

SE District Ringing master's Report 2022

2022 has been a year of tentatively moving towards resuming 'normal' district activities.

We began the year by holding a practice on the 1st of January at Debenham. Certain covid restrictions were still in place, so masks, sanitiser and ventilation were required. However the warmest New Year's Day for several years, saw 25+ ringers socialising with cups of tea, served outside, as well as enjoying the fine bells and revamped ringing room. Liz Christian was elected to the role of district secretary. A successful start to the year.

As we moved through the year we had further successful practices at Harkstead, Orford and Barham before the striking competition in May. At Harkstead 23 ringers took part in a range of ringing and were welcomed by refreshments left by the locals. At Orford we again had 20+ ringers ringing from call changes to Bristol. Mark kindly stepped in for me at Barham and ran what I understand was a successful and well supported practice on these newly restored bells.

It felt good to hold the district striking competition for the first time since 2019. Pettistree proved an excellent venue. 8 teams competed with Pettistree winning the Cecil Pipe Method competition and Hollesley winning the David Barnard Call Change competition. It was particularly pleasing to see a Falkenham/Felixstowe band entering and coming second in the call change competition. Thanks must go to the Pettistree ringers for hosting and providing the delicious tea. It was good to be back enjoying a ringers' tea. Many thanks also to Philip Gorrod and Keith Dennis from the NE district for judging and giving useful feedback.

The first weekend in June was a time of celebration for Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee. This involved much ringing. The majority of towers in our district were rung at some time during these celebrations. Thanks must go to everybody who took part in this important national event. I know many ringers were involved in ringing at several venues. Bellringing was often an integral part of community celebrations and was well received by the general public.

In July there were fewer than 20 ringers when we met at Dennington. However it was a useful and enjoyable early evening practice, pleasingly supported by locals. Again in August numbers were low – just 9 ringers. But this was well attended by local ringers and proved to be a very useful practice. The opportunity to have several attempts at a new ringing challenge is not often possible at a district practice. Here it was good to see individuals making progress and having a real sense of achievement.

September found us, finally, in the beautiful surroundings of the Shotley Peninsula taking part in the 'walk and ring', originally planned for April 2020. We rang at Harkstead, Stutton and Holbrook, walking between towers and visiting the Kings Head at Stutton for our pub lunch. We enjoyed good food, good weather and good ringing. Thanks to Janet for the organisation.

Still in September a very different atmosphere was created when ringing for the death of the monarch, for almost all of us, a new experience. We ringers had a prominent task within the country's mourning and reflection. Ringing fully muffled or half muffled bells for several days seemed so appropriate a way to remember HM Queen Elizabeth II. Thank you to everyone who rang bells during this time.

In October we met at Brandeston for an evening practice. We had an enjoyable ring followed by a time of socialising in the pub.

How good it felt, in November, to have the first district outing since 2019. 28 ringers met over the border in Norfolk to ring at Raveningham, followed by Norton Subcourse, Loddon, Berg Apton, Brooke and Woodton. Although the weather wasn't brilliant we avoided the forecast torrential rain. A variety of bells, interesting churches (four with round towers), an anticlockwise ring and the chance to

socialise over a pleasant meal helped to make this a successful day. However I found it most pleasing that of the twelve new members elected at the mini meeting, we held in the middle of the day, 3 joined us on the outing. I'm sure they will have gained a lot of value from their first experience of a district outing and I hope they and all the other ringers found it enjoyable.

We are due to hold our ADM in Ufford on 3rd December. After two years of zoom ADMs it will be good to meet in person to ring, discuss future events and elect people to fill the various district roles. Please particularly consider whether you or someone you know would be willing to take on the role of treasurer. Thanks to Tracey, who is stepping down from this role after several years.

Last year, in my report, I reflected on the need for teaching new ringers, working together and rising to the challenges of ringing recovery and growth. I think 2022 has seen us make a good start on this. In the SE district a really good number of new members have been elected to the guild during the year. I know there are areas where individuals and small numbers of ringers are working hard to teach and recruit. Thank you. A module 1 (teaching bell control) ART course was held in our district this year and the R&T committee are hoping to organise a Module 2 course soon. Do please consider attending these teaching courses. They are useful whether you are an experienced teacher or just think you might like to find out more about teaching ringing.

There are churches where practices and service ringing have returned to pre covid levels but others where it has been much more difficult to resume ringing. As we move into 2023, the Suffolk Guild's centenary year, I am looking forward to a continuation of the progress that has been made this year.

Thank you for the support you give to ringing and to this district.

Jenny Scase

District Chairman's report 2022

At the last Annual District Meeting we failed to elect a District Secretary, fortunately Liz Christian later volunteered and was subsequently elected to the role.

Although COVID is still with us, I am pleased to report that we managed to hold "in real life" district events throughout the year. At several of these meetings we welcomed new members to the Guild, along with some returnees, with twelve on the District Outing alone. My thanks to all those who gave up their time to help teach the new ringers, without whom this would not have happened. As you will see from the area reports, several towers are teaching new ringers, so hopefully next year will see a further influx of new members.

I am pleased to note that more towers in the district have restarted regular ringing, including weekly practices, although I am aware that some still struggle. There has also been an increase in the number of peals and quarter peals rung in the district.

With the Guild's Centenary and the King's Coronation, next year, it would be good to see further progress and maybe some of you could set yourselves personal challenges for the year e.g., learn a new method or ring your first quarter/peal.

A few you will already be aware that Tracey will be standing down as Treasurer at the Annual District Meeting. I would like to personally thank her for the work she has done. Unfortunately, we

haven't yet identified a successor, so if you would be willing to stand as Treasurer or for any of the other district officer and area representative roles, please let me know.

As we near the end of the year, could I please ask that anyone who still hasn't paid their subscription this year, to do so ASAP.

In closing, I would like to thank all the district officers and area representatives who have given freely of their time over the year.

Mark Ogden
Chairman, SE District, Suffolk Guild of Ringers

2022 Technical Advisors Annual Report - Southeast District, Suffolk Guild of Ringers

During the year BAC committee members have been active across many districts of the guild, although the biggest successful project was assisting Taylors Bell Foundry remove and reinstall the refurbished bells at St Gregory's, Sudbury.

District Activity -

Hemingstone – Removing old medieval ironwork and supplying new bell fixings for three bell chiming, previously non ring able as in unsafe condition.

Crettingham – Replacement of stay and inspection.

St Mary at Elms, Ipswich – Assist bell hangers making bells safe and installation of electronic chiming apparatus.

Hacheston – Inspection.

Parham – Rectifying loose poorly aligned wheel.

Tuddenham – Inspection and corrective adjustments ready for recommencement of locals ringing.

Campse Ash - Refitting poorly aligned stay.

Ufford – Clapper tightening.

Little Bealings – Making safe for chiming, particularly repairs to wheels. Assisted by Chris Garner.

Framlingham – Inspection and clapper tightening.

Christopher I McArthur