

## Getting back to ringing, what we know and ideas

### SE District

Pettistree - Risk Assessment done, going to ring 5 or 6 bells (depending on bubbles), ringing limited to 45 minutes with 6 named ringers only, will be ringing for both practice, a quarter peal, and for service.

Grundisburgh/Hasketon - Meeting 17th May to decide next steps, Stephen has a CO2 monitor so they can determine what is workable, ventilation at Grundisburgh is better than Hasketon

Clopton - there are no windows, but the floor trapdoor could be lifted, not yet sure what the band are planning

Hollesley - band are very keen to get back to ringing

Holbrook - expect they are keen to get back to ringing and we speculate that they may utilise Harkstead for better ventilation

Felixstowe - also very keen to return to ringing. It wasn't mentioned at the meeting but Jacky Savage may have young ringers so in theory they could have been ringing since April!

Debenham - having glass doors fitted between the ringing room and the church, so there will be no ringing before July

Helmingham - they expect to return to a monthly practice and will try and ring for service

Otley - are tentatively making plans, the ropes are a bit too close together to ring all 6 and they will likely ring 4, there is no opening west door. Wedding at end of month?

Monewden - Jenny, Robert, Tom and Abby will be ringing for a wedding, but they can do this as a bubble

Barking - we don't know what they are doing, but expect that they will return to ringing

Offton – there is a wedding booked but they have decided to not have bells. Planning to restart 21<sup>st</sup> June (if next wave doesn't hit)

Ipswich St Mary le Tower - planning to return to ringing

Ipswich St Margaret, St Matthew and Rushmere we did not know what plans are

Ipswich St Lawrence and St Clement - were rung (when rules permitted) by Salter family

### NW District

Maureen noted that where bands had stayed together and done things like ringing room there seemed to be more purpose and planning. Special effort was being made to ring bells for special occasions, e.g. wedding but a level of reluctance to get back to normal practice ringing. Planning a district practice the 2nd week in June (Ringing Room practice) with a half hour chat beforehand to see what people want to do. Maureen has mapped out the ground floor rings with good ventilation. She will invite all of the TCs for NW District.

Rowan noted that the Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre is now open for bookings only (no drop ins), you can either book for a group of 6 or as a singleton if you are happy to be in an environment with 5 others. We discussed if this would be useful for people to get back into it, spending time just ringing a bell on a simulator to get handling and method ringing confidence back. Rowan may be able to offer a 'Ringing Gym' session at the Norman Tower (daytime probably).

We also discussed if there would be value in people doing tied single bell practice to get their handling confidence back.

Bardwell - planning to return

Woolpit (SW) - re-starting practice from 17th May, 6 named ringers only  
Great Barton - aiming to get a practice going again  
Bury St Edmunds, Norman Tower - have been having handbell sessions on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Next Sunday, 23rd, planning a 1/4 peal on the front 6 of the old 10. They are getting service ringing going again, but there is no appetite to return to practice, people are unlikely to attend a 12 bell tower to ring 6 bells.  
Stowmarket - will face the same issue as Laxfield, as when the bells return the ring will not be the same as the one on which their new ringers learnt to ring

### NE District

Phil noted that a number of their towers are just too tight to be able to ring just yet.

Laxfield - their ringers have learnt to ring on the old 6 and the new ring of 8 are very different, this may pose unique challenges  
Dennington and Badingham - pair up with Laxfield and help and support each other, there is also a relationship between Dennington and Framlingham. Fiona noted that Dennington have lost some ringers as they have moved away whilst we have been unable to ring  
Halesworth - are not able to ring just yet, some of their ropes are currently still with Mendip ropes for repair (new tail ends) and their ropes are just too close together  
Huntingfield - are now paired up with the Halesworth band  
Beccles - re-starting straightway with practices for named ringers only and limiting ringing to 45 minutes  
Southwold - are keen to get back to ringing  
Aldeburgh - re-starting practices from 17th May  
Theberton and Yoxford - are paired up with Aldeburgh  
Philip noted that there may be a need to merge bands.

### SW District

Clare Deanery - have been running 2 Ringing Room practices a week including beginners from Cavendish. They have already started organising bands for service ringing and will try to arrange some 45 minute practice sessions locally between 17 May and 21 June. Christine Knight wrote an article about this for the parish magazine to raise the profile of ringing, this is also on the Clare Deanery website.

### General

Maureen wondered if there would be value in direct emails, or something on the Guild website, to find out how people are planning to return to ringing  
We will ask Chris Garner to send the Risk Assessment template out again to help people plan and Fiona pointed out that the risk assessment is from entry to the building to leaving the building not just the ringing room. The NT one also starts at entry point.  
Katharine noted that she would like to organise some events in the summer at GF rings (with a large church - in case of rain) where people can come, bring a picnic, socialise and maybe ring a bit. With the aim of getting people to be confident with being out again.  
We discussed how we might reach out to those members who were not able to join digital events  
Bells may also need to be checked (BAC could perhaps send out another email prompting people to contact Technical Advisors if they need help).  
Case studies/stories – share examples of how towers have worked/are working together.  
Lateral flow tests!

Maureen – do we need to seize the moment? Little planning time for events in July, August but if we don't make a start now there is a possibility that things may lockdown again in autumn/winter. It would then be even harder to restart in the spring of 2022 after a 2 year break. July/Aug is often difficult as people are away on holidays but perhaps they will be staying local this year.

Should we still keep to the traditional Saturday slots for Districts or maybe hold some events that bring Districts together?

We will meet again in 2 weeks, in the meantime districts will explore further what is going on in their area, Katharine will pick up Ipswich for SE district