

South East District of The Suffolk Guild of Ringers Annual District Meeting Saturday 3rd December 2022, 18.30hrs at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Ufford

The meeting opened with thanks given to Revd, Paul Hambling for taking the service and to Ruth Munnings and her helpers for the tea.

1. **Welcome:** 31 members were present at the meeting, from 12 towers across the district
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Ralph Earey, Jacky Savage, Rowan Wilson, Margaret Cherry, Stephen Cheek, Stephen Christian, Abby Antrobus, Graham Ridgway, Janet & Alison Looser, Jane & Peter Harper, Ray Lewis, Ruth Munnings, Anne Buswell

3. Remembrances

The District Remembered Chris Barker [Otley], Jimmy Wightman [Otley], Susan Harrison [NRLM]

4. Minutes of the 2021 ADM <https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/SeDistrict/>

The chairman asked whether there were any objections to signing the minutes as a true reflection of the ADM. there were no objections. The chairman signed a written copy of the minutes.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

6. Election of new members

name	tower	category	proposer	seconded
Trudie Dix	St Matthews, Ipswich	Full	Amanda Richmond	Jonathan Williamson
Lorna Penaluna	St Matthews, Ipswich	Full	Amanda Richmond	Jonathan Williamson
Judy Poh Suan Stephenson	St Matthews, Ipswich	70 - 79	Amanda Richmond	Jonathan Williamson
Rachel Jayne Chesman	Framlingham	Full	Alison Robinson	Chris McArthur
Robert Barrell	Falkenham	70 - 79	Lesley Barrell	Canna Thompson

Judy and Lorna were presented with their welcome packs by the Guild Ringing Master, Katherine Salter.

7. Reports

The following **officers reports** had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting. No questions or comments arose at the meeting: Chairman, Ringing Master, Treasurer,

Representatives on the **Recruitment and Training Committee** gave a summary of the last meeting attended [Chairman and Guild Ringing Master]

The focus is currently on providing Guild level training sessions **after** a full training audit has been completed across the 4 districts, highlighting the hot and weak spots, what is required and putting into place an information-led action plan.

- The Ringing Master felt that Area Representatives will be able to help with sourcing information for the training audit.
- John Girt, Jonathan Williamson and the Chairman all spoke about the importance of the level of teaching being delivered, encouraging and supporting ART trained teachers to

become accredited, for the focus to extend from Bell Handling through to taking ringers into basic methods and beyond.

More detail will become available on suffolkbells.org.uk recruitment and training minutes
Discussion followed

Representatives on the **Guild Management Committee** [GMC] gave a summary of the last meeting attended [Ringing Master, Area Rep Mary Garner, Guild Ringing Master Katharine Salter]

- Information shared about the Guild Centenary Dinner on 25th March 2023 at Ashlar House, Bury St Edmunds - tickets now on sale. Look on suffolkbells.org.uk home page and put a poster up in your tower to help spread the word.
- Suffolk are 'taking over' the April 2023 edition of Ringing World
- A centenary membership badge with 1923 - 2023 will be the membership badge distributed to new members for the year and be available for existing members to purchase
- 'Challenge 100' is encouraging members to set themselves a personal challenge. On achieving the challenge, awarded with a special certificate.

More detail will become available on suffolkbells.org.uk recruitment and training minutes

Seven [out of 8] **Area Representative reports** had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting.

The Ipswich Historic Churches Trust report was given verbally.

- St Clements - a new floor has been laid in the church, phase 2 is toilets, updating the electrics and extending the ringing gallery to the full dimension of the stone arch
- St Lawrence - acting as a teaching base, decorated up for Christmas by some of the band members. Clapper on 4th needs replacing.
- St Nicholas - currently up for sale. Conversations continue with the site manager about the bells.
- St Stephen - the floor under the 3 bells [not to be rung] has been replaced by Ipswich Borough. Now secure.

Through the Area Representative reports, news on 48 of the 57 towers in the SE District was shared.

The retiring officer, Tracey Scase [treasurer] and Area Representatives, Jonathan Williamson [area 3] and Mary Garner [area 5] were thanked for their dedication and support within the roles over many years.

8. Election of Officers

The following officers and Area Representatives were re-elected en bloc following the proposal by John Girt and seconded by Richard Munnings.

Officers

- Chairman - Mark Ogden
- Secretary - Elizabeth Christian
- Ringing Master - Jenny Scase
- Treasurer - vacant
- Technical Adviser - Chris McArthur

Area Representatives

- area 1 - Janet Looser
- area 2 - Lesley Barrell
- area 3 - vacant
- area 4 - David Stanford
- area 5 - vacant
- area 6 - Peter Harper

- area 7 - Robert Scase
- area 8 - Margaret Cherry

District representatives on Guild Management Committee [GMC] for 2023 [5] - Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase, Mary Garner - currently 2 vacant positions

District representatives on Recruitment & Training for 2023 [2] - Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase

9. District event programme planning for 2023

The Ringing Master [Jenny Scase] informed the meeting that the first 3 months of the year were confirmed and April likely to be an evening practice at Helmingham. The District Striking Competition will move to June due to the coronation of King Charles III in May. An outline of possible monthly events was given for the rest of the year.

SE District Programme 2023 draft			
January	Henley	10.00 to 11.30hrs	
February	Earl Sronham	10.00 to 12.00hrs	Savoury Bake Off included
March	<i>SMLT</i>	<i>10.00 to 12.00hrs</i>	<i>to be confirmed</i>
April	<i>Helmingham</i>	<i>possibly an evening practice</i>	
May	King Charles Coronation	ringing wherever possible across the District	
June	Striking Competitions - call changes & method		<i>suitable venue to be sought to include a Ringers Tea</i>
July	<i>possibly a walk & ring</i>		<i>possibly a walk & ring</i>
August	<i>working towards chosen centenary achievement in the morning/early afternoon before coming together at a central spot for tea, along similar lines to the annual Guild Veterans event</i>		<i>possibly a challenge and centenary tea event</i>
September	Ipswich from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd	126th Annual meeting of the Central Council	<i>Speak to Chris Birkby, our CCCBR Rep</i>
October	<i>possibly a district practice</i>		<i>possibly a district practice</i>
November	<i>possibly an outing</i>		
December	<i>ADM</i>		<i>venue to be confirmed</i>

Chris Birkby was introduced as the CCCBR representative.

He would like to hear from members as to what they would like to achieve with the help of the 100/150 very experienced ringers who will be in Ipswich during the weekend of Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd September,

- training events
- workshops
- achieve something they cannot normally achieve in Suffolk without the support of more experienced ringers ... with their help, it can be achieved!

10. Christmas Ringing in Ipswich 2022

People's attention was directed to the Guild website suffolkbells.org.uk home page.

Katherine Salter requested that people let her know if there are towers they would particularly like to ring at, and if there are towers they would rather not!

John Girt highlighted parking in St Margarets car park for visiting ringers was not possible this year as the flower arrangers are in decorating.

Welcome refreshments will once again be provided by Shirley and John Girt at St Margarets.

11. Any Other Business

None raised

12. Next ADM

Saturday 2nd December 2023

The meeting was closed.

During the Ringers Tea [prior to the ADM] a Suffolk Guild members's Survey was distributed and members were invited to complete.

With the Suffolk Guild centenary very much on the horizon, the GMC is interested to find out what the members would like to see in the next 100 years. The questions will hopefully give the opportunity for individuals to have their say about how the Guild will meet the challenges ahead including the recruitment, training and retention of ringers. Members were encouraged to also contact any member of the GMC with their thoughts and ideas.