



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 9

Winter 2012

Awl a'huld



Sts. Peter and Paul Aldeburgh. See back page.

Inside this issue

Editorial.....	2	What goes around.....	10
From the Treasurer	3	Crossword	11
Round the Districts	4-7	The Only Was Essex.....	12
Ladies Guild 100th	8	ITTS Training	14
A Simulator for Helmingham	9	Bardwell Wall Hanging	15
		Sts. Peter and Paul Aldeburgh..	16

From the Editorial Team

Here we are at the end of another year – a very busy year for ringers as so many people were involved in special ringing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, for the Olympic torch relay and for the Games themselves. Now is the traditionally busy time of ringing for Christmas carol services across the county.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the recently married Guild Chairman Philip Gorrod and NE Ringing Master Maggie Ross. Their wedding was a truly joyful occasion with, of course, much ringing. On the preceding day a peal was rung at Ditchingham in their honour. On the day itself the couple rang in a quarter peal, conducted by the bridegroom, of Superlative S Major at Lowestoft, immediately before the ceremony. In the afternoon there was open ringing at Barsham. We have let Philip off writing his usual piece for the magazine and thank Gordon Slack, Treasurer, for writing for us in the 'Guild Officers' slot'.

We are very grateful to all our contributors; you don't have to be an official magazine correspondent to send us material. On that subject, we are pleased to welcome Ambrin Williams as correspondent for the NE district. Aged just 13, she is by far the youngest contributor yet and is being assisted in the task by mum Michelle. Many thanks to Don Price who has sent us so much material from the NE district in the past. Please continue to write for the magazine whenever the spirit moves you, Don.

Copy for the spring issue should reach us, at either magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or Sue Freeman, High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG, by the end of February please.

We hope you all have a very happy Christmas with lots of festive ringing.

Alan Stanley, Sue Freeman and Richard Gates.

GIFT AID

One of the major contributions to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund is the money we reclaim each year on subscriptions made under the Gift Aid scheme. If you pay income tax (or capital gains tax) the Guild can reclaim 25% of your subscription from HM Revenue and Customs. Payments also qualify if they are made by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of a child under the age of 18.

The Gift Aid form is available on the Guild web site under the Membership tab. For further information please contact me at treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk or telephone 01449 737247
Gordon Slack, Guild Treasurer

From the Guild Treasurer

Our Chairman wrote in the magazine last year about annual District meetings and the importance of seeing some new faces in the posts within each District. These meetings have now been held once more and we hope all the officers, both those re-elected and those joining the fray for the first time, will approach their roles with enthusiasm and energy and with a determination to make things in their District different and better for their members.



Christmas is often said to be a special time for children, but it can be pretty special for bellringers too. We have the opportunity to be part of so many distinctive church services, and bells are closely associated in the minds of the public with Christmas, as can be seen by the number of Christmas cards portraying the tools of our trade. They even serenade us and encourage us (or at least, our bells) to 'Ding Dong Merrily on High'.

Then we have another privilege as the old year dies and the new year begins. I'm sure our non-ringing friends envy us as we have the opportunity to mark this occasion in such a traditional and enjoyable way.

With the New Year our thoughts may turn to resolutions, and bellringing again offers a wealth of opportunity. Why not resolve to learn a new method (or one each month if that's not a sufficient challenge!), recruit a new learner, help in the bell chamber, call a quarter peal, ring a peal, or attend more District events than last year? You can be sure your District and Guild Ringing Masters will be happy to help and encourage.

On behalf of the Executive I'd like to thank those District members who take on all these representative roles. Just opposite I've written about Gift Aid, and my thanks go to all members who boost our income in this way. Many of our senior members are no longer obliged to pay a subscription but kindly make a donation instead (also frequently gift aided) and we're grateful for all the support we receive for the restoration work the Guild promotes within the county.

Gordon Slack

New Ropes?

The Suffolk Guild has purchased a quantity of excellent 10mm pre-stretched terylene rope, some of which has now been used, and there is no stretch at all. It is excellent value at £1.60 per metre
Contact Winston Girling:
winston.girling@btinternet.com
or tel 01449 674425.

South East District News

Congratulations to Sean Antonioli on ringing his first peal at the first attempt at St Mary le Tower – Bob Major. He rang very well; there can't be too many New Yorkers resident in Britain who have rung a peal!

Ten of us from the district plus Rosemary and Roger Palmer from Fordham, Cambs, and David and Gill Sparling, James and Elizabeth had a lovely week's tour in Herefordshire this August. Weather poor but made up for by great company, food and 'refreshment', churches, countryside. And some very nice quarter peals too. Thanks again to Brian and Pete for all the planning and everyone for pitching in.

On a sad note two deaths from the same tower, Marlesford: Leslie Carter and Alan Rogers. Our sympathy to their families and thanks for their contribution to the Guild.

The district congratulates the Norman Tower ringers on ringing the first peal on the twelve at our cathedral. We now look forward to their enjoying the new flat sixth which will give them and indeed West Suffolk, further scope. The band is building up well, providing something for everyone.

There have been structural problems with the fine tower at Woodbridge and at St Mary le Tower. Work has finished at Woodbridge (the Church raised £190,000 for all the tower and church work) and the 'Tower' should be finally made good by the end of the year.

The Guild Social was at Sproughton this year. Again well done to everybody who arranged it – a happy evening. The exuberance of some of our senior members dancing the Dashing White Sergeants was a joy to behold and for one member in particular it helped both his handling and his striking!

I think it's impressive that no fewer than seven members of the Scase family ring at Debenham and around the district. And Mrs Scase senior is an Associate member too. I have two suggestions for a collective noun for Scases: a caseload or a skateboard. Whichever, an impressive family achievement.

The South East Annual Meeting this year will not be at Woodbridge but at Pettistree with an afternoon tower to be announced. This brings me to saying that by the time you have all read this Guild Magazine Peter and Jane Harper, our chairman and secretary, will have stepped down from office. Coming to us from Hertfordshire they have done a super job, enthusiastically, cheerfully and energetically and we are very grateful to them.

And grateful too to Alan Stanley, Sue Freeman and Richard Gates for all their commitment in producing our magazine.

George Pipe

South West district news

District members enjoyed a mini tour to nearby North Essex towers in September. We started out at Ardleigh on the 8 bells at St Mary the Virgin. Next port of call was St Mary's at Langham where we enjoyed the six bells before moving on to the five at St Peter and St Paul at Little Horkesley. For many who had not visited this church before, the interest, after ringing, was in the photographs and objects exhibited in the church which suffered a direct hit from a bomb in September 1940 and was completely destroyed. In the present church, built on the same footprint as the old in 1958, there are pictures of the old church and small fragments of metal which are all that remain of the bells. The bells now hung in the tower came from All Saints, Colchester (now the natural history museum). The tour was a great success, enjoyed by all and pleasing in that there were comparatively new ringers as well as the more experienced. A convivial meal was eaten at the aptly named Eight Bells at Bures, making the evening into

a happy social event. Many thanks to Lynda and David Lee for the organisation, in particular the last minute change of venue for the meal.

Bures was also the setting for the Annual District Meeting, held in November, again ably organised by David and Lynda Lee. The fine anticlockwise ring of eight was rung before the service and again after the excellent tea and the business meeting. At this meeting Rolie Whiting stood down from the post of Hadleigh Deanery representative. Now, for the first time in many, many years, he no longer holds office on the District Committee. Thank you, Rolie, for all the work you have done over the years for the South West District.

Congratulations are in order for Christine Knight who, at the end of October, rang in a peal at Stratford St Mary to celebrate forty years since her first peal. She has rung over 500 peals in this time. In the same peal at Stratford Alan Mayle achieved his 500th peal of Minor. Well done, both!



GILLIAN WAKEFIELD PORTRAITS

Commission a portrait of your partner, child, pet or house from photographs.

Makes a unique present for Christmas or birthdays and anniversaries

**Prices from £80
(in aid of Bell Restoration Fund and
East Anglia's Children's Hospices)
Tel: 01394 385203**

North West District- Young ringers summer outing

On the 8th of August a merry band of both young and not quite so young ringers from Bardwell and Great Barton assembled in the leafy churchyard of St Andrew's Tostock for what was to be a day of much ringing across our beautiful county. Our day started at Tostock, a very light ring of six just off junction 46 of the A14, with some successful ringing up in peal and ended with the same quality of ringing down. In the middle we focused on Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles to give the method its full title, for Ruth's learners from Bardwell: Christopher and Harry, who gave a valiant and again successful effort with the rest of us from Great Barton; Neal, Sally, Clare and Simon filled in the gaps where and whenever we were needed. Thanks must go to Maurice Rose who came along especially to assist us at our little practice. Thank you Maurice!

Now for a trip over the border into deepest South East district for the Wednesday lunch time practice at the world's oldest five at Ipswich St. Lawrence where we were very warmly welcomed to the slow turning bells by many smiling faces who were both surprised and delighted to see such large influx of people to the ringing chamber which overlooks the nave of the 13th century church now turned cafe. Due to our large audience of the town centre just call changes were attempted but this

gave us an opportunity to concentrate on our striking on a set of bells that can't be rushed. Unlike our next tower or shed in our case at The Wolery where the Salter family made us most welcome with the offer of drinks etc. After a quick lunch we made our way down the garden of 76 Rectory Road to the subterranean world of this 8 bell 9lb mini ring. To start with, the technique was the main aim with all of us picking it up quickly, mainly due to the gratefully received guidance of both Colin and George. The ringing involved call changes, plain hunt, and plain bob finishing on the high of Kent Treble Bob Minor.

I'd like to finish by thanking those involved in this great day on behalf of us all who took part, especially Ruth for co-ordinating all the ringing in her usual efficient style. Look and listen out for more young ringer events with another ringing packed day already being planned for Christmas time.

Neal Dodge Great Barton



10-Bell Building Blocks for NE District

With the Beccles 10 out of action temporarily whilst works are carried out to re-hang and improve them, the North East decamped to Stradbroke to ensure that we could still offer a ten-bell practice. Despite the nights closing in, attendance was excellent and it was particularly good to welcome visitors from the SE and NW Districts too. In a packed ringing chamber people coped well with tricky bells and managed attempts at Cambridge Royal, Kent, Plain Bob Caters, Plain Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters. (This was probably the first Maggie-run practice with no Stedman!) Congratulations to Ruth Suggett who went on to ring her first quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Royal at Stradbroke the following weekend as a result.

The ten-bell practices offer a real opportunity to learn and improve ringing on higher numbers and as a District we look forward to returning to and ringing the new and improved bells at Beccles in 2013 to which everyone is welcome on the first Wednesday of the month.

Michelle Williams

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



The Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers is 100 years old

In the autumn of 1911, there was an avalanche of correspondence in the Ringing World triggered by a letter from a curate in Dagenham. He explained that he had wished to meet the bellringers at his church, but when he got to the ringing chamber, he was horrified to find a *lady ringer*! He wrote that he was going to forbid any young lady from entering the belfry under any circumstances whatever as, '*the belfry is not a fit place for any female as it might lead to questionable actions taking place.*' He asked for others' opinions and got them! The whole letters page in the next issue was devoted to the responses which supported women ringers, and many more were held back due to lack of space.

Perhaps spurred on by this, the first ever all-ladies peal, 5040 Grandsire Triples, was rung at Cubitt Town, London on 20 July 1912. On a hot summer's day, the ladies rang in full length skirts and high necked blouses on bells with plain bearings, and, because of a false start, rang for over five hours! Although the peal was the tenor's first, it was the conductor's 50th, having conducted 16 others previously.

The success of this peal and the subsequent publicity which it gave to the subject of ladies ringing prompted the idea of a Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers. The inaugural meeting was held on 26 October 1912 at St Giles in the Field, London, and the original Rules include this: '*That the Guild should in no wise consider itself antagonistic to existing societies, but at all times an ally; its members look to their brother ringers for the courtesy and opportunity necessary to attain their legitimate aspirations.*'

The Guild has nine districts in England and one in North America. In Suffolk we have many Ladies' Guild members – in fact, the Eastern District, comprising the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire, has the largest number of members (about 110) in the Guild. Over this year, we in the Eastern District have been celebrating our centenary in the best way possible – so far we have rung two peals and over 30 quarter peals. We've also had joint meetings with neighbouring districts, a posh dinner and a civic reception!

The object of the Ladies' Guild of Change Ringers, as stated in our rules, is:

"to bring together ringers both nationally and within local districts, to encourage new ringers, and to improve the standard of ringing amongst women".

In our district we provide a supportive, helpful and friendly network of members who will help ringers achieve new goals, whether trying a new method, ringing a quarter peal or calling something new. The Eastern District has practices on the first Friday, second Saturday, third Saturday and fourth Thursday of every month. A monthly newsletter is sent to members with details of these practices, which are open to all, and Quarterly Meetings are advertised in The Ringing World. In addition, there are some national Guild events: the Annual General Meeting

Ladies Guild - cont.

weekend is held in a different District each June – it's in the Eastern District in 2013 – and a Guild ringing holiday is organised annually, usually in May.



For more information, please contact the Secretary, Lesley Steed on 01449 737991 or email lesleyann.steed@btinternet.com

A group of Ladies' Guild members outside Polstead church.

Left to right: Teresa Colthorpe, Sue Freeman, Wendy Godden, Sonia Charnley, Lesley Steed, Betty Baines.

A Simulator for Helmingham

The Church of St Mary, Helmingham, has added a simulator to the recently refurbished bells and new steel bell frame. The teaching simulator will help any member of the community to learn the art of bell ringing and is part of Helmingham P.C.C's project for work on the Waterloo bells and frame, which received a grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is hoped that Helmingham will become a useful teaching centre for bell ringing with this invaluable resource now installed. The simulator system has been built and installed by Alan Cutting, retired Engineering Company Director and Hon. Treasurer of the Helmingham Parochial Church Council.

As well as teaching bell ringing to new audiences, this project also saw the

original two-tier bellframe replaced with a single steel frame from which all 8 bells can hang on one level. Part of the previous frame will now be conserved as bench seating in the churchyard. The worn headstocks have been replaced and all bells have been turned and tuned. These bells were commissioned in 1815 to commemorate the victory at Waterloo and it is believed that this was a unique memorial to this victory.

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said: "We at HLF are delighted that the teaching simulator has now been installed. The sound of church bells is ubiquitous with village life and so it is great that the local community will now be able to have a go at ringing them themselves."



What goes around comes around

Like many things done well, ringing a bell full circle is much harder than it looks. I was about to find out just how hard following a conversation in the village pub. We had moved to Polstead a little over a year before and at the bar of the Cock Inn that evening I was introduced to James – son of our local Tower Captain.

I'd often thought about "having a go" at bell ringing – but I'd never really got round to it. I said as much and our conversation drifted on to other things. But word soon got round and it wasn't long before Sue collared me one evening at the village hall and suggested it was about time I learned the ropes.

Being a small parish church, the six bells at Polstead are tightly squeezed into the tower. So we drove out to the neighbouring village of Boxford, where I was able to clamber up the church tower into the bell chamber and see the sort of bells I would be ringing.

I was shown all the different parts of the bell and the ringing mechanism – the stay, the headstock, the wheel, the slider. I nodded more out of interest than understanding before watching – with my fingers rammed as far as they would go into my ears – a bell swinging and striking as it was rung just a few feet away.

My first proper lesson – bell handling – came a few days later in June. I was shown the difference between handstroke and backstroke, how to reach high and low and how I should never look up because I would miss all sorts of other useful things that would be happening at eye level.

Then I was shown how to measure the correct distance to stand from the rope by thumbing my nose – something my four-year-old son still thinks is very funny indeed.

An intensive course of tuition followed. Working from home, I was able to have two or three lessons a week for the first month or so, walking down the hill to the church for a quick half hour at lunch time. And it wasn't long before I was deemed competent enough to attend a full Polstead practice night.

It's a nerve-racking experience ringing in front of other people for the first time – especially those you have only just met. But they appeared impressed by my efforts – or were at least polite enough not to say otherwise – imparted some welcome words of wisdom and hid their relief that I didn't break any stays.

I've been a regular ever since. I've had some really good practice sessions. But I've also had some terribly bad ones when nothing has gone right. And I have seen the look of terror on the faces of my fellow ringers once or twice when I have missed the sally and it has flapped around wildly before I have regained control.

I've not yet mastered call changes, let alone plain hunting. And I know beyond that a whole world of methods – bob majors, bob minors, Stedmans and Surprises – lies before me. But a few months on and I am now able to ring "tenor at the back" before church



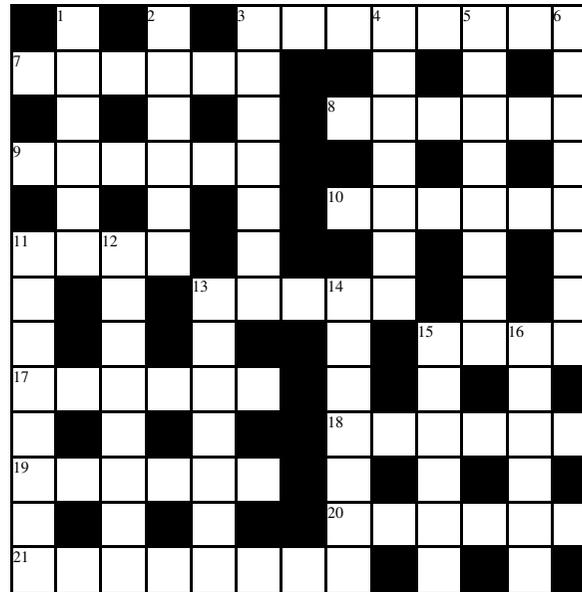
Crossword by Richard Gates

Clues across

- 3 Uncle Sam is a resident of these states (8)
7 A transgressor of seven deadly ones (6)
8 Child from a mixed up tin fan (6)
9 Light a fire from a reorganised gin tie (6)
10 Flabby extra terrestrial creates a clinging mollusc (6)
11 Part of Bob entertains a crooked cop (4)
13 Gin drink to support a broken arm (5)
15 Soon to be shortly unknown (4)
17 Royal Academician follows a male deer for a white man in Negro dialect (6)
18 Nun is senior in a hospital ward (6)
19 Boxer dog suffers special duty in particulars (6)
20 Ethnic group begins competing on a track (6)
21 Hush hush? S.I.S does things this way (8)

Clues down

- 1 One changes two bells (6)
2 Apply some tan ointment (6)
3 Football team's weapons store (7)
4 The British Trust for Ornithology marking



- birds in a tower (7)
5 A TV wonder horse that is the best (8)
6 I toot Ann mixed up musical symbols (8)
11 A muddled drab ASBO in the West Indies (8)
12 An in car cot makes for a sleepy drug (8)
13 A small fish in a tightly packed game (7)
14 Child's place for young plants (7)
15 Area for German shepherd dogs (6)
16 Large seas provided a filmic eleven (6)

Crossword answers are on page 13

service on Sunday.

Ideas that start as pub talk don't always seem so good in the cold light of day. But bell ringing isn't one of them. I've just about held my own at a regional practice day with fellow beginners at Debenham and I attend practice nights at nearby churches when work and my wife allow. In short, I'm hooked.

I've even been lucky enough to ring at the Norman Tower in Bury St Edmunds – which I later discovered appears in motif form on the label of Greene King IPA – the very beer I was drinking when I met James at the Cock Inn. I hadn't noticed before. Now that really is ringing full circle.

Johann Tasker

The only way was Essex

When it came to deciding where to go on the Stutton outing this year we looked at several possibilities – should we go west (we went to north west Essex last year), north (we went to north west Suffolk the year before), east (I don't think so unless we were planning to visit Dordrecht, 't Kloekhuys), so the only way was Essex.

On the morning of 7th July six ringers from Stutton and four from Harkstead headed south to encounter the delights of the Sadlers Farm roadworks before arriving at Fobbing to ring on the pleasant eight there. Due to the traffic delays we only had time to ring some call changes on the eight and a course of Plain Bob Minor on the back six. Then on to Orsett where we noticed the redundant rope guides in the ground

floor kitchen before ascending the stairs where the six bells were rung to Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Doubles. Although we are used to Stutton, where we ring directly under the bells, at Orsett the bells were even louder which made conducting an effort.

Next, to the urban landscape of Grays, where the inside of St Peter and St Paul's church was a revelation. Not only had an indoor conservatory been created which was laid out as a café, the church had been ordered in such a way as it could double as a concert hall when required. The fact that the bells are rung from the Lady Chapel was also unusual. The local ringer who let us in provided us with cups of coffee and copies of the Olympic Games prayer as the Olympic Torch had

passed through Grays the previous day. Ringing on the eight here was limited to call changes.

Lunch was taken at the Dog & Partridge at North Stifford – not exactly Michelin-starred cuisine, but reasonably priced and enjoyed by all.

Finding North Ockendon church proved problematic



Pictured at the glass tower Basildon. Also shown opposite

The only way was Essex (cont.)

to those without a good map or the postcode for satellite navigation. Luckily there was plenty of time to get there where we were met by Cathryn Corns who had met us in at Fobbing. Cathryn is the deputy ringing master for the southern district of the Essex Association. The local tower captain explained that these bells were hung anti-clockwise, which was a new experience for some of our ringers. Our usual repertoire of Grandsire Doubles, Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Doubles was rung here.

The highlight of the day was the new ring of eight at the Holy Cross at South Ockendon. Once we had found our way to the church (thank you Cathryn for coming up with the postcode for the church and joining us again) we quickly raised the bells and everyone found them incredibly easy to handle, despite their light weight. We rang some call changes and Plain Bob Triples here, followed by some Plain Hunt Triples which included three of the local ringers.

Our final tower of the day was Basildon – a unique experience. A course of Plain Bob Minor on the back six was rung first, followed by some Plain Hunt and more call changes. We then headed back north and enjoyed a

supper at John and Sandra's home at Stutton. There we were joined by the Stutton ringers who had been unable to join us for the ringing tour.

All in all, an enjoyable but tiring day with interesting churches and a good variety of bells. Where to next year? You never know ; we may venture even further afield.

Jenny Warren



Crossword answers

Across: 3. American 7. Sinner 8. Infant 9. Ignite
10. Limpet 11. Bent 13. Sling 15. Anon 17. Buckra
18. Sister 19. Detail 20. Racing 21. Secretly
Down: 1. Single 2. Anoint 3. Arsenal 4. Ringing
5. Champion 6. Notation 11. Barbados 12. Narcotic
13. Sardine 14. Nursery 15. Alsace 16. Oceans

The octagonal glass tower at Basildon rising to a height of 90 feet houses 6 bells from the redundant Church of St Nicholas, Colchester, presented by the diocese of Chelmsford as a consecration gift plus two new ones. Unveiled by Her Majesty Elizabeth II on 12 March 1999.

ITTS Module One back in Suffolk

As Graham was demonstrating some of the techniques, I realised that I had seen most of them before. My Mum taught me to ring a couple of years back, and I have been watching her recently teaching new learners using methods she learned from attending ITTS Module One. This time, I had the opportunity to stand and watch the ITTS tutor and take some photographs too as he taught the second group attending Module One of the course for the Suffolk Guild of Ringers.

Graham Nabb from the Association of Ringing Teachers came to lead the course which was held at my local tower – Reydon, on Saturday 24th November which was a dreary old day. Although Reydon is about as far north and east in the Suffolk Guild as can be, it was great to see people who had travelled from all over Suffolk in the church, watching intently and then trying out the new skills on each other. They were having fun. But ringing *is* fun (well, it is for me anyway).

The new teachers and mentors now have the challenge of finding and teaching new people to ring now that they have attended the course. This is the bit that I am looking forward to because when you visit other towers you meet the learners, or sometimes they come to your tower. It's always interesting to see how they are progressing. Also a new ringer = a new friend, no matter their age or experience.

For the Suffolk Guild, Module Two is next at the Norman Tower in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 9th February next year. Wonder what tips my Mum will come home with this time?

Ambrin Williams - a young ringer from Reydon, Suffolk



Bardwell Bell Project is Finally Complete

The restored and augmented bells at Bardwell may have been ringing for the past 2 ½ years but dotting all the 'i's and crossing all the 't's takes considerably longer. One of the mini projects undertaken by the Project Team to try to include the wider community was the creation of a wall hanging which would record the achievement of 2009 in fabrics and textiles. Nice idea. Slightly harder to bring to fruition! The eight new and restored bells, along with a number of Bardwell-specific symbols were the inspiration for a variety of different and imaginative creations made in wool, fabric, embroidery and tapestry. Techniques ranging from the very basic to the highly specialised and skilful were employed. Local ringer Patricia Larman came up with a design and people got started.....Three years later a very kind lady in Bardwell, Mal Shepard, offered to finish it off as it was in danger of going into serious stagnation. The finished article, which is about four feet square, has exceeded all our expectations and looks amazing! It is on display in the church and gives us all, ringers and non ringers alike, a real sense of pride in our achievement.

The slightly harder task of building a band from nothing is still ongoing, and with a healthy number of new recruits, we will always welcome any help or support our fellow ringers can give us. If you are free on a Wednesday evening do please come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

Ruth Suggett



The Ringing World

You may like to know that only 11% of our Guild members take The Ringing World, i.e. 72 people. Does this mean, in the longer term, the demise of the journal? I hope not, but there must be a cut off point where viability is under question. You ought to consider this.

George Pipe.

St. Peter and St. Paul, Aldeburgh

Aldeburgh is fortunate to have a well loved church in good repair. The fourteenth century tower is the oldest part of the building and appears more commanding than one would expect from its actual height, being positioned on its hill above the sea. The remainder of the church dates from the 1520s although there have been numerous restorations, renovations and additions since.

Highlights of the furnishings include the Britten memorial window by John Piper and Patrick Reyntiens depicting his three oratorios, 'The Burning Fiery Furnace', 'Curlew River' and 'The Prodigal Son'; a splendid Caroline pulpit dating from 1632 which cost £25 13/- and the memorials to Lady Henrietta Vernon and George Crabbe amongst others.

Interesting people with historical connections to the church range from William Shakespeare who is thought to have been among the Earl of Leicester's menne who performed in the church in 1573 (they were a group of travelling players), to the poet George Crabbe, a native of the borough who was a curate for a time and whose parents are buried in the churchyard, to Newson Garrett who built Snape Maltings and is buried in the churchyard. His children included Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

The tower contains a very handy, easy going ring of eight bells which are rung from what was termed the "Singers Gallery" when it was installed in 1735. The present fifth bell was cast by John Brend of Norwich in 1622 with the remainder being recast and rehung in a new frame when the bells were augmented to eight in 1960-61. To date 299 peals have been rung and the bells continue to ring regularly at 10 o'clock every Sunday morning and on Monday practice nights. Visitors are always extremely welcome.

