

Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Stowupland Church Hall

Sunday 12th February 2023

Minutes by Kate Gill

1. Welcome

- a) Rowan welcomed to everyone to her last meeting as Guild Chairman. This is also Stephen Cheek's last meeting as Guild Treasurer. She welcomed Liz Christian who was in attendance at the meeting.
- b) Members present:

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

North West district: Neal Dodge, David Steed

North East district: Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod, Sarah Plummer

South East district: Mary Garner, Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase

South West district: Pauline Brown, Alan Moul

In attendance, Liz Christian, Safeguarding Officer

2. Apologies for absence

Cath Colman, Mike Cowling, Jed Flatters, Maureen Gardiner

3. Absent Friends

Loraine Beer, Falkenham, who died on 30th December 2022.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2022

There were no amendments. Chris Davies proposed, and Stephen Cheek seconded, that the minutes be approved. All were in favour.

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

ACTION LOG FROM 23 OCTOBER 2022

Item	Action	Owner	Update at this meeting
(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	Complete up to 2018. Decision on where to be stored needed.
(12.2) 11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan	On agenda
(26.10) 7c iv	Review condition classification for Cotton bells	BAC	Covered in BAC report. Complete
(26.10)12 a ix	Explore members' desires around PA insurance as part of future of Guild discussions	Rowan	RW decided against asking. Don't C/Fwd
(26.10) 12 c ii	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend?	Katharine	Still underway
3c iii	Provide local ART organisers with form of wording about potential for Guild sponsorship of targeted attendees	Katharine	Completed

3 f ii	Include Safeguarding Poster in the Annual Report & Handbook	Mark	Completed
3 f iii	Safeguarding Poster to be circulated for display in ringing chambers and local PSOs made aware of its display	Liz and Tower Captains	Completed On website
3 f vi	Advise Liz that Basic Awareness training should start when someone starts to learn to ring.	Kate	On agenda
8d	Write to Westhorpe St Margaret confirming the grant and the ability to request consideration of additional grant	Chris	Completed
8 g	Request second phase plan from Combs	Chris	Completed
8 h and i	Confirm 3 year grant extension to Fornham St Martin, Stowmarket and Ipswich St Clements	Chris	Completed
10 c	Purchase Type A Personal Accident cover from EIG	Kate	Completed
10 d	Investigate alternative Guild insurance providers	Kate	Onerous, not carried forward
11 a ii	Ask David Everett to approach Bishop Mike regarding sermon at Guild AGM	Rowan	Underway (Post meeting note, Bishop not available)
11 a iii	Approach Nethergate re centenary bottled beer	Rowan	RW awaiting further information
11 a iv	Identify tiered location for photograph at Guild AGM	Kate	None suitable available
11 vi	Develop centenary logo	Neal	Completed
11 vii	Obtain centenary badges	Mary	Completed
11 a xii	Circulate skeleton list of Guild events	Katharine	Completed
11 a xiii	Contact district RMs re 'Ring for the King'	Katharine	Completed
12 b	Conduct survey of members regarding the Guild 'Beyond 2023'	Rowan	Completed. Around 80 forms awaiting analysis
14 a	Ask Liz Christian to complete review of policies for GMC review	Philip	Liz to review
14 c	Find out if a Zoom meeting to discuss policies would be helpful	Philip	Completed

6. Correspondence

- a. Stephen reported that he has been contacted by John Girt, concerning the future of the Guild. It was agreed that further discussion regarding this would be held over until new officers have been elected in April. However, a number of John's ideas are already in place.
- b. Rowan has received correspondence from a Guild member about Philip's recent article in the Ringing World, feeling that his views and approach were Guild policy. Rowan responded to the member saying it would be raised at the GMC meeting. GMC considered that Philip had not set out his views as Guild policy. Philip commented that he has had a mixture of positive and negative reactions to the article. It was agreed that Rowan will respond to the member and copy Katharine in.

7. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer's Report

Stephen highlighted two points from his report:

- i. Interest rates are declining on traditional CAF bonds, with another due to mature in March. He intends to move the money to a CCLA CBF deposit account with better rates.
- ii. He has ascertained that the significant amount of money held on deposit in CCLA/CBF CoFE funds (currently £36k for the Jubilee Fund and £70k for the General Fund) is not fully protected in the event of financial failure. CCLA is regulated and authorised by the FCA, but the actual CoFE Deposit Fund is not and the deposits are not guaranteed. GMC considered whether we need an absolute guarantee of return of funds (as

the Guild had lost money resulting from the Barings Bank collapse in the 1990s). However, the financial collapse of the C of E is a very remote possibility.

- iii. There has been a good start to subscriptions payments during January, and plenty of subscriptions paid in advance in November and December.
- iv. Rowan thanked Stephen for his final report to GMC.

B. Ringing Master and Recruitment and Training Report

- i. More people are needed to attend the ART Module One course and find mentors. Having sufficient mentors is critical and if ART teachers don't become accredited they can't then become mentors. Katharine emphasised that ART course trainees need to take the on line test, following attendance at the course.
- ii. Lesley Boyle in Cambridgeshire is trying to establish a 'learning hub' to build up a pipeline of teachers.
- iii. The BBC will be filming 'Ring for the King' in Ipswich on 14th February.

C. Belfry Advisory Committee

- i. Cotton is now considered suitable for peals.
- ii. David Ward from Combs has responded to Chris' request for an update. The PCC are no longer fully supporting the project to augment to 10 bells. Chris suggested that the Combs grant is not renewed beyond its present temporary extension. This was considered further under the grants agenda item.
- iii. Katharine commented that Tuddenham St Martin have been rung intermittently, but not regularly. The clock is now working and the local ringers are progressing. She asked if any towers have any spare ropes to donate.
- iv. It was pleasing that Wilby made a donation after Rowan's request for a BAC visit.
- v. Jenny commented that Framsdens condition remains the same.

D. Membership

- i. There are now 76 members in NW. So far we have had 8 new members during 2023.
- ii. 41 of the new Centenary badges have been awarded or purchased so far.
- iii. 200 of the new badges were ordered and paid for, but 209 were delivered, with a further invoice for the additional 9 badges. After discussion, as we will probably need additional badges, GMC agreed this additional invoice should be paid.

E. Safeguarding

- i. Liz asked for GMC's guidance on where she should obtain sample 'Permission to Ring' forms, for signature by the parent or carer of a under-18 ringer. She can then produce specimen forms to suit everyone.
- ii. GMC agreed that it would be helpful for Liz to seek examples of such forms – blank copies only, as personal data must not be shared.
- iii. Rowan thanked Liz for her input.

F. Public Relations Officer

Neal has been fielding 'Ring for the King' enquiries. The Guild has also been asked for a central contact point by CCCBR and has given Katharine's contact details.

G. Webmaster

- i. Mary reported, on Chris Garner's behalf, that he is in direct contact with Mark Ogden regarding details for the Annual Report.
- ii. Mark now has emergency access to the database of members in the event of urgent emails needing to be sent to members in Chris's absence.

Philip proposed, and Mark seconded, that the officer reports be accepted. All were in favour.

8. Applications for Grants

- a. The discussion about the Combs grant resumed. It was acknowledged that not renewing a grant could be disappointing to a PCC, but in this case, the PCC no longer fully supports the project.
- b. Philip proposed that the grant is not renewed after its temporary extension to February 2023, and this was seconded by Mark. No vote was required.

- c. Chris will write to Combs to say the grant will not be renewed, but that this does not preclude them from applying in the future.

9. Ratification of NRLMs

Richard Sales and Jadd Virji were proposed as NRLMs. Their election was agreed by the meeting, but Rowan will check whether their subscriptions have been paid. *Post meeting note – the subscriptions were paid on 15th November 2022.*

10. Updates/Progress

A. 2023 Celebrations/Projects

- i. Rowan updated GMC on progress on projects so far arranged, but wants to leave the new Chairman room for manoeuvre later in the year.
- ii. A report has been provided to GMC regarding the CCCBR weekend in Ipswich in September. The events/ringing on Friday afternoon, Saturday night and Sunday are for everyone.
- iii. Commemorative ringing or centenary achievements, such as ‘firsts’ or milestones, can be recorded on a Bellboard link.
- iv. Rowan has prepared a draft Centenary Certificate of Achievement, which can be awarded at suitable points throughout the year.
- v. Rowan is still waiting to hear back from Nethergate regarding the special Guild beer. This will not be sold at the AGM, as otherwise an alcohol licence would be required. It will be ‘launched’ at the AGM, but not sold in the church.
- vi. NW District has an outline plan contributing towards 100 Open Towers. Districts could perhaps pair up to run these events.
- vii. At least 50 sound recordings have been made, including 17 QPs. Most of these are now available on the website. Some have featured on ‘Bells on Sunday’.
- viii. The meeting recorded its thanks to Mike Cowling for this work.
- ix. Rowan’s 100 Tower Challenge is still progressing and over £550 has been raised so far in sponsorship.

B. Centenary Dinner

- i. 120 tickets have been sold so far. Rowan explained that most people have requested specific seating groups and we will try and accommodate these requests. Souvenir menu cards will be produced, with thanks to Ben Keating for his artwork, and additionally Rowan will produce place cards for each guest.
- ii. SE district is trying to arrange a less formal event, for those unable to attend the dinner.
- iii. Mike Cowling will be asked if he is prepared to take photos of the event, and someone will need to be identified to produce a write-up of the event for the RW Centenary edition.
- iv. There will be formal and less formal handbell ringing.
- v. Rowan thanked Stephen for his work keeping the dinner accounts and Kate for issuing tickets, and recording menu choices and seating requests.

C. Succession Planning

- i. RW has asked various people about the Chairman and Treasurer positions, but no candidate has been identified yet. GMC members were asked to consider other possibilities.
- ii. A temporary one year appointment was not thought feasible as Kate’s term as Guild Secretary ends at the 2024 AGM.

11. Guild Events 2023

- a. The results of the survey of members will be available for the AGM.
- b. The Guild 6 bell Striking Competition will be held on Saturday 20th May at Troston. This will be a morning event.
- c. The Guild 8 bell Striking Competition will be held on 30th September, with venue yet to be decided. There will not be a Guild Social this year, as these are not held during the same year as the Guild Dinner.
- d. The annual Veterans’ Day will be held on 12th July in Debenham.

12. Guild Annual Report

- a. Mark reported that he now has most of the content needed. Old peal totals have been adjusted slightly as the number of peals declared was incorrect. The exact figure is important so the Guild makes sure it correctly marks its 10,000th peal.
- b. There may be a colour insert of photographs, such as photos of recent restorations.
- c. Rowan thanked Mark for his work on the Annual Report.

13. Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

Dates of next GMC meetings in 2023

Sunday 25th June

Sunday 15th October

Both will start at 2 pm and be held in Stowupland Hall.

Rowan thanked everyone on GMC for their work and also previous members of GMC. She hopes that GMC will continue to support the new Chairman and Treasurer in their new roles.

GMC expressed its thanks to Rowan.

The meeting closed at 4.39 pm.

ACTION LOG FROM 12 FEBRUARY 2023

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. Now restored up to May 2018	Katharine and others
(12.2) 11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan
(26.10) 12 c ii	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend?	Katharine
(23.10)11 a iii	Approach Nethergate re centenary bottled beer	Rowan
(23.10)14 a	Liz Christian to complete review of policies for GMC review	Liz
6b	RW to respond to member raising concerns about RW article	Rowan
7Ciii	Offer up any spare ropes to Tuddenham St Martin (Advise Katharine)	All
7Ei	Seek examples of blank copies of Permission to Ring forms	Liz
8c	Inform Combs that the grant is not being renewed	Chris D
10Biii	Find out if Mike Cowling is willing to take photos at Guild Dinner	Rowan
10Biii	Identify someone to produce a write up of the Guild Dinner for RW	Rowan
11a	Analyse survey of members by the AGM	Rowan

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting 12 February 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial summary as at 31 January 2023

Current Funds

CAF 12mth bonds	15002.22
CCLA/CBF General a/c	70091.23
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	36217.53
Barclays Current Account	15642.49
District Cash in hand	390.84
	<u>137344.31</u>

Representing

General Fund	15049.49
Restoration Fund	44399.85
Restoration Grants Allocated	29850.00
Library Fund	227.22
Handbell Fund	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3264.52
Centenary Dinner Fund	6270.00
Jubilee Fund	36217.53
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1133.20
	<u>137344.31</u>

The Guild accounts for 2022 were submitted to our independent examiners in early January, and they have now been approved (copy of accounts attached - Appendix A).

Our Barclays current account balance is higher than would normally be expected owing to several factors:

- £6270 represents Centenary Dinner ticket income, with as yet no expenses paid out.
- In the next few months there will also be insurance costs to be paid for Public Liability, Property and Personal Accident.
- Some funds may also be needed for grant payouts.

I am therefore reluctant to immediately transfer any significant amount to deposit funds.

We have one CAF savings bond of £15000 due to mature in March. Depending upon interest rates ruling at that time I will assess whether to re-invest it, or move its value to our CCLA CBF deposit account, which is giving very comparable interest rates at the moment, but with the benefit of instant access.

Invoices totalling £170 have been sent to the companies advertising in our Annual Report, and payment is expected within thirty days.

HMRC

HMRC tax repayments totalling £2016 have been received in respect of our claim for subscriptions and donations for 2022.

Charity Commission

Owing to a substantial bequest to the Jubilee Fund, our 2022 income exceeded the threshold for 'simple summary' reporting to the Charity Commission. I have therefore had to supply our full accounts, Trustees' Report and examiner's statement of approval. All of this information is now available online to the general public.

Changes to our Constitution made at the last AGM were all registered with the Charity Commission in April 2022. Further small typographical discrepancies in the handbell rules have also been rectified.

Restoration Fund

The £3000 grant to Sudbury, St Gregory, has now been fully paid, and the current position is as set out below. The Restoration Fund currently has £44399 available for new grants, and £29850 allocated for projects yet to be completed.

Grants - Approved and Paid	Approved	Approved	Date	Date of	Grants	Grants	Date
	Previous Years	This year	Approved	Expiry	Paid	unpaid	Paid
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2025		250.00	16/08/2018 (Part Paid)
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		11000.00	
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		5600.00	
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	12/02/2023		8,000.00	
Sudbury, St Gregory	3000.00		12/02/2022	12/02/2025	3000.00		31/10/2022 & 05/01/2023
Westhorpe	5000.00		23/10/2022	26/10/2025		5000.00	
	33,100.00				3,000.00	29,850.00	

Subscription Income

Subscription income for 2023 has made a good start, with £4235 received in January (compared with £3680 for January 2022). I have had only two members in the 80+ category express their disapproval of the newly introduced £5 rate, but it has been accepted favourably by most (many also paying an additional donation!)

Fundraising Initiatives

The AmazonSmile will be winding down this year, but EasyFundraising continues to give members an opportunity to contribute small amounts to the Guild without any cost to themselves.

Our Chairman is currently raising funds by way of a "100 Tower Cycling Challenge". To date this has raised £545 (with additional Gift Aid yet to be claimed from many donors).

The efforts of the Norman Tower ringers in helping at the Cathedral Beer Festival, in June 2022, have resulted in £100 being received as a 'starter' for the St Edmund Clapper competition.

Centenary Dinner Fund

A separate accounting fund was set up in 2022 to accurately report and control income and expenditure for the Centenary Dinner. This fund currently stands at £6270, but no expenses have yet been incurred.

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

At the previous meeting we discussed potential alternative investment opportunities for this capital fund, bearing in mind the need for a high level of security. I have continued to monitor options other than CCLA/CBF deposit account (where the funds are currently invested), but can find no significant reason to alter this arrangement. This account is currently giving 3%+ pa, which very closely matches some of the building societies who offer accounts for charities.

End of term of office

This will be my last full report to the GMC as my term of office comes to an end in April. I will however ensure that all relevant information is passed on for my replacement to use!

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer

01 Feb 2023

Appendix A

GUILD ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement from our independent examiners: We approve the accounts and confirm that the records produced, together with the information and explanations supplied to BAS Accountants, constitute a true and correct record of all the transactions of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Year 2022		Year 2021	
	£	£	£	£
General Fund				
Income				
Donations	522.00		102.00	
Subscriptions	10,350.00		8,485.00	
Peal Fees	571.00		144.00	
On-line fundraising	196.15		107.39	
Report Advertising	265.00		295.00	
Sundry Sales	13.00		4.00	
	<u>11,917.15</u>	11,917.15	<u>9,137.39</u>	9,137.39
Expenditure				
Annual Report	553.81		554.71	
Members Accident Insurance	555.75		390.36	
Public Liability Insurance	347.03		347.03	
Property Damage insurance	103.60		103.60	
Handbell Insurance	322.28		308.57	
Administration	689.90		477.55	
Donations	0.00		250.00	
Central Council affiliation	160.00		160.00	
Hall Hire (Meetings)	334.00		78.00	
Lapel Badges	2,715.60		0.00	
Ringling World Adverts	36.00		12.48	
	<u>-5,817.97</u>		<u>-2,682.30</u>	
Net income		<u><u>6,099.18</u></u>		<u><u>6,455.09</u></u>
Transfers				
Restoration Fund (note 1)		<u>-5,460.50</u>		<u>-4,314.50</u>
Net income after transfers		638.68		2,140.59
General Fund as at 1-Jan		<u>11,974.33</u>		<u>9,833.74</u>
General Fund as at 31-Dec		<u><u>12,613.01</u></u>		<u><u>11,974.33</u></u>

	Year 2022 £	Year 2021 £
Restoration Fund		
Income		
Gift aid tax recovered	1,674.33	2,254.25
Affiliation Scheme	1,310.00	1,325.00
St. Edmund Clapper income	0.00	217.32
Donations	785.13	560.00
Interest allocated (note 2)	952.12	231.29
Guild Meetings and Events	348.75	70.88
Jubilee Fund interest (note 3)	193.23	19.88
Vestey Ring Donations	50.00	80.00
	<u>5,313.56</u>	<u>4,758.62</u>
Expenditure		
Grants Approved	-8,000.00	0.00
Net expenditure/income	<u>-2,686.44</u>	<u>4,758.62</u>
Transfer from General Fund (note 1)	5,460.50	4,314.50
Restoration Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>36,965.93</u>	<u>27,892.81</u>
Restoration Fund as at 31-Dec	<u>39,739.99</u>	<u>36,965.93</u>
Restoration Allocated Grants		
Income		
Grants Approved	8,000.00	0.00
Expenditure		
Grants Paid	-2,500.00	-18,200.00
Net income/ expenditure	<u>5,500.00</u>	<u>-18,200.00</u>
Allocated Grant Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>24,850.00</u>	<u>43,050.00</u>
Allocated Grant Fund as at 31-Dec	<u>30,350.00</u>	<u>24,850.00</u>

	Year 2022 £	Year 2021 £
Centenary Dinner Fund		
Income		
Ticket sales	1,980.00	0.00
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Net Income	1,980.00	0.00
Dinner Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Dinner Fund as at 31-Dec	<u><u>1,980.00</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
Recruitment & Training		
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund		
Income		
Donations received	0.00	0.00
Expenditure		
Simulators at Felixstowe & Southwold	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-1,593.48</u>
Net Income/Expenditure	0.00	-1,593.48
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>3,264.52</u>	<u>4,858.00</u>
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 31-Dec	<u><u>3,264.52</u></u>	<u><u>3,264.52</u></u>
Library Fund		
Income		
Donations received	0.00	0.00
Expenditure		
CC library subscription	10.00	10.00
Ringing World CD	0.00	18.00
GW Pipe Biography	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16.00</u>
	10.00	44.00
Net Expenditure	<u>-10.00</u>	<u>-44.00</u>
Library Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>237.22</u>	<u>281.22</u>
Library Fund as at 31-Dec	<u><u>227.22</u></u>	<u><u>237.22</u></u>
Handbell Fund		
Income		
Donations Received	0.00	30.00
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Net Income	0.00	30.00
Handbell Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>932.50</u>	<u>902.50</u>
Handbell Fund as at 31-Dec	<u><u>932.50</u></u>	<u><u>932.50</u></u>

Jubilee Fund

Income		
Donations Received	30,924.95	1,177.58
Net Income	30,924.95	1,177.58
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 1-Jan	5,292.58	4,115.00
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 31-Dec	<u>36,217.53</u>	<u>5,292.58</u>
<i>Interest earned from this account is paid direct to the Restoration Fund (note 3)</i>		

The Pipe Family Trust Fund

Income		
Interest allocated (note 2)	11.04	4.20
Expenditure	0.00	-44.00
Net income/ expenditure	11.04	-39.80
Trust fund as at 1-Jan	1,122.16	1,161.96
Trust fund as at 31-Dec	<u>1,133.20</u>	<u>1,122.16</u>

St.Peter's Sudbury Fund

Income		
Donations Received	0.00	20.00
Interest Received	0.83	1.12
Expenditure		
Friends of St Peter's Sudbury	-2,175.90	0.00
Net expenditure/income	-2,175.07	21.12
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 1-Jan	2,175.07	2,153.95
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 31-Dec	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,175.07</u>
<i>This Fund has now been dissolved</i>		

Balance Sheet as at 31-Dec	Year 2022	Year 2021
	£	£
Current Assets		
CAF 12mth bonds	15,002.22	40,009.59
CCLA/CBF General a/c	70,091.23	35,146.10
CCLA/CBF St.Peter's a/c	0.00	2,175.07
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	36,217.53	5,292.58
Barclays Current Account	4,756.15	3,835.13
District Cash in hand	390.84	355.84
	<u>126,457.97</u>	<u>86,814.31</u>
Representing		
General Fund	12,613.01	11,974.33
Restoration Fund	39,739.99	36,965.93
Restoration Grants Allocated	30,350.00	24,850.00
Library Fund	227.22	237.22
Handbell Fund	932.50	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3,264.52	3,264.52
Centenary Dinner Fund	1,980.00	0.00
Jubilee Fund	36,217.53	5,292.58
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1,133.20	1,122.16
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	0.00	2,175.07
	<u>126,457.97</u>	<u>86,814.31</u>

In the opinion of the Trustees, all of the Funds except the General Fund are restricted in nature.

The Guild owns a number of assets in addition to the various bank balances.

The main items (with approximate replacement costs) are:

	Year 2022	Year 2021
	£	£
Handbells	30,000.00	30,000.00
Library	13,000.00	13,000.00
Vestey Ring	4,900.00	4,900.00
Lapel Badges	3,500.00	900.00
Other Assets	2,700.00	2,700.00
	<u>54,100.00</u>	<u>51,500.00</u>

Grants - Approved and Paid

	£	£	Date	Date of	£	£	Date
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Expiry	Grants	Grants	Paid
	Previous Years	This year			Paid	unpaid	
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2025		250.00	16/08/2018 Pt Pd)
Stowmarket	11,000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		11,000.00	
Fornham St Martin	5,600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		5,600.00	
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	12/02/2023		8,000.00	
Sudbury, St Gregory		3,000.00	12/02/2022	12/02/2025	2,500.00	500.00	31/10/2022 Pt Pd
Westhorpe		5,000.00	23/10/2022	26/10/2025		5,000.00	
	<u>25,100.00</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>			<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>30,350.00</u>	

Note 1. 50% of the sum of subscriptions and peal fees is transferred to the Restoration fund.

Note 2. The total interest received from: the CCLA/CBF General fund, & CAF bonds has been allocated to the Jubilee Fund, Restoration Fund & Pipe Family Trust Fund and apportioned in the ratio of their respective capital sums. The Jubilee Fund amount has been passed directly to the Restoration Fund.

Note 3: Interest earned in The Jubilee Fund is transferred directly to the Restoration Fund.

GRM and Chair of Recruitment and Training Committee report

I managed to attend the SE ADM, unfortunately personal circumstances and work prevented me attending the other ADMs.

2022 was wrapped up nicely with the full return of Ipswich Christmas ringing including sharing tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

I attended the SE district practice on 7th January, it was attended by over 50 people.

Late last year Troston were rehung, they had been unringable for at least 60 years. As a light easy going 6 they will be a real asset. I was delighted to be able to attend the dedication on 15th January.

I have been involved with our Central Council representatives in planning for the visit of Central Council the first weekend in September. We are hosting the meeting in Ipswich, there will be ringing development sessions on the Friday and Sunday and a social event on the Saturday evening, these events will also be open to Guild members.

I am continuing to prepare material for our centenary edition of the Ringing World, due for publication on 14th April. I am grateful to those who have helped me in this endeavour.

The Recruitment and Training committee has met twice since the last GMC, we are planning our events for 2023 and beyond. Currently the committee is engaged in a comprehensive training audit to understand what is required to help ringing develop in Suffolk. I would be grateful if those who have yet to respond to their R&T reps would do so as soon as possible.

We are fortunate to have a great number of new ringers and new members, but we will struggle to develop them without planning and considering how best we can expand and improve ringing in Suffolk.

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC) Report for 12 Feb 2023 GMC Meeting at Stowupland

The BAC have not held a meeting since 6 Sep 22, but are planning a meeting in Mar23.

No new grant applications have been received.

As previously reported, grants for Combs, Fornham St Martin, St Clement Ipswich and Stowmarket, have yet to be drawn down. At the 23 Oct 22 GMC meeting, an extension of grant to 31 Dec 2025 was approved for Fornham, St Clement Ipswich and Stowmarket, but doubts were expressed about the progress at Combs. On contacting the project organisers, I received the following update: "We can confirm that we are going ahead with the project. The latest quote from Taylors, dated 27 Sep 22 is £104,869 for the refurbishment of the 8 Hunslet bells and rehangng them in a new 10 bell frame plus two new bells & fittings at a cost of £27,363 making the total cost £132,232, We also have estimated £3,000 for electrical work in the tower and belfry plus £5,000 for repairs to the stonework. Our bell fund currently stands at £12,500 and we are about to start an intensive fundraising drive with a series of local events plus grant applications including the National Lottery. We hope to be in a position to place an order towards the end of 2023 or early 2024". The BAC recommend that the Combs grant of £8k be extended for a further three years, to 31 Dec 25.

At the last GMC meeting, there was some debate about the suitability of the bells at Cotton St Andrew for peal ringing. Four years ago, the BAC spent a lot of effort in trying to improve the ringer experience at this tower The bells are rated as in 'fair going order', which reflects the condition of the frame and fittings, rather than their ease of ringing. The bells do not receive regular maintenance nor have a regular band of ringers. After the BAC's work, two peals were rung in 2019, the first for 18 years. As a result, the bells must now be considered capable of being pealed. However, as is always the case, any decision for future peals rests with the incumbent and churchwardens at Cotton.

In Nov/Dec22 the five original bells at St Mary Troston were rehung in a new steel frame, along with the addition of a sixth bell. No request for grant aid was made for this project, but the parish did receive assistance from guild members. The bells were first rung on 8 Dec 22, and a service of dedication was held on 15 Jan 23. By all accounts they are a beautiful new light six and a particularly successful refurbishment of a tower that has not rung in a lifetimes memory.

During the last four months, the BAC's work has continued helping and advising parishes throughout the county. These included:

Barsham Most Holy Trinity: inspection and frame maintenance. Removal of the treble clapper for reaming of the bearing.

Blythburgh Holy Trinity: advice on rope replacement and refurbishment of fittings.

Campse Ash St John the Baptist: repairs to No 1 bell stay which was binding on its slider board.

Copdock St Peter: meeting on site to discuss new ringing floor.

Drinkstone All Saints: ongoing project to replace the existing bells and bell frame.

Fornham St Martin St Martin: ongoing project to rehang and augment in a new frame.

Framsden St Mary: inspection at the request of the parish to ensure they remain safe to ring/chime.

Higham St Mary: repairs to chiming rope.

Ipswich St Mary le Tower: ongoing project to install training bells.

Monks Eleigh St Peter: advice/inspection concerning possible rehang in a new frame.

Oakley St Nicholas: replacement of Hastings stay.

Ringsfield All Saints: tightening of clappers and gudgeon boxes.

Shelland: dismantling of a mini-ring and its transfer and rebuild at Norton.

Stowmarket SS St Mary and Peter: the latest date for re-installation of the enlarged 10 bell frame is Mar 23.

Sudbury St Gregory: strengthening of an intermediate ceiling and the covering of the ceiling with 18mm plywood, to reduce the noise levels in the ringing chamber.

Tuddenham St Martin: full inspection following many years of no ringing. Bells in reasonable order/fully checked, although headstocks ancient, all are suitable for modest ringing. Clock chime hammer broken/bent and locals now repairing. Ropes require some minor improvement. Band being taught locally.

Wilby Blessed Virgin Mary: fit new improved Hastings stay and correct missing bolts around installation.

Wingfield St Andrew: technical advice about a cracked clapper.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Membership Report to the GMC
12th February 2023

What a wonderful flurry of activity to elect new members at the various Annual District Meetings, a further 20, bringing the total for the year to 47. NE:2; NW:16; SE:20 and the SW:9.

By the end of the year about thirty returned to the Guild post pandemic. The final total for the year is 631, an increase of about 3%. The membership however shows a healthy 8.5% growth in Full members, ie a slightly higher proportion of younger members than in previous years.

Whilst a number of members have moved away, some have not returned after the pandemic. Sadly two have passed away since the last meeting:

Timothy Cavell in October aged 83. He had been a ringer at Bardwell.

Mrs Loraine Beer on 30th Dec aged 75. She was a ringer at Falkenham.

A total of 11 members passed away during the year: Mrs Susan Harrison (1st Jan), Mrs Joan Tipple (22nd Jan), Mrs Marion Holland (13th Feb), Brian Hale (April), Don Price (14th May), Mrs Jane Stearn (2nd June), David Brand, (8th July), Chris Barker (5th Sep), Jimmy Wightman (13th Sep), Timothy Cavell and Loraine Beer.

Membership Summary for 2022

	NE	NW	SE	SW	2022	2021
Full	58	77	112	74	321	296
70-79	26	38	59	40	163	161
80 and over	22	29	38	13	102	107
FTE	4	6	6	2	18	22
Life Honorary	2	2	10	1	15	16
Associate	3	3	3	3	12	9
	115	155	228	133	631	611

FTE (Full time education): members mostly aged 21 and under.

All new members elected in 2023 will receive a centenary badge. We now have these in stock and available for existing members to buy.

Mary Garner
 Membership Secretary
 3rd February 2023

Support

No enquiries have come my way since the last GMC on 23.10.22

Website

The Safeguarding page of the website is being updated with the information agreed by the GMC during the last 2 meetings.

An email is going out to all members, directing them to the page.

Annual Report

I am in discussion with the Report Editor, as to whether the 'Safeguarding Requirements' poster will work reduced from A4 to A5 in the 2023 Handbook and likewise space for the A5 'What to do if you have a concern' on another page either as reduced to A6 or remain as A5. I will make the necessary adaptations, if they arise.

Young Ringers

I made some initial enquiries with some teachers I was aware of locally who had under 18yrs learners as to the permission paperwork they currently use. Since receiving news in the SE Area Representatives reports for the ADM, I now know of more teachers to contact and continue this discussion with.

I would obviously like to spread my enquiries further afield and hear from teachers across NW, NE and SW. Who is it best to get in touch with within the Districts?

The purpose of these enquiries is to produce some paperwork that works for us in Suffolk.

I have so far compiled the attached draft using what is available from the Diocese, ART, CCCBR, YCRA - some are more current than others and in the process of being updated as well.

Links with Parish Safeguarding Officers [PSO's]

I consider myself fortunate to have received an email from the PSO of a tower I frequently visit for a weekly Practice that she had sent to all the church volunteers, in relation to Safeguarding Training. The email was informative, friendly and naturally established a direct link.

This gave me an idea! Something along these lines might be found to be helpful/useful by Tower Captains when asking those learning to ring or those new to the band, to complete their Basic Awareness training.

I have as yet to complete a first draft.

I would welcome **further explanation** of this point from the last meeting as I am unclear as to how this situation could arise, as surely all bell-ringers and those learning to ring, are linked to a tower band. Guild membership in respect of safeguarding is not a factor.

f) Safeguarding

v) PSOs will need to provide safeguarding training advice to people who are not members of the Guild.

Apologies, for not having made more progress on user-friendly drafts of the other **policies** following receipt of the minutes.

Elizabeth Christian

Suffolk Guild Safeguarding Officer

Permission to Ring form - Young Person [under 18yrs]

Tower or group of towers

Full name of young person [YP]

.....

Address

Post Code.....

Date of Birth

Email Address [YP] if you would like it to used

.....

Name of parent or carer

Telephone/mobile number [parent or carer]

Email Address [parent or carer]

Are there any medical [eg diabetes, epilepsy] or dietary concerns that we should know about. This will not preclude them from ringing, but notification now will help in the event of a medical problem. Please give any relevant details below or state "none":

.....

- I give my permission for the above-named young person [YP] to take part in the normal activities of this group.
- I understand what is involved and I am aware of the hazards present.
- I understand that separate permission will be sought for certain activities and outings lasting longer than the normal meeting times.
- I understand that during the teaching process occasional hand contact may be used and that there will normally be another adult present.
- I understand that for teaching purposes video may be used occasionally but will not be retained.

Unless otherwise advised, I undertake to deliver and collect the YP from these activities.

Signature of parent or carer date

.....

Name of additional contact phone number

Signed by appointed 'bell-ringer working with children'

Name and contact details

Copies to be retained by appointed 'bell-ringer working with children' and by parent/carer

Permission to attend outside activity - Young Person

Tower or group of towers

Full name of young person [YP]

.....

Address

Post Code.....

Date of Birth

Email Address [YP] if you would like it to used

.....

Name of parent or carer

Telephone/mobile number [parent or carer]

Email Address [parent or carer]

Medical declaration: I have previously advised status for this young person [YP], there being no additional issues relevant to the proposed activity/ the following should be taken into account [e.g. travel sickness] - delete as necessary. Please give any relevant details below or state "none":

.....

Permission: I have been given details of the proposed activity away from the regular venue and I give my permission for the above young person [YP] to take part.

Unless otherwise advised, I undertake to deliver and collect the YP at the agreed joining point

Signature of parent or carer

date

Name of additional contact phone number

Signed by appointed 'bell ringer working with children'

Name and contact details

Copies to be retained by appointed 'bell ringer working with children' and by parent/carer

Public Relations Officer Report

October 2022 to Feb 2023

Sudbury St Peter Regeneration

The regeneration work is progressing and the Churches Conservation Trust has now appointed 'The Bridge Project', a social enterprise based in Sudbury, as their operating partner for when the building reopens. Any access for ringing will therefore be arranged through their staff in future. I have offered a briefing on ringing to their manager once they have been identified.

The work to enable ringing of the front six from the new gallery will start in the coming months. There will be series of events to celebrate the reopening currently planned for mid September and will include ringing.

Fornham St Martin Restoration Project

Following a request by the parish for Guild assistance last year, Alan Moulton, Maureen Gardiner and I have been working with the PCC to assure the delivery of this project to restore the bells. We have secured a further circa £10k in grants from five bodies, with a number still out for consideration. A sponsorship scheme of the various components has been launched to attract new donors with items ranging from £50 to £5,000. If anyone is interested in being a donor or knows of someone who might, please get in touch.

CCCBR 'From Practice to Perfect' a guide on ringing for clergy and PCCs

The Central Council has launched a publication aimed at demystifying the world of ringing for clergy, church wardens, and PCCs particularly in relation to organisation, training, and safeguarding.

I had the guide put in the Diocese weekly email newsletter (eNews) and it was accessed by a good number of people.

I'd certainly recommend sharing this with any incumbent/church warden especially those unfamiliar with ringing.

<https://cccb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/From-Practice-to-Perfect-a-short-guide-for-clergy-PCCs-and-Safeguarding-Advisors.pdf>

Radio Suffolk

On the 15th Jan I spoke with Sarah Lilley on the start of our Centenary Year covering all the events and initiatives we have planned. They will feature the Guild again when we are closer to the date of the Centenary in April.

Westhorpe Restoration Project

For their Heritage Lottery application, on request I provided the Westhorpe project with a letter of support outlining the backing of the Guild for which they were most grateful.

Radio 4 Bells on Sunday

We have had four Suffolk towers broadcast on BBC Radio Four's Bells on Sunday; Helmingham, Long Melford, and Ufford. It is intended that around one Suffolk tower a month with feature throughout 2023 as our Centenary Year.

Learning to Ring enquiries

I have had a number on enquiries from people wanting to learn to ring which I've passed to local contacts.

Enquiries received by the Central Council/ART associated with the Ring for the King campaign originating from Suffolk will now be passed to me as at a national level they are receiving large volume of contacts that they can't quickly match to teachers.

Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 12/2/2023

Guild emails

583 people are subscribed (an increase of 24) to the Guild email system, 546 of these are "members" (an increase of 23).

I have sent out 36 emails since the last meeting (up until 3/2/2023).

Guild Report

So far I have received comprehensive updates for the tower info pages (pp26-45) from some Districts.

Chris Garner
3/2/2023