Scase, Sally Munnings, Jacky Savage, Chris Birkby, Daniel Atkinson, Margaret Cherry, Tom Scase, John Taylor, Richard and Ruth Munnings, Colin Salter, Ralph Earey, Anne). Thanks were offered to Mary Garner for hosting the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence were received from: Brian Aldous, Lesley Barrell; Ruth Eagle, Sarah and Katie Mitton, Amanda Richmond; Chris Strang; Jonathan and Sue Williamson; Rowan Wilson.

3. Remembrances

The District remembered David Salter (Ipswich), Hazel Judge (Pettistree) and Honor Dines (Felixstowe).

4. Minutes of the 2020 ADM (held 5th December via Zoom) –

SeDistrictAmMinutes2020DRAFT1.pdf (suffolkbells.org.uk)

The meeting accepted the minutes (proposed by Jane Harper, seconded by Peter Harper). **5.**

Matters arising – no matters arising

6. New Members

7. Reports were presented and discussed (see attached): Chairman, Ringing Master (pre circulated), Treasurer (pre circulated), Technical Advisor (pre-circulated), Ipswich Historic Churches, Recruitment and Training

www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/RandT/MinutesRandT20210131DRAFT.pdf GMC

GMCMminutes20211024DRAFT.pdf (suffolkbells.org.uk), Updates from Area Reps (pre-circulated)

In addition:

The Ringing Master (RM) highlighted the ART course arranged at Earl Stonham on March 19th and asked that anyone who is interested let her know before places are filled. John Girt endorsed the course and thanked Jenny for putting it on.

Jenny also emphasised that we should stay positive, despite the uncertainties, as ringing is taking place, and keeping in touch and sharing ringers and getting together is important.

Daniel Atkinson was proposed as a full member by Peter Harper, seconded by Micky McBurnie, and was duly elected.

Given the unusual time, there hasn't been as much meeting with the Area Reps as the RM would have liked, but there have been smaller committee meetings and the Area Reps are not forgotten and appreciated.

Re the Treasurer's report, Mary Garner asked if the recent email had resulted in payment of more subs, and Tracey responded that it had prompted a few payments.

Ipswich Historic Churches – Katharine reported that the parquet floor at St Clements is being done, and the entrance will be level – she is enquiring as to whether we can access to ring. Wednesday ringing at St Lawrence has restarted – thanks to Tracey, Colin, Chris, Bruce and Gill, Peter Davies and Amanda (particularly for her help with organisation), SMLT ring at St Lawrence monthly on a Sunday, people can email with questions re St Stephens.

Re R and T, Katharine as Guild RM noted that in addition to the ART course, the guild will be having a recruitment drive in the spring when the weather is better. There is enthusiasm and there are interested groups – for example, at Little Cornard - and it's a case of getting back and getting consolidated. NE RandT reps were not able to attend, but at their ADM it was reported that their membership numbers are back up.

Margaret Cherry added to the Area Reports that Henley, Stonham Aspal, Earl Stonham and Barking are all ringing for services, but Barking is the only tower having a practice.

Anne asked about Yeltingham – this is a cluster of 8 towers including Debenham and Otley but where most just have one or two members – Ashbocking, Cretingham, Earl Stonham, Stonham Aspal, Henley, Helmingham. The tower captains of all had a meeting in a garden to chat about the return to ringing, knowing they may be losing ringers, and have a WhatsApp group to focus on ensuring that they and other churches with no members are rung at least monthly for a service, keep in touch and to co-ordinate for Sunday services. They are also planning to work together in the group to train and teach new ringers rather than each band doing so.

Peter and Jane Harper added information about towers which are not currently covered by a rep, and Peter kindly volunteered to act as rep in the future. Hollesley are ringing for service and practice on Friday, Orford are struggling and don't ring much at all, same for Tunstall, Ufford.

8. Election of Officers

Offers were (excepting secretary) were proposed en bloc by Katharine Salter and seconded by Chris Birkby.

- Ringing Master – Jenny Scase
- Chairman – Mark Ogden
- Secretary – vacant, to be covered by committee for immediate future
- Treasurer – Tracey Scase
- Technical Advisor – Chris McArthur

• **Area Reps** -Mary Garner (Brandeston, Bredfield, Campsea Ashe, Hacheston, Kettleburgh, Marlesford, Parham, Pettistree, Ufford, Wickham Market, Easton), Margaret Cherry (Barking, Earl Stonham, Henley, Stonham Aspal, Coddensham), Robert Scase (Ashbocking, Badingham, Cretingham, Debenham, Dennington, Helmingham, Otley, Mondewden, Earl Soham, Framsdon, Winston, Framlingham), Leslie Barrell (Falkenham and Felixstowe), Janet Looser (Copdock, East Bergholt, Harkstead, Holbrook, Stutton, Tattingstone, Woolverstone), Jonathan Williamson (Bramford, Ipswich St Margaret, Ipswich SMLT, Ipswich St Matthew, Offton, Rushmere St Andrew, Sproughton, Tuddenham), Mark Ogden/David Stanford (Burgh, Clopton, Grundisburgh/Hasketon, Woodbridge), Katharine Salter (Ipswich Historic Churches Trust re, appointed by IHCT, Ipswich St Clement, Ipswich St Lawrence, Ipswich St Nicholas (IHCT), The Wolery). Peter Harper (Hollesley, Orford, Tunstall).

- Recruitment and Training – Jenny Scase, Mark Ogden
- GMC - Mary Garner, Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase, Abby Antrobus, Tracey Scase
- Magazine Rep (currently no magazine) – David Stanford

There was discussion of the Secretary post and it was agreed that the committee will further encourage a volunteer, with correspondence redirected to the Chairman in the interim. Abby thanked the district and said how much she has enjoyed meeting and getting to know people. The RM thanks Abby for her time as secretary.

David noted that he is happy to stay as magazine rep unless the workload becomes more burdensome.

9. Christmas Ringing in Ipswich – Katharine is attempting to organise Ipswich Christmas ringing on 18th Dec, 11:45 for half an hour all at the same time to avoid mixing, subject to the COVID situation - at St Matthews, SMLT, St Margaret, St Lawrence. The conversation had not yet been had about St Nicholas and St Clements depended on the contractors. People were invited to let Katharine know if they can make it to master@suffolkbells.org.uk (as her email address has changed). John Girt noted that St Margaret's parking will not be available.

10. Programme 2022 (including Jan 1st 2022)

The RM noted that we still have to go month by month, given uncertainties in the situation. The first practice will be on January 1st from 11 until 12:30 at Debenham, with Dove Cottage booked for teas and coffees. Members were urged to wrap up, as the west doors will be open for air, and invited to come and see the newly refurbished ringing chamber.

The plan for 2022 is to find churches that have good ventilation, mostly ground floor rings, until the COVID situation is more stable. February and March – the RM will talk to the Barham band about visiting there for a visit since the restoration, and we there is hope for to have a striking competition in May. Plans from 2020 could be recycled, which was for a Striking Competition at Pettistree. We

also had a walk planned on the Shotley Peninsula, and Harkstead may still be alright. If anyone would like to invite the district to a tower that has good ventilation, it would be much appreciated.

11. A.O.B.

None raised

12. Next ADM – 3rd December 2022, later afternoon/early evening and hopefully in a hall rather than on Zoom.

The meeting was closed and there was an opportunity for general conversation. The district were pleased to see John and Shirley Girt. Abby Antrobus