

**Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee
Stowupland Church Hall**

Sunday 29th October 2023

Minutes by Kate Gill

1. Welcome

- a) Mark Ogden welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- b) Members present:

Officers: Chairman Mark Ogden, Treasurer Tim Hart, Secretary Kate Gill

North East District: Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod

North West District: Neal Dodge, Jed Flatters, David Steed

South East District: Mary Garner

South West District: Pauline Brown, Alan Moul

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mike Cowling, Chris Davies, Maureen Gardiner, Sarah Plummer, Katharine Salter and Jenny Scase.

3. Absent Friends

Mrs J Diana Whiting, SW Nayland and Ian R D Harris, NE Rumburgh.

Also remembered were Lionel and Margaret Grooms, NW Tostock.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2023

Dave Goldstone proposed, and Philip Gorrod seconded, that the minutes be approved as correct. All were in agreement.

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

ACTION LOG FROM 25 JUNE 2023

Item	Action	Owner	Progress
(23.10)14a	Kate to ask Liz about policy review position.	Kate and Liz	Liz liaising with Katharine
6b	Consider possible rule change re no Magazine Editor for 2024 AGM	Mark and Kate	Complete (to be done at next rule change)
7bii	Allocate £100 centenary budget to each district and communicate with districts regarding this	Mark and Tim	Complete
7ciii	Circulate Rowan Wilson's achievements spreadsheet to GMC and ask her to continue this analysis until end of year.	Kate	Complete
7c v	Produce Chairman's Centenary Certificate	Mark	Complete
7c vi	Chairman's letter to Guild members setting out his plans	Mark	Not done, but wording of new member welcome changed

8a iii	Approach CCCBR secretary for comments on extent of Guild's liability	Kate	Complete
8f i	Ask Liz Christian for more information about safeguarding Audit Template Tool	Kate	Complete. Liz has circulated to GMC
11 b	R&T to consider recruitment and training issues raised in Guild survey	Katharine	Not known
12 d	Chairman's letter of thanks to Rowan Wilson for her hard work arranging Guild centenary dinner	Mark	Complete
13b vi	Obtain quote to insure one set only of handbells	Kate	Agenda item
13b vii	Speak to Brian Whiting about discussions and rationale regarding handbells (Now superseded by BW meeting Tim Hart briefly)	Mark	Complete (Tim spoke to Brian)
13b viii	Decision to be made at October 2023 GMC re handbell insurance	Mark	Agenda item
13e	R&T to consider expenditure of remainder of Golden Bottle fund perhaps at Ipswich or Fornham St Martin	Katharine	In hand

5.1 With regards to item 8a iii above, Kate advised that CCCBR had confirmed that the Guild should not be liable under its insurance in circumstances such as this claim. She has escalated with EIG, and we are awaiting the outcome of their internal enquiry. *Post meeting note, EIG have now refunded our excess of £250, apologised for the error and have confirmed there was no uplift in the premium due to the erroneous claim.*

5.2 With regards to item 13e above, Mark commented that the increase from 4 bells to 8 bells on the Felixstowe simulator had been agreed, as only a nominal sum.

6. Correspondence

None received.

7. Officer Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

- i. A discussion ensued about the Guild's official Reserves Policy. The General Fund currently contains more than one year's running costs, and consideration should be given to moving part of the balance elsewhere.
- ii. It was agreed that the Trustees are to review our current Reserves Policy and the amount that should be kept in the General Fund. They will report by email to GMC before the end of December so any transfers can be made before the accounting year end.

b) Ringling Master Report

- i. There was brief discussion about the dates of the Guild Striking Competitions in May 2024.
- ii. However, it was generally agreed that the GRM can set these dates.
- iii. The reference in the report to the number of new members in SE is overstated. Katharine to be asked to amend.

c) Recruitment and Training Report

There were no questions or comments.

- d) Belfry Advisory Committee
 - i. It was noted that the reference in the Fornham St Martin update should refer to Nicholsons, not Taylor's.
 - ii. Regarding the final paragraph, the reference to the tin content of the tenor at Westhorpe should be to 'too little tin'.

- e) Membership Secretary Report
 - i. Mary noted that there are now 58 new members. The current paid up membership stands at 615. Only a few people have refused to pay the over 80s subscription.

- f) Safeguarding Report
 - i. Liz Christian was not at the meeting.
 - ii. Philip reiterated his concern that there is no parish monitoring of whether ringers have taken safeguarding training.
 - iii. GMC briefly reviewed the recently publicised 'Code of Ringing' and whether this should be adopted by the Guild.
 - iv. All GMC members were asked to read the Code. It will be an agenda item at the next GMC in February 2024.

- g) PRO Report
 - i. Neal commented that it is disappointing that the CRT and architect have not engaged meaningfully with regards to the design and installation of the building work at St Peter's that affects the bells.
 - ii. Additionally, the ringing room needs intensive attention, including a thorough clean and a new carpet.

- h) Webmaster Report
 - i. Mark reported that the mail forwarder issue has now been resolved, with new forwarders created as and when email addresses are used. There have been some teething problems with the redirection of mail, but these are now thought to have been resolved.

Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding

This item was postponed until after the proposal to increase grants.

8. Proposal to Increase Grants

- a) Alan Moulton introduced his paper. Discussion then ensued, including the following points:
- b) The fact that the award of a grant between 5% and 10% is discretionary.
- c) Alan's view is that factoring in local volunteer work when assessing the amount of grant to be awarded has complicated the process.
- d) Often larger projects have access to more sources of other funding than smaller projects.
- e) If a decision is made to increase grants to 10%, should towers granted 5% previously be offered more? The consensus was that this would not be required.
- f) The grants terms and conditions provide for grants up to 10%. BAC can recommend grants of up to 10% to GMC, possibly more in exceptional circumstances. The GMC will then consider the BAC recommendation and other pertinent information.
- g) Kate proposed that BAC can work with a guideline of between 5% and 10%, with exceptions in certain circumstances. This was seconded by Tim. All were in favour.
- h) Alan wanted to introduce a discussion about when the training plan should be required within the grants process. There was some limited discussion about this, but it was not an

agenda item for today's meeting. If BAC want this to be discussed, they were requested to submit a proposal to a future GMC meeting.

9. Applications for Grants

- a) With reference to the proposed Blythburgh grant, this is supported by both BAC and R&T.
- b) Although there is no local band as such, the tower is regularly used as a local training facility.
- c) Alan proposed that a grant of £1000 total is made to Blythburgh, representing an increase on 5%. This was seconded by Jed Flatters. All were in favour, apart from one abstention by Philip Gorrod.

10. Ratifications of NRLMs

Melissa Hunt and Matthew Higby were ratified as NRLMs.

11. Handbells

- a) Mark introduced this item, setting out the insurance considerations that need to be taken into account:
 - i. We await clarification of whether our current handbell insurance covers the Guild for the way in which the handbells are loaned out, sometimes on a long- term basis.
 - ii. Tim believes that Brian Whiting has had contact with Balens, our insurers, in the past with regards to this.
 - iii. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Balens will not be offering renewals of handbell policies.
- b) The Guild needs to decide what handbells are used for, as the current sets are heavy by modern change ringing standards. Therefore, do we have the right handbells for our purposes?
- c) Tim advised GMC that Brian Whiting has indicated that handbells have been bequeathed to the Guild, and that they have been used in the past for tune and carol ringing, together with fund raising.
- d) GMC considered whether the Guild should acquire refurbished sets of handbells to replace the current sets. Philip pointed out that we need to establish whether charity law permits us to dispose of the current sets.
- e) Neal Dodge suggested that the insurance is not renewed. Tim is not in favour of not insuring the handbells, as they represent a £30k Guild asset.
- f) One option that might be considered is to insure the handbells that are usable, and safely store the remainder in the Norman Tower.
- g) Tim pointed out that the trustees have to be cognisant of each trustee's personal liability if the handbells are lost, and not insured.
- h) Consideration should be given to downgrading the asset value to represent the cost of similar sets (with suitable bells for change ringing).
- i) After the conclusion of this discussion, Kate proposed that the asset value of the handbells is reduced to reflect market value, on the basis of replacing or partially replacing the current sets with 4 refurbished sets. This was seconded by Alan. Tim agreed to research this. This was carried, with no objections or abstentions.
- j) A new insurance quote will be obtained, on the market value of the replacement bells, with a proper level of all risks cover. Katharine Salter had previously offered to research this.

- k) Renew the handbell insurance at the end of December (the expiry of the current Balens cover). It was agreed that if this will involve a substantial increase in premium, then an extraordinary Zoom meeting of GMC will be called.

12. Affiliation Scheme Administration

- a) Tim advised that he has been contacted by Winston Girling, who is unable to continue with the Scheme administration.
- b) Tim is prepared to administer the Scheme going forward.
- c) Districts will be asked to follow up on any parishes ceasing payment.

13. Centenary Achievements

- a) Mark has developed certificates for both ringing achievements and contribution to ringing, building on the initiative started by Rowan Wilson.
- b) Certificates will be awarded at district level, with any particularly praiseworthy achievements or contributions being submitted for consideration of a Guild level certificate being awarded.
- c) Rowan has prepared a list of ringing achievements and is prepared to continue this until the end of the year.
- d) It is envisaged that these certificates will continue beyond the end of this centenary year.

14. 2024 Arrangements for AGM and for Guild Social

- a) The AGM will be held in NW, probably in Stowmarket.
- b) The Guild Striking Competitions will be led by Katharine, based in SE
- c) No decision was reached with regards to hosting or date of the Guild Social in 2024.

15. Any Other Business

- a) The meeting extended its best wishes to Chris Davies for his recovery.
- b) Alan asked if an additional £1000 grant could be awarded to Fornham St Martin, as costs have increased substantially. BAC was asked to submit a formal proposal to GMC.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 18th February 2024 at Stowupland

The other GMC meetings will take place on 23rd June and 20th October.

The meeting closed at 16.38.

ACTION LOG FROM 29 OCTOBER 2023

Item	Action	Owner
(23.10) 11b	R&T to consider recruitment and training issues raised in Guild survey	Katharine
(23.10) 13 e	R&T to consider expenditure of remainder of Golden Bottle Fund perhaps at Ipswich or Fornham St Martin	Katharine
(23.10)14a	Policies to be reviewed by Liz Christian in conjunction with Katharine	Liz and Katharine
(25.6) 13e	R&T to consider expenditure of remainder of Golden Bottle Fund perhaps at Ipswich or Fornham St Martin	Katharine

7aii	Trustees to report back to GMC before 31.12.23 re Reserves Policy and potential transfers out of General Fund	Trustees
7bii	Amend number of SE members in GRM October report	Katharine
7fiv	Consider adoption of 'Code of Ringing' at Feb 2024 GMC	All
11d	Establish whether charity law permits the Guild to dispose of donated or bequested handbells	Tim
11h	Consider reducing the asset value of the handbells, having regard to point 11i below	Tim
11i	Research cost of 4 refurbished sets of handbells to replace current sets	Tim
11j	Obtain insurance quote on the replacement value of handbells	Katharine
11 k	Renew handbell insurance in December, providing premium not substantially higher than at present. If it is, extraordinary Zoom meeting of GMC to be called before renewal.	Katharine and Kate
15 c	Decide on date and venue of Guild Social in 2024	All

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

General Management Committee Meeting 29 October 2023

Treasurer's Report

30 September 2023

Financial summary 31 May 2023

Current Assets

CAF 12mth bonds	0.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	80,741.86
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	36,217.53
Barclays Current Account	9,379.60
District Cash in hand	<u>390.84</u>
	<u><u>126,729.83</u></u>

Representing

General Fund	14,982.92
Restoration Fund	59,123.79
Restoration Grants Allocated	10,850.00
Library Fund	227.22
Handbell Fund	992.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3,264.52
Centenary Dinner Fund	67.42
Jubilee Fund	36,217.53
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	<u>1,003.93</u>
	<u><u>126,729.83</u></u>

Noteworthy points:

- £11000 grant paid out to Stowmarket.
- The delayed invoice of £30 to Ringing World, for advertising in the Annual Report, has been paid.
- £100 donation from Worlingworth received for work performed by the bell maintenance team.

Restoration fund

The restoration fund contains £ 59123.79, with an additional £10,850.00 allocated as per the table below.

Grants - Approved and Paid								
	£				£	£		
	Approved Previous Years	Approved This year	Date Approved	Date of Expiry	Grants Paid	Grants unpaid	Date Paid	Notes
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		31/07/2023	Fully Paid
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	12/02/2023				Grant expired
Sudbury, St Gregory	3000.00	(£2500 paid 31/10/22)	12/02/2022	12/02/2025	500.00		05/01/2023	
Westhorpe	5000.00		23/10/2022	26/10/2025		5000.00		
	33,100.00	0.00			11,500.00	10,850.00		

Subscriptions

Subscriptions stand at £7900. An online spreadsheet has been introduced to allow District Treasurers and the Membership Secretary to see the current status.

GRM and chairman of R&T report

At the start of September Suffolk was proud to host the 2023 meeting of the Central Council of Church bell ringers. Huge thanks to everyone who volunteered to help this, there was a tremendous amount of work that went on behind the scenes to make this happen. As part of the weekend there were a number of ringing development and training sessions that were held which were of benefit to Guild members, based on the feedback from attendees there is much for us to reflect on as a recruitment and training committee.

Stowmarket bells are now returned and augmented, the grant has been released and I was honoured to attend a small celebratory event at Stowmarket during September.

Thanks to the SW district, Hitcham ringers and associated friends for hosting the Guild 8 bell striking contest, well done to the SE district who won the Rose Trophy. As someone who hails from the SW district I was especially proud to see the district enter a team, the SW has challenging geography with a lack of decent roads and no obvious centres of 8 bell ringing, so it is far harder to muster a team.

It was a good idea to try splitting the striking contests, but it has become clear that September is still a peak holiday month and this presents challenges finding both teams and judges. I propose to revert to the old plan and next year hold both contests on the 3rd Saturday in May. Looking at the cycle of events it would make sense to hold these in the SE district if they will have us.

The SE district continue to have lots of new ringers and have had 52 new members so far this year, the challenge will be making sure that they continue to progress. The NE now have an official Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) hub at Reydon and this is supporting ringers in the surrounding towers. SW has patches of new ringers and like everywhere else the challenge is maintaining progress. The NW has a number of centres of 8 bell ringing as well as many thriving 6 bell practices, they are however short of ringing teachers in the far west of the district.

In general most towers are looking for 1 or 2 extra helpers on a practice night to move their ringers on, I would urge you to think about if you could give up just one evening a month to help another tower, if we all did this it would make a huge difference. As a committee we are looking at electronic means to see if we can co-ordinate help for towers that need it.

The R&T committee has approved the training element of the Blythburgh grant application.

The R&T committee is once again looking for suitable locations in the SW and NW districts to install a simulator as there is still sufficient monies left in the Golden Bottle fund for this (funding was secured for one simulator per district, in the SE this was installed at Felixstowe and in the NE it was installed at Southwold).

Finally, I am well aware that 3 years ago I took on responsibility for writing the Guild history, my work and life events have repeatedly stalled progress, however in the coming months I will have more time to get back on with the task.

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC) Report for 29 Oct 2023 **GMC Meeting at Stowupland**

The BAC held a meeting on 06 Oct 23 at Hintlesham. Unusually, we were unable to ring the recently refurbished six bells (which have all received new roller bearings), due to ongoing building work. However, reports suggest the going of the six bells has been greatly improved, and the BAC thanks N Whittell for all his work. It is hoped that the pulley blocks will also be refurbished in due course.

At the start of the year, the GMC requested that the BAC undertake a Belfry Maintenance Course in 2023. After consideration, we did not do so because a similar course was to be run as part of the Central Council events in Ipswich during September. Ten slots were offered, but on the day two people did not turn up. Of the eight who did attend, five were from Suffolk. We recognise the ongoing requirement for such courses and intend to run an event in late spring 2024 for guild members.

The late David Salter undertook a great deal of effort drawing up a set of Health and Safety guidelines for bell maintenance/repair work. The majority of the BAC's work is undertaken under the provision of the overarching bellhangers H&S guidelines. However, on occasion, the BAC (and other Guild members) undertake work unassisted. To offer guidance under such circumstances, a set of H&S guidelines have been added to the BAC part of the website.

At present, our two technical advisors' names are not included the list of members of the BAC. The BAC request that Alan Moulton and Jed Flatters are made full members of the BAC, additional to holding their "Technical Advisor" roles.

A grant application has been received from Holy Trinity Blythburgh. In 2022, the BAC were asked to inspect the Blythburgh bells prior to the 6-bell striking contest. As a result of that inspection some remedial work was carried out on pulley blocks, but our technical adviser recommended new

ropes, repainting of the frame (which is beginning to corrode), new pulley blocks and refurbishment of the roller bearings, which appeared untouched since installation in 1950. The parish took those recommendations to heart, replaced the ropes, and obtained estimates for the remainder of the work. They decided on Nicholson's as their bellhanger of choice and obtained a quotation of £19,348. Nicholson's offered a discount of £1,749 for two able bodied assistants to help with the pulley and bearing part of the re-furbishment, reducing their quote to £17,599. If two local volunteers were available to help with the re-painting, then a further reduction of £4,248 would be applicable.

The BAC strongly supported keeping this iconic Suffolk Church ringing into the future, and the R&T Committee have also supported the application. The BAC offered to assist with the bearings/pulley block work attracting a discount of £1,749. A 5% grant, for the work (but not helping with the repainting), would amount to £879.95, but in this case the committee felt we should be more generous and recommended a minimal grant of £1,000, or 5.68%. If local volunteers were found to assist with the re-painting of the frame, and the Guild remained happy to provide grant aid of £1,000, it would mean that the grant would increase to 7.49% of the total project cost. However, if the GMC were to endorse the proposal to return to 10% grant aid as a norm (as proposed by our technical advisor as a separate agenda item), a 10% grant would amount to £1,760. Such a grant would have the full support of the BAC.

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

Barham St Mary: Several ringers had reported difficulties with the treble. The installation was inspected, and the unusual/different feel in the handling found to be caused by the lateral displacement of two sets of pulleys. The bells handling remains as good as it can be.

Blaxhall St Peter: Significant ongoing repair work to the church, but no reports of any work on the bells.

Bramford St Mary the Virgin: Difficulties reported setting the 5th bell. Bell found to habitually going up wrong. Problem

resolved with a correct raise and alteration of the set.

Bures St Mary the Virgin: Repairs to the tenor clapper.

Combs St Mary: PCC reportedly once again discussing bell refurbishment.

Copdock St Peter: Advice provided with reference to rehangng the bells in a new frame. There is little space in the bell chamber and the bells currently swing into the louvre window recesses.

Drinkstone All Saints: Faculty granted to rehang the existing six bells into a new eight bell frame. Fundraising ongoing and we expect a grant application in due course.

Felsham St Peter: Reports of a desire to refurbish this unringable, 15cwt, six bell ring.

Fornham St Martin: All the fittings on the six bells have been removed. The bells are planned to be lowered over the weekend of 14 October and transported to Taylors.

Framlingham St Michael and All Angels: Ongoing general maintenance and stay replacement.

Framsden St Mary. This 16cwt eight bell ring is only occasionally rung on the back 6 (the two tenors are recently reported as being hard work), The trebles are not rung due to a lack of flooring under the bells. The BAC intend to replace the flooring to enable all eight bells to once again be rung after a full test ring.

Gosbeck St Mary Single Taylor's bell on plain bearings inspected and checked. Good order bell and frame, chiming only.

Hintlesham St Nicholas: Completion of a long running project to install new roller bearings on all six bells. Bells have been test rung and await their first quarter peal.

Ipswich St Mary le Tower: Ongoing project to install six training bells. A faculty has been granted and a contract let with Matthew Higby. Fundraising continues.

Lakenheath St Mary the Virgin: Technical advice given reference the poor going of the bells, especially the tenor. Recommended new bearings and gudgeon pins. This

refurbishment is going ahead without any need of Guild grant aid.

Mendlesham St Mary the Virgin: Despite a desire to refurbish the bells within the parish, higher priorities on their financial resources means that there is no likelihood in the near future.

Stowmarket SS St Mary and Peter: The re-installation of the 10 bells completed, including the provision of decking and handrails around the frame and a new floor in the ringing chamber. This installation was an enormous effort on behalf of the BAC, totalling at least 750 man hours of work. Thank you to all who helped bring this project to such a successful conclusion.

Westhorpe St Margaret: The 9 cwt un-ringable five in this church's tower are the work of four different founders and date between circa 1530 & 1808. On 3 August, the bells were taken to Loughborough for assessment, conservation, cleaning and tuning. A new treble bell will be cast to augment the ring to six, and a new bell frame and fittings manufactured. It is thought that the existing treble bell is cracked and might also need recasting, and the current third bell is of poor tone - if this cannot be improved it might be replaced by a Keltek bell. The tenor bell is heavily worn and thought to be "soft", with too much tin in the casting mixture. If this is the case recasting is a possibility. The exact future of the individual bells has yet to be decided.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Membership Report to the GMC
29th October 2023

The flurry of activity to elect new members to the Guild has continued during the year, with a further 19 elections since June, making 56 so far in 2023. The distribution is thus: in the NE 9, NW 12, SE 31, SW 4. The vast majority are new to ringing and in some places new bands have started up where regular ringing had almost ceased. It's taken a lot of time and dedication for many of our experienced ringers to reach this point.

The "paid up" membership stands at 613 (correct on October 18th). There have been several more returners from previous years and a few who have remembered to pay their subs as the year has gone through. As I wrote in June, this is the first year that there has been a subscription due from those over 80. Many have paid, a few have refused and it is likely that there are several who no longer ring or may no longer be at their previous tower. We should have a much clearer view of our membership by the end of the year.

Sadly two members have passed away since the last GMC meeting:

Mrs J Diana Whiting, SW Nayland. Diana died in June, she was 92. She was elected a member in 1978 and remained a member at Nayland until she died.

Ian R D Harris, NE Rumburgh. Ian died suddenly on October 11th, he was 81. Ian was elected to the Guild in 1991 for Rumburgh, then a five bell tower. He rang one peal, in 2005, which was the first peal on the augmented and re-hung bells. He served as Deanery Rep for Beccles from 2002 until 2011, on R&C in 2004 and 2005, and was a GMC Rep from 2004-2010.

We also remember **Lionel and Margaret Grooms** who were members at Tostock from 2012.

Lionel Grooms, NW Tostock, died on December 10th 2021, aged 85. He was a retired US Air Force serviceman who had lived in England for more than 50 years.

Margaret Grooms, NW Tostock, died in Bury St Edmunds on 18th May 2022, aged 87.

Mary Garner
Membership Secretary
19th October 2023

Support provided following enquiries received from members

- DBS Update Service
- Basic Awareness training certification to PSO
- mandatory Basic Awareness training - including contact with Diocesan team
- continuing a dialogue following 2 enquiries received since the last GMC on 12.02.23

CCCBR -S11-Audit Tool template

A short synopsis and the Audit Tool template were shared with all GMC members following a request from the last GMC meeting.

A meeting has been arranged for 30.10.23 with Catherine Banthorp [Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer] to discuss many aspects related to the Audit, previously noted as in need of being developed. Draft documents have been prepared.

Young People

Both Suffolk Guild Young People Permission to Ring and Permission to Attend Outside Activity forms will be discussed on 30.10.23 with the ADSO. Unfortunately other lines of enquiry over the summer months were unsuccessful.

Following the announcement that a Guild Young Ringer event is to be held in October, details of all the information required by the Diocese and CCCBR was shared with the organiser of the Guild Young Ringers event to ensure everything would be in place when a Young Person Activity is organised and run that involves young people under the age of 18yrs.

Volunteer Safeguarding Trainer

I am in the process of completing the training requirements for the role of Volunteer Safeguarding Trainer with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

The role provides the opportunity to support small groups facilitate the online training Basic Awareness and Foundation modules as well as deliver 'in person' training to groups of up to 6 people.

CCCBR

Updates from CCCBR Annual Meeting 02.09.23

- Ringing specific safeguarding scenarios are now being worked on by the Safeguarding team. These scenarios will become part of the Basic Awareness Safeguarding training. Ringing will be the first of the church groups to have group specific scenarios.
- The [Code for Ringing](#) is now on the website. The Code will be officially published on 01.01.24. This is a very important, extremely useful and relevant document to everyone engaged in ringing. It summarises the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers and when representing ringing at large.
- I propose that this document is accepted as the Code of Ringing for the Suffolk Guild of Ringers or at least a basis from which we can add anything else we feel necessary in our ringing community.

Policies

The [Code for Ringing](#)

Equality & Diversity [appendix 1]

Safeguarding [appendix 2]

Whistleblowing - draft being discussed with ADSO on 30.10.23

Prevention & Resolution of Bullying - draft being discussed with ADSO on 30.10.23

Organising Guild, District, local church Bellringing Training and Events, including photography, video, data protection - draft to be shared initially with Guild Ringing Master

Privacy Policy to be reviewed by Guild Data Protection Officer

Expenses Policy and Financial Management Policy to be reviewed by Guild Treasurer

Appendix 1

Equality and Diversity Statement

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers is committed to the principles of equality and diversity. We seek to develop an environment where all ringers are seen as individuals. We recognise that many people in our society experience discrimination.

We consider that **equality** means ensuring everyone must receive fair treatment, equal opportunities and will not be unlawfully excluded. No one should be the subject of bullying or other forms of harassment.

We consider **diversity** to mean celebrating differences and valuing everyone. Each person is an individual with visible and non-visible differences and by respecting those everyone can feel valued for their contribution.

We acknowledge that equality and diversity are not interchangeable but interdependent. There can be no equality of opportunity if difference is not valued and embraced.

All forms of discrimination are unacceptable, regardless of whether there is any intention to discriminate or not.

In working within the bell ringing community and in offering services, activities and facilities to the community we will:

- Ensure that they are accessible where practicable and provided fairly to people who seek our help
- Make sure that all bell-ringers are treated with dignity and respect
- Avoid and challenge the use of language which belittles or demeans others
- Respond to complaints efficiently and promptly

It is the responsibility of the GMC to monitor effectiveness, and to review and develop the policy. We all have a duty to ensure that this policy is effective in ensuring equal opportunity and in preventing discrimination.

Appendix 2

Safeguarding

The Suffolk Guild takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously, believing that all bell-ringers should feel safe and valued in all aspects of bellringing.



Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. The welfare of a young person or an adult at risk is at all times paramount, and takes precedence over all other considerations.

I am a bell-ringer 18yrs +

- It is mandatory to complete the Basic Awareness online training and to refresh every 3 years
- This requirement is in line with other church volunteers who have designated roles, of which bellringing is one



I am a Tower Captain

- It is mandatory to complete the Basic Awareness and Foundation online training and to refresh every 3 years
- This requirement is in line with other church volunteers appointed by the PCC

I am a 'bell-ringer working with young people'

A 'bell-ringer working with young people' supervises/teaches young people [under 18 yrs] and/or supervises those who carry out this role

- It is mandatory to complete the Basic Awareness and Foundation online training and to refresh every 3 years
- Must hold a current clear Enhanced DBS Disclosure status, completed online and registering with the DBS Update Service is recommended
<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/promoting-a-safer-church/safer-recruitment/>
- These requirements are in line with other church volunteers who carry out a role working directly with young people under 18yrs of age

What to do with a Safeguarding Concern

If you believe a safeguarding concern may exist to a member of the church community, a fellow ringer or a member of the public, even if you are not sure, it is essential that you make contact as soon as possible with

- your Parish Safeguarding Officer [PSO]
- incumbent
- Diocesan Advisor
- local authority social care service
- the police

If there is risk of immediate harm call the police - 999

The Parish Safeguarding Statement & Policy will be found displayed in the church together with the name and contact details of the PSO

Visit the Guild Safeguarding page

<https://suffolkbells.org.uk/Safeguarding.php>

- To get the latest tower posters for
 - * Safeguarding Requirements
 - * What to do with a Safeguarding Concern
- keep up-to-date with the latest Guild Safeguarding information supporting Young People [under 18yrs]

Please feel free to get in touch if the information on this page raises additional questions rather than just providing you with an answer

Suffolk Guild Safeguarding Officer

Elizabeth Christian
safeguarding@suffolkbells.org.uk

PRO Report June to Oct 2023

Sudbury St Peter/Sudbury Arts Centre

The building work at Sudbury St Peter is now complete and the reopening celebrations were held on Saturday 28th Oct. The building is now known as Sudbury Arts Centre. It was a packed day of events including ringing; a both up to the ribbon cutting at 10am then from 1100 to 1130, both on all ten.

The work to enable the front six to be rung from the new gallery has been completed by Taylors. The CCT declined the opportunity for us to assure them there weren't any issues with the installation. A light inspection was carried out prior to the reopening of the bells as they hadn't been rung since Sept 2021, and more thorough work to take place in the future. The ringing room is in very poor condition and requires urgent attention.

The new operating team are very supportive of ringing and I'm trying to secure a date for them to meet the local ringers to establish a process for coordinating ringing there going forward.

75th Aldeburgh Festival 2024

We have been invited to play a part in the 75th Aldeburgh Festival. A peal is usually rung at Aldeburgh for the annual event but as it's a special year there will be ringing at other towers. The plan is to have ringing at Aldeburgh on 9 June, Orford on 16 June, and Blythburgh on 23 June. This is being coordinated between local and district ringers and the Festival organisers.

One of the festival's past artistic directors was Imogen Holst, daughter of Gustav Holst. She was an honorary member of the Guild and chose a recording of Debenham bells ringing Bristol when she was a guest on Desert Island Discs in 1972.

Fornham St Martin

The project to rehang the 6 bells and augment to 8 is well underway and old bells and frame have been removed from the tower under the direction of the BAC in recent weeks. This enabled the parish to accept a large discount from the bell hanger and is greatly appreciated. The bells are now at the bell hangers workshop and will be joined by two tenors from Keltek creating a ~12cwt eight, hopefully returning in the spring.

This project is being run by the Guild after the parish entered difficulty in Summer 2022 and requested help. Sincere thanks must go to Alan Moulton and Maureen Gardiner who have assisted me in bringing this project back on track. In that period we have secured 8 new grants totalling £17,250 and over £10,000 in sponsorship donations. There is only a small amount left to raise which is most rewarding given the perilous state the project was in to begin with.

Ringing World

Two Suffolk towers (Eye and Woolpit) have been featured on the cover of the Ringing World in recent months and on request I supplied some text to accompany the pictures.

Monks Eleigh

In advance of their restoration project I was asked to give some advice on good practice and materials for a recruitment campaign.

Levington

I was contacted regarding if the bells at Levington could be rung for a wedding. These are an ancient swing chime of three. They were checked over and chimers sourced for the wedding. The parish have been advised to carry out repair work to the frame so information was given on work that could be done to the bells in conjunction.

Copdock

The project to rehang the bells at Copdock is being initiated and I gave some advice with regards to publicity, grants, and heritage information around John Marven a composer and early member of the College Youths who is buried in the churchyard and has a ringing themed gravestone

Woolpit/Drinkstone

I assisted at a tower open day held at Woolpit for villagers and invited supporters of the Drinkstone project now that they have secured their faculty to proceed.

Little Cornard

Following a letter of support I supplied to Little Cornard, the church has been awarded a £141k Heritage Lottery Grant to carry out repair work on the cupola and tower.

Westhorpe

The project has now launched a website which contains information I supplied on the history of the installation and ringers. <https://westhorpebells.co.uk/>

Laxfield Museum

I was asked to provide some of our learning to ring leaflets to accompany the exhibition on the parish bells at the Laxfield Museum.

Stowmarket

Following the completion of the project they have released an excellent book on the history of the bells and ringers and I please to provide much of the source material and assist with the editing.

Neal Dodge
PRO
October 2023

Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 29/10/2023

Guild email system (*Mailchimp*)

620 people are subscribed (an increase of 16) to the Guild email system, 577 of these are "members" (an increase of 14).

The system can be used to send emails to groups of subscribers, e.g. *All members, SE District members, All Tower Correspondents, NW Tower Correspondents* etc. Just send the copy to me.

I have sent out 36 emails since the last meeting (up until 18/10/2023).

Guild email addresses (*towername@suffolkbells.org.uk*)

I am re-creating these email forwarders as and when required. So far I have re-created 98 .

Chris Garner
18/10/2023