



## Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 10:00 AM, via Zoom

taken by Kate Gill

### 1) Welcome

a) The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:03 AM and welcomed all members. She also welcomed Liz Christian who is a guest at the meeting in her capacity as safeguarding officer.

b) Members present:

**Officers:** Chairman Rowan Wilson, Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Ringing Master Katharine Salter, Secretary Kate Gill, BAC Chairman Chris Davies

**North West district:** Cath Colman

**North East district:** Philip Gorrod, Sarah Plummer

**South East district:** Abby Antrobus, Mary Garner, Mark Ogden (part of meeting), Tracey Scase

**South West district:** Pauline Brown

### 2) Apologies

Neal Dodge, Maureen Gardiner, Jenny Scase, David Steed.

### 3) Absent Friends

Ian Boothman, Higham, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021: Kathy Ferrar, Mendham, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021: Joan Tipple, Pakenham, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

There is no recent membership record for Peter Clifton, Westhall, April 2021, but it was agreed that he be remembered within the Annual Report.

### 4) Minutes of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Item 6 f iii. This was corrected to read 'Guild to attempt to ring 100 peals and 100 QPs'

Stephen proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Sarah Plummer and carried.

### 5) Matters arising from minutes (including actions completed)

These are recorded in the action log below.

#### ACTION LOG FROM LAST MEETING 24 October 2021

Item No.	Action	Action Owner	Update at this meeting
6a ii	Check whether current district secs willing to remain on Guild Dinner Committee and ask for additional volunteers	Rowan	Done. Tim Forsey SW stepped down. Abby continuing as SE rep.
6a iv	Brief to be given to Dinner Committee on activities required, including identifying speaker, visiting venue beforehand etc	Rowan	Speakers one re ringing and one more Suffolk specific.
6b iii	Check lead in times for publication of Guild RW Centenary edition and pass material to Katharine Salter	Rowan	Initial approach made. Rowan to pursue further.
6c ii	Contact Mike Cowling to discuss 'coffee table book' – Guild centenary	Rowan	On agenda

6c iii	Advise Will Bosworth of RW that we are not doing 2023 RW calendar	Rowan	Done, but no response from Will
6e i	Continue to liaise with Mike Cowling (leading) re recordings of Suffolk bells and check consent requirements for recordings in public domain	Rowan & Neal	On agenda
6f iv	Ask districts for ideas to celebrate Guild centenary	Rowan	Rowan asked in January but no response
6g	Consider centenary service (Ipswich?) and involve Bishop at early stage	?	Combine with 2023 ADM. Beccles as venue. See log 12.2.22
8 b ii	Set up a separate interest-bearing Jubilee Fund	Stephen	Done
8b iii	Check terms of St Peter's fund and whether a rule change is needed	Stephen	On agenda
8b iv	Liaise with Mary Garner re chasing up unpaid subscriptions	Stephen	On agenda
9c i	Further evidence to R&T on recruitment and training plans for St Gregory's band. R&T then to consider.	Pauline Brown/ Katharine Salter	R&T plans now received
9c iii	BAC then to reconsider St Gregory's grant after R&T consideration. Application then to be returned to GMC if BAC recommend approval	Chris Davies	On agenda
11 i	Review date on Guild policies to be changed to October 2022.	Chris Garner	Done
11 i	Check which Guild policy requires amendment following comments	Philip	Philip to bring suggestions to next GMC. Liz Christian also to liaise.
11 ii	Decide on team to action ongoing collation and storage of Guild peal records and compositions	Rowan /Katharine	Mark Ogden to assist as well with restoring database. OneDrive capacity to be checked.
11 iii	Investigate costs of expanding Guild website to digitally store Guild records	Chris Garner	Done – no cost involved

## 6) Correspondence

Rowan reported that the Guild has been contacted by Vic Stanbrook regarding personal accident cover for members over 80. This was actioned by Kate. Ecclesiastical have confirmed personal accident cover is not available for over 80s.

## 7) Officer Reports

### a) Treasurer's report

- i) Stephen advised GMC that there is a small amendment to the report circulated. This amendment was later circulated before the meeting regarding the Pipe Trust fund. It should read 'Summary for 2021. No donations received. £44 expenditure on 'Learning to Ring' leaflets.'
- ii) Stephen recommended that over 80 years of age, anyone wishing to remain a member of the Guild should pay a small subscription. Otherwise, there is no certainty as to whether someone over 80 is a member of the Guild, which may be important information in the event of an insurance claim. Mary commented that there is inconsistency between districts as to whether people over 80, although they do not pay a subscription, are regarded as members.
- iii) Stephen reminded GMC that the last sentence of rule H 2.3 will need amendment if people over 80 are to pay a subscription. Notification of a rule change to be voted upon at the AGM will need to be given in advance.
- iv) Rowan will arrange a Zoom in early March before the AGM to discuss proposed rule changes.
- v) Katharine suggested that rule changes to the striking competition rules are also required to make them gender non specific. This will be considered also by the Zoom meeting in early March.

Stephen proposed that subscriptions for over 80s are charged at £5, subject to the rule change being agreed at the AGM. This was seconded by Mary. The proposal was put to the vote, and carried with no objections or abstentions.

## **b) Ringing master and Recruitment and Training report**

i) There were no questions, but Katharine added that one urgent R&T action still has to be actioned.

## **c) Belfry Advisory Committee report**

i) Stephen advised that the Fornham grant was extended to the end of 2022, rather than three years as indicated in the report.

ii) The Combs grant application has been approved, even though further funding is still being raised, as is often the case. Chris indicated that Combs may need a grant extension at some point.

## **d) Membership report**

i) Mary suggested that the Guild needs to find ways of keeping people in touch, perhaps by associate membership, even if they are no longer ringing.

ii) She also emphasised the need for application forms to be submitted on paper, rather than electronically as has been the case during the pandemic, as this achieves much better data protection Under GDPR regulations.

## **e) Safeguarding report**

i) Philip asked Liz to comment on the fact that no routine reminders are issued for renewal of training after three years, or in respect of DBS certificates.

ii) The role descriptions, when issued, should help to provide a reminder to ringers as to the need to undertake safeguarding training. Parish safeguarding officers should be notified and it was suggested that the Guild should ask parish safeguarding officers to remind tower correspondents when safeguarding training needs renewal.

iii) It still needs to be decided how unattached ringer's safeguarding training needs ought to be achieved.

## **f) Public Relation Officer's report**

i) Neal was not at the meeting, but Rowan asked that she is informed of what time the peal at Framlingham on Suffolk day will be.

## **g) Webmaster's report**

i) Mary commented, on behalf of Chris, that he can send out emails to any group of members specified. Individual email addresses cannot be released to members due to GDPR requirements.

Chris Davies proposed that the reports are accepted. This was seconded by Cath Colman and carried.

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

i) Chris advised that no new grant applications have been received, with just St Gregory's Sudbury still to be decided. He outlined the figures in his report with regards to Saint Gregory's and advised that BAC is recommending that the grant should be sufficient to pay the Taylors bill, but not to include contingency. This means a grant of £2955.75, representing 5% of the cost, which BAC suggest is rounded up to £3000.

ii) Katherine advised that her technical queries regarding St Gregory have now been resolved.

GMC voted on Chris's proposal that £3000 is awarded to Saint Gregory's, Sudbury. There were no objections and the vote was carried.

## **9) Ratification of NRLMs**

i) Simon Adams rang last Sunday and his subscription was collected at the time. His election as NRLM was approved by vote.

At this point, Mark Ogden joined the meeting.

## **13) Annual report (moved up agenda)**

i) Mark reported that the annual report is progressing well. The main area of information still awaited, from BAC, is the condition of bells and any changes.

ii) The safeguarding report has still to be approved externally.

Mark left the meeting.

## **10) Saint Peter's Sudbury fund proposal**

- i) Stephen thanked GMC members for the feedback they had given on his paper previously circulated. He reminded members that the issue about the fund had arisen due to queries as to how it could be applied. He thanked Abby for her work locating relevant documents dating back 40 years at the Records Office. The query had originally arisen about whether small decorating costs could be funded out of the fund, but it has now become clear that the extent of work is much greater than anticipated, amounting to several thousand pounds.
- ii) Stephen's view is that although it may have been appropriate to establish the Fund back in 1979, times change and that is no longer the case. He doubted whether the Guild would today sanction the setting up of a fund to look after the money in any tower's belfry box, and the Objects of the Guild certainly do not cover acting as a 'banker' for a tower. He is also not sure about the legality of our charity looking after someone else's money, and as treasurer he feels the Fund should be looked after by the Friends of St Peter's, who are well placed to administer it. He has informally discussed this with the Friends and they are happy to accept the Fund, together with its current restrictions. The Friends are primarily focused on the organ and bells at the church, whilst the fabric is looked after by the CCT.
- iii) Katharine reassured GMC that although she had originally been concerned about the proposal to transfer the fund, she is now able to support the proposal providing practicalities of who will collect tower fees and peal fees and passed to the Friends are in place. Belfry box donations will be passed to the Friends, with peal fees being passed to the Peal Secretary, as at present.
- iv) Stephen had proposed that the Saint Peters fund is dissolved and passed to the Friends of Saint Peter's with the current restrictions attached. This was seconded by Philip.
- v) Philip will assist Stephen with the appropriate wording for the dissolution of the fund.

Stephen's proposal was voted on and carried. Stephen commented that Neal, who is heavily involved with the Friends of Saint Peter's, also supports the proposal.

## **11) Updates and progress**

### **a) Plans for 2023 centenary celebrations**

- i) Rowan explained that plans have moved on since the latest GMC and now consist of a series of sound recordings at towers linked with pictures. These will be held on the Guild website and can be added to as the project progresses. QR codes will be available in each church so that visiting ringers or members of the public can obtain a direct link to hear recordings and see pictures.
- ii) A monthly quarter peal day has been set up for 2022, with an imported band attempting QPs in 3 towers. If a tower band wants to make a recording of themselves ringing, they can of course do so. This project is separate to the centenary plan for 100 quarter peals to be rung. Mike Cowling will be leading this project assisted by Rowan, and he has also been compiling histories of towers for the website, which will also link to the QR codes.
- iii) Additionally, Rowan is planning to cycle to 25 towers in each district and take a picture at each tower, culminating on day 100 by the longest cycle ride from Exning to Aldeburgh.
- iv) Sarah suggested that an ideas board is put up at the AGM for ringers to suggest ideas, together with their name. This list will be collated afterwards and sent out to all members.

### **b) Guild peal records**

- i) This work is still in progress but the list for the annual report this year is correct. It still needs to be reviewed whether the information can be stored in a different format to that held previously.
- ii) Mark is assisting Katharine with restoring the corrupted database, and Stephen may also be able to help with this, together with David Stanford as well possibly.

### **c) Succession planning**

A shadow is sought for Stephen's last year as Guild treasurer, and Rowan has talked to both Philip and Katharine about who this might be. Rowan will continue to pursue and also investigate whether someone else should administer the Gift Aid alongside the treasurer as this reduces the workload on the treasurer.

## 12) Guild events 2022

**a) The AGM** will be held in the South West on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022. Ringing at Woolpit 2pm, with service at 3pm which will include a section to remember our absent friends. Tea at Drinkstone village hall at 4 pm, followed by AGM. Names for tea to Astrid Gale, advertised by email couple of weeks in advance. £5 for adults £2.50 for juniors. No sound system is required. There will be no ringing afterwards, and probably no fringe events.

**b) 6 bell striking competition** 21<sup>st</sup> May. This will be hosted by NE and held at Blythburgh. Arrangements are all in hand, with the only potential issue is if COVID restrictions impact on how the tea can be provided, meaning that it may need to be held in the open air.

**c) 8 bell striking competition and Guild social** This will be hosted by SE. Jenny Scase has asked if this needs to be a joint event but Rowan does not feel it should be split. A scaled down social event may help with planning and the SE district team is asked to come up with some ideas. The SE are also requested to confirm the date of the event as Katharine needs to know this for arranging judges. The third Saturday of September is the most likely date.

**d) Gather 2022** R&T have attended a couple of these meetings which are young persons' events held in the Cathedral. It is a local recruitment opportunity and Rowan is still trying to find out how this can be exploited.

**e) Abbey 1000** the mini ring has been booked for 16<sup>th</sup> of July. Katharine explained that she will be away that weekend, but Rowan is hopeful that the other R&T members can help.

## 14) Any other business

i) The situation regarding Guild subscriptions was discussed. Mary advised that we now have 611 members, representing a 13.5% drop over two years. We should reinforce to members that, even if they are not ringing, they are still supporting the Guild with maintaining heritage and history in Suffolk villages. Mary is trying to encourage members to set up standing orders.

ii) Stephen asked that before the AGM we send out the usual reminder that no subscription means no vote.

## ACTION LOG FROM 12 FEBRUARY 2022

Item No.	Action	Action Owner
(24.10) 6a ii	Arrange meeting of dinner committee for initial planning including identifying potential speakers, one ringing based, one more general	Rowan
(24.10) 6g	2023 ADM to be in Beccles, 15 April, combined with centenary service. Book bells, church and hall in Beccles Establish Bishop's availability to take service and timings	Kate Rowan
(24.10) 11 i	Philip to bring suggestion re policy amendments to next GMC. Liz Christian also to liaise.	Philip and Liz
7a iv	Include notice of proposed rule changes when publicising AGM	Kate
7a v	Zoom in early March to discuss proposed rule changes to subs over 80 and striking competition rules	Rowan Stephen, Mary, Katharine
7 e ii and iii	Ask Parish Safeguarding Officers if they can issue reminders about training and DBS renewal. Consider how unattached ringers are to be included.	Liz
7 f i	Advise Rowan what time the peal at Framlingham will be on Suffolk Day	Neal
10 iv and v	St Peter's fund to be dissolved and passed to Friends of St Peter's. Suitable wording to be formulated. Philip to assist Stephen with this.	Stephen Philip
11 a iv	Ideas board for Guild centenary to be available at AGM for ideas/names	SW
11 b i and ii	Continue with work to restore corrupted peals database and decide if it can be held in different format	Katharine and others
11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan
12 a	Email regarding bookings for AGM tea 2 weeks beforehand	Kate
12 c	SE to suggest ideas for Guild Social in September (combined with striking competition) and confirm date	SE GMC rep

<b>13 i</b>	Provide updated information re bells and condition for Annual Report	Chris
<b>14 i</b>	Remind members no subscription means no vote at AGM	Stephen/Mary

The meeting ended at 12:41 pm.

# SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

General Management Committee Meeting 12 February 2022

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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### Financial Summary as at 06 February 2022

General Fund	13651.83
Restoration Fund	39104.53
Restoration Grants Allocated	24850.00
Library Fund	237.22
Handbell Fund	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3264.52
Jubilee Fund	5292.58
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1122.16
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2175.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90630.41</b>

Our independent examiners have given a clean bill of health to the 2021 accounts, and these have now been submitted to Mark Ogden for inclusion in the Annual Report. See Appendix A

Invoices have recently been sent out to advertisers in the 2021 Annual Report, in anticipation that we will not have late payers this year.

The statutory annual return to the Charity Commission has been filed.

### Grant Payments

Since the last meeting there has been one grant payment of £6200, to Barham.

Here is the latest position on grants allocated and awaiting completion:

	Approved	Approved	Date	Date of	Paid	Unpaid	Date	
	Previous	2022	Approved	Expiry	£	£	Paid	Notes
	Years							
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2022		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		11000.00		
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		5600.00		
Combs	8000.00		30/06/2019	31/12/2022		8000.00		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25100.00</b>					<b>24850.00</b>		

### Subscriptions

£3935 has been received in subscriptions at the time of writing. The total for 2021 was £8485, so this is an indication that many members still do not pay on time. I think that the usual reminder will be necessary in order to ensure that members have a right to vote at the AGM! I do not recommend altering 2023 subscription rates for members up to age 80. However, I would once again suggest that we consider

altering the rules for 80+ so that they pay a small nominal amount in order to remove the ambiguity regarding membership and public liability insurance.

### **Donations**

Summary for 2021: Donations to General Fund £102. Donations to Restoration Fund £560

### **Fundraising Initiatives**

Summary for 2021: £107 was raised in total from EasyFundrasing and SmileAmazon.

### **The Golden Bottle Trust Fund**

Summary for 2021: No donations received. £1593 was spent on simulator equipment at Felixstowe and Southwold.

### **The Pipe Family Trust Fund**

Summary for 2021: No donations received. No expenses incurred.

### **The Library Fund**

Summary for 2021: No donations received. Outgoings totalling £44 on CCCBR affiliation, book and CD.

### **The Handbell Fund**

Summary for 2021: Donations totalling £30 were received. No expenses incurred.

### **Jubilee Fund**

In accordance with the directive from the last meeting, a separate account has now been opened with CCLA/CBF CoFE Deposit Fund, in order to keep this capital fund completely ring-fenced.

Donations totalling £1177 were received in 2021, all from *in memoriam* donations for David Salter

### **St Peters Sudbury Fund**

Summary for 2021: Donations of £20 received. No expenses incurred.

I was asked at the last GMC meeting to investigate aspects of this fund, and a full appraisal can be found in Appendix B, which has been previously circulated. I do not consider that the Guild should continue maintaining this fund, for the reasons outlined, and I cannot see that our Objects give scope to effectively act as bankers for a tower donation box. I therefore propose that we dissolve the Fund and transfer its value, together with its restrictions, to The Friends of St Peter's. They are a registered charity who see themselves as having a significant interest in the care of bells. Informal talks which I have had with their Chair have indicated that they would be very pleased and willing to take on the fund, together with its restricted status.

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer

06 February 2022



## Appendix A

### SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS

ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2021

**Statement from our independent examiners:** We approve the accounts and confirm that the records produced, together with the information and explanations supplied to BAS Accountants, constitute a true and correct record of all the transactions of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021

General Fund	<u>Year 2021</u>		<u>Year 2020</u>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Donations	102.00		316.34	
Subscriptions	8,485.00		9,000.00	
Peal Fees	144.00		237.00	
On-line fundraising	107.39		0.00	
Report Advertising	295.00		195.00	
Sundry Sales	4.00		29.00	
		9,137.39		9,777.34
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Annual Report	554.71		649.00	
Members Accident Insurance	390.36		434.45	
Public Liability Insurance	347.03		430.98	
Property Damage insurance	103.60		0.00	
Handbell Insurance	103.60		532.60	
Administration	308.57		541.31	
Donations	477.55		0.00	
Central Council affiliation	250.00		160.00	
Hall Hire (Meetings)	160.00		21.00	
Wreaths/Donations in Lieu	78.00	0.00	75.00	
Lapel Badges	0.00		915.60	

Ringling World Adverts	12.48	15.36
	<u>-2,682.30</u>	-3,775.30
<b>Net income</b>	<u><u>6,455.09</u></u>	6,002.04
<b>Transfers</b>		
Restoration Fund (note 1)	-4,314.50	-4,618.50
	<u>2,140.59</u>	
<b>Net income after transfers</b>		1,383.54
General Fund as at 1-Jan	9,833.74	8,450.20
General Fund as at 31-Dec	11,974.33	<u><u>9,833.74</u></u>

Restoration Fund	Year 2021		Year 2020	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Gift aid tax recovered		2,254.25		1,659.78
Affiliation Scheme	1,325.00	St. Edmund Clapper income	217.32	1,375.00
Donations		560.00		611.26
Interest Received (note 2)	231.29	Guild Meetings and Events	70.88	660.20
NRLM Fees		0.00		639.62
Jubilee Fund interest (note 3)		19.88		39.91
<b>Vestey Ring</b> donations	80.00	expenses	0.00	40.00
		<u>80.00</u>		37.46
			30.00	
			<u>0.00</u>	
	4,758.62	<b>Expenditure</b>	30.00	30.00
				5,093.23

Grants Approved in Year	0.00	<b>Net income/expenditure</b>	4,758.62	-6,200.00
				-1,106.77
Transfer from General Fund (note 1)			4,314.50	
Restoration Fund as at 1-Jan			<u>27,892.81</u>	
Restoration Fund as at 31-Dec			<u><u>36,965.93</u></u>	4,618.50
				24,381.08
				27,892.81
<b>Restoration Allocated Grants</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Transfer From Restoration Fund (i.e.Grants approved)	0.00			
<b>Expenditure</b>				6,200.00
Grants Paid			<u>-18,200.00</u>	
<b>Net income/ expenditure</b>			<u><u>-18,200.00</u></u>	-6,700.00
				-500.00
Allocated Grant Fund as at 1-Jan			<u>43,050.00</u>	
Allocated Grant Fund as at 31-Dec			<u><u>24,850.00</u></u>	
				43,550.00
				43,050.00

	<u>Year 2021</u>		<u>Year 2020</u>
	£		£
<b>Recruitment &amp; Training The Golden Bottle Trust Fund</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Donations received	0.00		
<b>Expenditure</b>			0.00
Simulators at Felixstowe & Southwold	<u>1,593.48</u>		
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>-1,593.48</u>		0.00
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 1-Jan	<u>4,858.00</u>		0.00
The Golden Bottle Fund as at 31-Dec	<u><u>3,264.52</u></u>		4,858.00
<b>Library Fund</b>			4,858.00
<b>Income</b>			

	0.00
10.00	
0.00	
0.00	
10.00	
	<u>10.00</u>
	-10.00
	291.22
	<u>281.22</u>
	<u><u>281.22</u></u>
	72.50
	0.00
	72.50
	<u>830.00</u>
	902.50
	<u><u>902.50</u></u>
	1,500.00
	1,500.00
	<u>2,615.00</u>
	<u><u>4,115.00</u></u>

Donations received		0.00
<b>Expenditure</b>		
CCCBR Affiliation fees	10.00	
Ringing World CD	18.00	
GW Pipe Biography	16.00	
	<u>44.00</u>	<u>44.00</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>		-44.00
Library Fund as at 1-Jan		<u>281.22</u>
Library Fund as at 31-Dec		<u><u>237.22</u></u>



**Handbell Fund**

<b>Income</b>		
Donations Received		30.00
<b>Expenditure</b>		0.00
<b>Net Income</b>		30.00
Handbell Fund as at 1-Jan		<u>902.50</u>
Handbell Fund as at 31-Dec		<u><u>932.50</u></u>

**Jubilee Fund**

<b>Income</b>		
Donations Received		1,177.58
<b>Net Income</b>		1,177.58
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 1-Jan		<u>4,115.00</u>
Jubilee Fund Capital as at 31-Dec		<u><u>5,292.58</u></u>

(Interest is paid direct to the Restoration Fund)

## The Pipe Family Trust Fund

### Income

4.20 Donations received	0.00
Interest allocated (note 2)	4.20

Grants

### Net Income/Expenditure

Trust fund as at 1-Jan	44.00
Trust fund as at 31-Dec	-39.80

1,161.96

1,122.16

21.12

### Expenditure

0.00

## St. Peter's Sudbury Fund

### Income

Donations Received	20.00
Interest Received	1.12

St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 1-Jan

St. Peter's Sudbury Fund as at 31-Dec

Grants 0.00

**Net income** 21.12

2,153.95

2,175.07

### Expenditure

250.00

10.48

260.48

0.00

260.48

901.48

1,161.96

0.00

8.87

8.87

0.00

0.00

8.87

2,145.08

2,153.95

## Balance Sheet as at 31-Dec Current

### Assets

CAF 12mth bonds	40,009.59
CCLA/CBF General a/c	35,146.10
CCLA/CBF St. Peter's a/c	2,175.07
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	5,292.58
Barclays Current Account	3,835.13

### Year 2021

£

### Year 2020

£

40,000.00

48,909.27

2,153.95

2,885.20

District Cash in hand	355.84	300.76
	<u>86,814.31</u>	<u>94,249.18</u>
<b>Representing</b>		
General Fund	11,974.33	
Restoration Fund	36,965.93	9,833.74
Restoration Grants Allocated	24,850.00	27,892.81
Library Fund	237.22	43,050.00
Handbell Fund	932.50	281.22
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3,264.52	902.50
Jubilee Fund	5,292.58	4,858.00
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1,122.16	4,115.00
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	2,175.07	1,161.96
	<u>86,814.31</u>	2,153.95
		<u>94,249.18</u>

*In the opinion of the Trustees, all of the Funds except the General Fund are restricted in nature.*

### 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	Lapel Badges 900.00
Other Assets	<u>2,700.00</u>	
	<u>51,500.00</u>	

### Grants - Approved and Paid 2021

	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	31/12/2022		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2022		11000.00		

Laxfield	12000.00	17/02/2018	31/12/2022	12000.00	20/04/2021
Fornham St Martin	5600.00	17/02/2018	31/12/2022		5600.00
Combs	8,000.00	30/06/2019	31/12/2022		8,000.00
Barham	6200.00	28/06/2020	31/12/2022	6200.00	29/12/2021
		0.00		18,200.00	24,850.00
	43,300.00				

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

Note 2. The interest received from: CBF General fund, & CAF bonds, and shown in the Jubilee, Restoration and Pipe Trust funds has been apportioned in the ratio of their respective capital sums.

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



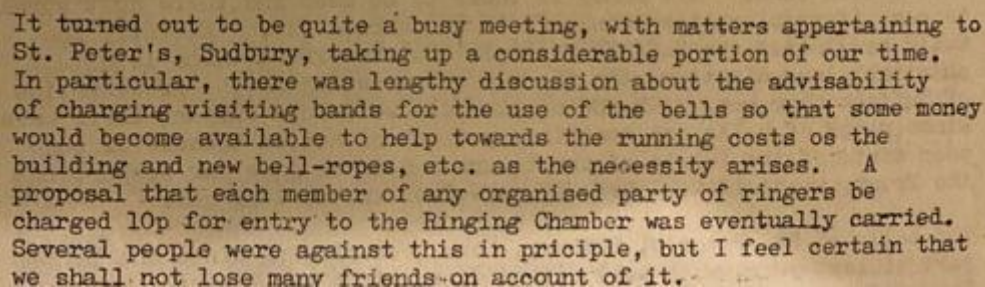
## Appendix B

### St Peter's, Sudbury Fund

Discussion took place at the GMC meeting 24/10/2021 regarding the usage of the St Peter's Sudbury Fund, because a suggestion was made that it could perhaps be used to help with the decoration of the ringing chamber. The question was raised as to whether this would be permissible under the current rules. I was charged with investigating, and my findings follow.

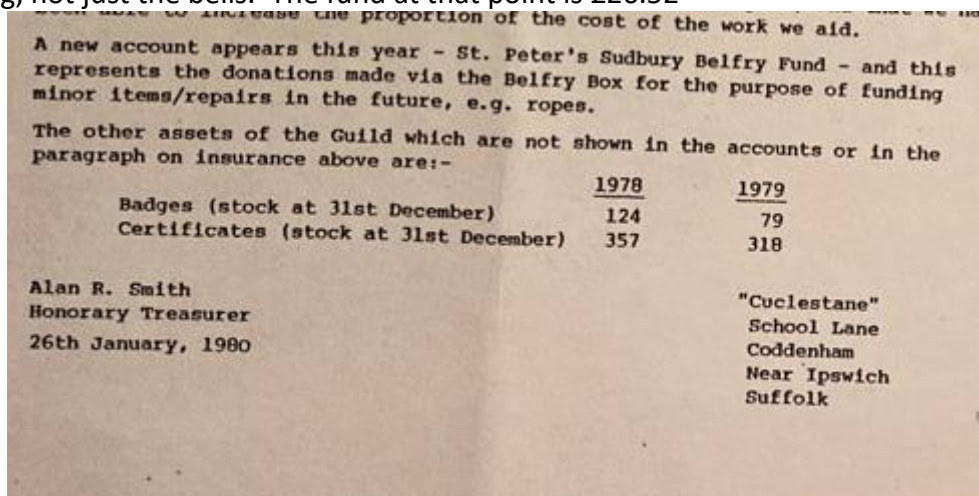
Since 1979 there appears to have been much time and energy devoted to the operation of this fund, and indeed I have spent many hours in investigating the facts surrounding its establishment and usage. I am also indebted to our Librarian, Abby Antrobus, for her time at the Suffolk Records Office unearthing archived documents. Some facts follow:

The Fund was set up in 1979, and the snippet below is an extract from the Chairman's letter of that year. You will observe that running costs of the building are here included.



It turned out to be quite a busy meeting, with matters appertaining to St. Peter's, Sudbury, taking up a considerable portion of our time. In particular, there was lengthy discussion about the advisability of charging visiting bands for the use of the bells so that some money would become available to help towards the running costs of the building and new bell-ropes, etc. as the necessity arises. A proposal that each member of any organised party of ringers be charged 10p for entry to the Ringing Chamber was eventually carried. Several people were against this in principle, but I feel certain that we shall not lose many friends on account of it.

The Treasurer's report for that same year uses a different wording, but this is doubtless because at this point there does not appear to be any formality about the Fund, and it is certainly not in the Constitution. Note the use of the word 'belfry' which implies the actual building, not just the bells. The fund at that point is £26.52



...to increase the proportion of the cost of the work we aid.

A new account appears this year - St. Peter's Sudbury Belfry Fund - and this represents the donations made via the Belfry Box for the purpose of funding minor items/repairs in the future, e.g. ropes.

The other assets of the Guild which are not shown in the accounts or in the paragraph on insurance above are:-

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Badges (stock at 31st December)	124	79
Certificates (stock at 31st December)	357	318

Alan R. Smith  
Honorary Treasurer  
26th January, 1980

"Cuclestane"  
School Lane  
Coddendam  
Near Ipswich  
Suffolk

REPRESENTED BY:		
1,828.22	Restoration Fund	1,061.27
120.00	Jubilee Fund - Capital	120.00
42.28	- Accrued Interest	61.76
21.00	D.I.Y. Maintenance Account	21.00
-	St. Peter's Sudbury Belfry Account	26.52
<u>2,011.50</u>		<u>1,290.55</u>
105.70	Less General Fund - Accumulated Deficit	205.19
<u>1,905.80</u>		<u>1,085.36</u>
(Subject to Audit)		
Alan R. Smith, I.P.F.A. Honorary Treasurer 26th January, 1980		William Barnes Honorary Auditor

In 1980 the Treasure's Report stated:

***The balance on the St. Peter's Sudbury Fund has grown during the year in preparation for financing the soundproofing work which is currently in hand there.***

This certainly confirms expenditure on 'fabric' rather than the bells themselves

The first mention of the Fund in our Constitution that I can find is 1995, where its wording has become:

***The monies in the St Peter's Sudbury Fund shall be used, as required, for running expenses and minor repairs and refurbishments to the St Peter's bells and fittings as authorised by the Guild Management Committee.***

In 1999 (and still current) the wording became changed, to read as follows:

***The St Peter's Sudbury Fund shall be used for running expenses and minor repairs and refurbishments to St Peter's bells and fittings.***

## Summary

To me, 'running expenses', does seem to suggest that the Fund can be used for purposes other than the bells alone. If it was in order to use the fund for sound control back in 1980 (i.e. 'fabric' and not the actual bells and fittings), then I do not think that a further change of rule is needed in order to purchase a pot or two of paint!

Over time the wording of the St Peter's Sudbury Fund has been altered, so there is no reason why it cannot be altered once again to allow for the inclusion of "belfry maintenance" if that is deemed appropriate and necessary. I imagine that the belfry funds of many towers in the county are used to help keep the ringing chamber clean and tidy, rather than asking the PCC to pay for such minor expenses. In the case of St Peter's the Churches Conservation Trust is the responsible body, rather than a PCC. There will be those of course who consider that such action sets a precedent, exonerating the building owners from maintaining the fabric of the building.

It would appear that a lot of time has been spent in arguing about the management of the St Peter's Fund over the years, and I question why the Guild continues to be involved so heavily, with the burden that it unnecessarily imposes. I am minded to put a proposal that the fund is dissolved, with the balance being transferred to the charity "Friends of St

Peter's Sudbury", who are in a much position to administer it effectively. Comments are invited BEFORE the GMC meeting so that valuable time is not wasted.

Stephen Cheek  
Treasurer  
11 January 2022

### **Guild Ringing Master and R&T committee report**

At the end of October the Guild entered a band in the Ridgman Striking contest at Braintree. We rang well and won the contest, my thanks must go to Rowan, David, Richy, Ruth, Brian, Tom, Amanda, Nigel and Colin for ringing so well. The trophy is currently touring the towers where the band hailed included from - the Norman Tower, Woolpit, Offton, Debenham and St Mary le Tower.

I attended all four district Annual Meetings, although I regret being a bit late for the NW meeting, a miscalculation of football traffic on my part. It was lovely to see and ring with NW and SW members at their meetings. It was equally heartening to see NE and SE members at their meetings on zoom. I enjoyed the excellently well attended January NW district practice at the Norman Tower and it was a pleasure to see that the SE practice on 1st January had a similarly good attendance.

The Recruitment and Training committee met twice since the last GMC. We have agreed the training plan submitted as part of the Sudbury St Gregory grant application, this means that the grant can proceed to GMC for consideration. We have a fully booked ART course running at Earl Stonham in March and are looking to run a part two course later in the year.

It is a very exciting time for ringing in Suffolk as we have a several fledgling bands and a good number of new ringers. It is clear that they need support and as an R&T committee we are going to reach out to the membership to see if people can give up one extra night a month to go to another tower to help others. This way we can galvanise a lot of support from a wide range of people, as a committee we are happy to help with the co-ordination of this. We would also like to encourage everyone to consider, as much as they are comfortable, attending other practices as this is where we learn new skills and grow as ringers.

## **Belfry Advisory Committee Report for 10 Feb 22 Zoom GMC Meeting**

The BAC has not held a meeting since 11 August. This is simply because of Covid restrictions, and the fact that we have had only one subsequent grant application - St Gregory's Sudbury.

Our technical advisors have been closely associated with this project, and both recommend that the existing Warner's headstocks are too heavy for the bells and need replacement. St Gregory's currently hold £55,987 in savings and grants. Taylor's are St Gregory's preferred bidder, whose estimate for the work is £69,692, less a self-help allowance of £10,577 (including cost saving measures such as refurbishing the existing wheels), reducing the cost to £59,115. However, Taylor's also suggest that they include in their budget a 10% contingency allowance. This matter was addressed by the BAC by email/post. The BAC suggest a grant in the order of 5% of estimate. This would mean a Guild grant of £2,955.75, which we would like to see rounded up to £3,000. This would bring their fundraising total to £58,987, some £128 short of the Taylor's estimate (but still requiring £5,911 contingency).

During the autumn/winter, the BAC's work has continued helping and advising parishes throughout the county. These include:

Combs. Four bells, in the first part of this project, have been removed from the belfry and returned to Taylor's for refurbishment and the fitting of an electronic chiming apparatus. They are expected to be rehung in the spring of 2022. These bells will not be rung again full circle. The parish has funding for this part of their project but is still raising funds for their eventual plan to augment to ten bells (8 bells from Hunslet via the Keltic Trust plus 2 additional bells).

Drinkstone. The village have formed a committee to spearhead their project, which is in the early stages. Alan Moulton has been helping the parish with their plans.

Fornham St Martin. The guild offered a grant of £5600 in 2018, and the grant offer was extended for a further three years in 2021. The project appears to be advancing very slowly with the village still raising funds for the refurbishment.

Hoxne. Although the initial plans were to refurbish the existing unringable five bells and make a new 6/8 bell ring, the Keltic trust has also offered them a 13cwt set of eight, 1888 Mears and Stainbank bells from Bangor St David. The parish are currently working on their final plans, and have yet to apply for a faculty. The guild will receive a grant application for funding assistance in due course.

Little Blakenham. The parish requested assistance from the BAC after a quintennial inspection questioned the safety of one of their two chiming bells. The BAC Chairman inspected the bells and found the headstock attachments to the bell to be badly corroded/missing. The chiming rope was removed to stop the use of the bell. The Technical Advisor plans to inspect the bell and to make recommendations of how best to bring the bell back into use. This task remains in progress.

Ipswich – St Mary at the Elms. This church has 5 bells in very poor repair, which were originally rung full circle (anticlockwise and non-sequential). Two BAC members are assisting Nicholson's to lower all 5 bells onto the lower frame sills, where the headstocks/ironwork will be removed for repair. Nicholson's plan to re-hang the bells (with more BAC assistance) for electronic chiming, in May 22.

Troston. Five bells had been lowered to the floor some years ago, whilst the sixth remained in the belfry for chiming. That bell has also been lowered and all six bells are with Matthew Higby for restoration, prior to rehang for full circle ringing. The BAC has not been directly involved with this project, nor were the Guild asked for a grant, but the parish has been assisted by other guild members.

Stowmarket. Nicholson's plan the rehang of the Stowmarket ten bell ring, starting Spring 2022. All the preparatory work for the new frame and rehang of the bells has been completed.

Westhorpe. The village plans to augment the existing five bells to six by the addition of a Keltic bell and rehang the six in a new frame. They have requested a faculty to undertake the work. We can expect a grant application for this project in the future.

**nb** The Membership Report for the forthcoming Annual Report for 2021 is at the bottom of the GMC report

## Membership Report to the GMC

7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

There are several things to note about the 2021 membership.

- (i) We have had two years where almost 13 months were unavailable for recreational ringing of any sort and limited service ringing, if the church was open. There were another three months when very limited recreational ringing was permitted if the tower was suitable. There are still a few places where ringing has not resumed.
- (ii) A number of people have given up ringing through increased frailty and medical reasons. Quite a number have moved away.
- (iii) Teaching people to ring has been extremely difficult if not impossible in most places for the last two years.
- (iv) Many meetings have taken place virtually and there has been limited social interaction, apart from some alternative activities, so little direct encouragement to give ringing a try or join the Guild.
- (v) Many, even when allowed, are not yet comfortable mixing with others unnecessarily.

Having finally come to a figure and breakdown of 2021 membership I have unsurprisingly studied the figures quite carefully.

*Total membership decreased by 12% from 2020 to 2021; by 10% from 2019 to 2020. The decrease over the two years amounts to 21%.*

Considering people who **pay** to belong:

*2019 to 2020 increased from 559 to 574 (+3%) – not surprising since age bands changed.*

*2020 to 2021 decreased from 574 to 480 (-16%)*

*The decrease over the two years, 2019 to 2021, amounts to 13.5%*

On the positive side the membership increased from 478 in October 2021 to 611 by the end of the year, that is 133, some 28%. I think there were several reasons for this:

- (i) District officers contacted many by email, phone or face to face and frequently our members just needed reminding.
- (ii) By the end of the year many towers were back ringing.

### **What can we do:**

- (i) Encourage our membership to set up standing orders for January.
- (ii) Encourage our members to “join the club” to help support bell restoration, maintain our heritage etc as well as to ring

There is already evidence that some of those lapsed in 2021 are indeed returning and paying subs for 2022. From the enquiries I have already received I am confident that much of our recently lapsed membership will return.

### **Last but most importantly!**

Regarding **new members** I am pleased that face to face meetings have now resumed. For me this means that we can get back to a paper system, whereby the last stage of becoming a member lies with the Membership Secretary. The form I receive should be completed at the election meeting, signed by the appropriate District Officer and then sent to me, preferably NOT electronically. Whilst accepting that options were limited for the last two years, I am very concerned that emailing copies of the form back and forth means that GDPR regulations are difficult to meet. Not everyone wants their age, email and postal addresses shared so widely. Also I have received copies of forms and in some cases not known whether subs have been paid, whether elections have taken place etc ..... Stephen and I have spent an unnecessary amount of time trying to track down subscriptions.

Mary Garner  
Membership Secretary

**Membership Secretary's Report for 2021 Annual Report**

The total membership by the end of 2021 was 611, compared with 697 in 2020, a net loss of 86, approximately 12%. Fourteen new members were elected during 2021, 12 full and two in the 70-79 category. This, despite limited ringing for the second year running, none until mid April and very restricted until mid July when most towers were able to return to practices as well as service ringing. Sadly five members passed away during the year.

Certificates recognising 50 years of continuous membership of the Suffolk Guild are awarded at the AGM. At the Virtual AGM in April 2021 a certificate was awarded to David Salter.

If a ringer in your tower is ready to join the Guild please ensure that an Application Form is completed and passed to your District Secretary, together with their subscription, ready for election. Once the form has been signed at the election, and is received by the membership secretary, a welcome letter from the chairman is despatched, together with a leaflet which contains information about Guild contacts and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and more besides. A certificate of membership is prepared.

If you move house, change your email address or change home tower, please don't forget to let me know.

Mary Garner, [membership@suffolkbells.org.uk](mailto:membership@suffolkbells.org.uk) , 01728 746097  
Thong Hall, Wickham Market, WOODBRIDGE, Suffolk, IP13 0NG

If you wish to be added to, or removed from, the Gift Aid register etc., please contact the treasurer:

Stephen Cheek, [treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@suffolkbells.org.uk) , 01206 230429

**Membership Summary**

	<b>NE</b>	<b>NW</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Full	60	67	100	69	<b>296</b>	361
70-79	29	33	57	43	<b>162</b>	176
80 and over	20	29	39	18	<b>106</b>	97
FTE	8	6	5	3	<b>22</b>	37
Life Honorary	2	2	11	1	<b>16</b>	17
Associate	2	3	3	1	<b>9</b>	9
	<b>121</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>611</b>	697

FTE (Full time education): members mostly aged 21 and under.

A draft version of the updated **Safeguarding Statement** has been completed following a pulling together of information from

- CCCBR Safeguarding Officers updates
- a video call with Karen Galloway, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
- adopted 'Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework 2021'

As with all Guild safeguarding documents, Karen is currently completing her checks to see the wording is appropriate.

The new framework was only adopted on January 1st 2022. With the diocesan safeguarding advisers aiming for consistency across the region, **Suffolk is currently in the position to confirm**

- the training expectation applicable to all ringers
- the training expectation for ringers in a role which involves supervising/teaching children, young people [under 18yrs] or adults at risk or supervising those who do.
- for whom the specifics of their role require a DBS check

Further meetings are to take place in regards to Leadership training.

In an attempt to make the **training requirements easier to understand and access** for our membership, a table format has been adopted, along similar lines to CCCBR documentation.

**Support** has been provided to an enquiry received from a tower linked to safeguarding training and DBS applications.

### **Covid**

Links to the latest Ringing Guidance for England for the introduction of 'Plan B' restrictions [17.12.21] and post 'Plan B' [27.01.22] from CCCBR, have been updated on the Guild website.

Updates to the **website safeguarding page** are ongoing

Elizabeth Christian  
Safeguarding Officer  
February 2022

## **Public Relation Update for February 2022 GMC**

### **Westhorpe restoration launch**

Following the village meeting and presentation October on the restoration of the bells at Westhorpe we issued a joint press release with the organising committee on the launch of the project. This garnered a great deal of press attention including pieces in the EADT and BFP newspapers, an interview with Clive Mees on Radio Suffolk and on ITV Anglia news. The level of interest bodes well for future stages of the project and for other projects approaching major milestone like the return of Stowmarket's bells in the coming months.

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/westhorpe-church-bell-appeal-launched-in-mid-suffolk-8596910>

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2022-01-04/villagers-fighting-to-restore-church-bells-after-more-than-100-years-of-silence>

<https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/bury-st-edmunds/news/village-community-launching-appeal-to-restore-church-bells-a-9233397/>

Radio Suffolk interview- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f\\_60a\\_0geq8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_60a_0geq8)

ITV News interview- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aenah59ocvo>

## **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen accession.**

The well-established link between change ringing and royal occasions was evident on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen accession last weekend with six quarters, and two peals recorded along with 12 general performances. John Girt was the media star for this event being interviewed first on BBC Radio Four's the today programme and then live from his home by Alistair Stewart on GB News TV where he recounted his experience of being pulled out of his school lesson in Eye to toll the tenor to mark the death of George VI in 1952. I would be interested to hear from any other members who were ringing at the time of the accession and coronation or have a connection with the event as these personal stories add such colour to any media coverage which the main celebrations for the Jubilee in June will certainly attract.

GB News interview- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZwyVGe1CVw>

Radio 4 interview- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lpU5MwwV44>

## **National 12 bell**

Plans are underway for the National 12 bell contest eliminator on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at Bury. The cathedral have been very keen to promote the event and its hope that Radio Suffolk will be able to do an outside broadcast. Our patron, George Vestey is planning to attend as well.

## **Stowmarket handbells**

In December the Stowmarket band rang handbells in the town as part of their outreach programme for the heritage lottery funding they received for the restoration project. Maureen

Gardiner was interviewed on Radio Suffolk both on the handbell ringing and the wider project.

Radio Suffolk interview- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IjFs24H5Hs>

## **East Point radio**

I've built up a good relationship with the team at East Point radio, an online radio station focused on the East Anglia region and I was interviewed by their presenter in early December on the both the Christmas ringing in Ipswich and how the return to normality had been going for us as ringers.

## **Ridgman trophy win**

Katharine was interviewed by Radio Suffolk both before and after the Guild's win of the Ridgman trophy 10 bell striking contest held this year at Braintree.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETyTTw5ml-g> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDBJnQGejMU>

## **Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Katharine and I met with various parishes and the diocese team responsible for the Jubilee celebrations over zoom to discuss the event. We hope to be able to share plans for the both the four day weekend and the the wider Festival of Suffolk with members shortly.



## First peal at Barham

Paul Corbett, Barham tower captain, was interviewed on Radio Suffolk shortly before the first peal on bells was rung in November. The piece includes some of the opening ringing on the bells.

## Suffolk Day

I was briefly interviewed on Radio Suffolk in January to discuss our plans for Suffolk Day (21<sup>st</sup> June) which will include ringing across the county as normal along with a peal attempt at Framlingham, the host town for this year's event.

## Ipswich Christmas Ringing

A welcome return for this regular event in the Guild calendar saw Katharine Salter being interviewed by Radio Suffolk on the history behind the get together and the pleasure at being able hold it in normal fashion since 2019.

Neal Dodge Public Relations

Officer

## Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 12/2/2022

### Guild emails

546 people are subscribed to the Guild email system, 512 of these are "members".

I have sent out 42 emails since the last meeting (up until 7/2/2022).

### Web site

I am slowly updating the tower pages to agree with *Dove* as I become aware of discrepancies (bell weights and notes) between *Dove* and the website.

Chris Garner

7/2/2022