



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 5

Summer 2011

Aw|a'hauld



St Mary's Boxford. See back cover.

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From the Editorial Team

We were delighted to have our efforts to produce a magazine for the Guild endorsed at the AGM in April. We hope you enjoy the latest issue.

What also became evident at the AGM was that the magazine is not always being circulated as widely as we would like. Indeed, we have heard sad tales of small piles of copies abandoned in odd corners of ringing chambers, obviously unread. Please leave at least one copy in the body of the church where members of the congregation and visitors to the church can see it. Give one to the incumbent, others to the churchwardens - let them speak out about what a lively organisation the Suffolk Guild is. Who knows, one might fall into the hands of a potential ringer. And take them home so you can do the crossword!

As always, we are very grateful to all our contributors, without whom there would be no magazine. Please remember we need pictures, so include photos if you can when you send us your articles. Thank you also to our advertisers. Copy for the next issue should be sent either by e-mail to magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or as written text to Sue Freeman at High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG to arrive by 15th October at the latest.

Mention of the AGM brings me (Alan) nicely to a story I started to tell there, with the promise of finishing it here, about feedback on this magazine from outside the county. A woman from Newbury in Berkshire emailed us via the website to report that the Guild Magazine had helped in some family research. She Googled Arthur Bailey and through the magic of the search engine came to issue 3 of our magazine on the Guild website. Private Arthur Bailey is named in George Pipe's article about his visit to the battlefields of Flanders. She found the article and the magazine interesting and added that the family had not known that her great uncle was a bell ringer and that this had added another piece to the picture that she is building up of his life. Alan Stanley, Sue Freeman and Richard Gates

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From the Chairman



AGMs do not have a good reputation. The stereotypical meeting drags on as the list of apologies exceeds the number attending, officers repeat ad nauseam what they have already said in their reports, elections go on for ever, and AOB stretches to infinity. Anyone awake and alert at the end deserves a medal. It doesn't happen like that in Suffolk (mostly!), but even so there were a number of missing faces at Henley in April, with members taking advantage of the extra-long weekend as a result of THE wedding.

There was still a good number there though, and there were few complaints at the entertainment.

First up was the now traditional "fringe" meeting in the afternoon, this year a debate on repair or replacement of bellframes. This can be an emotive subject: many ringers perceive the conservation lobby's position of "preserve the status quo at all costs" as impractical; equally those ringers keen to burn the old frame and replace with steel are often regarded as philistines by the conservationists. The absence of any fisticuffs might be put down to good chairmanship on my part, but the truth is we simply ran out of time before getting on to the controversial bits. Nevertheless the talks, by Mark Regan of Worcester Cathedral and Shawn Kholucy from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings were fascinating insights into the issues, illustrated by Shawn's photographs of unusual installations, and lit up by some gems of wisdom from Mark, the text of whose talk is available on the website.

The Vestey Ring was set up in the church to provide an alternative to the easy going eight in the tower. More ringers are getting used to the different techniques required to handle these bells, which have subsequently made their debut at the Suffolk Show.

The main meeting itself, while uncontroversial, made some important decisions, one of which was to continue with the production of this great little magazine for the foreseeable future. We congratulate Trevor Hughes, Mary Garner and Gillian Wakefield on their election as Life Honorary Members in recognition of outstanding service to the Guild over a long period, and also Jed Flatters on becoming the eleventh person to be elected as Master of the Suffolk Guild. In welcoming him to this most important position we also say thank you to Richy who has held office for the last five years with great distinction and whose achievements as Master have rejuvenated ringing in Suffolk.

Philip Gorrod

See inside the back cover for an introduction to Jed Flatters (ed)

From the North East

The district ringing competition was held on 14th May 2011 at Reydon.

Most members are happy to come to Reydon; decent bells, ground floor ring, super hall for tea all under one roof.

Eight teams this year; five rang changes, three call changes. The judges were Simon Smith and Ed Proffitt of Norwich who put Aldeburgh first for change ringing and Swaffling first for call changes.

Any ringing like this brings folk in from afar, reminding me of a recent local newspaper article. The eight bells of Helmingham, it said, are now undergoing a 'refit'. They were given by the Earl of Dysart as a token of thanks for the end of the 20 year war with France and cast at Whitechapel. These new bells were rung for the first time in June 1816 by 135 ringers, in the following bands:

1	Framdsden	Bob Major, brought the bells round.
2	Bungay	Bob Major, ditto.
3	Boxford	Ditto, but lost the length.
4	Debenham	Bob Major, but unfortunately lost it.
5	Framlingham	Ditto and lost it.
6	Ipswich	Bob Major and Treble Bob Major, brought round.
7	Lavenham	Bob Major, brought round.
8	Redenhall	Bob Major but lost it.
9	Stonham Aspal	Bob Major and brought round.
10	Stowmarket	Ditto
11	Woodbridge	Ditto
12	Norwich (St Peter's)	Rang and brought round Oxford T.B.Major, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, Norwich Court Bob and Stedman Triples.
13	Eye	Rang Bob Major but easily lost it.

All the above from the Ipswich Journal dated June 15th 1816. So, thirteen change-ringing 8-bell bands of ringers were attracted to Helmingham 195 years ago. When the bells are back it will be interesting to see how many change ringing bands attend the re-opening later this year.

Don Price

Also represented in this year's competition were: Halesworth, Rendham, Southwold, Wissett and Worlingham. (*ed*)

News from the North West District

This quarter, the NW district has celebrated the completion of the Hopton restoration project, and enjoyed several events.

In March, George Pipe ran a handling workshop at Pakenham for a keen audience representing a range of towers, abilities and ages. In his engaging style, he conveyed the importance of balance, fluidity of movement and control, and the session was a thoughtful reminder to all of us not to overlook the basics. Thanks to George for an inspiring session, and to David Stanford, Ruth Eagle and Richy Munnings for practical help.

In April's Quarter Peal Week, the District rang 28 quarters, dedicated with affection to Sue Munford. We raised £541 for the MS Society, and the funds will be put towards services for people within the Bury branch area. Congratulations to Nathan Colman, Clare Veal, Simon Veal and Neal Dodge for their first quarters, and well done to everyone else scoring a 'first' in one way or another.

In May, the District's workshop at the Norman Tower was kindly run by David Stanford. This was a sociable and productive event, with participants - many of whom do not normally ring on ten bells - succeeding and gaining confidence in rounds, plain hunt and Little Bob Royal.

In the Guild Striking competition, the district band came a very respectable second, and the new band at Great Barton demonstrated excellent dedication and team spirit with their participation in the 6 Bell event.

June's District Striking Competition and now-traditional barbecue was generously hosted by Wickham Skeith. Our thanks go to judges David and Katharine Salter. After a keen contest, the Ivings Trophy was this year won by the 'Norman Conquerors'.

The Vestey Ring came to Gislingham Summer fair on Saturday 25th June and although rain threatened for most of the day it stayed dry. The event, with the Gislingham Silver Band playing several spots, was well attended by villagers and others from further afield. The mini ring was well supported by George and Colin Salter providing youthful encouragement to young people to have a go. It was heard during most of the afternoon when the silences on the public address system allowed. And it was a success, not least because a new young learner, living in the village, has been recruited to the band; early days yet but he has been coming along to practices since.



Clockwise: Richard and mum Suzanne Stevens, Colin and George Salter

Starting from Scratch in the SW District

Bellringing at the three towers in Sudbury (All Saints-8, St Gregory's-8 and St Peters-10) has over recent years reduced to weddings, funerals and the occasional peal or quarter peal attempt, all this by ringers from outlying villages or visiting bands from miles away. There is no resident band.

During my time as chairman of the SW District the keys of St Gregory's Church tower were handed to me as the default party with any interest in the situation. In September 2010, I decided to try to train a band from scratch. Recruitment was by having open tower sessions to coincide with church coffee mornings and subsequently by word of mouth from other beginners. Anyone interested was invited to experience the feel of a medium sized bell by pulling the backstroke under supervision. 30 people came to follow-up sessions. The spread across the age group was 20% under 15, 50% middle aged, and 30% at or near retirement.

Roughly one third decided that the art was not for them. Another third were interested and had potential, but were very busy people and in the priorities of life had to put bellringing well down the list. The other third are still with us.

The way I learned (for the millennium ring in 1998) was by a few minutes of one to one on a practice night, followed by the chance to ring rounds with a solid band. Introduction to method ringing was accelerated by dedicated sessions at a Saturday morning Ringing School on tied bells (with simulator) at Coggeshall, Essex. It has not been easy to replicate my experience for St Gregory's novices. However I have had the loyal support of local tower captains and others from Suffolk and Essex in both the one-to-one, and the 'solid band' sessions as they can. The early bell handling was done on silent tied bells. Rounds have been on anything between 3 and 8 open bells, according to who was available to help. Introducing method ringing is yet to occur! This has been an interesting exercise in that some handling faults persist, and listening skills, essential for good striking, have been difficult to develop so far. 5 good ringers have not always been available to help.

The toll on the hardware has been one bellrope, two sliders and four stays. Steeple keepers might be interested to note that it seems that dimensions of sliders and stays call for more than a rule of thumb. I have changed to hammerhead (tapered) stays which have more energy absorbing capacity than the traditional uniform profile. John Smith

And for news of everything else - www.suffolkbells.org.uk



South East District News

A lively few weeks since the Guild AGM which we hosted at Henley: several special practices and of course our involvement in the striking competitions. St Mary le Tower won the District six bell trophy at Tunstall and the Mitson Shield at Nayland. They didn't fare quite so well at Stoke by Nayland but our district team managed to pull off the Rose Trophy.

Ipswich also hosted the Ridgman 10 bell trophy for teams in 'greater East Anglia', whatever that means! The results there on June 18th were:

- 1 Norwich 75 faults
- 2 Bedfordshire 96
- 3 Essex 108
- 4 Peterborough 135
- 5 Suffolk 156
- 6 Cambridge University 183
- 7 Lincoln 194
- 8 Ely 202

To round off a heavy programme we were also involved in the Ipswich Arts Festival item of a new Bells Symphony, with school children, all sorts of unusual instruments and an 'echoing background' of the bells of nearly all our Ipswich rings, ringing simultaneously across the town. In a sense, for all, a new art form. G W Pipe

See the article on the Bells Symphony on page 12 (ed)

Ringing Plain Bob doubles - Part three. Bobs

The plain course of the method runs to 40 changes, which is back into rounds in something like two or three minutes. The full 120 different changes possible on five bells takes three times as long, and can be achieved by putting in 'calls' or 'bobs' as they are known. This produces a 'touch' which is simply a length of ringing, starting and ending in rounds, which has the required length directly related to the calls made by the conductor. Bobs only are normally used in Bob Doubles, although occasionally singles are put in by ringers who enjoy complicating things a bit more. Singles are not necessary in this method and I will not dwell on them.

When the conductor calls a bob it will always be called to take effect when the treble is leading. This means that the inside bells will have to make very small changes to what would normally be done in the plain course. I know that this, to someone who has just learnt the plain course, may appear quite alarming. In reality, however, it is all very straightforward, and a bit of homework and practice with a pilot will soon make it clear. At the outset I would urge that you learn and know your place bells, i.e. your position at the start of each lead, really well. It is vital to know this when you are affected by calls, and it makes things so much easier.

Bobs are called when the treble is in seconds prior to leading, and the call takes effect during the two blows of the treble lead. Strictly speaking, it is only the backstroke blow of the lead where the change

Continued on next page

Plain Bob doubles

continued from previous page

takes place, and at the next blow the bells are back to normal but in a slightly different order.

Plain lead	32514	Bob lead	32514
	23154		23154
	21345		21345
	12435		12435
	12345		14235
	21435		41325
	24153		43152
	42513		34512

You will no doubt have noticed that the diagram on the left above shows the final changes of the plain course, running into rounds and starting off again. The other diagram shows what happens at this point if a bob is called, thereby extending the number of changes without repeating them. I will now explain what you have to do when a bob is called, and what you do next.

At the treble lead all the other bells will be doing one of four things. One bell will be lying to the treble, another dodging 3/4 down, one more dodging 3/4 up, and the final bell lying four blows behind. The bells dodging in 3/4, and the bell lying to the treble, will all be affected. The bell making four blows behind is unaffected. The following table shows what you have to do, both at the bob and at the next lead.

At the bob	Effect of bob	Next lead
Laying to treble	Run out (become 3 rd place bell)	Lay to treble
Dodging 3/4 down	Run in (become 2 nd place bell)	Dodge 3/4 down
Dodging 3/4 up	Make 2 blows in fourths and run in (become 4 th place bell)	Four blows behind

Related to place bells, the bell running out becomes **thirds** place bell, the bell running in **seconds** place bell, and the bell making fourths **fourths** place bell. (This is very important.)

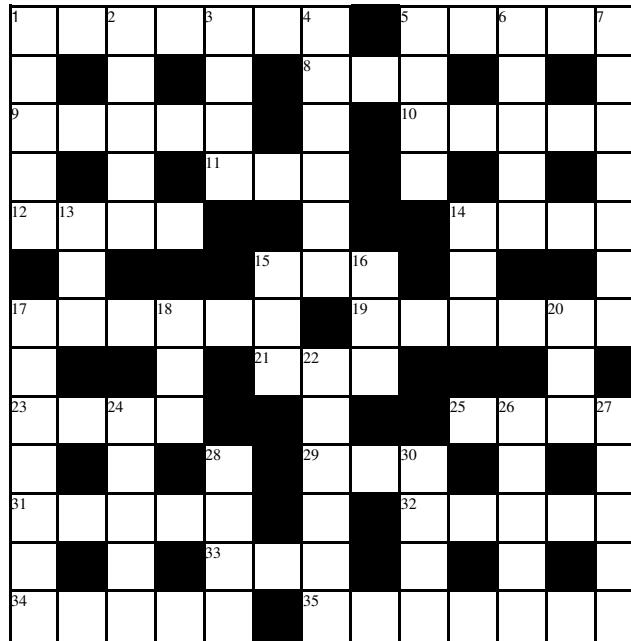
If you learn thoroughly all of the work in the above three columns you should not have any problems with the method when bobs are called. You will note that the first two, i.e. lying to the treble or dodging 3/4 down, only involve reverting to plain hunting and doing the work at the next lead. 'Making the bob', or '4ths and in' as it is known, is a bit more complicated, but should soon be mastered once you get used to it, and is always followed by four blows behind at the next lead. Once the call has been dealt with, you are then back in the plain course order of dodging, etc., but a little extra care is needed as the coursing order will have changed slightly, and your before and/or after bells.

To achieve 120 changes, only three bobs are required, and you might be lucky and be ringing the bell that is making four blows behind, and thereby unaffected, at all three calls. If not, the above should help to steer you through, and do ask for a pilot if there is one. Winston Girling

Crossword by Richard Gates

Clues across

- 1 Someone applauding a striking instrument (7)
5 A Chimera without the Royal Artillery makes this sound (5)
8 Burnt remains, all that's left for a Wednesday (3)
9 Juice from grapes ravishes (5)
10 Home for a single film (5)
11 Marks some of a fast age game (3)
12 Spotted a look with a Northern capital (4)
14 A body surrounded by water from Lisle thread (4)
15 Shakespeare's fuss about nothing (3)
17 Not on the second half of seeing a distant sea view (6)
19 An adornment for the lower leg (6)
21 Hearing device in the centre of a beard (3)
23 Break with crackle and pop (4)
25 Cricketing Alan is baby of the flock (4)
29 Military old timer cares for animals (3)
31 Australia is generally thought to be down there (5)
32 Sea robber of a British car (5)
33 Start a countdown at twenty two hundred hours (3)
34 An ear to a non smoker initially makes money (5)
35 Altogether a small child's friend (7)
- Clues down**
- 1 Muddled races for one who is concerned (5)
2 Record company for teacher? (5)
3 After? All the mail (4)
4 Dagger rearranged frayed material (6)



- 5 Casual talk for French feline (4)
6 Pressing implements for golfers (5)
7 Component part of a light bulb (7)
13 Partly selfish member of fairy folk (3)
14 Dirk partly will irritate (3)
15 A caged CD is removed to find how old it is (3)
16 Rower's aid sounds like either alternative (3)
17 Hidden initially Outside Broadcast rearranges cures (7)
18 The little devil used to repair the falcon's feather (3)
20 Tree from Tintagel maybe (3)
22 Time to arrive before Christmas (6)
24 Mathematical snake (5)
26 Ear bone for the farrier (5)
27 Black? Straw? Logan? Fruit (5)
28 Muddles star goes for an aesthetic degree (4)
30 Wild leftie for a moving horse (4)

Hot Topics of Debate at the Gorrod/Ross Breakfast Table

Number 63: Ringing on Five - pain or pleasure?

Philip and I are boringly in tune about many aspects of ringing, but one area where we differ is the issue of 5-bell ringing. I find it weird and unnatural and frankly quite scary, whereas our Guild Chairman becomes strangely misty-eyed and wistful at the thought of well-struck "Pop Goes the Weasel".

Clearly, it's a matter of taste and familiarity. I was taught at an 8-bell tower that was soon augmented to ten, and am out of my comfort zone on five, where I can hear each of my dropped backstrokes, and any method trips are horribly exposed. After St Lawrence in Ipswich were rehung, I was urged by a friend to attend a Wednesday lunchtime next time I was working in Ipswich because the bells were "really good". Smugly incredulous that any five could justify that description, I went along, only to find that they are, in fact...well, really good!

Here in the North East District, we have many remote and rural churches with infrequently rung rings of five. This November, we're inviting you all to come along and enjoy some of these bells as we're having an open day. It's an opportunity for me to face my prejudices and become used to not having a comforting "bong" at the end of a touch of doubles. It's a chance for Philip, and anyone else who learned to ring at a five, to enjoy the slightly different rhythm, the easier rope-sight and the clarity of being able to pick out your own bell easily. It's a chance for everyone in the Guild to come to our lovely area and ring at some of the towers that are rarely visited, safe in the knowledge that if you bring a carload you are guaranteed to grab the tower.

Details are below; the NE District committee are looking forward to welcoming you to a very special 5-bell day. I'm looking forward to it. Honest!

Saturday 12 th November 2011

09:30 – 10:30	Covehithe	5	11cwt
10:30 – 11:30	Westhall	5	10cwt
10:45 – 12:00	Brampton	5	7cwt
11:45 – 12:45	Barsham	5	6-2-7
12:30 – 13:30	St Cross	5	8-2qr
13:00 – 14:00	St Margaret	5	11cwt
14:00 – 15:00	Huntingfield	5	8cwt
14:30 – 15:30	Heveningham	5	9cwt
15:30 – 16:30	Bramfield	5	12cwt

Cost is £7.50 for the whole day or £1 per tower. There will be stewards at each tower. Refreshments available at some towers. Public toilets in Beccles and Bungay.

Maggie Ross

Other Guilds - The Guild of Post & Telecom Ringers

The Guild of Post & Telecom Ringers (GoPTR) was formed as the Post Office Guild in 1971. The change of name occurred when the Post Office split into the two businesses of Royal Mail and British Telecom. Our first meeting was held at Hinckley in October 1971. Prior to this, eight telephone engineers had met at St Mary's Lambeth in January 1937 and successfully rung a peal. More peals were rung by people working for the GPO but these had to be classified as non-association. The Guild was formed as it was known that many ringers worked for the business and it also meant that future peals could be properly accredited.

Membership is open to anyone who worked for the GPO or now works, or has worked for any of its derivative companies. Family members are also eligible to join. Our members come from all over the country, with concentrations in a few areas. One of these is the South Suffolk/North Essex area because of the offices in Ipswich and Colchester, and the Research Station at Martlesham. Total membership at present is approximately 100.

Three meetings are held throughout the year in different parts of the country, organised by members living in the area. The AGM is in March, if possible somewhere easily accessible from most of the country. A second meeting is held in October and it often takes place in a less central location. It is for one of these meetings that the guild is most likely to visit Suffolk. Both meetings have a day's ringing at six or seven towers with a short service, tea and business meeting. In June or July there is a quarter peal day, with the number of quarters attempted dependant on the people attending. Success has varied from only one quarter scored to five being successful. A few peals have been rung by guild members, which include two to commemorate the 60th and 70th anniversaries of the 1937 peal. Occasionally quarter peals are rung for special reasons, for example on the death of a member. These are dependant on a member doing the organisation.

If you would like to join (or rejoin) the guild please contact our Secretary, Roger Collins. His telephone number is 01799 521991 and his e-mail address is rogergr.collins@btinternet.com. We would be pleased to see you at any of our meetings.

Mary Coe



Anagrams

The following are the names of two well-known Suffolk ringers. They are both past chairmen and both keen gardeners. Can you identify them?

INSIST LINE GROWING

I BAN WIRE THING

Submitted by G.W. Pipe

Two lovely belfries

On June 16th ten of us had a fine evening visiting two towers for a little summer skirmish. First Buxhall – one might say the perfect place for ringers! How well it stands, especially when approached from Great Finborough. Beautiful approach, grand church inside and out and what a belfry, worthy of one of the county's best sixes.

Thanks David and Lesley for making us so welcome.

On to Ixworth, quite different but homely and atmospheric and very comfortable ringing conditions. A contrast yes, to Buxhall's 'grandeur' but they really tap round well and we enjoyed excellent Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, Yorkshire and Bristol. Thanks Danny for meeting us there.

Our evening finished – as it should (!) at Norton Dog.

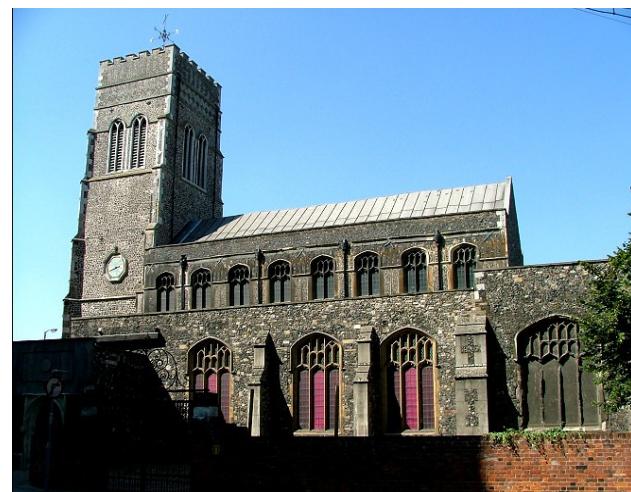
G.W.Pipe

1 Bells Symphony, 7 Towers, nearly 50 Ringers

There we were, five ringers gathered at St Mary at the Quay on a wet Friday evening, wondering what we had let ourselves in for in agreeing to ring in the Ipswich 'Symphony of Bells' the following week.

This event was part of the Ip-Art Festival, and as well as bell-ringers it involved school children processing through the town playing bells improvised from scaffold poles! Spanish composer Llorenç Barber had already composed and performed bell symphonies in many European cities, and this time it was the turn of Ipswich. We were joined by the composer for our first practice, and with the help of his UK contact and aide, Simon, we were taken through the various procedures which we needed to learn for the performance.

The first rule was to entirely forget about anything we had learned regarding conventional change ringing. Instead, we had to learn to ring various timed sections in a variety of ways e.g. ring completely randomly, fire in various ways (together, trill up, trill down), do 'plonky raindrops', have periods of silence; ring just one bell slowly, and gradually introduce others; ring randomly at increasing speed, letting the bells come down, and then back up, hold our bells up at backstroke - what fun this all was at SMQ! The entire performance involved seven churches in Ipswich, and



St Mary at Quay—a most urban church

Bells Symphony (cont.)

was dependent upon every tower carrying out the same procedures at exactly the same time. All this was achieved by means of a timekeeper/conductor in each tower, equipped with a stop-watch synchronized at the start of proceedings by three loud rocket maroons being let off in the town. Conducting was accomplished by means of the timekeeper instructing us what to do and when, and for how long! The overall effect was to be achieved not by any single tower, but by the fact that every tower would be doing the same thing at exactly the same moment. When we were ringing at our most random and most un-rhythmically we were rewarded with cries of sheer pleasure from LLorenc, whilst any straying into a sound resembling well-paced rounds caused consternation and pleas to forget about rhythm! Exhausted mentally after a couple of hours of practice, we headed home with addled brains, and looked forward to our second practice a week later. This duly took place (with a full complement of six ringers this time) and went along similar lines. Somewhat surprisingly we discovered that we were getting the hang of this newly found way of ringing, so this time trudged off home in much more confident mood!

On Saturday morning 25th June we arrived at the church ready to ring, and our main concern was whether we would hear the three rockets due to sound at 12 noon precisely, which would signal the start. St Mary at the Quay is somewhat out of the town centre, so would the sound carry? We need not have worried, as a friendly vandal had put a stone through a pane of glass in the west window, thus giving us an open route to listen out. At noon precisely we heard a distant clock strike the hour, but no rocket was observed. Maybe we were too far away after all, and perhaps we should start? But then after a few seconds we heard the maroons loud and clear, the stopwatch was duly started, and the tenor started its slow tolling, gradually joined by the other bells in succession until we were all ringing a sweet cacophony! The hour sped by, and just before 1 pm the bells started to drop out one by one, leaving just the lone treble chiming up to the hour, followed by total silence. We had performed the symphony.

So off hot-foot to the Robert Ransome for some liquid refreshment, and a chat with ringers from the other towers. LLorenc and Simon were both there, and seemed most pleased with the result. In fact the ultimate accolade was dispensed - we did it better than York! This exercise has certainly given us a different perspective of ringing, and made us realise that there are ways other than traditional English change ringing! It has also improved our ability to hold at backstroke! Stephen Cheek



High Maintenance - What makes a Steeple Keeper

Quasimodo, poor soul, might have been an excellent steeple-keeper but the ideal is young, technically and practically gifted, physically strong and flexible, totally fearless, willing to listen to the “old boys” and through constant questioning of how and why things are done pursues perfection in the belfry and its environs. Sound like you? Or me?

If you look at a lot of our bell installations you would certainly benefit from being all of the above to get the best from them but with a few strategies we ordinary mortals can do the job too. In fact, around the Guild’s towers we have a small army quietly checking and adjusting ropes, keeping things tight, making sure the pulleys run smoothly and popping new stays on when needed. Behind them, ready to help is the BAC team, with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

To celebrate the work of the steeple-keepers the BAC hosted a steeple-keepers’ supper. Whilst those who came had a companionable evening, there were a lot missing. We are intending to hold another next summer; if you are one of these key people enabling ringing to continue in Suffolk, do come along.

Faculties and the DAC

Words and initials that strike fear into any PCC’s heart, but an important part of making sure our churches are not damaged through inappropriate work. The system only works though, if those on the receiving end of the work take part in the process. Recently, on my travels I have found where the needs of the ringers have been ignored. There is a church where the toilet has been put in the ringing chamber making at least two of the bells totally unringable, another where a massive kitchen cupboard has been installed making three of the six bells unringable; elsewhere there is a recently moved organ right in front of the ringing chamber door making vision up the nave impossible and I imagine making it harder to hear the bells when the organist is at work and yet another church where a new gallery has been put in for the ringers with a loo and kitchen underneath but with no trap for when the bells need to be worked on.

With a little care at the design stage these issues need never have arisen. If the designer and the DAC are unaware of the needs of the ringers and are unfamiliar



The advertisement features a red border and a background illustration of a church interior with architectural details like columns and a pulpit. The text is arranged as follows:

- jonathanstevens@swefling-furniture.co.uk**
- Professional** **Ecclesiastical** **Industrial**
- Design**
- Manufacture**
- Furniture**
- Architectural**
- Domestic**
- Since 1981**
- The Workshop, Church Street, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2AZ 01728 663495**

with bells and towers these things will continue to happen. Ringers, do take note of what is happening in your church. If you are not sure what the impact of proposed works will be, get the BAC involved and participate in the faculty process.

Jonathan Stevens
bac@suffolkbells.org.uk

An Introduction to the new Guild Ringing Master

I was born in Kirton-in-Holland, Lincolnshire in 1954 into a family with a long ringing tradition going back to 1795. I was taught to ring in the mid sixties but took an age to progress from call changes. Eventually I progressed to quarters and later peals with school friends Mike Belcher and George Campling.

Ringing took a front seat, school work did not and in despair my father suggested that my future might lie with bells. A letter to Paul Taylor and, one interview later, I was an apprentice bellhanger.

From bellhanging I progressed at Taylor's into setting up the Maintenance Department and then to Technical Services where I finally gained a directorship in the since-failed Taylor Eayre and Smith set up.

One of the earliest jobs I worked on was at Nayland followed soon after by East Bergholt. Since then I have worked or rung on many of Suffolk's rings of bells so am no stranger to the county.

Rowan, my wife, gained a posting through her work with the Sustrans "Bike it" project to East Anglia and so we began a long search for our ideal home with decent rail links and a good ringing base. We finally settled on Bury St. Edmunds and moved here in February 2010 joining the Norman Tower band and supporting NW district and Guild events.

Jed Flatters



St Mary's Boxford

St Mary's Boxford nestles in the middle of the village next to the river Box. Built in the 14th Century it has a number of interesting features, the wooden North porch being the most obvious and the elegant wooden Stuart font cover another. The South porch which now is the main entrance is a 15th Century addition of beautifully carved stone. The south aisle has some fine but mutilated niches flanking the east window, the damage probably done by Dowsing during the period of the Commonwealth. There is a painted figure of St.Edmund, holding his arrow and this together with the angels over the chancel arch, part of a doom, are the main remains of the wall paintings from pre-reformation times.

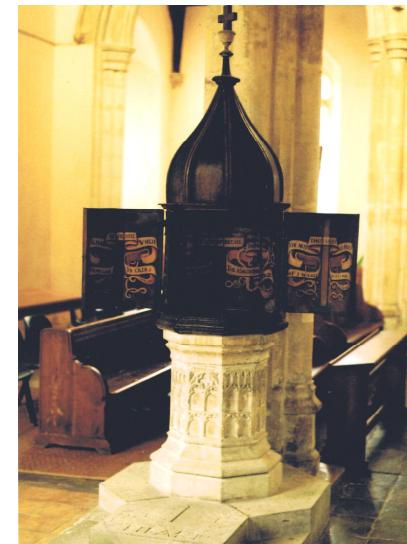
The only stained glass is the east window depicting the transfiguration and designed by Rosemary Rutherford in 1973. There is a notable memorial to Elizabeth Hyam, four times widowed, who was "hastened to her end through a mortification brought on by a fall" when aged 113.

The interest for ringers is the eight bells. They are quite a heavy ring with the tenor weighing in at just over 21 cwt but, following the re-hanging of the bells in a new metal frame lower in the tower in 1997, they are relatively easy to ring. Until this time the bells had only been rung on exceptional occasions since the moment they were silenced at the beginning of the First World War. However, following an extended effort and in conjunction with a strengthening of the tower the bells were brought back to a ringable condition.

The oldest bell is the number six and it was cast by Thomas Potter of Norwich at some time between 1406 and 1416 and has a beautiful sound. It is a salutary thought to realise that this bell has been calling the village and villagers for six hundred years. The second oldest bell is the old number two, now the clock bell, cast by William Chamberlain sometime between 1426 and 1456. The third oldest bell is the number seven. This too was made in the fifteenth century sometime around 1485. Then no more until 1688, probably because of the religious upheavals of the times.

The final five bells almost seem to have been added for each new reign following the "Glorious Revolution" with the result that the original eight were squeezed into the belfry on two levels by 1800. This means that the oldest bell could have rung for Agincourt and all eight for Waterloo. Indeed the first peal is dated March 1814.

With a large ringing room only twelve steps up, Boxford is an enjoyable tower to ring at and welcomes ringers of all levels to its practices that are held on Wednesdays during the winter months.



The font cover with its hinged doors open