

**Meeting of the
Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee**
2pm Sunday 7th February
Via Zoom virtual meeting
Minutes taken by Neal Dodge



1) Welcome

- a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 14:02 and welcomed members.
- b) Members present:
 - i) **Officers**; Chairman Rowan Wilson, Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Chairman of the Belfry Advisory Committee Chris Davies, Secretary Kate Gill, Ringing Master Tom Scase.
 - ii) **NW District**; Neal Dodge, Cath Colman, David Steed, Maureen Gardiner
 - iii) **NE District**; Sarah Plummer, Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod.
 - iv) **SE District**; Jenny Scase, Abby Antrobus, Mark Ogden, Tracey Scase, Mary Garner
 - v) **SW District**; Pauline Brown, Tim Forsey.
 - vi) **Guests**: Katharine Salter, Chris Garner

2) Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Jed Flatters

3) Absent friends

There were no absent friends to remember since the last meeting.

4) Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) The minutes from the meeting on Sunday 25th Oct 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) Kate Gill noted that it was Mary Garner who had contacted the diocese regarding the Guild insurance rather than Kate.
- c) The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Chris Davies and seconded by Mary Garner.

5) Matters arising from the previous minutes

- a) Action Log from last meeting

Item No.	Action	Action Owner	Update at this meeting
5	To assist the Salter family with the Guild history project by sharing their request for stories and memories to members especially those who aren't on email.	GMC members	Ongoing
6.e.ii	Clarifying the safeguarding insurance clause with the diocese.	Kate Gill/Mary Garner	Mary spoke with the diocese safeguarding team and they said they would investigate but we haven't heard any further updates. It was also raised with CCCBR as it is a national issue as conflict between CofE guidance and Ecclesiastical insurance.
6.e.iv	Draft a note to district treasurers regarding collecting subscriptions and run this past Rowan before sending it out	Stephen Cheek/Rowan	This was carried out and deemed successful.
9.b.ii	Update grant T&Cs flowchart	Kate Gill	This was uploaded to the website link
9.b.i	Contact Fornham St Martin, Laxfield, Stowmarket, and Ipswich St Clement regarding an extension to their grants	BAC/Chris Davies	This was done through Kate Gill, and all parishes were contacted. This is discussed under 'grants outstanding'
13.f	Look into the possibility of refurbishing eight of the Guild handbells into a good quality set for change ringing.	Rowan	The meeting discussed plans for handbells and felt that many of the bells that we have

13.g	Send out an email to members explaining the situation with the handbells and asking for their thoughts on reducing the number of sets to fund improvements to the other sets.	Rowan	are unsuitable for change ringing due to their size. Due to the insurance cost and lack of income they were a liability.
13.h	Explore fire & theft cover for the handbells	Kate Gill	Kate explored various other providers and found that the current insurer was the most competitive.
14.b.ii	Speak with Chris Garner regarding Microsoft's offering for charities.	Mark Ogden	Districts have been borrowing video conferencing accounts where needed. This is something to consider in the long term.

- b) In relation to subscriptions, Tim Forsey highlighted to the meeting the excellent work Christine & Richard Knight had done in the SW district in following up with members who had not renewed. This led to payments of around £270 in subscriptions. The meeting commended a vote of thanks to them for their support for the Guild.
- c) Under the section about the annual report, Tim asked about the inclusion of the quarter peal at Cotton and whether that was appropriate. The meeting agreed that the QP section of the report was a record of all performances rung within the diocese rather than a tacit indorsement of any circumstances. *Post meeting note: according to rule F23 of our constitution, quarter peals rung in the diocese shall be published in the annual report.*

6) Correspondence

- a) Neal had received two pieces of correspondence, one from the churchwarden at Stuston regarding sources of grants for the repairs to their chime of four bells which they are restoring. Neal passed on a list of donors that had previously contributed to other projects. Alan Moulton the diocesan bells advisor was aware of the project and was in touch.
- b) The second was from ART/CCCB on the Ringing Recovery Champions Network and requesting volunteers from Suffolk. *This is discussed under item 18b.*

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

a) Treasurer's Report (Stephen Cheek)

- i) Stephen confirmed the accounts had now received formal approval from the auditors. He said the auditors did a very good job and have asked some in depth questions. Including why and when the decision was taken to transfer all NRLM fees received into the restoration fund rather than splitting it with the general fund like normal subs. Members present couldn't give an explanation, so Stephen resolved to split them in future years.
- ii) He also confirmed that the reporting to the Charity Commission for 2020 had been completed.
- iii) **Rules & Conditions relating to inspections in person for grants**

Stephen suggested a change to the wording of the terms and conditions to allow greater flexibility for approving grants, this has arisen through the current restrictions preventing Tom from visiting towers in person that are ready for inspection. He highlighted the mismatch between the rules and the grant terms and conditions, as one refers to a substitute and the other does not.

Philip Gorrod and Mark Ogden commented we need not change the rules as there was already scope for another member to visit and report back to the ringing master on whether to authorise the grant.

Kate & Neal will incorporate the change to remove reference to a substitute in the grant terms & conditions as part of the other outstanding amendments to bring them into alignment with the rules. The meeting was clear that the ringing master could

ask another member to inspect an installation on their behalf and then report back for the ringing master to give authorisation.

iv) **80+ membership category**

Stephen remarked that having certain members, those over 80, pay no subscriptions makes keeping an accurate record of membership and our subsequent obligations very difficult and added that there are few organisations to which you can be a member for no charge. Therefore, he would like to see all members pay even a token amount to ensure we can keep a close track of our membership.

Mary Garner said that she concurred with Stephen, but felt it would be better to have 'grandfather' rights and only apply to members as they turn 80 rather than all existing 80+ year old members to prevent a loss of goodwill from those individuals. She also noted that we have got a lot better at accurately recording membership in the 75+ now 80+ category.

Tom Scase asked how many 80+ members there were, and Mary replied that there were 97 in 2020.

Philip Gorrod said that having a proportion of our membership who do not ring or engage with the guild but by virtue of being over 80 do not pay a subscription is of no benefit to the Guild. This will skew the figure required for a quorum at the AGM so they should certainly have to declare each year, in some way whether through payment or not, that they do want to remain members.

Sarah Plummer commented she felt it was a tower correspondent/captain's responsibility to confirm their tower's membership each year including those over 80.

Neal agreed with Stephen's point that there's very few organisations you can join for free and reminded the meeting that during the discussions at the 2019 AGM on the change to the age brackets and increase in subs there was a strong feeling amongst the membership that the GMC should consider removing the free membership category all together.

Rowan thought that post lockdown, the Guild should carry out an audit of the membership to confirm the number of ringers in the Guild and encourage those over 80 to reconfirm their membership and perhaps make a donation in lieu of a subscription.

Maureen agreed with the points made that we need to have an accurate record of our membership and we had been given direction at 2019 AGM to do that so therefore we had reached a point for change.

Action: GMC to consider an audit of members post lockdown and whether still having free membership is appropriate.

v) **Handbell regulations and insurance**

Stephen proposed to amend the handbell regulations to remove the word insurance in reference to donations given the conflict between that statement and the section in the constitution that all insurance should be paid out of the general fund.

Members resolved to leave the wording as it is, given the complexities of arrangements surrounding the handbells and the lack of difference this would make in the practicalities of administration of the handbells.

b) **Ringling Master's Report (Tom Scase)**

The meeting gave it's sincere thanks to Tom for his hard work as ringing master during his term in office.

c) **Recruitment and Training (Rowan Wilson)**

The latest minutes are on the website

<https://www.suffolkbells.org.uk/pdfs/RandT/MinutesRandT20210131DRAFT.pdf>

d) **Belfry Advisory Committee report (Chris Davies)**

- i) Chris gave an overview of plans for a project at Hoxne where a band are currently being taught and a lottery bid is being drafted but due to a dispute over a previous faculty the restoration work cannot begin until that case is resolved and a faculty for the bells is granted.

- ii) Stephen inquired about the learners at Hoxne as there was only a few listed under the tower, Chris replied that they were being taught at Thornham Magna and Bacton. Neal added that one of them joins in with a regular Ringing Room session he attends.
- iii) Neal mentioned that the last BAC minutes notes that Chris Birkby is interested in joining the BAC and asked whether Chris would like the GMC to confirm his appointment to the BAC. Chris replied that no formal contact had been made so best leave it for the time being.

e) **Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer (Mary Garner)**

Mary told the meeting that she now has a confirmed membership total of 694 for 2020. This included 13 new members and 11 deaths. Rowan thanked Mary for her work this year.

f) **Public Relations Officer (Neal Dodge)**

- i) Neal gave the meeting some more details on the proposed work at Sudbury St Peter. The original plan was to have all ten rung from the gallery, however due to the cut back in the floor plan of the gallery required by Historic England that is not possible so the latest idea is to have the facility to ring the front six from the gallery while retaining the current ringing room for all ten. Neal and Alan Moulton put together a paper for the CCT apprising the options for St Peter's which was well received by the architect and CCT. We highlighted the impracticalities that changing over to ring the front six from the gallery would introduce. *Post meeting note: the CCT confirmed they are pursuing the 'front six' option to enable those bells to be rung from the gallery.*
- ii) Stephen asked whether they would be asking for grant assistance, Neal replied that they wouldn't as none of the proposed work is to do with the bells but rather where they are rung from.

g) **Webmaster's Report (Chris Garner)**

Philip enquired about the mismatch in number of people on the email system and number of members who had provided their email address as mentioned in Chris' report. Mary replied that the extra addresses were those of tower contacts who weren't necessarily members.

8) Guild History Project

- a) Katharine Salter gave an update on the Guild history project including touching on the difficulties of capturing the nuances of various topics to give an accurate picture of ringing in Suffolk.
- b) Katharine shared that as part of the project they would like to capture short biographies of all those that have held office to cover how they got into ringing, along with their biggest influences in ringing, and details relevant to ringing in Suffolk. **Action: Current and former Guild officer holders to start putting together a short biography for the Guild history project.**
- c) Katharine thanked those who had already shared items including Julia Johnson of Southwold, though due to current restrictions they were unable to access materials held by the Suffolk archives. She confirmed that they will write to several long-standing members to ensure their memories are captured but would speak to them in person in the coming year.
- d) Katharine asked about shared electronic storage, to ensure that all material that comes out of the project can be securely kept in one place.
- e) Neal asked about whether they were going to record the planned chats/interviews with long standing members as that gives an extra richness to the accounts. Katharine confirmed that they were hoping to do so but had experienced reluctance from interviewees in the past.
- f) Philip asked about the scope of the book given that the material from George Pipe covered a wide range of topics beyond the actual history of the Guild. Katharine replied that they were still at the information gathering stage and did not want to fix the chapter topics at this stage, but it would be all related to the Guild rather than centuries past.

9) Website refresh

- a) Rowan explained the background behind the website refresh and that she wanted to rearrange the content by audience, so have all the pages for learners under one menu and tower captain/contacts under another. **Action: members to review the website and pass any comments to Rowan.**
- b) Chris Garner explained the changes that had been made, the limitations of the current layout and the need to make it viewable on mobile devices.
- c) Neal commented that it is a very good website, with the key thing being that it is kept up to date, so we should be wary of any radical changes. Stephen agreed with this and commended Chris for his work.

10) St Edmunds Clapper

Stephen confirmed there has been around £600 in donations so far. Rowan encouraged people to collect money from all sources including just straight donations and reminded members about the 'innovation' award for most unique fundraising effort.

11) Activities in lockdown

Rowan explained that the R&T committee have collected stories from members across the Guild on what their towers have been doing during lockdown. Very pleasingly there's lots of positive stories around people returning to ringing perhaps because they are more comfortable ringing on three or four bells rather than learning methods on a practice night. Rowan hoped that the good progress many ringers had made in ringing room would translate to capability in the tower.

12) Applications for grants and grants outstanding.

a) New grants

No new grants were proposed

b) Grants outstanding

Stephen proposed and Chris Davies seconded that the date of expiry of the grants for Laxfield, Stowmarket, Combs, Ipswich St Clement, and Fornham St Martin are extended to 31st Dec 2022. The meeting approved this unanimously.

13) Non-Resident Life Members

No NRLMs have been elected since the last GMC.

14) Guild events

a) Service of Remembrance

Rowan thought that it was still too early to plan anything but there had been the suggestion that it be made part of the veterans' day event. Mary Garner thought it should be in the evening or weekend so all who wished to attend could do so. Once we have a clear idea of the removal of restrictions then we will look to plan a service.

b) 2021 AGM

As last year Rowan proposed to hold an AGM planning meeting in March open to all GMC members. She will send round a doodle poll to pick a date.

15) Succession planning

Rowan confirmed that Katharine Salter was willing to stand as Ringing Master.

16) Annual Report

Mark shared with the meeting the current progress of the report. He had received all but four of the officer reports which should be sent to him shortly, but he was still missing several obituaries. Timing was less critical this year as it would not be possible to get hard copies distributed in time for the AGM, but the electronic copy would be put on the website as soon as the proofreading is complete. Mark estimated the report would be 12 pages shorter than last year.

17) Subscriptions

- a) In light of other associations giving their members a subscription 'holiday' for 2021, Rowan asked whether this is something we should consider but noted that a number of members have already paid. The meeting agreed that as the work of the Guild has

continued, and we have still incurred expenses (insurance etc) it would be inappropriate to suspend subscriptions as a whole.

- b) Though the meeting agreed that we should be lenient, on a case by case basis, to those members who through financial hardship brought on by the lockdown find making the subscription payments this year more difficult. Philip Gorrod highlighted that this support is best given at a tower level where an individual's circumstances are known.
- c) Stephen, in his report, proposed that the rates for subscriptions for 2022 remain unchanged, which was seconded by Mary Garner. The meeting agreed with the proposal unanimously.

18) Returning to Ringing

a) Maintenance support to towers

Chris Davies explained that Taylor's the bell hangers, had written to him offering free inspections for a number of towers which would be paid for by a restart grant from the government. Chris thought that it wouldn't be appropriate to take up the offer as it would show favouritism towards them as a company compared to the other bell hangers and wrote a reply, approved by the chairman, declining the offer. However, he would like to offer a similar service of inspections and light maintenance to towers in preparation for the restart of ringing led by the BAC through a message on the website.

Neal asked whether the offer could be shared with the diocese so towers where there aren't guild members could access the service. Chris replied that would be fine to pass the message on via the diocese.

Action: Chris Davies to send out an offer of support to towers from the BAC and Neal to share this with the Diocese.

b) Ringing Recovery Champions

The meeting discussed the ART/CC Ringing Recovery champions network. It was felt assisting with the recovery was a role for all officers. Neal explained that the purpose of the network was to share information and best practice, the meeting felt that the district chairman and ringing masters would be best placed to fill this role and Neal will pass on those officers' details to the network coordinator. **Action: Neal will pass on details to the Ringing Recovery network Coordinator**

c) ART E-Bells

The Guild has been approached about subsidising E-Bells for Young Ringers as part of a scheme organised by ART. The meeting felt that it wouldn't be appropriate for the Guild to fund this, but we could encourage people to donate on an individual basis.

Meeting closed at 17:03.

Date of next meeting 20th June.

Action Log

Item No.	Action	Action Owner
7a iv	Consider an audit of members post lockdown and whether still having free membership is appropriate.	Next GMC meeting
8b	Current and former Guild officer holders to start putting together a short biography for the Guild history project.	Current and former officer holders
9a	Members to review the recent changes to the website and pass any comments to Rowan.	GMC members
18a	Send out an offer of support on maintenance matters in preparation for the restart of ringing led by the BAC and to share this with the Diocese.	Chris Davies/Neal Dodge
18b	Pass on details of volunteers to the Ringing Recovery network Coordinator	Neal Dodge

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting 07 February 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial summary as at 25 January 2021

Current Assets

CAF 12mth bonds	40,000.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	44,909.27
CCLA/CBF St.Peter's a/c	2,153.95
Barclays Current Account	9,454.68
District Cash in hand	<u>300.76</u>
	<u>96,818.66</u>

Representing

General Fund	10,996.24
Restoration Fund	29,295.31
Restoration Grants Allocated	43,050.00
Library Fund	253.22
Handbell Fund	902.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	4,858.00
Jubilee Fund	4,115.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1,161.96
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2,153.95
Unallocated Interest	<u>32.48</u>
	<u>96,818.66</u>

The funds of the Guild and their respective allocations are shown above.

In line with general interest rates, our CCLA/CBF accounts (with instant access) have suffered from falling rates. In January 2020 the rate was 0.75% pa, and by January 2021 this had fallen to 0.15% pa.

The Shawbrook/CAF bonds have fared somewhat better (although they are locked up for fixed periods). We have a £15k bond maturing in March which has been yielding 1.39% pa, and a later £25k bond maturing in August yielding 0.7% pa.

Accounts for 2020

The 2020 accounts have now been prepared and have been submitted to B.A.S. (our independent examiners). Subject to approval they will be made available for the Annual Report. A copy of the accounts is attached (Appendix 'A')

Grants

The grant for Hitcham (£6700) was paid out in December and the current position is as shown in the table below:

Grants - Approved and Paid 2021

	£	£	Date	Grants	£	Date	Notes
	Approved	Approved	Approved	Paid	Grants	Paid	Part
	Previous Years	2021	Approved	Paid	unpaid	Paid	Paid
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017		250.00	16/08/2018	Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018		11000.00		
Laxfield	12000.00		17/02/2018		12000.00		
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019		8,000.00		
Barham	6200.00		28/06/2020		6200.00		
	<u>43,300.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>43,050.00</u>		

The Restoration Allocated Fund (i.e. approved grants yet to be paid) stands at £43050. A further £29,295 is available for new applications.

The grant for Ipswich St Clement technically expired on 22/10/2020 under the 3-year rule, and at the last GMC meeting we gave an interim extension, subject to formal re-application being received. Similarly, the grants for Laxfield, Stowmarket and Fornham St Martin will expire on 17/02/2021 unless requests for extensions are received and authorised.

The Grant T & Cs Section 11 states that the work must be approved by the Guild Ringing Master and Guild Technical Advisor, **or such persons in whom authority is vested by the GMC**. The Constitution Section E15 specifically states that the grants must be authorised after the work has been approved **by the Guild Ringing Master and the Technical Advisor** (without any mention of allowable substitutions). The Constitution seems unreasonably restrictive (as we have discovered during the coronavirus pandemic) and I therefore recommend a simple amendment to E15 as below:

Grants from the Restoration Fund shall be authorised by the GMC, but shall only be paid after the work has been approved by the Guild Ringing Master and Guild Technical Advisor, or such persons in whom authority is vested by the GMC. Grants will normally be offered for work to restore bells and their fittings for full-circle ringing, but may include augmenting and other ancillary work associated with any such project.

Subscriptions

A push for payment from late payers yielded dividends, with quite an influx of subscriptions during the last two months of the year. Subscription income for 2020 totalled £9,000 (16% up on 2019). This should not be treated as an indicator of membership numbers, as it also includes late payers from 2019 and advance payers for 2021!

Regarding fees for 2022, I recommend that the current rates for Peals, Ringing Members, NRLMs, Associate Members and those under FTE remain unchanged. However, I still consider that we should have a small fee for those over 80, otherwise we simply do not have an accurate record of our membership. This could be as little as £1, so should not really be a financial burden for anyone. This change would require a simple amendment to Constitution Rule H2.3 to:

Persons in full-time education and members over 70 years of age shall pay a reduced rate of subscription.

Handbell Insurance

There has been recent discussion regarding the funding source for payment of handbell insurance. There is a conflict between Constitution Rules E13/K16 and Handbell Regulation 6. The Handbell fund does not generate sufficient income to pay for insurance on a permanent basis, so the insurance needs to be covered from the General fund. I am therefore offering a simple solution by modifying Handbell Regulation 6:

The bells are maintained by the Suffolk Guild. Borrowers are requested to give a donation for their maintenance.

Fundraising Initiatives

Our Chairman's St Edmunds Clapper initiative has so far raised over £500, which is a welcome contribution to our funds.

I cannot report on how the Amazon Smile arrangement, which was set up after the last GMC meeting, has benefitted the Guild. They do not have a mechanism for examination of donations, and they just pay them out once a quarter. Time will tell!

Since the last GMC I have also set up an "easyfundraising" account, which gives us a small percentage of purchase price from nominated retailers when members register. So far this has generated £17, which has yet to be credited to us, as it is done on a quarterly basis.

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer

25 January 2021

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Year 2020		Year 2019	
	£	£	£	£
General Fund				
Income				
Donations	316.34		723.40	
Subscriptions	9,000.00		7,774.00	
Peal Fees	237.00		648.00	
Annual Report Advertising	195.00		180.00	
Sundry Sales	29.00		4.00	
		9,777.34		9,329.40
Expenditure				
Annual Report	649.00		673.57	
Members Accident Insurance	434.45		418.21	
Public Liability Insurance	430.98		412.27	
Handbell Insurance	532.60		268.87	
Administration	541.31		965.13	
Central Council affiliation	160.00		160.00	
Hall Hire (Meetings)	21.00		273.00	
Wreaths/Donations in Lieu	75.00		75.00	
Lapel badges	915.60		0.00	
Ringling World Adverts	15.36		14.08	
		-3,775.30		-3,260.13
Net income		<u>6,002.04</u>		<u>6,069.27</u>
Transfers				
Restoration Fund (note 1)		-4,618.50		-4,211.00
Net income after transfers		1,383.54		1,858.27
General Fund as at 1-Jan-20		8,450.20		6,591.93
General Fund as at 31-Dec-20		<u>9,833.74</u>		<u>8,450.20</u>
Restoration Fund				
Income				
Refund of gift aided donations		1,659.78		1,421.48
Affiliation Scheme		1,375.00		1,400.00
St. Edmund Clapper income		611.26		710.00
Donations		660.20		2,032.70
Interest Received (note 2)		639.62		591.59
Guild Meetings and Events		39.91		321.24
Guild Dinner/Social		0.00		137.62
NRLM Fees		40.00		56.00
Jubilee Fund interest (note 3)		37.46		22.99
Vestey Ring				
- donations	30.00		285.00	
- expenses	0.00		0.00	
	<u>30.00</u>	30.00	<u>285.00</u>	285.00
		5,093.23		6,978.62
Expenditure				
Grants Approved in Year		-6,200.00		-15,754.18
Net expenditure		-1,106.77		-8,775.56
Transfer from General Fund (note 1)		4,618.50		4,211.00
Restoration Fund as at 1-Jan-2020		24,381.08		18,945.64
Restoration Fund as at 31-Dec-2020		<u>27,892.81</u>		<u>24,381.08</u>
Restoration Allocated Grants				
Income				
Transfer From Restoration Fund (i.e.Grants approved)		6,200.00		15,754.18
Expenditure				
Grants Paid		-6,700.00		-1,054.18
Net income/ expenditure		-500.00		14,700.00
Grants cancelled (returned to Restoration Fund)		0.00		-10,000.00
Allocated Grant Fund as at 1-Jan-2020		43,550.00		38,850.00
Allocated Grant Fund as at 31-Dec-2020		<u>43,050.00</u>		<u>43,550.00</u>

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Year 2020	Year 2019
	£	£
Recruitment & Training		
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund		
Income		
Donations received	0.00	0.00
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Net Income	0.00	0.00
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 1-Jan-2020	4,858.00	4,858.00
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 31-Dec -2020	<u>4,858.00</u>	<u>4,858.00</u>
Library Fund		
Income		
Donations received	0.00	0.00
Expenditure	10.00	10.00
Net Expenditure	-10.00	-10.00
Library Fund as at 1-Jan-2020	291.22	301.22
Library Fund as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>281.22</u>	<u>291.22</u>
Handbell Fund		
Income		
Donations Received	72.50	50.00
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Net Income	72.50	50.00
Handbell Fund as at 1-Jan-2020	830.00	780.00
Handbell Fund as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>902.50</u>	<u>830.00</u>
Jubilee Fund		
Income		
Donations Received	1,500.00	500.00
Net Income	1,500.00	500.00
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 1-Jan-2020	2,615.00	2,115.00
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>4,115.00</u>	<u>2,615.00</u>
Interest is paid direct to the Restoration Fund		
The Pipe Family Trust Fund		
Income		
Donations received	250.00	50.00
Interest allocated (note 2)	10.48	7.86
	<u>260.48</u>	<u>57.86</u>
Expenditure		
Grants	0.00	208.00
Net income/ expenditure	260.48	-150.14
Trust fund as at 1-Jan-2020	901.48	1,051.62
Trust fund as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>1,161.96</u>	<u>901.48</u>
St.Peter's Sudbury Fund		
Income		
Donations Received	0.00	49.70
Interest Received	8.87	15.10
	<u>8.87</u>	<u>64.80</u>
Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Net income	8.87	64.80
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 1-Jan-2020	2,145.08	2,080.28
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>2,153.95</u>	<u>2,145.08</u>

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2020

Balance Sheet as at 31-Dec-2020	<u>Year 2020</u>	<u>Year 2019</u>
	£	£
Current Assets		
CAF 12mth bonds	40,000.00	40,000.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	48,909.27	36,725.49
CCLA/CBF St.Peter's a/c	2,153.95	2,023.38
Barclays Current Account	2,885.20	8,973.03
District Cash in hand	300.76	300.16
	<u>94,249.18</u>	<u>88,022.06</u>
Representing		
General Fund	9,833.74	8,450.20
Restoration Fund	27,892.81	24,381.08
Restoration Grants Allocated	43,050.00	43,550.00
Library Fund	281.22	291.22
Handbell Fund	902.50	830.00
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	4,858.00	4,858.00
Jubilee Fund	4,115.00	2,615.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1,161.96	901.48
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2,153.95	2,145.08
	<u>94,249.18</u>	<u>88,022.06</u>

Assets

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

The main items (with approximate replacement costs) are:

Handbells	30,000.00
Library	13,000.00
Vestey Ring	4,900.00
Stock of Lapel Badges	900.00
Other Assets	2,700.00

Grants - Approved and Paid 2020

	Approved pre-2020	Approved 2020	Date Approved	Grants Paid	Grants unpaid	Date Paid	Notes
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018		11000.00		
Laxfield	12000.00		17/02/2018		12000.00		
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019		8,000.00		
Hitcham	6,700.00		30/06/2019	6700.00		18/11/2020	
Barham		6200.00	28/06/2020		6200.00		
	<u>43,800.00</u>	<u>6,200.00</u>		<u>6,700.00</u>	<u>43,050.00</u>		

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

Note 2. The interest received from the CBF General fund & CAF bonds is distributed to the Jubilee Fund, Restoration Fund and Pipe Family Trust Fund in proportion to their respective capital sums.

Note 3: The Jubilee Fund interest is transferred directly to the Restoration Fund.

Ringling Master's Report – 24 January 2021

Since the last GMC meeting, the latest Covid-19 restrictions have seen ringing stop again. It looks unlikely there will be an imminent easing of restrictions or return to ringing.

Prior to Christmas, I attended the four District ADMs, which were all held virtually. It was pleasing to see most District officers re-elected and positions filled, although the SW District now has vacancies on the GMC which it would be good to fill!

Restoration work has continued throughout the pandemic (within the guidelines). In November, Alan Moulton and I met at Hitcham as part of the Guild grant sign off process. I rang each bell individually and look forward to ringing all eight together in the future. Following our inspection and recommendation, the Guild grant has been paid.

At the beginning of January, Alan asked me to meet him at Barham for an inspection, following completion of their restoration. As we are currently in lockdown, I have not been to Barham. Both Alan and Jed Flatters are happy with the work at Barham (having been before the current lockdown) so in that respect, I'm happy if we were to agree to pay the grant. There are a few other issues to resolve, though, and we may discuss these further at the GMC meeting.

This is my final report for a GMC meeting as Ringing Master. I would like to thank all who have supported and assisted me during the last five years – it's appreciated.

Tom Scase
Suffolk Guild Ringing Master

Belfry Advisory Committee Report – GMC Meeting 7th Feb 21

There have been no Applications for Grants from the Guild Restoration Fund since the Oct 20 GMC meeting.

At time of writing, Taylors of Loughborough have installed the original 6 along with 2 bells in a new steel frame at Hitcham. The final finishing work should be completed in January 2021. Reports suggest they are a wonderful ring, in a church which has also benefited from new toilets and a kitchen. Taylor's have also completed the of the original 4 bells, cast 2 new bells, and placed all 6 in a new steel frame at Like Hitcham, Barham is better than 95% completed and should be finished in 2021.

Taylor's have also refurbished the original 6 bells, cast 2 new bells and plan to install bells in a new steel frame at Laxfield. The installation should be completed by Spring 2021. Meanwhile Nicholson's of Bridport have removed the original 8 bells at The tower has been stripped and the building work largely completed, before 10 bells installed in Summer 2021.

Over the Christmas break, Alan Moulton spoke to interested parties at Drinkstone, in his capacity as BAC Technical Advisor and Diocesan Advisor. The existing 6 bells (10cwt graded 4) form a poor ring, with porous castings, poor tone, and very poor weight and diameter from tenor to treble. The wooden frame is also in very poor not repairable and not worthy of preservation. He recommended a new steel, 8 bell to include two existing, pre-1700 bells, and the recasting of the remainder into a new The project is at its start, and so it will be a while before they reach the stage of application.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers
7th February 2021
Membership Report to the GMC

Since the October report I have received applications from 4 newly elected members, at the NW Zoom ADM.

I have not been notified of any members passing away since the October meeting, although we learned just before Christmas that Mrs Penny Glasier, listed under Theberton, but resident in Canada, passed away on 29th November 2019, aged 83.

Altogether I have recorded the passing of eleven members since the beginning of the year.

Much time in December and January has been focussed on ensuring that the membership lists for the forthcoming report are as up to date as possible. As a result updated contact details for several members have been acquired as well as subs paid.

Membership in 2019 stood at 756, for 2020 I expect it to be between 700 and 720.

Safeguarding Report to the GMC
7th February 2021

Since our October meeting an issue has been highlighted regarding access to safeguarding training. Following the publication by the IICSA (Independent Inquiry – Child Sexual Abuse) of their report into the abuse of children within the Anglican Church of England and the Church in Wales, the Diocese has been trying to ensure that suitable training is place within every parish. In current times this means that all training is being delivered on-line. Unsurprisingly not all our members have the facilities to access on-line training.

When I discussed this with Karen Galloway (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor) in early December, she said that it was hoped that face to face training would resume in the New Year, and be completed by the end of March. Clearly this will be impossible in the present circumstances.

Mary Garner
Membership Secretary & Safeguarding Officer
31st January 2021

Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 7/2/2021

Website

The menu system has been completely re-arranged after requests form Rowan.

Guild emails

556 people are subscribed to the Guild email system, 525 of these are members.

I have sent out 35 emails since the last meeting (up until 29/1/2021).

Chris Garner
Webmaster
29th Jan 2021

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Public Relations report November 2020 to Jan 2021

Sudbury St Peter

Together with Alan Moulton and other members of the BAC we have put together a proposed solution for the issues arising from the planned installation of a gallery at St Peter's Sudbury. We have worked with the Friends of St Peter's to develop a proposal which has been presented to the architect, they will take this forward for further refinement. It has been very pleasing to have the strong support of the Friends of St Peter's for ringing in Sudbury.

Suffolk infoLink

I've now updated our page on the County Council's infoLink site which provides information on Suffolk organisations.

Updates to the Guidance

With the changes in guidance and relaxation of rules on Christmas Day I ensured this was sent out to members and shared with the diocese to share with their contacts.

Ipswich Christmas ringing

Radio Suffolk featured the slightly different arrangement for the annual Ipswich Christmas ringing event; interviewing Rowan and David Salter. Rowan explained about the online event while David spoke about the 'live' ringing they were doing as a family.

Barham restoration project

I was interviewed by Radio Suffolk in early December on the day the bells returned to Barnham for installation. I spoke to Lesley Dolphin about the restoration project and highlighted the support given by the Guild.

John Loveless GWP biography interview

I arranged for John Loveless to speak with Radio Suffolk on the launch on George Pipe's biography. He spoke about the book's wide appeal which hopefully resulted in some sales.

Sudbury St Gregory campaign launch

In early January an appeal was launched for a restoration project at Sudbury St Gregory involving re-hanging and retuning the bells. This was featured in several newspaper articles. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/fundraising-starts-to-refurbish-sudbury-church-bells-6543716>

Telegraph letter

A letter from the churchwarden at Gislingham was published in the Telegraph regarding the restrictions on ringing given that services were continuing. I contacted Alan Stanley who explained the situation. The president of the Central Council replied to her directly.

**Neal Dodge
Public Relations Officer**