



**Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee  
Sunday 23rd October 2022, Stowupland Church Hall**

Approved minutes taken by Kate Gill

**1) Welcome**

a) Rowan welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how good it is to be able to meet in person. Zoom meetings might still be a good alternative during poor weather.

b) Members present:

**Officers:** Chairman Rowan Wilson, Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Ringing Master Katharine Salter, Secretary Kate Gill, BAC Chairman Chris Davies

**North West district:** Cath Colman, Neal Dodge, Maureen Gardiner, David Steed

**North East district:** Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod

**South East district:** Abby Antrobus, Jenny Scase, Tracey Scase

**South West district:** Pauline Brown

**2) Apologies for absence**

Mike Cowling, Mary Garner, Mark Ogden, Sarah Plummer

**3) Absent friends**

David Brand, Rougham; Brian Hale, Ixworth; Tim Cavell (Bardwell); Chris Barker, Otley; Jimmy Wightman, Otley.

**4) Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

It was noted that the reference in item 11 c should refer to Abbey 1000, not Gather 2022. The outing referenced under item 12 c i was by the Debenham band, not SE.

With these amendments, Chris Davies proposed, and Neal Dodge seconded, that the minutes be approved. All were in favour.

**5) Matters arising from the minutes (including actions completed)**

Item 11 d. The planned Heritage Open Day in BSE did not take place, as it coincided with the period following the Queen's death. There was an open tower afternoon on 15<sup>th</sup> October, with some interest in learning to ring.

**ACTION LOG FROM 26 JUNE 2022**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Update at this meeting</b>
<b>(24.10) 6 a ii</b>	Finalise all speakers for Guild dinner (Will Bosworth already booked)	Rowan	Mark Murphy and Lesley Dolphin also booked. Completed
<b>(24.10) 6g</b>	Confirm Bishop for service at Guild AGM 2023 in Beccles	Rowan and Kate	Bishop unavailable. Rector/Rural Dean taking instead. Completed
<b>(24.10) 11 i</b>	Bring suggestions re policy amendments to next GMC, obtaining Liz Christian's input	Philip	To be covered under Safeguarding Item later in agenda. Action c/f under item
<b>(12.2) 6g</b>	Finalise speakers Guild dinner	Rowan	Completed
<b>(12.2) 7 e ii and iii</b>	Ask Parish Safeguarding Officers to issue reminders about training and DBS renewal. Consider how unattached ringers are to be covered (see action log item 7 e iii also from 26 June	Liz	To be covered under Safeguarding Officer's report.
<b>(12.2) 11 b i and ii</b>	Continue with work to restore corrupted peals database and decide if it can be held in a different format.	Katharine and others	Still underway.
<b>(12.2) 11 c</b>	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan	Still underway re Treasurer. No success finding Gift Aid administrator
<b>7a ii</b>	Ask district treasurers and chairmen to set up robust system re subs reminders	Stephen	Completed
<b>7 a v &amp; vi</b>	Investigate building society charity accounts and also asset management	Stephen	Completed
<b>7c iv</b>	Review condition classification for Cotton bells	BAC	Access now safe. Peal ringing is shredding ropes. BAC to consider classification
<b>7e iii</b>	Guild to review gaps in safeguarding training when Parish Safeguarding Officers have completed their review	Liz	On agenda
<b>12 a ix</b>	Explore members' desires around PA insurance as part of future of Guild discussions	Rowan	PA insurance on agenda. Action re surveying members not completed

<b>12 a x</b>	Send list of PA insurance claim scenarios to Ecclesiastical	Kate	Completed
<b>12 c ii</b>	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend?	Katharine	Still underway
<b>12 d i</b>	Check with David Steed if Mitson family still happy to pay for replacement shield	Neal	Completed
<b>12 d ii</b>	Check with Jonathan Stephens if he is still willing to make replacement Mitson Shield	Katharine	Current shield has been remounted on new base by Jonathan Stevens. Completed

## 6) Correspondence

- a) Rowan reported that planned wedding ringing at Stoke by Nayland couldn't take place with muffled bells for the Queen's funeral. A QP rung subsequently had a footnote attached.
- b) The Guild has been approached by Ecclesiastical regarding an alleged incident during service ringing by a band at a Suffolk tower, when damage to the clock hammers was sustained. Kate has been contact with Ecclesiastical about this, without admitting liability. Any further approaches by Ecclesiastical will be discussed by the Guild Executive.

## 7) Officer Reports

### a) Public Relation Officer's Report

This was not circulated before the meeting, but Neal highlighted the following:

- i) He had been approached regarding re-establishing a band at Tuddenham St Martin, but the headstock is cracked on the third bell.
- ii) 103 Suffolk towers were recorded on Bellboard as taking part in ringing for the Queen's funeral and the accession.
- iii) Neal has obtained emergency access, working with Chris Garner and Mark Ogden, in case urgent messages need to be sent in future to members, if Chris is not immediately available.
- iv) Neal has appeared on Radio Suffolk, in the East Anglian Daily Times, and briefly on Talk TV for 'Britain's Best Job'. Additionally, he was interviewed for the 'Fun with Bells' podcast about the CCT in relation to Sudbury St Peter.
- v) The King's Coronation will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Coronations have a long history of change ringing associated with them.
- vi) The first ring on the bells at Sudbury St Gregory, has taken place. Local residents have been very supportive. Pauline was congratulated for her resilience in pushing through the project.
- vii) Major building work at Sudbury St Peter has started, with an expected completion date of the end of 2023. Ringing is suspended until then. Neal is liaising with CCT regarding old photographs of ringing there.
- viii) There have been 188 updates on Suffolk bells to the Dove's Guide.
- ix) St Mary at Stoke have asked for speakers for their Mothers' Union.

### b) Treasurer's Report

Stephen mentioned a few points from his report:

- i) A CAF bond has been put back onto immediate deposit, as it will attract a slightly higher rate of interest (there was only a short window to make a decision)
- ii) He has contacted District Chairmen and Treasurers regarding providing information to Tower Captains on who has paid their subscriptions, but received only one response.
- iii) He has investigated potential options for the Jubilee Fund, but it is very difficult to avoid any element of risk. It is currently in a CoE deposit fund.

**c) Ringing Master and Recruitment and Training Report**

- i) Katharine had nothing to add to her report.
- ii) She asked if Peal Week should coincide with the Coronation? It was agreed it would be best to avoid this, so there are sufficient ringers for ringing at towers around the county.
- iii) GMC discussed how/if there should be sponsorship for members attending ART courses, the next course being at Redgrave in January. The cost per member is £25.00. It was agreed that Guild sponsorship may be available, for appropriately targeted people. GMC will provide the local ART organisers with a suitable form of wording about sponsorship, so attendees can make a claim for a proportion of their £25.00 fee.
- iv) The Golden Bottle Fund is not available to meet this cost, as it is fully committed, but reimbursement of the ART fees could be made from the Pipe Fund.

**d) Belfry Advisory Committee**

- i) Chris had nothing to add to his report. BAC was congratulated on the extent of work they have carried out.

**e) Membership**

- i) It was noted that membership numbers are improving. Jonathan Williamson has recently sent in membership applications for around 10 new ringers he has been teaching.

**f) Safeguarding**

- i) GMC referred to the safeguarding documentation provided by Liz Christian. She has suggested that learners complete the Basic Awareness course alongside learning to ring, so it becomes an integral part of ringing rather than an 'add-on'. GMC agreed that this is a good idea.
- ii) GMC concluded, after discussion, that the Safeguarding Poster should be included in the Annual Report and Handbook.
- iii) This poster should also be displayed in ringing chambers, and the local PSO made aware.
- iv) Rowan will invite Liz to a future GMC meeting, so we can gain the benefit of her expertise.
- v) PSOs will need to provide safeguarding training advice to people who are not members of the Guild.
- vi) GMC to advise Liz that it is agreeable to Tower Captains being asked to display Safeguarding Posters in their towers, and for Basic Awareness training to be embedded whilst someone is learning to ring.

**g) Webmaster report**

Neal reiterated his comment about sometimes needing emergency access if Chris Garner is away, as in the case of the Queen's death. Mark Ogden and Chris are liaising about how this can be done.

Stephen proposed, and Katharine seconded, that the reports be accepted. All were in favour.

## **8) Applications for grants**

- a) Chris advised GMC that an application for a grant had been submitted by Westhorpe St Margaret to augment their existing five bells to six. Katharine confirmed that R&T has approved the associated training plan. A faculty has been granted.
- b) The Heritage Lottery application may increase the anticipated costs, with the project currently budgeted at £128,433 plus VAT, which includes contingency of 10%. The eligible amount for grant is £75,349, less £6,577 for two BAC helpers throughout the project, thus leaving £68,772 as the eligible part of the grant. BAC have unanimously recommended a grant of £5,000, representing approximately 7.2% of the total. This is an increase from 5% due to the overall size of the project, coupled with the uncertainty about the condition of the bells.
- c) Chris said that he believes this sum includes recasting the tenor, but it depends on the amount of remedial work found to be required.
- d) GMC approved a three year grant of £5,000 to Westhorpe St Margaret. This is with the proviso that Westhorpe can approach us again if they required further money, for example if there is unexpected additional expense. GMC will then consider at that time whether more money can be granted. Chris will write to Westhorpe St Margaret confirming the grant and the ability to ask for an increased in grant to be considered.
- e) Four grants, Combs, Fornham St Martin, Stowmarket and Ipswich St Clement, are due to expire in December 2022, and have yet to be drawn down. All four have requested extensions of three years to December 2025.
- f) GMC discussed whether automatic extensions should be granted, but allowances need to be made to delays due to the pandemic. The Terms and Conditions accompanying grants state that they must be completed within three years. The Guild has the right to rescind them after that time if there is not a satisfactory plan to complete the work.
- g) Combs have made some progress, and their intentions now appear stable. It was agreed that Chris will ask them for a plan on the second phase, to be submitted by 31 December 2022, which will be reviewed by GMC at its February meeting. In the meantime, the grant will be extended to February 2023.
- h) The original project leader at Fornham St Martin has stepped down. Alan Moulton and Neal have been assisting them with approaching grant bodies for the remainder of funds, around £25,000 to £35,000. It was agreed that their grant be extended to 31 December 2025.
- i) The Stowmarket and Ipswich St Clement grants will be also be extended to 31 December 2025.

## **9) Ratification of NRLM**

Harm Jan A De Kok was proposed as an NRLM. His election was agreed by the meeting.

## **10) Guild Insurance**

- a) Rowan reminded GMC of the discussion at the June GMC about the extent of Personal Accident (PA) held by the Guild through its insurance with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG). She thanked Kate for her work on researching this and liaising with EIG.
- b) Kate introduced her paper, with the recommendation that the PA cover is changed to Type A cover, from Type B. She also recommended that the Guild should buy this immediately, involving a pro rata premium for the remainder of the policy year up to May 2023. The policy states that Type A cover provides PA cover 'at any time' in relation to ringing and maintenance activities. Clearly, we can never be sure a claim will be covered, but Type A improves the coverage.
- c) GMC voted in favour of changing to Type A PA cover, with immediate effect.

- d) Kate will investigate alternative providers to see if we can get equivalent insurance (the whole package, not just PA) at a better rate. She will bring the outcome of these investigations to the GMC in February 2023, so a decision can be made ready for policy renewal in May 2023.
- e) Neal suggested we should look again at the advisability of continuing with handbell insurance. Rowan rejected this suggestion. The handbells policy will be renewed on 1 January 2023.

## **11) Updates/progress towards Guild centenary**

### **a) Ideas for Centenary celebrations**

- i) Rowan referred to her table prepared from the July additional GMC meeting and also to her 'word cloud'. There are numerous activities planned. Specific new or existing action points arising out of the discussion by GMC, comprise:
  - ii) Rowan to ask David Everett to approach Bishop Mike Harrison to ask if he can give the sermon at the Guild AGM service. Bishop Martin Seeley is unable to attend. Rev Rich Henderson, Rector of Beccles and Rural Dean, will be taking the service.
  - iii) Rowan to approach Nethergate about producing a centenary bottled beer. This could be offered for sale, inter alia, at the Guild AGM in April 2023 and in local pubs.
  - iv) Neal has sourced a professional photographer for the Guild AGM, but a tiered location will need to be identified by Kate for the photo of members. It is anticipated that there will be around 100 members present.
  - v) The production of a special centenary membership certificate for new members who join in 2023.
  - vi) Neal to develop a centenary logo.
  - vii) Obtain Guild centenary badges.
  - viii) The possibility of a social event for members who are unable to attend the Centenary Dinner was mooted. Jenny suggested an afternoon tea within the SE district, with other districts invited to attend.
  - ix) Katharine suggested that the date of the Guild 8 bell striking contest might be moved to July to avoid potential clashes with events within the Guild and elsewhere, making it difficult to source judges.
  - x) The sound recordings of towers are progressing well.
  - xi) '100 Open Towers' still be to be firmed up, with a possibility of combining NE/SE district and SW/NW district for the purpose of this exercise.
- xii) Katharine will send round a skeleton list of potential dates for events, to assist in planning and firming up dates for events during the year.
- xiii) District Ringing Masters to be contacted regarding 'Ring for the King'.

### **b) Centenary Dinner**

- i) The menu choices have been selected by the Dinner Committee and we wait to hear from the venue on the final price for the menu.
- ii) Speakers have been booked and Bishop Martin has confirmed his attendance.
- iii) Rowan will publicise the event at the ADMs.
- iv) Tickets will be via e-ticket, with menu choices to be made at the time of buying tickets. Kate to organise.
- v) An 'early bird' ticket offer will be made, with a reduction in £5 for early booking.
- vi) The venue will reproduce table plans for us. We need to source flowers locally.
- vii) Suitable gifts of local produce will be purchased for the invited guests and their partners.
- viii) The starting time is yet to be decided, but will be earlier than 8 pm.

## 12) Beyond 2023 – how to survey the members?

- a) Rowan will be attending each of the ADMs, apart from SE. She will pass on information gleaned from other ADMs to SE.
- b) She will conduct a survey of members, together with promoting the Centenary Dinner and plans for 2023.

## 13) CCCBR Report

- a) Cath referred to her report previously circulated. Work progresses on the annual CCCBR meeting in Ipswich, with monthly Zoom meetings with previous hosts. The venue for the meeting will be Ipswich Town Hall.
- b) Attendees at the event will need to find their own accommodation, as there is no suitable large-scale university type accommodation in Ipswich. Perhaps local ringers may be able to offer some accommodation.
- c) At present, it is not certain whether the RW AGM will be held the same day as well.

## 14) Any Other Business

- a) Philip had asked Liz Christian to review the policies previously drawn up, and she has made very helpful suggestions to make Equality and Diversity Policy more user-friendly. He will talk to Liz about her reviewing the other policies and then bring to GMC for approval.
- b) It was accepted that the review date for the policies has passed, but we are actively working on a revision to the policies.
- c) Philip will ask Liz if a Zoom meeting to discuss the policies would be a good idea.
- d) Katharine mentioned that it is the 'Wolsey 550' anniversary in Ipswich next year and there will be lots of opportunities to ring.
- e) Cath encouraged members to become involved in the Central Council workgroups. Workgroup members do not need to be Central Council members.

## 15) Date of next meeting

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The meeting closed at 16.49.

## ACTION LOG FROM 23 OCTOBER 2022

Item	Action	Owner
(12.2) 11 bi and ii	Continue with work to restore corrupted peals database and decide if it can be held in a different format	Katharine and others
(12.2) 11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan
(26.10) 7c iv	Review condition classification for Cotton bells	BAC
(26.10)12 a ix	Explore members' desires around PA insurance as part of future of Guild discussions	Rowan
(26.10) 12 c ii	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend?	Katharine

<b>3c iii</b>	Provide local ART organisers with form of wording about potential for Guild sponsorship of targeted attendees	Katharine
<b>3 f ii</b>	Include Safeguarding Poster in the Annual Report & Handbook	Mark
<b>3 f iii</b>	Safeguarding Poster to be circulated for display in ringing chambers and local PSOs made aware of its display	Liz and Tower Captains
<b>3 f vi</b>	Advise Liz that Basic Awareness training should start when someone starts to learn to ring.	Kate
<b>8d</b>	Write to Westhorpe St Margaret confirming the grant and the ability to request consideration of additional grant	Chris
<b>8 g</b>	Request second phase plan from Combs	Chris
<b>8 h and i</b>	Confirm 3 year grant extension to Fornham St Martin, Stowmarket and Ipswich St Clements	Chris
<b>10 c</b>	Purchase Type A Personal Accident cover from EIG	Kate
<b>10 d</b>	Investigate alternative Guild insurance providers	Kate
<b>11 a ii</b>	Ask David Everett to approach Bishop Mike regarding sermon at Guild AGM	Rowan
<b>11 a iii</b>	Approach Nethergate re centenary bottled beer	Rowan
<b>11 a iv</b>	Identify tiered location for photograph at Guild AGM	Kate
<b>11 vi</b>	Develop centenary logo	Neal
<b>11 vii</b>	Obtain centenary badges	Mary
<b>11 a xii</b>	Circulate skeleton list of Guild events	Katharine
<b>11 a xiii</b>	Contact district RMs re 'Ring for the King'	Katharine
<b>12 b</b>	Conduct survey of members regarding the Guild 'Beyond 2023'	Rowan
<b>14 a</b>	Ask Liz Christian to complete review of policies for GMC review	Philip
<b>14 c</b>	Find out if a Zoom meeting to discuss policies would be helpful	Philip



# SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting 23 October 2022

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Financial summary as at 04 Oct 2022

Funds Distribution	
CAF 12mth bonds	15002.22
CCLA/CBF General a/c	69436.75
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	36157.68
Barclays Current Account	5368.90
District Cash in hand	355.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126321.39</b>

Representing	
General Fund	14987.59
Restoration Fund	41471.04
Restoration Grants Allocated	27850.00
Library Fund	227.22
Handbell Fund	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3264.52
Jubilee Fund	36157.68
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1122.16
Unallocated interest	308.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126321.39</b>

We had a £25k CAF bond which matured in August, and unusually the interest rates on offer at that time were significantly lower than the general deposit rate available from CCLA/CBF. The bond was therefore not renewed, and its value was invested with CCLA/CBF. We still have a £15k CAF bond, but this will not mature until March 2023, at which point the situation can be reviewed.

### Restoration Fund

There have been no grants paid out since the last meeting, and the amount available for new grants currently stands at £41471. Here is the latest position on grants allocated and awaiting completion:

	£				£	£	
	Approved	Approved	Date	Date of	Grants	Grants	Date
	Previous	This year	Approved	Expiry	Paid	unpaid	Paid
	Years						
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2022	Part-paid	250.00	16/08/2018
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		11000.00	
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		5600.00	
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	31/12/2022		8,000.00	

Sudbury, St Gregory

	3000.00		
25,100.00	3,000.00		0.00
	12/02/2022	12/02/2025	3000.00
			27,850.00

It will be noted that four of these grants have expiry dates of 31/12/2022, so if they are to remain 'live' we will need to agree to extending their expiry dates.

### **Subscription Income**

£8110 year-to-date has been received in subscriptions at the time of writing. This represents 96% of the total subs received in 2021 (£8485). At the last meeting it was agreed that I would ask district treasurers and chairmen to set up systems to monitor subscription payments at local level. (See Appendix 1 for copy of my email). Sadly, only one district treasurer responded! I recommend that in early December we once again have a targeted email to all members, especially as everyone (including 80+) will need to pay in 2023.

### **Donations**

We have unexpectedly received donations totalling £201 from the August 'Ramsbottom Tour' of Suffolk.

### **Fundraising Initiatives**

AmazonSmile has raised £5.26 since the last meeting, and EasyFundraising £21.80.

### **The Golden Bottle Trust Fund**

No activity to report

### **The Pipe Family Trust Fund**

No activity to report

### **The Library Fund**

No activity to report

### **The Handbell Fund**

No activity to report

### **Jubilee Fund**

With a substantial fund of £36k+ (currently held with CCLA/CBF), we discussed at the last meeting how this capital fund might be better invested for maximum return. I took advice from our independent examiner and also an investment consultant, but without a positive outcome. Any investment other than cash deposit carries an element of risk, and I do not believe that we are in a position to take such a gamble. I also discussed the matter with the treasurer of a neighbouring association, who at one time had a similar situation. They eventually managed to vary the restrictive terms of the fund and get it released for more general use. However, in our case this is not possible, and the usage of the Jubilee Fund is tightly defined. I have looked at alternatives to CAF or CCLA/CBF deposit funds, and although some Building Societies offer cash accounts for charities, the rates are not significantly better than what is currently accruing.

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer  
04 October 2022

**APPENDIX 1**

Stephen Cheek

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From: Stephen Cheek <SGR\_Treasurer@stephencheek.com>  
Sent: 08 August 2022 17:13  
To: Rapior Julie; Scase Tracey; Gale Nigel; Ruth Young  
Cc: swchairman@suffolkbells.org.uk; sechairman@suffolkbells.org.uk;  
nwchairman@suffolkbells.org.uk; nechairman@suffolkbells.org.uk  
Subject: Annual subs

Flag Status: Flagged  
To District Treasurers & District Chairmen

At the last GMC meeting we discussed how we might better communicate with our membership in respect of encouraging payment of yearly subs promptly. Theoretically these are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January, but realistically I do not think it unreasonable to expect them to be paid by the end of January. It's also always really nice to receive them in advance during December of the preceding year! Many people have already set up Standing Orders to ensure that payments are not forgotten, and I encourage you to promote this method wherever possible.

Feedback from some towers suggests that the tower captain/ringing master/correspondent does not always know who has paid, so is unable to chase late payers. It has therefore been suggested that District Treasurers could use the monthly summary, which I always send, to set up a channel of communication with individual towers, keeping them updated about who has paid. I do not propose any formal procedure, but it would be good if you could think about how this could best be done in your own district.

At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of individual member to pay subs on time, but we don't live in a perfect world and sometimes a bit of encouragement is needed!

Please get in touch with me if you would like to discuss further.

Stephen Cheek

Guild Treasurer

08 August 2022

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Stephen Cheek  
Treasurer - SUFFOLK GUILD  
OF RINGERS

## **Guild Ringing Master and Recruitment & Training Committee report 17th October, 2022**

The day before our June Guild Management Committee meeting Suffolk ringing was represented on the national stage by the Ipswich St Mary le Tower band in the national 12 bell final. Getting to the final was a significant achievement and the band should be suitably proud of themselves. It showed what can be achieved by hard work and dedication.

On 23rd July Diana Pipe hosted a day in celebration of the life of George Pipe, it was somewhat belated due to the pandemic, however that didn't stop it being a fitting tribute to George's enthusiasm for ringing in Ipswich, Suffolk and beyond. It was attended by ringers from across the UK and further afield, including long term friends from Australia. Also in attendance were St Mary le Tower parishioners and members of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust. It was lovely to spend time catching up and sharing stories.

The following day Richard Munnings had arranged a special peal of Dolphin Bob Major at Felixstowe to mark the retirement of BBC Radio Suffolk presenter Lesley Dolphin. Lesley has been a long term supporter and promoter of ringing in Suffolk and the Suffolk Guild, it was an appropriate mark of thanks from ringers to a friend of ringers.

The ring of 8 at St Gregory Sudbury have been rehung and I gather that there was a successful first ring on the last Saturday in August. I am due to visit with Alan Moulton on 29th October to complete the grant inspection.

On a glorious sunny autumn day I was lucky enough to join the Hadleigh ringers outing at Campsea Ashe and go on from there to the NE district striking contest at Wissett. It was a lovely event and it was great to meet members I have not met before and renew old friendships.

The following week ringers across Suffolk rose to the challenge of marking the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. We can be suitably proud of what we did to mark such a significant event. It was a challenge in terms of logistics on all fronts, particularly for those people also responsible for flags as well as bells. I found it strangely emotional and felt very responsible when tolling, it is much harder to get that right than to turn up and ring normally.

The next challenge will be to deliver what is required for the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023.

We held the Guild 8 bell striking contest and social event at Offton on 24th September, thanks to the SE district and Offton band for doing a great job of hosting and to Christine Hill and Philip Gorrod for judging. It was well attended with 6 teams entering (one team being a late on the day entry), represented were SW, SE and NW districts plus the Norman Tower, Offton and St Mary le Tower. The contest was won by St Mary le Tower. It was worth noting that all the ringing was well worth listening to and was a testament to the ability of Suffolk ringers.

I have some reflections on the striking contest, firstly that even on a light ring of 8 two minutes practice is probably insufficient and I would like to try three minutes next year (or four if we go to a heavy 8). On the face of it we didn't pick our date that well (although events of the preceding weeks

would have made it even more challenging if it had been earlier), on the same day as our contest there were two striking contests in Essex, major events on in the Ely DA and Norwich DA plus the Peterborough DG summer festival. This may not seem very relevant, but it does make it extremely difficult to source judges.

We have an extremely challenging Guild diary next year and we need to reflect when and how we may wish to place our 8 bell striking contest and if we wish to have a social event. We need to bear in mind that not only will we wish to do lots of ringing to celebrate our centenary, we have a coronation to ring for and Suffolk is hosting the Central Council of Church Bellringers on the first weekend in September.

I have been working closely with the editor of The Ringing World and it is our intention that the edition of 14th April 2023 will be a special Suffolk edition to mark our centenary. Will Bosworth is very much of the view that we should use it to showcase Suffolk, in particular places and people that have not appeared in the RW before. I will be approaching people for material and would appreciate assistance if anyone would like to come forward to help.

The summer months have been quiet from a Recruitment and Training (R&T) committee perspective as it has been very challenging to find time when we are all available to meet, as a result progress has slowed. We have now met and have another meeting scheduled for next month. We are still meeting via zoom as it enables us to meet without the loss of significant travel time, we intend to maintain this going forward. The district ADMs are fast approaching and we would always welcome extra volunteers to help in the R&T space. I am happy to discuss it with anyone who is interested.

As part of the grant approval process the R&T committee has approved the training plan for Westhorpe and the substantive details of the grant application will be discussed at GMC.

We organised a successful Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) teaching bell handling course in March and are looking to schedule further courses in 2023 as well as one of the follow on courses. Separately Ruth Suggett has organised an ART teaching bell handling course at Redgrave on 21st January there are still places left and these will not be open up to people outside Suffolk before mid November.

From speaking to ringers around the Guild it appears that we have a healthy amount of grass roots basic teaching going on, what is absent (and the pandemic may be in part to blame) is a feed through of people learning methods beyond Plain Bob. I intend to kick off some analysis of this so we can identify how we can best utilise our limited resources and lift the ability of our ringers in Suffolk.

Katharine

## **Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC) Report for 23 Oct 22 GMC Meeting at Stowupland**

The BAC held a meeting at Laxfield on 6 Sep 22.

As reported in June, four grants due to expire in Dec22, have yet to be drawn down. The BAC Chairman has contacted the project leaders, and all have asked for an extension of 3 years. Stowmarket plan to begin the steelwork installation in mid-Jan 23, hoping to complete the project by Spring 23. Fornham St Martin has already spent £20k on repairs to the stairs and installing permanent lifting beams in the bell chamber. They have also paid Nicholson's £27.5k on 2 Jul 19, as a 1/3 down payment of a £79K fixed price contract. A second, similar payment is due in Oct 23, when it is planned to remove the bells. I have been told that funds are in place to meet this second payment, but they are still fundraising for the final payment, due on re-installation. The project is certainly progressing, albeit slowly. Combs has completed the first stage of their project, namely the reinstallation of four ancient bells, fitted with electronic chiming in the top of the tower. These bells will not be rung again full circle. The parish has funded this part of their project but is still raising funds for their eventual plan to augment to ten bells (eight bells from Hunslet via the Keltic Trust plus two additional bells). They plan a Heritage Lottery Grant Application to fund the majority of the cost of phase two of their plan. The final grant remaining unpaid is £250 for St Clement, Ipswich. The repair work in this bellchamber remains on-going. The BAC recommend that all four grants be extended for a further three years, to 31 Dec 25.

A grant application has been received from Westhorpe St Margaret to augment their existing five to six bells. Their plan is to place the new six in a new steel frame, in the old silence chamber, leaving the old frame in situ. The old treble. and old three are both cracked. Depending on the extent of the damage, the treble will be rewelded or recast. The three is a poor bell musically with a crack and they intend to recast it as the new treble and replace it with a donated Keltic bell to make the new four bell. There is some doubt about the five bell which may well be cracked and like the other two bells, a decision will be made at the foundry as to whether to reweld or recast. A faculty has been granted and Taylors are the preferred bellhanger.

New Bell No	Original Bell No	Action
1		Recast bell from present no 3 bell.
2	1	Believed cracked. Repair or recast - await decision when inspected at the foundry
3	2	Fine - re-tune.
4	3	Cracked and out of tune. Recast to form new treble. A bell has been offered from Keltic trust to form new no4.
5	4	Pre reformation bell – leave intact. (Listed)
6	5	Recast / retune pending inspection at foundry.

With the backing of St Margaret's PCC, a steering committee of five has been established and has secured three quotes for the work. As of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022, they have raised a total of £17,830.90. An initial 'project enquiry' has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and they await a response. Further applications are to be submitted to other grant trusts and they have numerous fundraising activities planned.

The project is currently budgeted at £128,433 plus vat (including a 10% contingency). Of this total, I believe £75,349 is eligible for grant aid, less £6,577 for two BAC helpers throughout the project. This leaves £68,772 as the portion of the project we could help. A 5% grant would amount to £3438.6. However, given the overall size of the project coupled with the amount of uncertainty regarding the condition of the bells, the BAC unanimously recommended a grant of £5K, or approximately 7.2%.

During the summer and early autumn, the BAC's work has continued helping and advising parishes throughout the county. These included:

Bardwell St Peter & St Paul. General maintenance and improvements to the odd struckness.

Blythburgh, Holy Trinity. Help was provided to obtain a new set of ropes.

Brent Eleigh, St Mary. Three chiming bells in fittings at the very end of their life. After reports of "banging sounds", a loose cill and two suspected loose gudgeon pins identified.

Chevington All Saints. Frame tightening.

Combs, St Mary. Four bells, in the first part of this project, have been replaced in the belfry after Taylor's refurbishments and fitting of an electronic chiming apparatus. These bells will not be rung again full circle. The parish has funded this part of their project but is still raising funds for their eventual plan to augment to ten bells (eight bells from Hunslet via the Keltic Trust plus two additional bells). The Guild offered a £8k grant towards this project on 30 Jun 19 and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Cotton, St Andrew. The parish have had the bellchamber floor repaired, thus allowing maintenance work on the bells and frame to re-commence.

Cretingham St Peter. Stay replacements.

Darsham All Saints. Repairs to the Ellacombe Chiming Apparatus.

Dunwich St James. Maintenance on the single chiming bell.

Drinkstone, All Saints. The village have formed a committee to spearhead their project, which is in the early stages. The six bell, 11 cwt ring are unringable due to excessive frame movement. Alan Moulton has been helping the parish with their plans.

Fornham All Saints. Securing of ceiling bosses and general frame tightening of this five-bell tower.

Fornham St Martin. The project is advancing steadily with the village still raising funds for the refurbishment. The bells are expected to be removed by Nicholson in Oct 23. Improvements to the access and the fitting of lifting beams has been completed, along with a 1/3 payment to secure a fixed price contract. The Guild offered a £5.6K grant towards the project on 17 Feb 18 and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Glemsford, St Mary the Virgin. After reports of unusual noises, the Technical Advisor discovered a loose bedplate sliding on the headcill. Bedplate tightened.

Great Livermere, St Peter. Inspection, lubrication, and general tightening of the frame.

Hemingstone St Gregory. After a BAC inspection, one of the three chiming bells was considered to be unsafe to ring, due to the corrosion of the fittings. The BAC returned to this church and made safe the fittings on all three bells, replacing 13 components in new stainless steel. The ropes were refitted and chiming on all three bells is now taking place.

Hoxne, St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund. Although the initial plans were to refurbish the existing unringable five bells and make a new 6/8 bell ring, the Keltic trust has also offered them a 13cwt set of eight, 1888 Mears and Stainbank bells from Bangor St David. The parish are currently working on their final plans and have yet to apply for a faculty. The guild will receive a grant application for funding assistance in due course.

Iken St Botolph. Inspection at the request of the parish. No issues identified.

Ixworth St Mary. Work on the clappers and staples, much improving the eight-bell ring.

Langham, St Mary the Virgin. The parish request BAC help in getting their two, 4cwt chiming bells working again. After inspection, it was found that all eight of the straps and their associated fittings had disintegrated with rust and age, which left only the clapper bolts holding the bells to the headstocks. The parish were informed that there was no chance of the chiming the bells without a

five-figure refurbishment, and that the bells required urgent work to stop them falling from the headstocks, and potentially through their roof. A safety scheme was approved by the Diocesan Advisor and will be carried out by the BAC during late October 22.

Little Bealings, All Saints. The BAC were requested to assist refurbishing the half wheels used to chime these two bells. The wheels had suffered serious degradation, but they were repaired sufficiently to be able to ring the bells for the Platinum Jubilee. Subsequently, further restoration of the fittings and wheels has taken place to allow normal chiming.

Little Blakenham, St Mary's. The parish requested assistance from the BAC after a quintennial inspection questioned the safety of one of their two chiming bells. The BAC Chairman inspected the bells and found the headstock attachments to the bell to be badly corroded/missing. The chiming rope was removed to stop the use of the bell. The Technical Advisor has inspected the bell and made recommendations of how best to bring the bell back into use.

Haughley St Mary the Virgin. Tightening of all the clappers.

Ipswich – St Mary at the Elms. This church has five bells in very poor repair, which were originally rung full circle (anticlockwise and non-sequential). Two BAC members have assisted Nicholson's to lower all 5 bells to make them safe, whilst two bells have been rehung for electronic chiming.

Oakley, St Nicholas. Replacement of broken Hastings stays.

Rougham, St Mary. Frame tightening, lubrication, and a general inspection.

Stowmarket, St Mary and St Peter. Nicholson's plan to rehang the Stowmarket ten bell ring has been delayed, largely due to Long Covid severely affecting their workforce. Steelwork erection is now planned starting 16 Jan 23, with completion during Spring 23. All the preparatory work for the new frame and rehang of the bells has been completed in the tower. The Guild offered a £11k grant towards this project on 17 Feb 18, and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Sudbury, St Gregory's. Great progress has been made since the £3k grant approval at our Feb 22 meeting. The bells have been removed to Loughborough where they received new headstocks and bearings, before being returned to Sudbury and rehung in Aug 22. The work has greatly improved what were known to be a difficult eight bell ring and the local band are delighted. The Technical Adviser and the Ringing Master plan the Guild inspection on 28 Oct 22, after which our grant can hopefully be paid. The local band carried out a repainting of the frame whilst the bells and fittings were removed. The BAC provided a great deal of manpower to this project, and we would all like to thank the parish for their hospitality and help throughout the project.

Sudbury St Peters. Discussions about the church layout and the lack of trapdoors to facilitate any future bell removal.

Troston, St Mary. This ring of six was cast by Robert Stainbank at Whitechapel in 1868. They were removed from the tower in the late 1950's to allow extensive strengthening work to take place to the tower, but funds ran out before the bells could be refitted, and only the tenor was rehung for stationary chiming. All the bells will be rehung for full circle ringing with new fittings in a new bellframe, mounted at a lower level in the tower. The BAC has not been directly involved with this project, nor were the Guild asked for a grant, but the parish has been assisted by other guild members.

Westhorpe, St Margaret. A grant application for this project has been received and has been detailed above.

Wilby, St Mary. Replacement Hastings stay, replacement of worn/corroded bolts, general maintenance.



**Suffolk Guild of Ringers**  
**Membership Report to the GMC**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

Sadly I must report that Chris Barker and Jimmy Wightman, both from Otley in the SE District passed away during September. Chris Barker was 84 when he passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup>. He learnt to ring at Otley and was elected to the Guild in 1985. Herbert John "Jimmy" Wightman passed away on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He lived almost all of his 88 years in Otley and was elected to the Guild in 1966 serving as Tower Captain for more than 50 years.

A further five people have been elected to the Guild since the last meeting, making 27 new members so far in 2022. A further 6 people have returned to the Guild from pre Covid times making 27 so far this year. The Guild Membership stands at approximately 650 at present. It's not exact because it is not totally clear how many members over 80 are still ringing and there may well have been some more subscriptions paid this month.

I'm pleased to report that by and large we have reverted to there being a single membership form which arrives with the Membership Secretary having been completed. It makes it much easier to keep track of exactly who has been elected and when.

Mary Garner  
Membership Secretary  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## **Public Relations Officer Report- June to October 2022**

### **Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and accession of King Charles III**

Bells rung by Guild members once again became the county's soundtrack to this momentous event. Personally I know of several local residents who were moved to tears through the haunting sound of fully muffled ringing and solemn tolling, a reminder of the power of the evocative soundscape we create for our communities. Thanks to all those who went out and rang at short notice, and those who clambered in belfries fitting, removing, and refitting muffles. Certainly an occasion that we won't forget.

103 towers recorded performances on BellBoard including tolling and general ringing during the period of mourning and for the accession. Representing just over 50% of ringable Guild towers. There was some difficulty in getting out the ringing guidance messages as the webmaster was out of contact at the time. Chris G has agreed to look at backup access to the website and the mailing system if he is unavailable. Mark Ogden has agreed to help. My initial message was copied by several other associations so must have struck the right tone.

I was interviewed on Radio Suffolk regarding ringing for the accession and we had an article published in the EADT <https://www.eadt.co.uk/lifestyle/heritage/role-of-suffolk-bells-in-kingcharles-proclamation-9265754>

With the date for the Coronation fixed for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, in due course, do think about how you can organise ringing at all your local towers. No event has a more historic link with change ringing than coronations; for example we have records to show the bells were rung in Ipswich for coronation of George II in 1727.

### **Tuddenham St Martin**

I was contacted by members of the congregation who are keen to re-establish a band at Tuddenham. I passed this onto the SE district team.

### **Sudbury St Gregory**

It was very rewarding to attend the first ring on the restored bells at the end of August, they'll be a great asset to the Guild. Pauline Brown, who spearheaded the project, should be congratulated on her dedication and determination. The final element will be conservation of the seven historic peal boards.

As with all stages of this project we received great local support on the news that the project was complete.

### **Sudbury St Peter**

The major building work has now started with an expected completion date of the end next year with ringing suspended until then.

I was contacted by the CCT with a request for old photos of Sudbury ringers for a digital interpretation piece. This is based on the theme of music making and will see old photographs brought to life by computerised colourisation and movement.

### **Fornham St Martin**

The Guild was contacted by the PCC in late August requesting help with the restoration and augmentation project as the lead has had to step down and lockdown had slowed progress. Alan Moulton and I have spoken with the churchwarden and I have attended two meetings with the team along with compiling a list of around 25 possible sources of grant funding and making initial enquiries. Individuals who have lead recent successful projects including Maureen Gardiner and Nicky Currie have offered their advice to the parish. The support we have offered relates to the technical aspects and seeking grant funding.

This project will need close support until funds are secured to give certainty of successful completion.

### **Other media**

I was interviewed for the Fun with Bells podcast on the subject of the CCT in relation to Sudbury St Peter which should be published in the next few months

I was also interviewed live on TalkTV about ringing for a segment on Britain's best jobs, one of the presenters was from Framlingham and had previously tried ringing so gave some helpful insight.

### **Dove's Guide**

188 updates to Suffolk towers including chimes have been made since June. Do check if there's any incorrect details either on Dove or the website particularly practice nights.

The details of the founder and year of casting for all bells in Suffolk hung for change ringing are now recorded on Dove for the first time.

### **Ipswich MU talk**

I was contacted by the organiser of St Mary at Stoke Ipswich Mother's Union requesting a speaker for a meeting next year. I am sourcing a volunteer from the local area.

### **CCCBR annual meeting 2023**

We've had our first meeting with members of the Council on the hosting of the meeting in Suffolk. Deadlines have been set for when certain elements of the weekend will need to be confirmed.

The provisional programme will be:

Friday- targeted ringing sessions open to all with a designated pub in the evening,

Saturday- main meeting & RW AGM with preferred venue being Ipswich Town Hall followed by a social.


Sunday- service ringing in the morning then a mixture of training sessions and seminars in afternoon possibly related to the Ringing 2030 initiative.

Neal Dodge PRO

### **Will a revamp help!**

In an effort to make it easier for people to locate safeguarding requirement information relative to their role in Bellringing and to present in a format I hope might prove to be a little more eye-catching and accessible on a tower notice board, I have come up with the following Safeguarding Requirements A4 sheet.

- QR code giving direct access to the cofesuffolk.org Safeguarding training page
- URLs for use when emailed out through Member Drop and Guild website Safeguarding page
- details of how to get help from the PSO if you do not use computers  are included to both

motivate and highlight the actions required by the individual  are included to illustrate where you can source help

The background information included aims to explain

- why safeguarding is important and to whom
- where bellringing related safeguarding information comes from

This may still not 'hook' everyone in to complete their required level of training but hopefully if the tower captain or one of the band is sufficiently proactive in encouraging training and prepared to keep the Parish Safeguarding Officer in the loop as to who are band members and maybe invite them along to a practice night to meet some of the bell-ringers, then a closer relationship can be established.

An additional A5 sheet provides the information required to report a safeguarding concern. Again with a variety of ways to be able to access the information.

### **Who is a bell-ringer in the eyes of the Guild?**

This question to you has come about following an enquiry I received from a PSO that got me thinking that it appears from previous dialogue with the GMC the only bell-ringers the Guild recognises is those who are members of the Guild and it might be only those members who they wish to complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

When you start to attend Guiding/Scouting/sport clubs/ etc you are recognised as a member from the outset and you are pleased to be known as a that. Your membership changes as you reach different points along the organisations journey. You often have a uniform or a recognisable item of clothing or equipment to identify yourself as a member.

In bellringing, are we only a bell-ringer when we have reached a certain standard and have decided to apply to be a member of the Guild?

If this is the case, then this is something I need to clarify with the diocese safeguarding advisor and have passed on to the PSOs.

As bellringing is a designated church volunteer role, then is not everyone who participates in ringing the bells at practice nights, Sunday services, special events, QPs/Peals, teaching/learning at Bell Handling sessions a bell-ringer, regardless of if they choose to become a member of the Guild when they have reached the required standard to apply?

These individuals are still part of a band and so have a requirement to complete the necessary safeguarding requirements for their role.

Are these bell-ringers known to anyone by number/name, other than at their tower/band base?

Who knows where they are and has a means of contacting them, or in these instances is it seen by the GMC as purely the responsibility of the PSOs to find out and act? I sent the exact same question to Karen and this was her response

*In answer to your question about when they should complete the Basic Awareness course, my advice is that it should be completed alongside their training as a bell-ringer. That way it begins to be embedded in the culture of bell ringing, not just seen as an add on.*

*Karen Galloway Diocesan Safeguarding Officer*

I look forward to feedback to this question from the meeting so that I can respond appropriately to the PSO and the DSA.

Thank you

**Support** has/is being provided in relation to the following enquiries

- to discuss how you've approached the recent church advice, and maybe share some experiences so that we can learn from our neighbours [request from EACR]
- feedback on discussions with DSA as requested from [safeguarding@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cccbr.org.uk)
- who keeps the records of who has completed the necessary safeguarding training

### **Action Log point responses**

[12.2] 7e ii and iii

Bell-ringers will be linked to the PSO if they have completed the necessary tasks after completion of a training course. This works no differently for unattached Guild members.

Bell-ringers logging into the safeguard training portal will be fully aware of when their certification is about to expire.

Bell-ringers using the DBS Update Service will get reminders automatically.

A band that establishes direct links to their PSO and keeps them informed as to their current membership and any changes with roles, provides the PSO with a chance to issue reminders

### **7e iii**

As all Basic and Foundation training is available online 24/7, the only gap in safeguarding training is from an individual who is unable to access online training and they are asked to contact their local PSO who will arrange face-to-face training for them through contact with the 2 Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer and Training Coordinators.

I can see no reason for the Guild to then work on any gaps in training.

Elizabeth Christian, Guild Safeguarding Officer    October 2022

## Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 23/10/2022

### Guild emails

559 people are subscribed to the Guild email system, 523 of these are "members".

I have sent out 36 emails since the last meeting (up until 23/10/2022).

### Web site

I am continuing to add Mike Cowling's recordings of ringing to the tower pages.

Chris Garner  
16/10/2022

## PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION TO GMC OCTOBER 2022

GMC will recall that the extent of Personal Accident (PA) cover provided by the current Guild insurance policy with Ecclesiastical (EIG) was discussed at the June 2022 GMC. At present, we have Type B PA cover, which covers 'accidents arising out of and in course of employment by the Insured.' As discussed at the June GMC, this covers events arranged by the Guild or its districts, or work undertaken by BAC under the auspices of the Guild. It does not cover 'day to day' ringing or bells maintenance in members' own towers.

GMC asked that we present EIG with different scenarios to try and establish what constitutes a 'Guild activity' as specified in the policy and who is covered within this definition. Unsurprisingly, they weren't prepared to commit to definitive answers, and said that each situation would be dealt with on a case by case basis. However, they did add that Type A cover would cover 'members of the Guild 24/7'.

EIG have provided a quote for Type A cover. Our current PA premium for Type B cover is £342.20 including Insurance Premium Tax (IPT). If we extend cover to Type A, this would double the PA premium to £684.40 including IPT. That would mean a total annual premium of £1135.03, including public liability and the other elements of the Guild insurance, including IPT.

EIG were asked if Type A cover really does give PA cover for all ringing and maintenance activities, not just 'Guild activities'. They've advised that PA cover will apply as defined below:

*Section 7 of the policy:*

*'If during the period of insurance an insured person sustains accidental bodily injury  
1 at any time if Cover A applies  
2 arising out of and in the course of their employment by you if Cover B applies  
We will pay the appropriate benefit'*

Whilst it is not a legal requirement to hold PA cover (we are required to have Public Liability insurance) we do have an obligation to ensure BAC members are covered by PA insurance. Type B cover provides this, as they are working 'in the Guild's employ'.

The additional premium for Type A cover represents an additional cost of around £0.56 per Guild member. This is affordable, and will help remove any uncertainty or misunderstandings about where and when members are covered. Clearly, we can never be sure that all claims will be met, but Type A cover reduces this uncertainty.

GMC members also discussed how learners would be covered. A solution to this could be to require learners to become Associate Members of the Guild, although learners under 16 years old would not benefit.

Other avenues have been considered, such as introducing two scales of membership, one with Type A cover and one with Type B, but this adds complexity and is not justified by the small additional cost per member.

It is recommended we purchase Type A cover from EIG, for the remainder of this policy year, at a pro-rata premium.

If GMC decides we should proceed with Type A cover, it would be useful, before the next EIG renewal in May 2023, to obtain quotations from other companies, and examine their cover to see if it is as good, or better, than the cover from EIG. The outcome of this will be reported to the February GMC and a decision can be taken then about whether we should change insurers at the May 2023 renewal date.

Kate Gill  
13 October 2022

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 2023 planning meeting (carried over from June 2023)

#### Celebrating the Centenary

- Centenary logo – Neal had offered to come up with something (but not received anything yet) Should we ask Clare Culham (she did the design for the SMLT shirts)?
- Badges – produce 100 limited edition to sell (to both SG members and badge collectors). Use current supplier (very helpful).
- Other items – mugs, clothing (with Stephen Cheek's agreement), shot/toast glasses (for Dinner) If items are limited edition, some sort of numbering system will be needed (to prove limited edition). Cath to investigate possible printing costs for mugs?
- Commemorative beer – Rowan to contact Nethergate (bottled beer)
- Tower Open Day – may not be enough people to take these on within each District so perhaps better to combine (either NW+NE, SW+SE or NW+SW, NE+SE)
- AGM – NE District. Professional photo – liaise with Kate (where to take it in Beccles?)

#### Annual report (for 2022/23)

- To include some extra pages (in colour)
- Photos of churches?
- Articles about history of the Guild
- Future dates/events (aide memoire for what's happening in centenary year)
- 2023/24 report – what we did for the centenary

#### 100 new members?

- Probably too difficult to achieve but could still have special centenary membership cert for new members who join in 2023
- A more achievable target would be to recognize the achievements of members (aim for 100) and produce a special certificate (to be awarded throughout year at Guild and District events)
- Individual challenges (e.g ring a QP with 100 different people – could be ‘verified’ using BB. First peal, first QP, reaching a peal or QP target)

#### Sound recordings

- Using QR code to link to Guild website for recording • Can we also link to church info/history?
- YouTube links?

#### Ringing World

Katharine already liaising with Will Bosworth (next meeting planned for Aug) – she will produce a list of tasks but ideas so far include:-

- ‘Take over’ an edition in April 2023 (similar to Cornish edition)
- Articles etc which have not appeared in RW before
  - Getting the Guild online - website, reports and sound recording, Richy’s blog
  - Chris D will send over article about Days of Eye
- What we are doing/got planned to celebrate centenary
- Novelty towers within Guild
- To include some Guild history (not Suffolk history)
- Contributions will be needed (use Google to share and store)

#### Additional social event – for those who can’t/don’t attend Dinner

- Could perhaps use CCCBR event in early Sept (but this could then become too large and SG members might not want to join CCCBR members)
- Combine with Guild 6 bell competition in May?
- SW holding 8 bell + Social? in Sept/Oct but probably harder for people to access (plus less support historically for events held in SW sadly)
- Use Felixstowe Spa as a venue for something different (Comedy night MO)
- St Clements, Ipswich – mid afternoon Tea Dance? (KS)
- Yaxley church is another possible venue – church hall + gazebo
- Handbell Festival – could this be held at the same time? (see what NDA have done)

#### Recruitment & Training

- R&T cmtte to do training audit
- Big void between basic level training within towers and more complex training e.g 8 spliced practice at Buxhall, 12 bell practices etc

#### Using ADMs (November)

- Rowan to send pre ADM email to remind members what the Guild has to offer and encourage them to complete the survey
- Benefits – need to be careful that any benefits mentioned can be delivered e.g. training is offered by some Districts but tends to be patchy, the number and scope of events are also different across the Districts.

### General bits and pieces

- Need to find people to volunteer to take things on for centenary year
- Guild post 2023 - really need members to say what they want
- Guild structure post 2023 - find out what the members want
- Rowan will use ADMs to do a survey and send out by email

### Possible Timeline

Dinner 25/3/23

AGM 15/4/23

Peal Week 29/4 to 6/5/23

6 bell striking contest 20/5/23

BSE Beer festival 26-28/8/23

CCCBR 1 to 3/9/23

8 bell striking contest 16/9/23?

social event not as part of the CCCBR meeting, date tbc

## **CCCBR AGM 2022 and weekend Report**

It struck me when writing my first official report for the GMC was how boring its heading sounds... when in actuality the content was mostly anything but! There is, happily, a world of difference between my first experience of a CCCBR meeting from the early 1990's and the present! The sheer level of difference is exciting and those who haven't caught up with the differences yet, please, please do!

A full three-day calendar was planned around the AGM, with Friday primarily given over to Ringing Development sessions held around the Nottingham area, run in conjunction with the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan Guild. The sessions were reported to have been very popular and appreciated by the varied attendance, ringers, tutors and helpers made up of a mixture of local and CCCBR members.

The evening was a time for ringing and relaxation, with open ringing at St Peter's Nottingham, St Mary's being unavailable due to loose masonry issues. It was very well attended indeed, with excess ringers spilling out onto the roof, producing a wide range of ringing from rounds and call changes up to Stedman Cinqes ably called by the CCCBR President. Food and a good pint after at the Vat and Fiddle for many finished off the day with lots meeting up with fellow reps and friends new and old – some literally seen for the first time in decades!

Saturday brought the reason for the weekend, the CCCBR AGM. This was preceded by first a meet and greet of new members which was a pleasant non stressful way to say hello to everyone, a time to grab a hot drink, sign in to the Ringing World \*AGM also preceding the main event and a chance to catch the ear of those in the various workgroups for those wanting more information. \*A brief summary of the RW AGM is at the end of this report.

### **CCCBR AGM**

This was a long meeting, around four hours and contained a huge amount of information, far too much to report in detail here, so I will heavily summarise. The AGM meeting papers were a closely packed 40 page A4 booklet filled with a massive quantity of information, reports and well-presented statistics. A resource vital to all attending the AGM.



After a welcome and introduction from the executive table - Simon Linford (PR), David Kirkcaldy (Dep PR), Mary Bone (SEC) and Fergus Stracey (TRES) plus trustees - an opening prayer was said and it was straight to business.

Discussion made on valuation of the CCCBR library which contains much unique and irreplaceable material. In 2019, the time period was altered from every 5 years to 20. Re valuation, in recent years, book values have fallen greatly and it is difficult to find a specialist in the field. On the whole. Values tend to change little, though, hence the change.

A large part of both the AGM meeting papers booklet plus meeting was taken by the Executive & Workgroups Updates:

**Executive Report** – This covers the first full year since Lockdown. The majority of the work is carried out within the workgroups. Many have got straight back into their assigned areas very quickly. However, workgroups overall need more volunteers, as there is often a lack of those suitable. Concerns over changes in the CofE's safeguarding training requirements have eaten up a lot of time and will for the foreseeable as the CCCBR help both societies and individual towers steer through the changes this brings.

Three items left from the CRAG report are outstanding. Proposal was to be put to the 2022 AGM to introduce affiliation fees based on membership numbers – which later was passed with an amendment. There is no current intention to reduce CCCBR size, as it is working well at present as many members are on workgroups.

The first new Mobile Belfry, a new NW ringing course in August, further development of the Dove database and the Woman in Ringing initiative are more items from the 2021 Forward plan worked on over the year. SL is continuing to work with the PDG on a potential 'National Ringing Centre'. Ringing forums were launched in 2021, with a wide range being added to the list over time.

**Stewardship & Management** – New website at: [belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk](http://belfryupkeep.cccbr.org.uk) It is designed for those new to steeple keeping. This is being kept up to date, but it needs feedback to improve it. Publicise. Also Mention of the Westley Award for Church Bell Maintenance and Improvement 2023.

**Volunteer & Leadership Group** - Restructure, reshuffle and recruit. Re-educate ringers and tower captains on how to approach R&T.

**Safeguarding** – Busy year, with many action points completed, including:

- CCCBR Mission Statement on safeguarding
- Need for a lead Trustee for Safeguarding
- Updated CCCBR website pages
- Agreement that CCCBR Safeguarding Officers can guide and encourage good safeguarding practice, BUT cannot advise on specific cases.
- Direct communication to Diocesan SG Advisors from CCCBR to increase their understanding of ringers and ringing.

A main focus has been aimed at encouraging society/guild safeguarding leads to develop a good working relationship with their local Diocesan Safeguarding Officers. Many areas already have positive results. Work still ongoing with the CofE's new Learning and Development Framework. Additional support for affiliated societies has been made available. An area of concern highlighted, which may get worse over the coming months is an expectation from some parishes and cathedrals for ringers to be subject to the Safer Recruitment Process.

**Young Ringers, Universities and Colleges** - A dynamic and positive presentation by Ian Roulstone. The first year for several that can be fully actioned to target new recruits. Ringing 'speed dating'! It is vital to support and monitor the progress of young ringers – the purpose of the group. Huge question – how to know if you are targeting all potential students? If they already ring before uni, encourage YRs to join U & C societies, as they may well otherwise stop ringing if they move away from their

usual ringing area. With units not having their own society, possible mentoring from other units to help out.

**Young Ringers, Schools and Youth** - Yrs 5 & 7 lesson plans. Rework integration with Scouts for a possible new badge - further work needed on this. Much effort is going into the Launch of web content and further initiatives, as this is the best way of connecting with the age group.

**History and Archive** – Move of Library, which comprises of material taking up 2 large rooms worth of space. It contains approximately 4.5K books + ephemera. Sometime in the next two years, the library will have to find a new home. The rehousing has been looked into and multiple venues investigated already. Sadly, Records Offices are not going to be workable, for various reasons, including access and ownership. The actual valuation of the CCCBR Library is difficult to accurately set, but many items are unique. Noted that book values have dropped in recent years.

Also noted that there are workgroup vacancies needing to be filled, including Library Steward, Carter Ringing Machine Steward and Recordings Co-ordinator.

**Public Relations** – Need new recruits! Items/dates to note:

- International Bell Festival on New Year's Day.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Signing the Commonwealth Charter, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Ringing @ 8pm suggested. Possibly 10 whole pulls of Queens?
- "Summoned By Bells" – Musical composition project inspired by John Betjeman. Not a lot known about this!

**Technical and Taxonomy** – Comments made on the accuracy of Dove's Guide information at times. Ongoing progress on accuracy and uploads is reported. Composition collection currently now stands at around 55,000. Some discussion on the longevity of its current form - all is set for the foreseeable future. Future plans include a Framework extension requirements review towards streamlining and a reworking of the website for ease of maintenance and benefit use on small screen devices. Much more information available from this report, as the others, for those interested.

**Bell Restoration Fund Grant Panel** – Applications received from advertising applications to the fund via the RW and 36 applications were made, all of which were approved. Grants range from £100 - £2000. (the maximum)

**Performance Analysis** – 9+ pages of very condensed information, so anyone who wants further information, ask!

## **RINGING 2030**

This is the vitally important initiative to come from 2022. What is ringing going to be like in 2030 and how do we get there? Roll forward 20 or 30 years into the future and how many ringers will we still have both in the country and in the SGR? The outlook is bleak, there aren't enough younger ringers to fill the gap... We have around five times fewer young ringers than from when the current population of ringers were of a similar age. (The age demographic of the UK shows less children being born, so it will only get worse.) This issue was looked and reported on in 2013, the issue was realised but not acted upon. This time, it MUST be.

Marketing and branding ringing... the way in which we as ringers do/approach this has to change drastically. We can no longer rely on the once strong links with the church, with choristers becoming ringers, etc. and other now less useful routes. The CCCBR have appointed a marketing team called Yellowyoyo to start the ball (bell?) moving. Writing an accurate brief was challenging...

Aim is for: Pipelines for potential recruits, then assured good training and a place at which to teach them, followed by continuing their good ringing experience whilst progressing to avoid dampened

aspirations and enthusiasm. To achieve that, things will have to be made smoother than often is. One off recruitment drives are good, but a way needs to be found for a steady source of recruits. One way to start it to use mobile belfries which can be taken into school, centres, etc to be used both to attract recruits and to teach. The hope is that eventually several will be made, intended to be regional and can be booked for use. They would belong to a trust. Alongside this, ringing centres would be a similar initiative, able to cope with multiple learners at a time.

So, with the above in mind, here's the kick-off of 'Ringing 2030' – a working title, but it seems to have caught on...

(Included separately is a copy of Simon Linford's initial announcement of Ringing 2030. Also on the CCCBR website.)

After information of a governance review, there was election of new secretary, trustees and independent examiners. Then a technical review of the Rules and Standing orders before the end of the meeting.

Sunday, day 3 of the weekend had arranged service ringing at local towers, with worship at Holy Trinity with St Francis, Clifton, then the Roadshow, held at the Clifton Campus of Notts University. This comprised of

- varied speaker sessions
- have a go at change ringing on eBells
- stalls + bookshops offering products from various ringing organisations
- stands from bell trade suppliers
- a chance to try out various mini rings and training bells, including the new mobile belfry. •

CCCBR Workgroup exhibitions

### **Brief summary of The Ringing World AGM**

Briefly, the RW AGM was a very well run meeting over just over the hour, which packed in a lot of information exchange. Briefly, after lockdown and the issues caused by it, the RW is heading into a positive year ahead, with a lot of hard work and some important changes having been made to the overall business.

Major Benefits:

- Changed to using Pyramid Press for the printing process, improving many areas. They are excellent all-round.

- Royal Mail, although no matter what the RW try to do to solve to issue with irregular delivery, that is down to RM, NOT the RW.
- Xero – changed over the software from Sage Also investigating:
- commercial subscription management systems to replace the legacy access database.
- better subscriptions options
- better CRM capability

Some interesting data - the rates of quarters and peals now being rung after lockdown is down to around roughly 75% of pre-covid rates. However, with the suggested donation rising to £0.75 per person per entry, the overall donations are about the same in total. So, the rise made has worked as hoped.

Financially, this year, the RW is in a slightly better situation than it had planned for at the beginning of the financial year and the outlook is for a better-than-expected end of year if progress continues. This is down to the planned changes implemented and previously mentioned.

Cath Colman.