

Shotley Peninsula Area Report 2022

On the Shotley Peninsula we have a band covering **Holbrook, Stutton and Harkstead**. Practice night, usually well attended, is on a Tuesday. This is usually at Holbrook, although we do hold some practices at Stutton or Harkstead.

This year we have had seven new learners, who are all progressing well. Three of these are keen to get the ring of three at Woolverstone into a more ringable state so that they can be rung for services. At the moment they are extremely hard work to ring.

We are now fortunate to have six ringers under 18.

The youngsters are all based at Holbrook -

Two of them have been ringing since before Covid, and are able to ring the treble to Plain Bob Doubles with one of them ringing a plain course inside competently.

One started ringing during the summer, was handling by himself after 3 lessons, and is now progressing with Plain hunt.

There is also a 14 year old who started in the summer and is ringing rounds and call changes.

The most recent are 2 brothers aged 10 and 11 and their mother. They started ringing in the October half term. Lesley Barrell came over to help. We gave them 4 sessions over the week, by which time they were handling alone and telling their mum what she was doing wrong!

The main difficulty is that we don't have enough experienced ringers to enable anyone to progress beyond Plain Bob Doubles. We are planning to have some joint practices with Falkenham, who are in a similar situation. The few we've had so far have definitely resulted in progress.

Tattingsstone has it's own band who practice on a Monday and ring regularly for Sunday services.

Copdock doesn't have it's own band, but does a roaring trade in weddings due to the Copdock Hall wedding venue next door.

Janet Looser

East Bergholt

The band currently numbers 5, with everyone having to be an approved learner or ringer.

Throughout 2022 the band has rung for all Sunday services except one.

We have been busy throughout the year participating in all the special event ringing too. For the Queens funeral 5 experienced ringers tolled the same bell in relay – 2 stints of 6 minutes each - to reach 1 hour.

We have definitely experienced some band membership challenges this year . At one point we were left with just 3 experienced ringers. But we now have one returning ringer, one starting from a tower, one inexperienced ringer returning and two learners who are progressing. It's certainly looking more positive for 2023!

Julia Smith

Area Report to ADM (SE) 2022

The last year has seen the bell frame at Falkenham painted and woodwork treated. A peal board commemorating the first peal on the bells is now ready and waiting to be hung.

At the first time of entry, our band attained second place in the call change section of the 6-bell competition.

We have a new member to add, who has learnt the ropes in a remarkably short time, but continue to struggle bringing on inexperienced ringers without outside help. Recruitment is still difficult despite media exposure and local posting in the parish magazine and Facebook. The local scouts were invited to have-a-go one evening but this did not result in new learners, despite the fact they all enjoyed it.

An open afternoon was postponed as it fell within the mourning period of HM the Queen, but will be rescheduled when possible. Our ringers are encouraged to go out and about to various towers and meetings.

Falkenham and Felixstowe help each other out with practice nights and Sunday service ringing although frequently ringing minimus on Sundays. Felixstowe currently do not have a band but I am helping teach two new recruits there on Friday evenings.

We have been grateful to Holbrook joining us from time to time at Falkenham and the favour is returned where possible. I am also helping teach three learners at Holbrook and they are coming on very well.

Lesley Barrell^[i]_[SEP]

Area rep Falkenham/Felixstowe

Ipswich Area Report 2022

Bramford,

There is now a band at Bramford following a request in 2021 by their Vicar, Rev. Eric Falla (also a ringer) for volunteers to learn to ring ready for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. John Doy & Matthew Thomas began teaching in the autumn of 2021. I became involved in the spring of 2022 and try and support the new Bramford band whenever I can. The bells were rung for the Jubilee and were also rung half-muffled following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. There is a regular Tuesday evening practice (19.30-21.00) and Sunday service ringing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (9.30-10.00). The band have all joined the Suffolk Guild and are now starting to get to grips with call changes. They would welcome any visiting ringers on a Tuesday evening who could support them in their progress.

Ipswich St Margaret,

There is a regular Tuesday evening practice (19.00-21.00) and Sunday service ringing (10.30-11.00). Practices are usually well supported with provision for those starting to ring rounds as well as call changes and method ringing on both 6 and 8. Grandsire and Plain Bob are regularly rung. Both Tuesday evening practices and Sunday service ringing are supported by members of the St. Mary-le- Tower band and St. Margaret's provides a useful opportunity for those who have just learnt to handle to start to ring with others.

Ipswich St. Mary-le-Tower (SMLT),

There is a regular Monday practice (19.00-21.00) and weekly Sunday service ringing (8.45-9.30) with the full 12 being rung on the vast majority of occasions ranging from rounds and call changes to surprise Royal and Maximus. The bells have also been rung occasionally on Sunday afternoons as practice for the National 12 Bell Striking Competition. The SMLT band won the George Pipe Trophy (East of England 12 Bell Striking Competition) at Waltham Abbey in February. The SMLT team finished in 3rd place at their National 12 Bell Competition eliminator at Bury St. Edmunds (and so qualified for the final) and finished 10th in the final at Guildford Cathedral. Teams representing SMLT also won both the Suffolk Guild 6 bell and 8 bell striking competitions this year. The SMLT bells were rung fully-muffled following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Several tied bell practices have been held for handling tuition for those learning to ring in Ipswich and the surrounding area.

Ipswich St Matthew,

There is currently no Sunday service ringing at St. Matthew's though the bells were rung fully- muffled following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. There is a monthly practice on the first Thursday of each month (19.30-21.00) and the aim is to make this practice twice monthly potentially adding a practice on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The band has increased with the addition of three new learners who are benefitting from learning at other towers in the area. The longer term aim is to ring the bells for Sunday service.

Offton,

A few practice nights have been cancelled this year due to shortage of resources during the holiday season but generally attendance averages 10-12 as a direct result of the pre-practice quarter peal, without the quarter peal attempts the practice is generally not feasible. Sunday service ringing takes place on the 2nd Sunday (9.30) and 3rd Sunday (10.30) with 6 ringers on a good day. Unfortunately there are no new ringers or learners. Offton was the venue for the Guild 8 Bell Striking Competition and Social in September and an Offton Practice Night Band was able

to enter.

Rushmere St Andrew,

Regular Friday practice nights (19.00-21.00) have resumed with good attendance. Sunday service ringing (9.30-10.00) is also taking place. There is one new ringer who is under 18. A band was brought together to ring half muffled rounds and call changes along with 96 tolls of the tenor at noon on the day after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A half muffled quarter peal was rung on the afternoon of the state funeral.

Sproughton,

There is a weekly Wednesday practice at Sproughton (19.30-21.00) and Sunday service ringing on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (10.30-11.00). Please check regarding ringing on the 5th Sunday. Sproughton practice has welcomed ringers from the new bands at Bramford and St. Matthew's looking to expand their experience on different bells and increase their repertoire. The bells were rung fully muffled (tenor open at backstroke) following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Tuddenham St. Martin,

The bells at Tuddenham are currently not rung regularly but some local volunteers have recently come forward who would like to learn to ring. At the time of writing the first lessons have been held using the ART Learning the Ropes scheme. Teaching is taking place at Ashbocking and Henley until such time as the Tuddenham bells can be checked. SEP_____

Although I have listed my report tower by tower as is the convention, there is a growing connectivity between St. Margaret's, SMLT & St. Matthew's and Bramford, Sproughton & Rushmere which provides mutual support for local ringing but especially for teaching and it is good to see new ringers getting out and about to other practices in the area. The Wednesday lunchtime ringing at St. Lawrence also provides an opportunity for developing ringers to practice, but I will leave Katharine to cover this in her Ipswich Historic Churches Trust report.

In October we took some of the local learners from Bramford and Ipswich to the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre in Norwich for a session on their training bells. Here are some of the things they said about the visit:

The morning session gave a good introduction to the history of Mancroft, and how the computer technology came to be installed there. It was interesting for both bellringers and non-bellringers. The day was thought out well. The only improvement would be if we could have had more time using the equipment, but I understand that there were a lot of people there. A second visit could be more productive now we know what to expect, and could plan in advance who would do what when.

I found using the training centre really helpful and feel it has really helped to push my learning. It's a beautiful church with an amazing set up and the people who run it clearly have a dedication and understanding of the history of bell ringing which makes it fun to hear from them.

The training bells were very intuitive to use. The tactile sensation was super close to a real bell. This removes any fear of damaging historic bells and sounding off, so beginners like me can seriously hone their handling. I found it incredibly useful and would hope to use them more if they were readily accessible.

The overall picture is quite positive and it is pleasing to see a steady stream of volunteers coming forward to learn to ring in the Ipswich area and it is already clear that an increase in teaching capacity is needed to meet this demand.

David Stanford - Area Report - Clopton, Hasketon, Burgh, Grundisburgh, Woodbridge

Clopton

There are regular weekly practices with average attendance 9 ringers

In addition to the 3 bone fide Clopton ringers the practices are supported by regulars, all of which are Guild members, from at least 3 other towers within and outside the benefice.

The bells are rung for Sunday service on the 4th Sunday, one of two services per month.

Two people have been taught to ring one having joined the Guild and the second likely to do so soon. One further person has started lessons. There are no ringers under the age of 18

The bells were rung fully muffled with tenor open at backstroke to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth 2nd. On this occasion there were 13 ringers including Clopton ringers who are lapsed members of the Guild willing to ring on request and for special occasions. Members of the congregation gathered to hear the bells and a video recording posted on social media attracted very favourable feedback.

It is beneficial to all that there are some ringers who like to keep the ringing room clean and tidy.

Hasketon

There are no Guild members or ringers associated with Hasketon but a benefice-wide band rings the bells for Sunday services at least once a month and usually twice. The congregation express their like of the Sunday service ringing and usually ensure a suitable gift of appreciation is given to the ringers at Christmas time.

Burgh

There are no Guild members or ringers associated with Burgh. A benefice-wide band look forward to testing their ringing skills on the more challenging bells once a month for Sunday service but in the past year ringing for service was less frequent due to there being fewer services.

Grundisburgh

There are regular weekly practices with average attendance of 6 which includes ringers from other towers.

The bells are rung weekly for Sunday services when there are typically 8 ringers.

The same Sunday band rings for services at Clopton, Hasketon and Burgh on a rotational basis subject to service times.

There are no ringers under the age of 18 and at this time no learners being taught to handle.

On the death of Queen Elizabeth II the tenor was tolled 96 times representing the Queens age. General ringing and a performance of 96 changes of surprise Minor was rung on the Sunday following the Queens death also to mark the occasion.

Woodbridge

Woodbridge has a very loyal band of eight ringers who, even if normally not able to ring the two heaviest bells, do ring every Sunday morning for the 10am service.

During the past few months there has been teaching of two new recruits, who now have started ringing on Sundays.

They also rang on the morning of the State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II, making eight who rang with the front six bells fully muffled on that sad occasion.

There are no ringers or learners under 18yrs.

Two members of the band have taken part in the ART module 1 teacher course.

No ringers from outside the Woodbridge band attend the practice night, but several Woodbridge ringers go to other towers on their practice days to help them.

SE District Area Report

There are eleven towers with ringable bells in this part of the district, seven in the Orebeck Benefice, both churches the Wickham Market & Pettistree Benefice, whilst Ufford is in a benefice of two with Melton and Bredfield is also in a benefice of two with St John's in Woodbridge.

Orebeck Benefice

There are ringers in each of the seven villages, but all rely on support from others in the Benefice to ring for services. Some of the ringers move around the benefice whilst others do not. Each church usually has two services a month. On the fifth Sunday there is a Benefice Service. A weekly email system endeavours to keep as many services rung for as possible. Weddings have been rung for during the year. All the towers in Benefice, except Marlesford, were rung over the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June.

Campsea Ashe There is a practice every Saturday (9.30am -10.45am), which is supported by local ringers, others in the benefice and regular visitors from outside the benefice and district. On average 7-12 attend. There is currently one Campsea Ashe resident learning.

Parham There is a Tuesday evening practice weekly (shortly to alternate with Hacheston). One ringer from there also rings regularly at Wickham Market. In addition to the Platinum Jubilee ringing a bell was tolled prior to the Queen's funeral. There are three learners, at least one of whom goes to Clopton as well.

Hacheston There has been no regular practice in 2022, although it is shortly to alternate with Parham, the adjacent village. There are several ringers resident in Hacheston and several wishing to learn.

Marlesford There is no regular practice at Marlesford.

Brandeston & Kettleburgh There are no regular practices but as many services are rung for as possible. There are several challenges, several did not return to ringing after covid, whilst several of the band have the village as their second home so are not always available. Occasional quarter peals are rung during the year.

Easton Although there has been no regular practice in 2022 several villagers have expressed a wish to learn for "Ring for the King" and it is anticipated that several local ringers will start to teach a band there after Christmas. A number of weddings have been rung for during the year.

Wickham Market and Pettistree Benefice

Wickham Market. The practice night is Monday and the average attendance is 6-8. This comprises the local band supported regularly by other local ringers. There are currently four learners who live in Wickham, two adults and 2 under 18s. There is ringing before each weekly service, largely a home band with some from the benefice and beyond. Occasional quarter peals are rung during the year. A quarter was rung over the Platinum Jubilee weekend and the bells were rung half-muffled marking the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Pettistree The practice night is Wednesday and a quarter peal attempt usually precedes it. The average attendance is about 12-15, comprising the home band and many regulars from other benefices in both the SE and NE districts. Specially arranged quarters were rung during the Platinum Jubilee weekend; in September in thanksgiving for life of Queen Elizabeth II; before the bi-monthly evensongs in the summer as well as for the Christmas Carol service. There is a service at 9.30am every Sunday before which the bells are rung. The service band comprises the home band, benefice ringers and from other towers locally. The home band is not large enough alone to ring for service. The most pressing challenge is to recruit as well encourage those who learned many years ago to return. It is hoped that the "Ring for the King" campaign will bring some to teach. It is hoped that the forthcoming outdoor Carol Service will help to raise awareness and interest in learning.

Ufford There is a practice every Tuesday, with an average attendance of seven, all members of other towers. Since covid the service times have changed and although there is a service it is no longer possible to ring before them. A quarter was rung for the Platinum Jubilee and a half-muffled bell tolled just before the Queen's funeral. Many weddings were rung for during the year. A village resident, who learned to ring in her youth, has expressed an interest in returning, having heard about "Ring for the King". The main challenge at present is not being able to ring

for service. For that to happen, a home band needs to be taught and progress enough to look after themselves on a Sunday morning.

Bredfield There is a practice every Friday. The bells were rung for the Platinum Jubilee, and three times half-muffled between the death of the Queen and her funeral. There are two services a month and the bells are usually rung before each one. In recent weeks six village residents have asked to learn and are now being taught.

2022 Area report from Robert Scase

Ashbocking

With the support of 4 local ringers, we have fully established ringing for the monthly service. Other local ringers have then stepped in when someone is unavailable.

Bell Handling sessions [on a mix of tied and open bells] have been held on a regular basis for learners outside of the village. Ringing as we do now with the west door open has created some interest and 2 visiting grandchildren from America asked 'to have a go'. Lots of excitement had by all!

QPs, Peals, weddings, visiting ringers have also added to the bells being heard across the fields

The bells were rung in celebration for the Platinum Jubilee and tolled for the death of the Queen.

Badingham and Dennington

It is still a struggle for ringers. We are only practice ringing, nothing for services on Sunday's yet. We have picked up a couple of people who we can call on if needed for something formal (weddings, funerals, etc.). We have one newcomer who has made a promising start

Our situation will be compounded because I am leaving Suffolk at the end of the month. I don't know who is yet taking over from me.

Cretingham

It has not been possible to resume the weekly practice due to losing ringers who have moved away. However visiting ringers have been welcomed and it has been possible to arrange ringing for special services.

Debenham

Regular service and practice ringing has continued throughout the year.

We had been rather low on numbers for weekly service ringing, as we returned from pandemic restrictions, but now, pleasingly, we are often able to ring all 8 bells on Sunday morning. This has been helped by the addition of 2 new ringers who started to learn to ring in April.

Tuesday practices are usually well attended. The ringing ranges from rounds to surprise major/Stedman triples.

We have been busy with wedding ringing, and the extra commemorative ringing we've all been involved in, as well as encouraging individual ringers to develop their skills in special practices and quarter peals.

Helmingham

The 3rd Friday practices have continued over the year. Some have been well attended but for a few months, particularly over the summer, fewer people attended. We continue to ring for the 2nd Sunday in the month. Sometimes only on 6 bells due to clashes with other services in the area.

Otley

Useful practices are held on a Wednesday. These are usually well attended. Services are rung for. Sadly two long standing ringers passed away this year. Chris Barker had served the guild as treasurer from 1990 to 1995 as well as being a loyal Otley ringer. Jimmy Wightman had been tower captain here for 50+ years. Both will be missed.

Area Report for ADM [SE] 2022

Barham

No ringing practice or Sunday service ringing at the present time.

Tower Captain planning to have a meeting in the New Year to establish a programme for ringing to go forward in 2023

Barking

Ringing continues as in past years. Practice night supported by tower members and loyal group of ringers from other towers.

Sunday service ringing when there are enough ringers available.

Ringing for weddings and the Festivals.

Coddenham

No practice night or Sunday Service ringing.

Ringing for weddings and Special Occasions take place with the support of ringers from other towers.

Earl Stonham

No practice night.

Sunday Service ringing once a month, a mix of band members and support from other towers.

Ringing for weddings and all the Festivals.

A quarter peal is rung once a month by local band.

A training day was held at Earl Stonham in March for ringers wanting to learn the art of teaching new ringers. This was a very successful course and 12 ringers attended, local ringers and some from further afield.

Henley

A Bell Handling practice has been started for new ringers.

Quarter peals are rung for the monthly Benefice service by band members and other local tower ringers.

Ringing continues for weddings and special occasions.

Stonham Aspal

Sunday Service ringing once per month. However it remains difficult to attract a band of six on Sunday morning, not least because of the challenging access to the ringing room, the reputation of the bells being "difficult" and the service being the same time as other churches locally.

Occasional quarter peals and a peal attempt by intrepid bands. Any band would be welcome to take advantage of 10 bells.

All towers rang or tolled a bell on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and prior to her funeral.

Margaret Cherry

Area Representative.