

# Meeting of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

## 2pm Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Stowupland Church Hall



Minutes taken by Neal Dodge

### 1) Welcome

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 14:06 and welcomed members especially those recently elected to the GMC (*indicated by \**).
- b) Members present:
  - I. **Officers**; Chairman Rowan Wilson (RW), Treasurer Stephen Cheek (SC), Ringing Master Tom Scase (TS), Secretary Kate Gill (KG).
  - II. **NW District**; Neal Dodge (ND), Cath Colman\* (CC).
  - III. **NE District**; Philip Gorrod (PG), Jonathan Stevens (JoS), Sarah Plummer (SP).
  - IV. **SE District**; Mark Ogden (MO), Jenny Scase (JS), Jonathan Williamson (JW).
  - V. **SW District**; Tim Forsey\* (TF), Richard Knight (RK).

### 2) Apologies

- a) Apologies were received from Maureen Gardiner, David Steed, Jed Flatters, Mary Garner, Eric Brown, Pauline Brown, Tony Read, & Winston Girling.

### 3) Absent friends

The meeting stood and remembered

- a) **David Smith.**  
David had been a member of the Guild at Stoke-by-Clare since 1971. He was a long standing deanery rep for Clare between 1996 and 2015 and GMC rep for the SW from 2012 until his death. David rang 3 peals all for the Guild. He passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> Oct aged 80.
- b) **Alan Feaver.**  
Alan joined the Guild in 1952 and was active around West Suffolk; he rang 133 peals mostly for the Guild between 1953 and 1978. He passed away on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug aged 85.
- c) **Peter Hamilton-Jones**  
Peter had been a member of the Guild at Orford since 2003. He passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug aged 91.
- d) **David Jessop** member from 1991 to 2003 in the SW and subsequently NRLM from Bishops Cleeve. David was instrumental in the restoration at Boxford alongside his wife Ann. He passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### 4) Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) The minutes from the meeting on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) No amendments were proposed.
- c) MO proposed they were signed as a true record of the meeting, JS seconded the proposal. The committee unanimously agreed.

### 5) Matters arising from the previous minutes

- a) Action Log from last meeting

	Item No.	Action	Action Owner
1.	7.C.II	To ask Chris McArthur (BAC secretary) to pass all previous BAC minutes to Chris Garner to put on the website.	WG
2.	7.F.I	Email Mary & Chris Garner some suggested amendments to the privacy policy	JW
3.	7.F.III	Review the website and send corrections to RW to collate.	All members
4.	10.B	Send Mary Garner a list of unpaid members for her tower.	SC
5.	10.C	Formulate a plan to improvement the promptness of subscription payments.	RW & SC
6.	12.C	Collate and send 'top tips for hosting the AGM' to Pam Ebsworth.	RW
7.	13.C	Email Kate Gill with the licensing requirements for running a bar at the Guild Social.	JW
8.	13.D	Guild members who can help out with the taster day on the morning of 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept at Halesworth to contact Philip Gorrod.	All members
9.	16.F	GMC members to bring proposals for changing the format of the Striking Contest to the next meeting.	GMC members

10.	17.B	Members to consider options for a replacement six bell shield ready for the next meeting.	All members
11.	AOB	Members to come to next meeting with proposals around the timing of GMC meetings both in the day and throughout the year.	GMC members

- b) **Action 1- Completed.** The BAC minutes have now been uploaded to the website by Chris McArthur. The committee felt these were very useful and often answered questions about ongoing restoration work saving time in the meeting.
- c) **Action 2- Ongoing.** JW sent amendments to Chris & Mary Garner. Discussions are still ongoing with a deadline for completion by the 2020 AGM.
- d) **Actions 3- Ongoing.** No corrections were received by RW but several were submitted separately. The committee felt the website could do with general overhaul. The software and platform used does impose some limitations on how easily the website can be altered. **Action- RW to look at how we undertake a website review including assigning members to review specific sections of the site.** RK commented that as we don't have a Guild magazine it would be good to see similar articles appearing on the website.
- e) **Action 4- Completed.** SC sent Mary Garner the list of unpaid members though normally this would be done by the District treasurer.
- f) **Action 5- Ongoing.** Reminder email was sent out about subscription changes and it will be mentioned at ADMs.
- g) **Action 6- Completed.** 'Top Tips' for AGMs was sent to Pam Ebsworth and was used at their ADM as talking points.
- h) **Action 7- Completed.** JW sent the licensing requirements to KG for the AGM
- i) **Action 8- Completed.** Taster day went ahead and PG will give an update later on.
- j) **Action 9- Completed.** The 8 bell striking contest will be discussed later
- k) **Action 10- Completed.** ND confirmed that David Steed had spoken to Hubert Mitson's relatives and they are happy to fund the replacement of the shield. **Action- ND & David Steed will arrange the replacement of the Mitson Shield.**

## 6) Correspondence

- a) ND had received correspondence from Save the Children regarding ringing for Eglantyne Jebb day on the 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. He has posted this on Facebook and added to it 'What's on'.

## 7) Officers' Reports (*The reports are attached to these minutes.*)

### a) Treasurer's Report (SC)

- I. SC's report proposes some changes to the way day to day banking is carried out for the Guild; PG recommended that this be included in the financial policy document that will be worked up over the coming months.
- II. The committee identified that the other unknown assets mentioned in the report would include things like the Ringing Master's Badge and the Striking Contest Trophies.

### b) Ringing Master's Report (TS)

- I. RW gave an overview of 'Gather' the diocesan annual youth event held at the Cathedral in September. Committee members who helped at this event felt this was a worthwhile event to attend.

### c) Belfry Advisory Committee report (WG not present)

- I. ND enquired whether the work mentioned in the June GMC report at Brome had been carried out to allow ringing to recommence. JoS was unsure if the work had been finished but commented that this tower has a long standing issue with water ingress.
- II. JoS told the committee that **Winston Girling was intending to stand down as both BAC chairman and Technical Advisor at the next AGM.** Replacements for either role have not been identified. Although not an elected position a new affiliation scheme coordinator would have to be found as well.
- III. JoS explained that one of the BAC's recent initiatives is to roll out health and safety procedures for BAC members. This has been developed by David Salter and is currently out for review with bell hangers and the Central Council.
- IV. JoS said the BAC was concerned about work being undertaken without the appropriate faculty. So a briefing document is being prepared which all BAC members will sign to say that they understand what work requires a faculty to stop any issues coming back to the Guild. This will be done at the next BAC meeting in Feb 20.
- V. Winston's report states the bells promised to Combs from Hunslet via the Keltek trust have been withdrawn. However both JoS & RW said that this is not the case, mainly down to opposition from Yorkshire Association. SC sought clarification as to whether to continue hold grant awarded at the

last GMC, as a condition was attached that if the project is to be delivered in a different way the grant is withdrawn and has to be reapplied for.

- VI. MO enquired about the status of Blaxhall bells. JoS confirmed that they cannot be rung on the advice of the church architect due to tower problems.
- VII. RK asked about the plans for St Peter's Sudbury with regard to church restoration project. He was concerned that the current proposal to lower the ringing chamber would further limit the opportunities for ringing. Members had no further update on the proposals that could be provided.
- VIII. RK also asked about whether anything could be done about fixing the sound control at St Peter's Sudbury which was installed with Guild funds, as it was rendered nonfunctional by lead alarm wiring. RW recommend that RK speak with Neville Whittell who is the BAC rep for the SW as this would be something for the BAC to deal with. **Action- RK to speak with Neville Whittell and the BAC on how to fix the non-functioning sound control at St Peter's Sudbury.**
- IX. ND asked about the proposals to change the Grant terms and conditions. Changes were agreed at the June BAC meeting but weren't taken to the June GMC as instructed in the BAC minutes. (*The June BAC minutes are attached to these minutes*). These relate to only awarding grants to projects that have clear & executable recruitment and training plans to ensure the bells are rung after they are refurbished, and to exclude costs relating to augmentations of more than one bell when calculating the proposed grant. PG proposed the following amendments to section 5 of the Grant Terms and Conditions based on the recommendations of the BAC which was seconded by RK.

**"5. The amount of any grant will be determined by the GMC in its absolute discretion, following a recommendation by the BAC, having regard to the following guidelines:**

**i. The grant will not normally exceed 10% of costs. However, smaller projects or those with particular difficulties may be awarded larger amounts;**

**ii. The costs eligible for a grant shall exclude:**

**a) savings made by the use of voluntary labour;**

**b) savings made where materials or services are provided at less than full value;**

**c) VAT where it is reimbursable.**

**iii. The cost of additional bells and fittings will not normally be funded, although this does not preclude a grant towards, e.g. the cost of an 8-bell frame in an existing 6-bell tower;**

**iv. Applicants must demonstrate that they have initiated, or at least have a credible plan to initiate, the recruitment, training and development of a band of ringers to enable the bells to be rung regularly."**

The proposal was passed with one abstention.

- X. There was a feeling that the current process for approving grants at GMC was often muddled with limited and unclear information being provided which prompts protracted discussions at the meetings as demonstrated with recent applications. It was concluded that more information on proposed grants will be provided to members in advance of the meeting.

#### **d) Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer (MyG not present)**

- I. No comments

#### **e) Public Relations Officer (ND)**

- I. ND told the meeting that since writing his report Stowmarket had been awarded Heritage Lottery funding for their project, so he'll be working with Maureen Gardiner to promote this.
- II. As detailed in his report the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day is on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and he asked for thoughts on how the Guild wants to commemorate this occasion. One thought was replicate the ringing that took place in 1945 but unfortunately apart from a few peals there's very little record of which towers rung out. Another idea is to link it to towers whose bells were cast for peace, ND will take this forward.
- III. ND clarified the campaign launched by Bruno Peak to commemorate VE day, similar to one he did for the Armistice in 2018, involves ringing at a set time. However as in 2018 ND recommends that towers ring at whatever time suits them and their local communities, rather than a specific time. This view is promoted by the Central Council.

#### **f) Webmaster's Report (Chris Garner not present)**

- I. No comments

- g) The officers' reports were proposed for adoption by MO & seconded by KG. The meeting unanimously approved.

### **8) Applications for grants and grants outstanding.**

#### **a) Combs**

- I. As discussed under the BAC report (7.C.V), the status of the donated bells remains unclear and as such the project is on hold. Once the status is confirmed either the grant will be withdrawn or the

project will proceed as planned.

## 9) Non Resident Life Members.

- a) Three NRLMs require ratification: Nigel SD Taylor, Ian P Hill, Colin G Wright.
- b) The meeting unanimously ratified these three NRLMs.

## 10) Financial Matters

- a) SC noted to the committee that subscriptions this year are substantially down against 2018. SC has received circa £6.5k of subs compared to £7,419 in 2018. He believes that only another £300 is possibly due. **Action- SC & RW to send out comms to members highlighting the change and encouraging them to pay promptly.**  
**Action- Mary Garner, RW, & JW to establish a way to provide membership information to district secretaries to ensure the correct payment for 2020 is received.**
- b) SC asked whether in the accounts for 2019 he should include a separate line item for a donation given specifically for Young Ringers, the meeting agreed that he should as it was restricted income.
- c) SC asked for guidance on donations for deceased members. Currently SC only acts when notified by district officers of a death, and then either passes a donation to the undertaker/family or refunds the district for the cost of a wreath upto the value of £25. The committee endorsed SC current approach.

## 11) Guild Policy Subcommittee update

- a) Gordon Slack is no longer a member of the GMC so **(Action) PG will contact Gordon to establish whether he will still be a part of the policy subcommittee.**
- b) As PG had previously said the work on the new policies will begin over the winter and he will give an update at the next GMC.

## 12) Recruitment Taster Days

- a) RW gave an overview of the taster day held at Halesworth on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. PG reported that he hasn't had any response from the people with whom he followed up with from the day.
- b) CC suggested that when taster days are held, a follow up session on tower bells should be advertised to get commitment from people on the day. The committee agreed that this was a good idea to take forward.
- c) JoS told the committee about the Heritage Open Day at St Clement Ipswich which was discussed at the BAC. The day was organised by Katharine Salter the mini ring was manned by a few guild members. David Salter reported at the BAC that several people from the day had now either taken up ringing or were close to. David also requested at the mini ring be provided with donation buckets to raise money from the Guild when it was used.
- d) RW asked whether it would be useful to have on the membership form a box where people can explain how they got into ringing so we could establish what recruitment and retention methods worked best. ND replied that it would also be worthwhile for new members to indicate their relevant professional skills so potential guild/district officers can be identified. **Action- ND will speak with Mary Garner about amending the form to include two new fields on recruitment and key skills.** The meeting agreed that we do need to find out more about the new members joining the guild.

## 13) Guild Social

- a) KG gave the committee some feedback on the Guild Social. They sold 63 tickets and returned a surplus of £137 however £55 of that was on drink sales. KG remarked that it was important to have an event that wasn't solely ringing orientated to encourage all members to attend. She thanked everybody that came and thought the event went well.

## 14) Guild 8 Bell Striking Contest

- a) As discussed at the previous GMC RW feels that the 8 bell contest in recent years doesn't have the same atmosphere as the 6 bell contest and proposes that the 8 bell striking contest be merged with the Guild social. The current set up is difficult to find judges for, as it is a long day and requires both 6 bell call change and 8 bell method judging ability.
- b) TS referred back to a point made by KG earlier regarding the social, that it needs to be accessible to early stage ringers and including the 8 bell striking contest will alienate those ringers from attending without proper marketing. He also remarked that a lot of the issues for last year's contest were down to the tower choice of Lavenham, which was a fair distance from Polstead, with a difficult ring of bells for a less advanced band.
- c) MO asked whether an 8 bell call change contest could be introduced as there is only a small portion of the membership that could possibly enter an 8 bell method contest which in turn limits the number of people that would attend. RW said this wasn't something she would take forward at the moment.
- d) PG remarked that instead of trying to make it an event for all members that it could specifically be for more advance ringers and held at the same central location every year.
- e) RW proposed that **the 8 bell striking contest be separated from the 6 bell contest and moved to coincide with the Guild social in September hosted by the NW district.** The contest would likely be in the afternoon leading into and alongside the social element. **The committee voted in favour of the proposal with 6 members for the motion, 7 members abstaining, and none against.**

## 15) Officer Responsibilities

- a) RW introduced a piece of work to map all the tasks required to run the Guild to specific positions. This will allow people to clearly understand what is expected of officers and to ensure everything gets done.  
**Action- All GMC members to fill out the task & responsibility matrix and return to RW**

## 16) 2020 Meetings

- a) Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October. All at 2pm.

## 17) Book on the History of the Guild

- a) PG explained that for over many years George Pipe has been writing a book on the history of the Guild and that he has contacted PG to seek help as he unable to complete it on his own. PG sought help from the GMC to seek out people who would be able to help with this project. PG said the first step would be digitise the current content as it is all hand written. The deadline is to publish the book by 2023 for the Guild's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Several GMC expressed their wish to help. **Action- GMC members to contact Philip if they or anyone they know can help out with the History of the Guild Book.**

## 18) Report Editor

- a) TS enquired after the status of the vacant report editor position. RW replied that she was in discussions with MO regarding the role but there was no danger of the report not being published.

**Meeting closed at 16:39.  
Date of next meeting: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### Action Log

Item No.	Action	Action Owner
5.D	Establish how we undertake a website review including assigning members to review specific sections of the site	RW
5.K	Arrange the replacement of the Mitson Shield.	ND & David Steed
7.C.VIII	To liaise with the BAC on how to proceed with fixing the sound control at St Peter's Sudbury	RK
10.A	Send out comms to members highlighting the change and encouraging them to pay promptly.	RW & SC
10.A	Establish a way to provide membership information to district secretaries to ensure the correct payment for 2020 is received	RW, JW, & Mary Garner
11.A	Contact Gordon Slack to establish whether he will still be a part of the policy sub committee.	PG
12.D	Amend the new member form to include two new fields on recruitment and key skills	ND & Mary Garner
15.A	Fill out the task & responsibility matrix and return to RW	All members
16.F	Contact Philip Gorrod if they or anyone they know can help out with the History of the Guild Book.	GMC members

# Officers reports for the Oct 2019 Guild Management Committee

## Treasurer's Report

### 1) Financial summary as at 10th October 2019

Fund	£
General Fund	7992.17
Restoration Fund	22215.36
Restoration Grants Allocated	43550.00
Library Fund	291.22
Handbell Fund	817.50
The Golden Bottle Trust	4858.00
Jubilee Fund	2115.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	849.91
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2087.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84776.91</b>
<b>Allocated</b>	
CAF bonds	40,000.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	36,562.93
CCLA/CBF St.Peter's a/c	2,015.75
Barclays Current Account	5,879.20
District Cash in hand	319.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,776.91</b>

More funds have been put into CAF bonds, bringing the total to £40,000. This will yield about £250 more than leaving all surplus monies on deposit in the CCLA/CBF General account. The drawback is of course that we lose the flexibility of instant access, so an appropriate balance has to be maintained in CCLA/CBF so that we can always meet our immediate requirements.

All debtors have now cleared their balances, the last one being Mendip Ropes, who always require considerable 'encouragement' to pay for their advertising in our annual report!

The Guild Social returned a profit of £137.62, which has been allocated to the Restoration Fund.

Subscriptions – see separate section (4)

There is an amount of £50 held in the General Fund which is ring-fenced to be used for the benefit of young ringers. Suggestions for using this are invited.

### 2) Grants

Grants approved and paid						
	Approved pre-2019	Approved 2019	Date Approved	Grants Paid	Grants unpaid	Date Paid
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017		250.00	16/08/2018 Part Paid
Little Cornard	10,000.00	Cancelled Feb 2019	17/06/2017		0.00	
Stowmarket	11,000.00		17/02/2018		11,000.00	
Laxfield	12,000.00		17/02/2018		12,000.00	
Fornham St Martin	5,600.00		17/02/2018		5,600.00	
Combs		8,000.00	30/06/2019		8,000.00	
Hitcham		6,700.00	30/06/2019		6,700.00	
Hintlesham		600.00	30/06/2019	600.00	0.00	20/09/2019
Yaxley		454.18	30/06/2019	454.18	0.00	23/09/2019
	<b>39,100.00</b>	<b>15,754.18</b>		<b>1,054.18</b>	<b>43,550.00</b>	

The grants to Hintlesham and Yaxley have now be paid, leaving Hitcham, Combs, Fornham St Martin, Stowmarket and Ipswich St Clement still pending. As shown in the financial summary, the Restoration Fund stands at £22,215.36. Discretion should be exercised in awarding new grants, as some of this money is tied up in CAF bonds which mature from March 2020 onwards.

### **3) Banking**

*This item was included in my report for the June 2019 GMC meeting, but no comments or discussion took place. Perhaps people have views?*

We currently make all our outgoing payments by cheque, with two signatures being required for amounts greater than £1000 (the bank call this a 'complex' arrangement). The financial world is moving towards electronic payment methods, and we already accept and encourage incoming money via this means. I believe that we should consider being able to also use electronic banking for payments out (the day may come when cheques are no longer used!). I already use Barclays internet banking facilities to daily check on the Guild's account activity, so setting up payments would present no problem. I have discussed this possibility with Barclays, and they inform me that since we have a 'complex' arrangement, the highest level of authorisation would always be required for electronic payments i.e. two people to authorise.

There does not appear to be anything in our rules precluding electronic banking, although the procedure requiring two signatories for cheques greater than an amount agreed by GMC is stated in Rules E.12 & E.12.1. When was the threshold of £1000 for two signatures last revised?

### **4) Subscriptions**

I have received just one adverse comment from a member aged between 75-80 (currently free) who will need to pay a subscription in 2020.

I reported in June that there were still outstanding subscriptions, and to a limited extent this situation has improved. The NW and SW Districts are both fully paid up. Total subscriptions year-to-date are £6,420, compared with the 2018 total of £7,419. I have provided district treasurers with lists of people who paid last year but have not yet done so this year. Obviously, some members have passed the 75 age-limit and others may have moved or died, but I believe that there is still money to be collected. We must take positive action to encourage prompt payment of 2020 subscriptions – they are theoretically due on 1st January, but it would be more realistic to expect them by the end of the month latest.

Encouragement to pay by Standing Order would help the late payment situation enormously. I think that District treasurers will need updated information (from the Membership Secretary?) regarding members' years of birth, as the subscription rates for 2020 are governed by new age ranges.

### **5) Insurance**

I have had no enquiries or comments regarding our new insurance arrangements for Personal Accident. We currently insure the Vestey Ring for £5,000, but that is the only item on cover. Other items such as the Guild Library (valued at £13,000) and 'other assets' (whatever they are?) valued at £2,700 are not covered. I am not advocating any specific action, but just think that it is worth making everyone aware of the situation.

**Stephen Cheek**  
**Treasurer**

## **Ringling Master's Report**

Since the last GMC meeting, I have attended the annual Veterans afternoon at Debenham. Once again, it was an enjoyable afternoon, and well attended.

I have visited both Hintlesham and Yaxley as part of the grant process, following various works, and can report a welcome improvement in the go of the bells where work has been carried out.

I enjoyed the Guild social, even if some the questions proved rather difficult! Thanks to the North East for all their hard work in putting together this successful event.

Along with other Guild member, I attended the Gather event at Bury St Edmunds; this year we had a better location within the Cathedral and pleasingly had more visits to the mini ring.

I have attended the North West ADM, at Stowmarket, and am aiming to be present at the three other ADMs.

I am intending to hold another Guild peal week in February 2020 – look out for details in due course, and if you have any requests, please let me know!

**Tom Scase**  
**Ringling Master**

## **Technical Advisors Report**

### **Hintlesham and Yaxley**

Since the June, 2019 Meetings, Hintlesham has been completed in so far as bells 3, 4, and 5 have been fitted with completely new bearings and bearing housings. Bells 1, 2, and 6 still remain to be similarly completed in due course. Most of the parts to do this additional work have been purchased already although it may be necessary to purchase a small amount of additional parts which could involve a small, additional grant application. The work so far has been inspected by me and the Guild Ringing Master and the bells done so far are now easy to ring. Neville Whittell is to be complimented on a first class job. The grant to date has now been paid. A Part B Certificate has been in place for this work.

Yaxley has been almost completed. This included new ground pulleys and fitting bedplates and re- furbishing the bearings on 5 and 6. Some second hand ropes were fitted and there is a great deal of improvement, particularly on the tenor which had been almost unringable. Some slight adjustments remain to be made and the bellframe tightened from the intermediate floor where the tie rod nuts are situated on the ceiling and a scaffold tower required. The bells can now be rung but ringing is restricted until the above is carried out. The grant has been paid for the materials bought. Inspection was by Neville Whittell as I carried out the work (with a lot of help from others).

### **Cotton**

More work to improve these bells has been done and two peals have now been rung on them. The work to stabilize a major support beam has been a great success and was carried out by the BAC Members. In view of the exposed ringing chamber I have suggested to the Churchwarden that the new ropes be pulled up to the next floor for the winter months to prevent the weather attacking them (rain often extends most of the way across the ringing chamber) Cords can be attached to pull the ropes down if needed.

### **Combs**

Information from vicar that Warner eight promised to them has been refused. In accordance with GMC instructions this Parish will have to re-apply when they have new proposals for restoration at this 4 bell tower.

### **Belstead**

Architect requested advice on single bell in 3 bell frame in tower. Bell is a 1664 4 ½ cwt Darbie. Frame and bell fittings apparently in poor order. Church is being run by 'Friends' and I have offered to visit.

### **St. Peter's Sudbury**

London based architects have asked for advice on the installing of a ringing gallery open to the Church. It seems that there is a suggestion that as galleries are believed to have existed all-round the Church they would like this to be re- instated and to include a ringing gallery. Alan Moulton, Jed Flatters and I have attended and advised and Alan will report back.

### **Framsden**

Have applied for Guild grant towards restoring the peal of 8 bells. Only one bell hangers report submitted to me(Nicholson's) and no evidence of local band or indeed positive moves to teach one. In view of lack of information generally cannot move this forward at present time. Have requested sufficient information to allow us to proceed in accordance with Grant Conditions.

**Winston S. Girling**  
**Hon. Technical Advisor**

## **Membership Report**

There have been no elections for membership to the Suffolk Guild since the GMC meeting in June. Sadly I

have been advised of three deaths:

earlier in the summer Peter Hamilton-Jones from Orford,  
in August Alan Feaver, associate member from Rougham,  
in October David Smith from Stoke by Clare, a member of the GMC.

Although Alan Feaver was listed as an Associate Member he had been a prolific peal ringer for the Guild in the 1950s.

## **Safeguarding Report**

Since our last meeting I have been advised of no specific issues regarding safeguarding within the Guild. An update from Chris Mew from the CCCBR, "Safeguarding - a final review" was published in RW issue 5655, September 13th 2019. I think it worth noting that although **National Church Institutions\*** recommends that all bellringers complete the C0 course, it is not mandatory.

Meanwhile the Diocese has now appointed a Safeguarding Coordinator and another person to run Safeguarding Training. I understand from a very recent conversation with the Diocese that, hopefully by the time you read this, there will be training courses available to update C2 qualifications if they are time expired. I also learned that C2 and C3 courses are to be amalgamated and will be called Leadership in the future. These should be found on the "Eventbrite" website. I have asked for the out of date information on the Diocesan website to be taken down, to prevent confusion.

\*National Church Institutions comprise The Archbishop's Council, Bishopthorpe Palace, The Church Commissioners, The Church of England Central Services, The Church of England Pensions Board, Lambeth Palace and the National Society for Promoting Religious Education.

**Mary Garner**  
**Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer**

## **PRO report**

It's been a quiet couple of months from a PR perspective. I made an order for 2000 learning to ring leaflets which have now mostly been distributed to various members across the county along with one request for a recruitment poster as well. These have supported various events including Gather, the annual Diocesan youth event, and Heritage Open Days.

I also responded to a query from the churchwarden of Hinderclay got in touch regarding information on a former ringer who's ashes were being interred at the church.

As well as St Edmunds Day on the 20th Nov the next big ringing event will be the 75th anniversary of VE Day on the 8th May 2020, please do have a think and start planning what ringing you'd like to do in your area.

**Neal Dodge**  
**Public Relations Officer**

## **Webmaster's Report**

Guild emails

I have sent out 26 emails since the last meeting (up until 15/10/2019), which include three *What's On*.

Privacy Policy

I have uploaded a revised [Privacy Policy](#).

**Chris Garner**  
**Webmaster**

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

## Belfry Advisory Committee, and special joint meeting with R & T Committee.

Minutes of meeting - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019: Redgrave 19.30 hrs.

Present –

W.Girling(Chair),C.McArthur(Sec),C.Davies,J.Taylor,M.Steggles,J.Stevens,Z.Gray,N.Whittell,C.Nunn.

Apologies-

T. Scase ( car breakdown half way ) and D.Salter

Welcomes – R. Wilson (Guild Chair)

1. Winston thanked Chris D for his warm welcome, refreshments, and the delightful ring on his refurbished bells and particularly thanked Rowan for facilitating this special meeting.
2. Minutes of Stowmarket BAC meeting 4/2/19 were agreed as accurate and signed by the chairman
3. **Grant application** - Combs has made a full application and the tower has been given a Warner 8, with two new trebles being added to make the 10, at a cost of £97717 (Taylors) with VAT. It was noted that Alan M had asked for the new trebles to make a light front six for learners. After debating it decided to suggest a grant of £8000 – proposed by Jonathan S and seconded by Chris D. This equates to 10%, without VAT and self help. Meeting agreed.
4. **Grant application** – Hitcham has also made a full application for a scheme to restore a derelict six at a cost £85957(Taylors). Fund raising is more advanced than at Combs. After debating it was decided to suggest a grant of £6700- proposed by Chris D and seconded by Chris Mc. This equates to 10% without the self help, chimes and VAT. Meeting agreed.
- 5 **Grant application** – Yaxley has a BAC project led by Winston G to rehang bells - 5 and 6. Chris Mc took the chair for this item. A grant is sort for the cost of materials only, for new bearings, sleeves etc, with reworked pulleys. The project has cost £454.18 ex VAT. Prior to the work these back bells were very difficult. In line with procedures a grant to cover these costs is suggested, proposed by N Whittell and seconded by Jonathan S. The meeting agreed, noting abstentions by Winston G., Zoe G., Chris D., Mark S. and Carol G. They are closely involved with this project.
- 6 **Technical Advisors Report** – Previously circulated and no question raised at the meeting. (Attached to these minutes)
- 7 **Changes to bell restoration fund: grant mechanisms** - Winston G introduced this topic and it was needed to reflect the low reserves position of the guild currently despite a rise in subscriptions agreed for 2020. Rowan W then told us about a useful meeting of the R and T committee the previous week when many ideas as had been discussed, although no one topic had a majority view. It is clear that all new schemes need to have a plan finalised for teaching new recruits that runs sequentially with any proposed restoration project. Equally parishes need to more heavily involved and be committed to detailed project planning. The meeting agreed that previously some magnificent restoration projects had been completed in Suffolk with guild grants and that the system should continue, but with changes to reflect the guilds current circumstances. Much debate ensued from the floor and it was noted that sparsity of ringers was not always a problem, since in a decade's times for example; newcomers to a village could form the basis of new band. Teaching personal are however thin on the ground in the county.
- 8 **Resolutions agreed as our preferences to go forward (Re. grant mechanisms.)** - Firstly, proposed by Jonathan S and seconded by Chris Mc was the following. **For any specific bell restoration project being taken forward, the R and T committee would work with BAC to ensure that the parish and the guild have initiated training and development of a new, or a supplemented band of ringers. This must be started at the same time as site work commences.** This new way of working would need to be developed in detail as a methodology, in due course, by a working group. Secondly proposed by

Alan M and seconded by Chris D is the following. **At BAC meetings the chair will come to each meeting with the latest financial position as advised by the guild treasurer. The meeting will be informed of these balances at the commencement of discussions. A grant offer will be made proportionate to the funds position at that time and will not exceed 10%. This will be only for bell restoration projects (ex VAT) and to include the possibility of the cost of only up to one new bell.**

Alan M explained the current simple grants system worked well with the parishes and they find it relatively easy to understand and complete the application process. This is a refinement of that.

***Both above proposals were extensively discussed, but at the end of the meeting we unanimously agreed upon them both, and Winston G will pass them back to management for their consideration.***

***No abstentions.*** Rowan W had taken part in the discussion and thanked the meeting for coming up with some proposals to work on at other guild committees. Chris Mc would send a draft of these minutes to all BAC members in the next ten days, in order that, particularly those absent could quickly pass any comments to our chairman. It was felt this process was important at such a crucial meeting and some members had not attended because of poor health.

**9** The chairman concluded the meeting at 21.00hrs and no other business was discussed.

**10** **Our next meeting will be at Earl Stonham, for a ring at 19.00 hrs, on Wednesday 9th October 2019.**

John T will kindly investigate whether we can hold the meeting in the church. It should be noted that Neville W asked that his full grant detail, of restoration at Hintlesham, be considered at that meeting.