



**Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee
Sunday 26 June 2022, via Zoom**

Approved minutes taken by Kate Gill, from Zoom recording

1) Welcome

- a) Philip Gorrod opened the meeting and explained that Rowan is unable to make the meeting, and therefore she has asked him to chair it. Mary Garner proposed that Philip chair the meeting and this was seconded by Chris Davies. All were in favour.
- b) Philip said that in Rowan's absence the agenda items 10 and 11 would be postponed until a future meeting which can be held in person.
- c) Members present:

Officers: Treasurer Stephen Cheek, Ringing Master Katharine Salter, BAC Chairman Chris Davies,

North West district: Cath Colman, Maureen Gardiner, Neal Dodge (joined later in meeting)

North East district: Mike Cowling, Philip Gorrod

South East district: Abby Antrobus, Mark Ogden, Jenny Scase, Mary Garner

South West district: Pauline Brown

- 2) Apologies for absence** Kate Gill, Dave Goldstone, Jed Flatters, Sarah Plummer, David Steed, Tracey Scase, Rowan Wilson

3) Absent friends

Don Price, who died on 14th May this year at the age of 92 years, was elected to the Guild in 1980. There will be a memorial service held for him at Reydon on Friday 8th July at 11:00 AM. Hand bells will be rung by Philip, Mike Cowling and Stephen Pettman. There will also be open ringing.

4) Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2022

Stephen proposed and Cath seconded that the minutes be approved without amendment. All were in favour. Subsequently it was noted that the reference to the Guild AGM in Beccles in 2023 in the progress log should read AGM, not ADM.

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

ACTION LOG FROM LAST MEETING 12TH February 2022

Item No.	Action	Action Owner	Update at this meeting
(24.10) 6a ii	Arrange meeting of dinner committee for initial planning including identifying potential speakers , one ringing based, one more general	Rowan	Will Bosworth of RW booked as speaker. Approaches underway to Mark Murphy and Lesley Dolphin BBC Suffolk
(24.10) 6g	2023 AGM to be in Beccles, 15 April, combined with centenary service.	Kate	Church and bells booked. Tea and meeting to be held in

	Book bells, church and hall in Beccles Establish Bishop's availability to take service and timings	Rowan	church. Confirmation re Bishop still to come.
(24.10) 11 i	Philip to bring suggestion re policy amendments to next GMC. Liz Christian also to liaise.	Philip and Liz	Held over – Liz still working on them
7a iv	Include notice of proposed rule changes when publicising AGM	Kate	Done
7a v	Zoom in early March to discuss proposed rule changes to subs over 80 and striking competition rules	Rowan, Stephen, Mary, Katharine	Done
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	Ongoing
7 f i	Advise Rowan what time the peal at Framlingham will be on Suffolk Day	Neal	Done
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	Done
11 a iv	Ideas board for Guild centenary to be available at AGM for ideas/names	SW	Done
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	Ongoing
11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan	Little progress. Couple of approaches made but no positive outcome yet.
12 a	Email regarding bookings for AGM tea 2 weeks beforehand	Kate	Done
12 c	SE to suggest ideas for Guild Social in September (combined with striking competition) and confirm date	SE GMC rep	Done Offton 24.9.22
13 i	Provide updated information re bells and condition for Annual Report	Chris	Done
14 i	Remind members no subscription means no vote at AGM	Stephen Mary	Done

There were no other matters arising.

6) Correspondence

- a) Philip reported that Rowan had received no correspondence, and other members of the meeting confirmed they had not received any either.
- b) Post meeting note – Kate had been approached by the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Ringers for a reasonably detailed survey about the Suffolk Guild's geographical spread, structure and current activities. Kate had kept Rowan informed of the answers she had given to Peterborough. She has received no feedback from them since.

At this point Neal joined the meeting.

7) Officer Reports

a) Treasurer's Report

Stephen highlighted a few points from his report:

i) There is a tendency for members not to pay their subscriptions until they are reminded. Stephen feels we are giving out mixed messages regarding the payment date as being either 1st January or before the AGM in April. There is also another question about Personal Accident cover if a member hasn't paid their subscription in time. Mary backed this up by saying that when a Guild insurance claim was made some years ago, we had had to confirm to the insurers at the time that the member was paid up with their subscription.

ii) After some discussion about possible approaches, it was agreed that Stephen would e mail district treasurers and chairmen and ask them to set up robust systems within their districts to ensure that subscriptions are paid on time.

iii) There has been a substantial bequest from the late David Salter which has been paid into the Jubilee Fund, which is a capital fund. Interest from the Jubilee Fund is paid into the Bell Restoration Fund.

iv) The Jubilee Fund has a balance of £36,000, but attracts only a very low rate of interest. Stephen suggested that, in view of the greatly increased balance within the Jubilee Fund, we should seek an increased rate from either a building society charity account or via an asset management company.

v) GMC was clear that the safety of the investment is paramount and therefore a building society charity account might appear to be the better option. Mark suggested approaching other associations or guilds to see what approach they take.

vi) Stephen will approach other Guild treasurers as suggested, and has an exploratory meeting booked with an asset manager.

b) Ringing Master and Recruitment and Training Report

i) Katharine had nothing to add to her report. The centenary edition of the Ringing World will be discussed at the extra GMC meeting.

ii) Philip congratulated Katharine and the rest of the band on their performance at the national 12 bell competition the previous day.

iii) The Westhorpe application for grant will be considered by R&T before it goes to BAC for consideration prior to coming to GMC.

c) Belfry Advisory Committee

i) Chris drew GMC's attention to the incident where a churchwarden had fallen through a floor and all agreed that this was concerning.

ii) After discussion, it was agreed that the reference in the report to the cracked tenor at Fressingfield should be amended to the cracked tenor at Worlingworth.

iii) There was brief discussion about the Troston restoration work, where the Guild has not been asked for a grant and BAC has not been involved. However Guild members have been assisting.

iv) The condition of the Cotton bells, as shown on the Guild website, needs amendment, which will be considered by BAC at their next meeting. Chris pointed out that the work that had been done on the Cotton bells, which were hard to ring, was to make them available for shorter periods of ringing, not peals. Arising from this, there was discussion about whether the work of the BAC is sufficiently well connected to ringers who are active peal ringers. Chris does not accept that there is a disconnect and pointed out that there has been substantial damage to ropes in Cotton through pealing.

v) It was queried whether the membership of BAC should be widened to include active peal ringers, and Katharine pointed out that there are inconsistencies in the application process.

- vi) Chris was asked if BAC could run events in various locations to train members about bell maintenance. No firm decision was made about this, although BAC has recently trained a steeple keeper at Framlingham.
- vii) Chris pointed out that the membership of the BAC needs to consist of members who are actively interested/competent in maintaining and restoring bells.

d) Membership

- i) Mary expressed her concerns about confusion about how a person can become a member of the Guild. She emphasised the information should be held on the Guild's manual filing system and that paper copies of forms, properly completed and signed, should be sent to her.
- ii) The forms should be sent to her after a ringer has been properly elected, and with a note as to how the subscription has been paid. A box will be added to the subscription section on the form to include reference to payment by BACS as well as by cheque or cash.

e) Safeguarding

- i) Philip referred to the extensive report on safeguarding provided by Liz Christian. It was observed that there may be issues getting ringers to complete the safeguarding courses, and whether the religious element of the training may be putting off some agnostic ringers. This was not generally considered to be a problem, and it was acknowledged that the content of the training has improved recently.
- ii) Towers need to be aware that some regular visitors may be required to produce evidence of safeguarding training.
- iii) Parish safeguarding officers should be completing checks on who has completed the requisite training, and it was agreed that the Guild could then work on any gaps in training.

f) Public Relation Officer's report

- i) Neal had nothing more to add to his report. It was generally acknowledged that the Platinum Jubilee ringing has been a great PR exercise and that the 'Learn To Ring' leaflets have, on at least one occasion, generated someone wanting to learn to ring.

g) Webmaster report

- i) GMC recorded its thanks to Chris Garner for all his work, especially around the photographs and sound recordings being done in conjunction with Mike.
- ii) Mark advised that the master record of tower correspondence and bell conditions, which is maintained by Chris, will be used to keep records synchronised for next year's Guild annual report.

8) Applications for grants

- a) An application for grant has been submitted by Westhorpe, but has yet to be considered by R&T and then by BAC. Grants currently outstanding are shown in the Treasurer's report.

9) NRLM

- a) Ros Burrough was proposed as an NRLM and her election was agreed by the meeting.

- 10)** Agenda items 10 (AGM 2022 review and AGM 2023 plans) and 11 (updates/progress for centenary) were held over until the additional GMC meeting to be arranged.

11) Guild events

- a) Veterans event on 13th July at Debenham
- b) Guild 8 bell striking competition and Guild Social at Offton on 24th September
- c) Young persons' event at Abbey 1000 in BSE. Philip reported that Rowan had been trying to obtain more information from the Diocese, without success, and is inclined not to pursue

participation this year as no recruits have been obtained from previous events. Additionally, R&T are unable to field enough people to support this year's event due to other commitments.

- d) Heritage Open Days will be held in Halesworth and BSE and perhaps other locations as well.

12) Any other business

a) Personal Accident cover under the Guild insurance policy

- i) Stephen referred to the briefing note provided by Kate with regards to personal accident (PA) cover held by the Guild with Ecclesiastical Insurance. He had been in discussion with Kate about this and had previously looked after the Guild insurance until a couple of years ago when Kate took over responsibility.
- ii) The most important aspect of the insurance with Ecclesiastical is the Guild's public liability cover and Stephen's view is that the PA insurance has been an additional incentive for members and that we should not take too much time reviewing it.
- iii) The policy states, and this is reflected on the Guild website, that PA cover is available for members who are 'involved in Guild activity'. There is limited experience of claims, Neal referring to one claim made some years ago by a self employed gardener who had tripped on his way to ring.
- iv) Stephen explained that the insurers had been changed in 2019 from Howe Maxted to Ecclesiastical as at that time the Guild needed to reduce costs as we had had to start paying independent examiner's fees. However, he had managed to negotiate PA cover upwards to the age of 80.
- v) GMC focused on PA cover when teaching learners and whether Ecclesiastical would classify it as a Guild activity, although teaching is defined as one of the activities of the Guild within the policy schedule.
- vi) The relationship with the cover offered by PCCs was also discussed, although each band would need to check the cover held by their own PCC in this respect. Secular towers would not be covered by PCC cover and Chris pointed out that CCT towers are not covered by insurance, with the possible exception of public liability cover.
- vii) Stephen referred to Kate's paper where she said that she had checked the position with Ecclesiastical to confirm that PA cover would only apply to Guild activities. This had been the basis on which he had understood the cover to operate when he arranged the insurance.
- viii) It was considered important that teaching learners should be covered by the Guild insurance, as this can be considered to be a riskier activity than the BAC work on bells and frames, as it is easier for them to take mitigating actions against risk.
- ix) Katharine advised that the original policy covered teaching and bell maintenance and perhaps the cover has become diluted over the years. However we should establish exactly what we do require from insurance, perhaps referring this to the members as part of the future of the Guild discussions, and then look to change insurers at the next renewal date if we feel this is necessary.
- x) It was agreed that Philip will talk to Kate about the discussion, and ask her to contact Ecclesiastical again to run through a series of scenarios about the extent of PA cover and report back to GMC.

b) Scam emails

- i) There have been several instances of scam emails, which are generated via the scammers picking up e-mail addresses from the Guild website. Most scams are readily recognisable. Philip said that Rowan had asked him to ask members to take care. Stephen recommended that emails are sent to officer addresses rather than personal e-mail addresses wherever possible.

c) Laxfield

- i) Neal asked about the position at Laxfield, as there had apparently been no dedication yet of the new bells. There will be a NE district meeting there next year in March, as it had not been possible to find suitable dates this year. Jenny went to Laxfield with the Debenham band on a ringing outing at Easter and was pleased to see that active teaching and ringing is taking place in Laxfield. Additionally, the BAC is planning to meet there in the autumn.
- ii) Katharine will ask Fiona Shuttle about whether there are plans to have a dedication and whether a Guild Rep should be invited to this.

d) Mitson Shield

- i) The Shield is now full, and Jonathan Stevens had been approached to make a replacement but no progress had yet been made. It was not clear whether Jonathan was still prepared to do this work and if not, a commercial shield will need to be obtained. It is understood that the Mitson family is happy to pay for a replacement, but Neal will recheck with David Steed that this is still the position.
 - ii) Katharine will ring Jonathan to see he is still happy to make the shield.
- e) Rowan has asked Philip to mention that, whilst we are encouraging more people to become members of the Guild, we should be clear that we are not discouraging people from elsewhere from ringing in our towers.
- f) Philip passed on Rowan's comments that both R&T and BAC should hold three meetings per year, as required by the Constitution.
- g) Neal is keen that as much of the Guild's history as possible is archived, although there was discussion as whether this is a worthwhile use of time.
- h) There was further discussion about the Guild insurance, with a view that requiring learners to become Associate Members of the Guild would give them the benefit of insurance. It also needs to be remembered that if a teacher hasn't paid their subscriptions they are not a member of the Guild and therefore not covered by insurance.

13) Date of next meeting

Sunday 23rd October 2022

The meeting closed.

ACTION LOG FROM 26 JUNE 2022

(24.10) 6 a ii	Finalise all speakers for Guild dinner (Will Bosworth already booked)	Rowan
(24.10) 6g	Confirm Bishop for service at Guild AGM 2023 in Beccles	Rowan and Kate
(24.10) 11 i	Bring suggestions re policy amendments to next GMC, obtaining Liz Christian's input	Philip
(12.2) 6g	Finalise speakers Guild dinner	Rowan
(12.2) 7 e ii and iii	Ask Parish Safeguarding Officers to issue reminders about training and DBS renewal. Consider how unattached ringers are to be covered (see action log item 7 e iii also from 26 June	Liz
(12.2) 11 b i and ii	Continue with work to restore corrupted peals database and decide if it can be held in a different format.	Katharine and others

(12.2) 11 c	Identify successor to Stephen as Treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid	Rowan
7a ii	Ask district treasurers and chairmen to set up robust system re subs reminders	Stephen
7 a v & vi	Investigate building society charity accounts and also asset management	Stephen
7c iv	Review condition classification for Cotton bells	BAC
7e iii	Guild to review gaps in safeguarding training when Parish Safeguarding Officers have completed their review	Liz
12 a ix	Explore members' desires around PA insurance as part of future of Guild discussions	Rowan
12 a x	Send list of PA insurance claim scenarios to Ecclesiastical	Kate
12 c ii	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend?	Katharine
12 d i	Check with David Steed if Mitson family still happy to pay for replacement shield	Neal
12 d ii	Check with Jonathan Stephens if he is still willing to make replacement Mitson Shield	Katharine

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS
General Management Committee Meeting 26 June 2022

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial summary as at 18 June 2022

General Fund	14521.03
Restoration Fund	40852.14
Restoration Grants Allocated	27850.00
Library Fund	227.22
Handbell Fund	932.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3264.52
Jubilee Fund	36157.68
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	1122.16
St. Peter's Sudbury Fund	0.00
TOTAL	124927.25

Grant Payments

There have been no grants paid out since the last meeting.
 Here is the latest position on grants allocated and awaiting completion:

	£				£	£	
	Approved	Approved	Date	Date of	Grants	Grants	Date
	Previous			Expiry		unpaid	Paid
	Years	This year	Approved		Paid		
Ipswich, St Clement	500.00		22/10/2017	31/12/2022	Part-paid	250.00	16/08/2018
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	8,000.00		30/06/2019	31/12/2022		8,000.00	

Sudbury, St Gregory

	3000.00		
25,100.00	3,000.00		0.00
	12/02/2022	12/02/2025	3000.00
			27,850.00

Debtors

All invoices have been paid, and we currently have no debtors.

HMRC Gift Aid

£1674 has been claimed and received in respect of subs and donations made to the Guild in 2021.

Subscriptions

£7815 has been received in subscriptions at the time of writing. This represents 92% of the total subs received in 2021, but the usual late payers may well bring this level up. At a district meeting in May I reminded a couple of people about their subs being very much overdue, and received the response that they would always pay when reminded, and saw it as the duty of the Guild and its officers to do so! I pointed out that as members of the Guild they should know the rules - unbelievable! Maybe we still have work to do in getting the message across.

Donations

I have received a BACS donation of £50 from C J Cheeseman, but have been unable to trace who this is, and therefore unable to acknowledge it. In the absence of any further information this has been allocated to the General Fund.

Fundraising Initiatives

AmazonSmile has raised £15.29 year-to-date, and EasyFundraising £83.12. It is worth keeping the profile of this painless method of fund-raising on the radar, as it costs nothing for members to make purchases through either platform.

The Golden Bottle Trust Fund

No activity to report

The Pipe Family Trust Fund

No activity to report

The Library Fund

The annual £10 library affiliation fee to CCCBR has been paid

The Handbell Fund

No activity to report

Jubilee Fund

The Jubilee Fund received a bequest of £30573 from the estate of the late David Salter, which together with *in memoriam* donations from individuals has boosted its value to £36k+. For many years the fund was relatively low in value, and with generally low interest rates it made little difference where it was invested. However, since it is a capital fund not allowing withdrawals, it can

be invested long-term to gain maximum interest. I am therefore now looking to identify better charity-based accounts with good yield.

St Peters Sudbury Fund

This fund has now been dissolved, and its value, together with all restrictions, transferred to the Friends of St Peter's, Sudbury. No further reporting will take place.

Stephen Cheek - Treasurer
18 June 2022

Guild Ringing Master and R&T committee report

It has been a really busy spring period for the Guild and ringing in Suffolk.

I was delighted to represent the Guild at the Buxhall dedication, congratulations to the Buxhall band for their hard work and creation of an excellent and very handy ring of 8. I understand that good progress is being made at their practice nights.

The Norman Tower band made an excellent job of hosting one of the national 12 bell contest eliminators at Bury St Edmunds in March. Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich both entered bands, this is no mean feat as it is extremely pressured (no matter how much you may try to relax). Ipswich, much to their astonishment have qualified for the final which is the day before GMC.

We held our first in person AGM since 2019, the towers on the way in were well attended, but we could have done with a few more ringers in the tower before the service. Thanks to the Woolpit and Drinkstone ringers for their hospitality. I was honoured to be able meet some of our new members in person and give them their membership certificates.

11 peals were rung for Guild Peal Week, including marking the 30th anniversary of Richard Munnings' first peal, he marked the occasion by ringing another peal with 3 of the original band. Molly Waterson, Philip Moyse, Robert Beavis and George Salter remembered their Suffolk routes and rang a peal together in Bristol. Simon Rudd called his 1750th peal, a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at the Norman Tower with a largely local band, well done to all concerned. At Great Barton Louis Suggett completed the circle to peals.

The SE district held their striking contest on the first Saturday in May, congratulations to Pettistree who won the Cecil Pipe Method Trophy and Hollesley who won the David Barnard Memorial Call Change Trophy.

The NE district made a cracking good job of organising the Guild 6 bell contest at Blythburgh, we were lucky with the weather which enabled people to listen outside and wander around the village. Congratulations to Ipswich St Mary le Tower who won the Mitson Shield and Thurston who won the Lester Brett Trophy. The Mitson Shield is now full and as a Guild we need to consider whether we retire it or wish to get an even bigger trophy!

The Jubilee weekend saw Suffolk ringers turn out in force to make the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, another amazing example of what we can do when we work together and a brilliant example of ringers providing a service to the community we live in.

Just today the Guild entered a band in the Ridgman Striking contest at Kings Lynn, defending the trophy we won last October. The test piece was Erin Caters we rang well and won again, my thanks must go to Mike, Mark, Richy, Ruth, Cath, Julian, Tom, Amanda and Colin for ringing so well. Once again, after engraving, the trophy will tour towers represented in the band - the Norman Tower, Pettistree and St Mary le Tower. Next year's contest will be at Towcester method Spliced Plain and Little Bob Royal.

The Recruitment and Training committee hasn't had a meeting in recent months, it has been challenging to find time between ringing events. We did however run a part 1 ART course in March, expertly organised by Jenny Scase and the participants are now teaching their first pupils. The Westhorpe grant application is now in and I will endeavour to arrange a committee meeting in the near future so that we can consider their training plan.

There continues to be good news about new bands and new ringers, ringing at Bramford is taking off with a band of learners taught by Matt Thomas and John Doy that are now supported by the Sproughton band, Jonathan Williamson and Amanda Richmond. The first group of Westhorpe learners have embarked on their ringing programme supported by Maureen Gardiner and others. It would be great if people could manage to give up some time to help those less experienced than ourselves, as usual there are a small number of people giving a great deal of time and effort it would be wonderful if we could support them.

Belfry Advisory Committee Report for 26 Jun 22 GMC Meeting at Stowupland

The BAC has not held a meeting since 11 Aug 21. This is because of the continuing presence of Covid, and the fact that we have had only one subsequent grant application – Westhorpe. However, the Westhorpe application was not received in time to be dealt with before the 26 Jun meeting and both R&T and the BAC have agreed to present it to GMC at the autumn meeting. We plan to hold a BAC meeting during the summer at Laxfield.

The potential dangers associated with bell maintenance, namely large weights at height cannot be over emphasized. This is highlighted by a recent incident in a Suffolk Church when a churchwarden entered a bellchamber unaccompanied and fell through the floor. She was trapped in the disintegrating floorboards for over 3 hours, hanging above a significant drop, and despite having a mobile phone on hand, she was unable to raise help. Please stay safe and invoke all relevant safety procedures when working on behalf of the Guild. No job is more important than the safety of the individuals carrying it out.

During the Spring, the BAC's work has continued helping and advising parishes throughout the county. These included:

Brent Eleigh, St Mary. Replacement of chiming rope.

Blythburgh, Holy Trinity. In preparation for the Guild six-bell striking contest, the upper pulley blocks on the five and six bells were removed and refurbished, to reduce the excessive noise they had been making.

Combs, St Mary. 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. Delays in obtaining the chiming apparatus has meant that they are now expected to be rehung in the late summer 22. 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 (eight bells from Hunslet via the Keltic Trust plus two additional bells). The Guild offered a £8k grant towards this project on 30 Jun 19 and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Cotton, St Andrew. The parish have been advised that all bell maintenance should cease until such time as the bellchamber floor is made safe. Very limited ringing will probably continue, without any bell maintenance, until the floor is repaired.

Chevington, All Saints. General frame tightening and lubrication of this five-bell tower.

Cretingham, St Peter. Frame tightening, stay replacement and general maintenance of this 8 cwt, six bell tower.

Drinkstone, All Saints. The village have formed a committee to spearhead their project, which is in the early stages. The six bell, 11 cwt ring are unringable due to excessive frame movement. Alan Moulton has been helping the parish with their plans.

Fornham All Saints. Securing of ceiling bosses and general frame tightening of this five-bell tower.

Fornham St Martin. The project appears to be advancing very slowly with the village still raising funds for the refurbishment. The Guild offered a £5.6K grant towards the project on 17 Feb 18 and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Framlingham, St Michael and All Angels. The BAC have been busy in this church tightening the frame, replacing ropes and generally fine tuning the installation prior to a BBC recording of the bells. They have also trained a new steeple keeper.

Fressingfield, St Peter and St Paul. This 17 cwt, eight bell tower has had a cracked tenor for some years. The Guild Technical Advisor and the BAC Chairman inspected the bells and found at least three significant cracks in the bell. Due to the extent of the largest crack, we advised the parish to stop ringing the bell.

Great Livermere, St Peter. Inspection, lubrication, and general tightening of the frame.

Hoxne, St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund. 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.

Kentford, St Mary's. Replacement of rope on the chiming bell.

Little Bealings, All Saints. The BAC were requested to assist refurbishing the half wheels used to chime these two bells. Oddly, the church does not appear in Dove's Guide. The wheels had suffered serious degradation, but they were repaired sufficiently to be able to ring the bells for the Platinum Jubilee. Further restoration of the fittings and wheels will take place over the summer.

Little Blakenham, St Mary's. 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 has inspected the bell and made recommendations of how best to bring the bell back into use. This task remains in progress.

Hopton, All Saints. Correction of odd struck bells.

Horham, St Mary. Replacement of tenor rope.

Ipswich – St Mary at the Elms. This church has five bells in very poor repair, which were originally rung full circle (anticlockwise and non-sequential). Two BAC members have assisted Nicholson's to lower all 5 bells to make them safe, whilst two bells will be rehung for electronic chiming, in late summer 22.

Monk Soham, St Peter. The Guild Technical Advisor and the BAC Chairman inspected the bells and found a significant crack in the second bell (of the 12 cwt, five bell ring). Due to the extent of the crack, we advised the parish to stop ringing the bell.

Oakley, St Nicholas. Replacement of broken Hastings stays.

Rougham, St Mary. Frame tightening, lubrication, and a general inspection.

Stoke by Clare, St John the Baptist. Inspection of bells, frame and fittings.

Stowmarket, St Mary and St Peter. Nicholson's plan to rehang the Stowmarket ten bell ring, starting spring 22 has again been delayed, largely due to Long Covid severely affecting their workforce. It is now unlikely to happen before late autumn 22. All the preparatory work for the new frame and rehang of the bells has been completed in the tower. The Guild offered a £11k grant towards this project on 17 Feb 18, and an extension was granted at the 7 Feb 21 meeting to 31 Dec 22.

Sudbury, St Gregory's. Great progress has been made since the £3k grant approval at our Feb 22 meeting. The bells have been removed to Loughborough where they will receive new headstocks and bearings, before being returned to Sudbury and rehung in late Aug 22. It was particularly pleasing to receive the following email from Taylor's after the bell removal – *"Just a quick note to say thank you very much for all the help you and your "gang" of assistants gave during the Sudbury take out. Special thanks for putting in a long shift on the Wednesday! I was very happy with the way everybody worked safely and efficiently throughout"*.

Troston, St Mary. This ring of six was cast by Robert Stainbank at Whitechapel in 1868. They were removed from the tower in the late 1950's to allow extensive strengthening work to take place to the tower, but funds ran out before the bells could be refitted, and only the tenor was rehung for stationary chiming. All the bells will be rehung for full circle ringing with new fittings in a new bellframe, mounted at a lower level in the tower. 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.

Westhorpe, St Margaret. A grant application for this project has been received and will be dealt with at the Autumn GMC meeting. Our technical advisor has been closely associated with this project and a faculty has been granted. St Margaret's Westhorpe is an 8cwt, five bell tower and it is planned to extend that to six bells by the addition of a Keltic bell. However, the existing bells are not well matched in terms of size and tuning, and the preferred bellhanger (Taylors) have recommended several options to improve the anomalies. As a result, a final plan has yet to be agreed and indeed may not be finalized until the bells are accurately surveyed at the bellhangers. The village is actively raising funds and plans a National Lottery application to provide the majority of the funding.

Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Membership Report to the GMC
26th June 2022

Sadly I must report that Don Price, from the NE District, passed away on May 14th, aged 92.

I am pleased to report that it appears that 18 members have been newly elected to the Guild so far this year. I have heard rumour of two more, but seen no evidence and two elected last August, who chose not to pay then have paid this year, making a possible total of 20 or even 22. I am unclear whether three of these have paid however, but will confirm with the treasurer before the GMC meeting.

In addition there have 21 returners from 2018/2019 and 2020 who have paid subscriptions for 2022. It has been rather tricky and time consuming to keep track of newly elected members so far this year. In the light of data protection I don't think we should be emailing forms hither and thither. Surely a single paper copy is enough. I sent an email to all the District Secretaries, copied to

Chairmen, in early March, asking for **completed** forms to be sent to me by **post**. When subs are paid electronically they can then be matched up easily with forms, if I have received them.

Mary Garner
 Membership Secretary
 19th June 2022

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Safeguarding Report to the GMC **17th**
June 2022

Action Log 7e ii and iii

All attached and unattached bell-ringers are encouraged to login and view their profile on **safeguardingtrainingcofe@portal.org** where they can source their current safeguarding training certificate status and access courses as and when required. All information is then at their fingertips.

On completion of a training course, forward your ‘Congratulations on completing a safeguarding training course’ email to the Parish Safeguarding Officer [PSO] of where you are currently a band member or if unattached, a tower where you ring on a regular basis. Through this, you will have made a direct link to the PSO and they will then be in a position to keep in touch with you.

[updated on revised June 2022 The Suffolk Guild of Ringers Safeguarding Statement to be on website before the end of the month]

In an effort to support the PSOs in their role and to engage all bell-ringers [Guild members or not], Karen [DSA] and I have come up with the following.

Every tower/band elects a named bell-ringer to act as their link to the PSO. This can be a band member and does not have to be the Tower Correspondent or the Tower Captain.

This exact same information will be with all St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese PSOs.

named bell-ringer link	PSO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update with the names of the band members on a as and when required basis [irrespective of whether Guild members or not] - all band members are ‘church officials’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • now aware as to who to expect Basic Awareness certification confirmation from • on receipt of certification confirmation from individual bell-ringer, will be in a position to keep in touch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify if any members of the band are under 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • now aware a designated ‘bell-ringer working with children’ needs to be confirmed, hold an enhanced DBS and have completed Foundation training • PSO will action with designated individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify if any members of the band are accredited ART teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • now aware as to who to expect Basic Awareness, Foundation and enhanced DBS confirmation from

Support has been provided in relation to the following enquiries

- safeguard training certification expiry
- how can I check my current safeguarding training status
- is a DBS required for my current role

Updates to website safeguarding page

- revised Suffolk Guild of Ringers Safeguarding Statement [March 2022] as a one page document, ready for display in all bell towers
- statement encouraging anyone with further questions to get in touch
- name and email link [as given in Handbook for 2022]

In progress

- inclusion of a QR code for the 'report a concern' information in Annual Report & on tower poster
- completion of CCCBR Guild/Association audit tool to identify areas of good practice and also areas in which improvement may be needed - this includes a look at policy amendments
- message out to members signed up on webmaster and to tower correspondents encouraging a look at the updated CCCBR safeguarding pages, confirmation of training course and DBS requirements for Suffolk, resources to be on display in tower/belfry
- update of documentation on Guild website safeguarding page following the many recent changes on CCCBR website - adopting more of a division of information to hopefully assist those looking for responses to their questions and for me directing people to where help can be found

Elizabeth Christian, Guild Safeguarding Officer June 2022

Public Relations Officer Report Feb to June 2022 Learning to ring

I had a person contact me regarding learning to ring and their details were passed on to the nearest tower which was Felixstowe in this case.

Platinum Jubilee

Pleasingly 158 performances were recorded over the Jubilee weekend including 17 quarter peals and 2 peals. The NW district ran an event at the Redgrave Church open day where I gave a presentation on ringing and good number of people then came up the tower, saw a demonstration of ringing, and had a go with experienced teachers lead by Maureen Gardiner.

Please make sure all Jubilee ringing in your local area has been recorded on BellBoard, once this is complete I will collate them together and send out to stakeholders including our Patron, the Diocese, the Lord Lieutenant, and Buckingham Palace who will be very interested to hear of our efforts on this special occasion. A worrying number of ringers including whole bands taking part in the recorded general ringing were not Guild members, we should be encouraging everyone involved in ringing no matter what level to become a Guild member.

12 bell striking contest

I worked with the cathedral and local organisers to produce a press release for the 12 bell striking contest eliminator that was held at Bury in March. I then spoke with Radio Suffolk both before and after the contest and they will be looking to cover Ipswich's entry into the final on the 25th. Rowan was also interviewed by an internet radio station prior to the contest.

Sudbury

St Peter

The main contractor, a company called Universal Stone, has now been appointed for the church regeneration project. So we will look to them for a quote to replace the ringing room ceiling and to discuss the coordination of other works to be carried out to improve the state of the installation. Universal Stone carried out repair work to Beccles Bell Tower a few years ago and did not cause any issue with the bells.

St Gregory

I organised the last ringing on the bells of Sudbury St Gregory prior to the restoration project starting. We rang a successful quarter peal on the 22nd May with the bells being removed to the bell hangers the following week. I shared the news on local social media which was greatly received. I made contact with a local photographer who came and documented the removal of the bells by taking some excellent pictures. More publicity will be organised for when the bells return later in the year.

AGM

George Vestey was pleased to be able to attend our Guild AGM service at Woolpit and was honoured to read out the names of members lost during the Covid period. He will hopefully be attending more Guild events in future.

Stowmarket

Although the bells are yet to return the project has been receiving coverage for it's on going outreach programme. An excellent guided tour of Stowmarket was organised as part of the Suffolk Walking Festival on the 17th May with costumed actors telling the history of the town and connections to the bells. Maureen talked to Radio Suffolk to advertised the walk and provide an update on the project. A film of the highlights has been uploaded to the Guild YouTube channel and can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5guZ7em6eWl>

Digitisation

Mark Odgen has now digitised the remaining annual report so all can be viewed on the website which provides a superb historical resource. Pleasingly the NDA have, with encouragement, digitised a good portion of their annual reports for their website so the vast majority of Suffolk ringing history of the past 120+ years is now freely available. Sue Marsden has also digitised the Ely DA report but these are not currently online. The next set of materials that could be digitised would be the Guild newsletters, along with the output of the Guild history project.

Drinkstone

I supported the launch of the Drinkstone restoration project by providing some promotional materials which have been adapted by the team and have also undertaken some historical research assisted by Abby on the bells and the ringers of Drinkstone which will aid their Heritage Lottery bid.

Ipswich St Nicholas

The diocese are looking to move out of St Nicholas, I have sought assurances on our continued access to the bells in its future use. I have been referred to the Head of Property for the Diocese, Dawn Gillet, who fortunately is a Guild member at Buxhall.

Muffles

I was contacted by a leatherworker from Ardleigh, Peter Ward, to share contact details with ringers as he is able to make muffles. This is his website <https://timestyles.co.uk/>

Doves Guide

49 updates have been made to Suffolk towers in Doves Guide since the last meeting informed by a mixture of me, Guild members, and other experts. It is important this vital resource is kept up to date, so if you notice any errors do contact the team and Chris Garner if it effects data on the website.

Suffolk Day

With the help of Rowan I organised a peal at Framlingham, the host town for this year's Suffolk Day and was covered by a Radio Suffolk outside broadcast. The band scored the peal and named a new method, Suffolk Day Delight Major in honour of the occasion. <https://complib.org/method/45622>
A quarter peal was also rung at Pakefield, the most Easterly ring of bells in the county (as Lowestoft are temporarily out of action) appropriate given that Suffolk is the most Easterly county in the UK.

Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 26/6/2022

Guild emails

552 people are subscribed to the Guild email system, 517 of these are "members". I have sent out 38 emails since the last meeting (up until 19/6/2022).

Web site

I am continuing to update the tower pages to agree with *Dove* as I become aware of discrepancies (bell weights and notes) between *Dove* and the website. I am also adding links to *Dove's List of nearest towers*.

Chris Garner
19/6/2022

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE. BRIEFING TO GMC 26 June 2022

Introduction

The Guild holds a policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance, providing cover of £5000 for the mini-ring, public liability cover of £5,000,000, trustees' liability of £100,000, together with two units of personal accident (PA) cover, up to age 80, of £5000 and a weekly allowance of £200/£80 in the event of permanent/temporary disability. This short paper discusses the PA cover and asks the GMC to consider a number of alternative actions. The total annual premium is £792.83, of which the PA element costs £444.25. Not all Associations/Guilds offer PA cover, for example the NDA.

Members' entitlement to Personal Accident cover.

Although this has not been formally tested, there seems to be a generally held view amongst members that their membership of the Guild gives them the benefit of PA cover for their ringing activities, including training learners and bell maintenance. This includes ringing activities within their own tower and further afield. It should be noted that it is individuals who are members of the Guild, not towers.

The PA cover within the Guild's insurance policy stipulates that it is for 'Accidents arising out of and in the course of employment by the Insured'. For this we can read employees as volunteers, and this has been confirmed by Ecclesiastical.

Furthermore the Guild activities are defined within the policy as 'Activities of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers including inspection, adjustment, or repair of bells, and instructing in the art of bellringing'.

These two definitions are quite tight, Stephen Cheek, who negotiated the policy with Ecclesiastical, believes the definitions will be tightly applied. A subsequent check with Ecclesiastical has confirmed this is the case and that ringers are not covered for usual ringing activities in their own churches. Therefore it is probable that any claim occurring outside a Guild-related event would not be covered. BAC activities, which are conducted under the auspices of the Guild, should be covered.

CCCBR advice states that 'A typical PCC policy includes Personal Accident cover and usually a church's own ringers are included in this cover while they are ringing on behalf of the church, which

would include service and practice ringing, and would be expected to extend to visitors who join practices or service ringing, as they are ringing on behalf of the church. It is unlikely to include the ringers when they are ringing elsewhere, unless they are clearly representing their home church.' However, there are a number of caveats within the advice, about when insurance might or might not apply, including insurance purchased by Guilds.

Actions for GMC to consider.

- 1) Approach Ecclesiastical to see if the scope of cover could be extended. If extended PA cover can be purchased, this would lead to an increased premium.
- 2) Or, advise members of the limitations of the PA cover.
- 3) Or, reduce the PA benefit to one unit of cover (£2500 and £100/£40) which should halve the cost of PA cover.
- 4) Or, consider discontinuing the PA element from the renewal next May, and advising members accordingly.
- 5) Consider if actions 2, 3 or 4 might contribute to a drop in membership.

Kate Gill May 2022