

## **District Chairman's report 2017**

I am pleased to report that the district is in good form with attendances at practices increased. The district has been able to hold a monthly event for the whole year.

Jonathan has built on the good work that Tom did and in addition has introduced some new ideas to bring focus to district practices; ensuring the objective is clear and advertised in advance. Jonathan has gone out of his way to 'tee-up' experienced helpers to ensure those attending that are less experienced get the full benefit from the session. This approach has paid dividends.

April saw the district training day at St. Mary-Le-Tower. This year's topic was Stedman Triples (it was April Fool's day after all!). The session was a sell out and the theory was well received by the pupils making the most of the facilities available to us at Church House. Jonathan's organisation and leadership was much appreciated by all those in attendance as was the steady and reliable ringing of the experienced Stedman ringers who were on hand for the practical sessions. What would you like to see a training session on in 2018? – please let the Ringing Master know.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 saw the district hosting the Guild Social. We laid-on a Barn Dance in the Tithe Barn at Sproughton and the early (& plentiful!) advertising resulted in approx. 80 ticket sales. We danced to the popular band, Inertia Reel, enjoyed a fish and chip supper accompanied by a bar serving a variety of drinks including real ale. Whilst this event was never designed to make a profit (hence the beer was at £2/pint!) we were pleased to be able to send £209 for the Guild funds. The 'surprise' additional entertainment was provided by local acapella group (aptly named 'Acafella') that comprises of 4 male singers, including our very-own Ringing Master, Jonathan and Gareth who rings at St. Matthew's, Ipswich. These guys were excellent and provided a very welcome extra dimension to the evening. A big thank you to all those who helped with the evening. All in all it was a great event and it was fantastic to see all those that were able to, up and dancing the final set.

It was unfortunate that the Guild was unable to field a team for the Ringing World National Youth Contest held in Birmingham in July - perhaps we can next year?

At today's Annual District Meeting we will need to fill a number of vacant posts and I would urge you to consider if you could fill one of those posts; they are not overly arduous, in many cases they could give you a reason/excuse/incentive to visit other towers and ring with other members and, you never know, you may just find yourself enjoying it! The vacancies include the post of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

I will close by thanking all of those officers in the District who have given freely of their time over the previous year and for the support I have been given over the past 4 years serving as your Chairman; it has been an honour. I wish the District and new officers every success for the future.

Ralph Earey  
Chairman, SE District, Suffolk Guild of Ringers  
20/11/2017