

**Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee  
Stowupland Church Hall**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Minutes by Kate Gill

**1. Welcome**

- a) Mark Ogden welcomed everyone to his first GMC meeting as Guild Chairman.
- b) Members present:

**Officers:** Chairman Mark Ogden, Treasurer Tim Hart, Secretary Kate Gill, BAC Chairman Chris Davies

**North East District:** Dave Goldstone, Philip Gorrod, Sarah Plummer

**North West District:** Neal Dodge, Jed Flatters, Maureen Gardiner, David Steed

**South East District,** Mary Garner, Jenny Scase

**South West District:** Pauline Brown, Alan Moulton

**2. Apologies for absence**

Mike Cowling, Katharine Salter

**3. Absent Friends**

Edwin C Hynard (died 24.5.23, SW unattached); Kevin Hohl (died 27.5.23, Offton); Malcolm H Roberts (died 28.5.23, Fressingfield); Michael G J Pizzev (died 10.6.23, Cavendish)

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

- a. Philip Gorrod queried the reference to '76 members' Item Di. It was agreed this would be clarified.
- b. Chris Davies proposed, and Dave Goldstone seconded, that the minutes be approved. All were in favour.

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

**ACTION LOG FROM 12 FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Update at this meeting</b>
<b>(12.2) 11bi and ii</b>	Continue with work to restore corrupted peals database and decide if can be held in differed format	Katharine and others	PealBase and SGR records now align, with some minor discrepancies corrected. False, duplicate or omitted peals now resolved.
<b>(12.2) 11c</b>	Identify successor to treasurer and also additional person to administer Gift Aid.	Rowan Wilson	Completed. Tim Hart elected at AGM.  Kate has found out that the bells were

<b>(26.10) 12c ii</b>	Ask Fiona Shuttle about plans for dedication of Laxfield bells and Guild representative to attend.	Katharine	dedicated on Psalm Sunday 2022. Philip liaising with Fiona re QP attempt (first on bells
<b>(23.10) 11 a iii</b>	Approach Nethergate re centenary bottled beer.	Rowan	RW exploring alternatives
<b>(23.10) 14 a</b>	Liz Christian to complete review of policies for GMC review	Liz Christian	Kate to find out position
<b>6b</b>	RW to respond to member raising concerns about R. World article	Rowan	Complete. District wrote with nothing heard since
<b>7ciii</b>	Offer up any spare ropes to Tuddenham St Martin	All	No offers yet. Marked as complete
<b>7e i</b>	Seek examples of blank Permission to Ring forms	Liz	Liz trialling a copy
<b>8c</b>	Inform Combs that grant is not being renewed	Chris D	Complete
<b>10b iii</b>	Find out if Mike Cowling prepared to take photos at dinner	Rowan	Complete
<b>10b iii</b>	Identify someone to produce write up of Guild dinner	Rowan	Complete
<b>11 a</b>	Analyse survey of members by the AGM	Rowan	Now complete. Agenda item GMC 25.6

Mark added that the 10,000<sup>th</sup> peal for the Guild had been scored at Writtle on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## 6. Correspondence

- a. Mark has received correspondence from John Girt, raising issues concerning the payment of subscriptions by members of over 80, and poor notification of this. Also, whether the Guild centenary is being properly celebrated and a change of rules to reflect that there is no longer a Magazine Editor.
- b. The Guild centenary is an agenda item today. It was felt, from other contacts, that the subscriptions for over 80s was reasonably well communicated. The requirement for a rule change will be considered nearer the AGM.

## 7. Engaging Members in Guild Centenary Celebrations

Mark observed that Guild engagement with the centenary has been patchy.

### a. CCCBR weekend

- i. Neal Dodge gave an update of the planning by the joint Guild/CCCBR committee. It is a packed weekend comprising:
  - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Bookable ringing sessions on both 6 and 8 bells with three streams; 'moving onto minor', 'moving onto major' and 'moving onto surprise major'. A social in the evening at the Halberd Inn.
  - Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM. A curry and beer event in the evening at St Peter's which is open to all.
  - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> The facility to sign up for service ringing at towers in Ipswich and villages. Followed by lunch at St Clement's and presentation on 'Ringing 2030'.

- Also sessions on handbells, maintenance and ringing up/down.
- ii. The sessions are bookable on line from 1 July.
- iii. Mark asked all to encourage districts to take part.

b. District Events

- i. Mark queried how we can stimulate more district events with a focus on the centenary, even if existing district events are rebadged as centenary events. Perhaps a small budget allocated to each district would help.
- ii. After discussion, Tim Hart proposed that each district is allocated a centenary budget of £100, taken from the General Fund. This was seconded by Mary Garner. All were in favour.

c. Certificates

- i. Mark reminded GMC that Rowan had produced various certificates regarding notable achievements. She has indicated she is prepared to continue producing the statistics for the remainder of the year. He suggested that certificates be awarded at district level, using a Guild template, and be awarded at suitable district events.
- ii. If there are a few exceptional achievements, these could be recognised as 'Guild certificates'.
- iii. Rowan has produced an analysis of achievements which will be distributed to GMC.
- iv. After discussion, it was felt that the Guild Annual Report would be a good place to record achievements, including ART level achievements, bell maintenance and fund-raising volunteers etc.
- v. Alan Moulton proposed that a 'Centenary Chairman's Certificate' is produced, which could be awarded at the AGM. This was seconded by Dave Goldstone. All were in favour.
- vi. Neal asked Mark to write to members setting out his plans as Guild Chairman.

**8. Officer Reports**

a. Treasurer's Report

- i. Tim Hart introduced his first report as Guild Treasurer. He commended the admirable system he has taken over from Stephen Cheek.
- ii. The £250 excess paid to Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) was queried. This was in respect of a claim made by a PCC on its insurers (also EIG) for damage to a clock hammer sustained during ringing. The PCC insurer then approached the Guild for reimbursement. We are required, under the terms of our policy, to notify EIG of any potential claims. Our branch of EIG, after asking about the incident, deemed the Guild was liable under its public liability insurance, and settled the claim, minus the £250 excess. Neal said that this goes against EIG's own guidance about what is covered.
- iii. GMC asked Kate to contact the CCCBR secretary, as CCCBR meets regularly with EIG, to question the extent to which liability should extend, as we are concerned about the scope to which liability could extend, and what should be covered under a PCC's insurance. We should also explore the position if the damage were caused by someone who is not a Guild member.

b. Ringling Master Report

There were no questions or comments.

c. Recruitment and Training Report

There were no questions or comments.

- d. Belfry Advisory Committee
  - i. The bells have now been installed at Stowmarket, with clappers and rope guides over the next few weeks.
  - ii. There has been no further progress regarding Framlingham College, and their representative did not attend a planned meeting,
  - iii. R&T are meeting next week regarding the Blythburgh application.
  - iv. The Westhorpe bells are expected to be removed from 31<sup>st</sup> July.
  - v. Fornham St Martin is covered in the PRO report.

e. Membership Secretary Report

There were no comments or questions.

f. Safeguarding Report

- i. GMC was interested in the Audit Tool template referenced in the report and asked Kate to obtain more information from Liz Christian.

g. PRO Report

There were no comments or questions.

h. Webmaster Report

- i. The current web host is reducing the number of forwarding addresses available. All officers will continue to have official Guild email addresses. Most other messages will go to a single email account, which will then need to be forwarded on by Chris Garner.
- ii. Moving to a different host is not considered practicable due to the work that would be involved in the transfer.

**9. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding**

- a. Chris Davies reported on progress. Blythburgh is still under consideration, Stowmarket will be completed soon and Westhorpe over the turn of the year.

**10. Ratification of NRLMs**

- a. Alistair M Donaldson and David J Carter were proposed as NRLMs and have paid their subscriptions. Their election was agreed by the meeting.

**11. Guild Survey**

- a. The analysis provided by Rowan Wilson was considered.
- b. R&T will take on further consideration of the recruitment and training issues raised.
- c. Communication issues were a theme within the survey, together with a perceived lack of communication between the Guild and the Diocese. GMC was uncertain how the level of engagement could be measured and there is dialogue between the Guild and Diocese about safeguarding.
- d. Scheduling events so they don't clash with Essex events was not considered to be always achievable.
- e. GMC felt that the results of the survey didn't produce any startling results, and generally engagement at District level is more productive.
- f. Mark stressed that we need to encourage new faces onto the committees and GMC. People can be encouraged to come as observers.

## **12. Review of Centenary Dinner and AGM**

- a. There was positive feedback from GMC members about the centenary dinner. Ticket sales had exceeded expectations although there had been comments from some members that the tickets were too expensive.
- b. Philip said it was the best dinner of around 100 such dinners he has attended.
- c. The table configuration to be rejigged, if using a similar shaped room in future, to have the top table in landscape format and more centrally situated.
- d. Mark will write to Rowan to thank her for the immense efforts she made arranging the dinner.
- e. GMC suggested that if there are surplus funds available for future events, as was the case for the centenary dinner, that there should be a selection of soft drinks, wine and beer offered, rather than free bottles of wine.
- f. The Guild AGM went well, but the PA system needed more marshalling.
- g. It was suggested that the Hungate Hall might have been a better venue than St Michael's church.
- h. Philip reported that the towers made available on the way into the AGM were very sparsely attended and it may be wise to discontinue this for future AGMs, as this has been the case also for the last few AGMs.
- i. The centenary birthday cake was a nice touch.

## **13. Any Other Business**

- a. Mary has badges available for new members.
- b. Handbell Insurance
  - i. The Guild owns five sets of handbells, four of which are in reasonably good condition. But they are not used much and are relatively heavy. Thus the cost of the insurance is greater than the revenue from donations from members borrowing them.
  - ii. GMC set out a number of options:
    - a. Carry on as at present, keeping all the handbell sets, and insuring them all
    - b. Retain all the sets, but only insure some of them
    - c. Dispose of the handbells, if the covenants permit this
  - iii. It was also suggested that some sets could be sold to refurbish others.
  - iv. The Guild library could be considered as a location to keep the handbells when they are not out on loan
  - v. Any disposal, or depreciation of their estimated value, would require amendments within the Guild's asset register.
  - vi. Kate was asked to investigate the cost of insuring just the best set
  - vii. Mark will speak to Brian Whiting and explain our rationale in insuring none or just one set of handbells.
  - viii. A decision will be made at the October GMC once the above two actions have been undertaken, which is prior to the insurance renewal date of December.
- c. Jenny Scase reminded members about the Veterans' Afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- d. Alan Moulton asked about progress spending the £5000 Golden Bottle fund, which was awarded to support training. Some has been spent on the simulators at Southwold and Felixstowe.
- e. R&T to be asked to consider whether the remainder of the fund can be used to support training at Ipswich or Fornham St Martin.

### **Date of next meeting**

2pm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Stowupland. Please note the revised date.

The February GMC meeting will be held in person, unless bad weather requires it to be moved to Zoom.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

**ACTION LOG FROM 25 JUNE 2023**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>(23.10)14a</b>	Kate to ask Liz about policy review position.	Kate and Liz
<b>6b</b>	Consider possible rule change re no Magazine Editor for 2024 AGM	Mark and Kate
<b>7bii</b>	Allocate £100 centenary budget to each district and communicate with districts regarding this	Mark and Tim
<b>7ciii</b>	Circulate Rowan Wilson's achievements spreadsheet to GMC and ask her to continue this analysis until end of year.	Kate
<b>7c v</b>	Produce Chairman's Centenary Certificate	Mark
<b>7c vi</b>	Chairman's letter to Guild members setting out his plans	Mark
<b>8a iii</b>	Approach CCCBR secretary for comments on extent of Guild's liability	Kate
<b>8f i</b>	Ask Liz Christian for more information about safeguarding Audit Template Tool	Kate
<b>11 b</b>	R&T to consider recruitment and training issues raised in Guild survey	Katharine
<b>12 d</b>	Chairman's letter of thanks to Rowan Wilson for her hard work arranging Guild centenary dinner	Mark
<b>13b vi</b>	Obtain quote to insure one set only of handbells	Kate
<b>13b vii</b>	Speak to Brian Whiting about discussions and rationale regarding handbells (Now superseded by BW meeting Tim Hart briefly)	Mark
<b>13b viii</b>	Decision to be made at October 2023 GMC re handbell insurance	Mark
<b>13e</b>	R&T to consider expenditure of remainder of Golden Bottle fund perhaps at Ipswich or Fornham St Martin	Katharine

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

General Management Committee Meeting 25 June 2023

## Treasurer's Report

Tim Hart 31 May 2023

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### Financial summary 31 May 2023

#### Current Assets

CAF 12mth bonds	0.00
CCLA/CBF General a/c	80,741.86
CCLA/CBF Jubilee Fund	36,217.53
Barclays Current Account	18,167.67
District Cash in hand	<u>390.84</u>
	<u>135,542.90</u>

#### Representing

General Fund	14,187.29
Restoration Fund	57,732.37
Restoration Grants Allocated	21,850.00
Library Fund	227.22
Handbell Fund	992.50
The Golden Bottle Trust Fund	3,264.52
Centenary Dinner Fund	67.42
Jubilee Fund	36,217.53
The Pipe Family Trust Fund	<u>1,004.05</u>
	<u>135,542.90</u>

The accounts were handed over by Stephen Cheek in impeccable order.

#### Noteworthy points:

- The Barclays current account is at a higher level than normal. This is to ensure that there are sufficient funds for possible grant pay-outs, pending possible delays in changes of signatories.
- No grants were paid out during the period.
- The last remaining CAF savings bond matured in March, and those funds were re-invested in CCLA/CBF as they were offering better interest rates.
- As agreed at the February GMC, we paid out a further sum of £102.38 to Derby's for the extra Centenary lapel badges that they supplied without consultation.
- A sum of £250 was paid to Ecclesiastical, being the excess amount on a claim from Walsham-le-Willows ringers for damage to the clock.
- The Centenary Dinner accounts were finalised, with a net surplus of £67.42.

- Rowan continued in her collection of donations for the 100 Towers Cycle Challenge. By the time of the AGM this had raised around £1000, when further promises were fulfilled and Gift Aid reclaimed. This initiative won the St Edmund's Clapper competition trophy!
- £660 was paid out for the production of the 2022 Annual Report.
- An invoice of £30 to Ringing World, for advertising in the Annual Report, remains unpaid and requires follow-up.

### Restoration fund

The restoration fund contains £57732, with an additional £21850 allocated as per the table below.

Grants - Approved and Paid								
	£				£	£		
	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	31/12/2025		250.00	16/08/2018	Part Paid
Stowmarket	11000.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		11000.00		
Fornham St Martin	5600.00		17/02/2018	31/12/2025		5600.00		
Combs	8,000.00		30/06/2019	12/02/2023				Grant expired
Sudbury, St Gregory	3000.00	(£2500 paid 31/10/22)	12/02/2022	12/02/2025	500.00			05/01/2023
Westhorpe	5000.00		23/10/2022	26/10/2025		5000.00		
	33,100.00	0.00			500.00	21,850.00		

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions stand at £7255. An online spreadsheet has been introduced to allow District Treasurers and the Membership Secretary to see the current status.



## June 23 GRM and Chair of R&T report

The last GMC feels like a very long time ago, since then we have had the very successful Ring for the King initiative and been (in some places) inundated with new recruits.

The Ring for the King initiative if measured in terms of the number of new recruits been truly amazing. Additionally we have had unprecedented press coverage for church bells and bell ringing in general. I am not sure we will see the like of this again.

Suffolk was lucky enough to have ringers appear on BBC and ITV, the BBC footage was syndicated around the world (a school friend of mine spotted it in the US). This resulted in spin off local radio and press coverage, I am sure that Neal will cover that more extensively in his report.

It is a pure joy to see so many new ringers, the challenge is how we build their skills in a sustainable way. I am immensely grateful for the huge number of hours people have invested in teaching, it could not have been done without a relatively small number of people who have given so much time and energy. As a R&T committee when we meet in 2nd July we will no doubt discuss what we can do to support this.

The R&T committee had been in the throes of completing a training audit as the Ring for the King initiative hit, as a result we have a much better idea of how our towers are placed. A strong theme coming out of it from almost everywhere is that we towers could do so much more if we they just had an extra couple of people at their practice night. I am looking to see if we can borrow some good practice from the Ely DA to help out. However this will only work if people are prepared to give up even just one evening every now and again to help out another tower.

The Guild will host the annual Central Council of Church Bell Ringers meeting in Ipswich between 1st and 3rd September, this will be covered in more detail by the CCCBR reps. However I would like to draw members attention to the ringing development sessions being hosted on Friday 1st September and Sunday 3rd December and the social event on the evening of 2nd September that are open to all. The website should go up around 1st July and will be bookable via EventBrite. Please share with members who do not have internet access and support them in applying for a place if they wish to take advantage of events.

The Dinner and AGM will be covered in separate reports.

I still have spare copies of the centenary issue of the Ringing World, if anyone is interested please let me know. It was a huge insight into the amount of work that goes into each issue. The RW would like to catch up with us later in the year to see how our centenary celebrations are going, so please feel free to tell your stories and either share them directly with the RW or with me.

The Guild 6 bell striking contest was a great success. It was superbly hosted by the Troston ringers who provided an amazing BBQ lunch. It was judged by Deborah and Penelope Thorley from Yorkshire (Deborah did partially grow up in Suffolk). Well done to Ipswich St Mary le Tower and Bardwell who won the Mitson Shield and Lester Brett trophies respectively. It would have been wonderful if more teams had managed to enter, it is a mixed method ringing and call change competition, so is open to all.

I am pleased to see that Stowmarket bells have returned and are as I type this in the process of being installed. I look forward to ringing there on the newly augmented 10.

Suffolk entered the Ridgman 10 bell contest at Towcester on 17th June, huge thanks to those who agreed to ring, due to multiple pressures I didn't get to organise a band until the last minute. We came 5th, however the silver lining was that the Essex Association won and one of their Essex Eagles young ringers was in their band. I would like to be more organised next year. The contest is designed to encourage 10 bell ringing and I would like to identify and involve some ringers who are only just beginning their 10 bell ringing journey. Please can you let me know of any suitable candidates. Next year's contest is a week earlier, on 8th June 2024 at Biggleswade, method is Grandsire Caters. I have extended tentative invite to host the competition in 2026, hopefully at Stowmarket.

I am unlikely to make it to GMC, but am happy to take questions or comments by correspondence.

## **Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC) Report for 25 Jun 2023 GMC Meeting at Stowupland**

The BAC have held meetings on 17 Mar 23 at Barham and 13 Jun 23 at Stowmarket.

A grant application has been received from Holy Trinity Blythburgh. In 2022, The BAC were asked to inspect the Blythburgh bells prior to the 6-bell striking contest. As a result of that inspection some remedial work was carried out on pulley blocks, but our technical adviser recommended new ropes, repainting of the frame (which is beginning to corrode), new pulley blocks and refurbishment of the roller bearings, which appeared untouched since installation in 1950. The parish took those recommendations to heart, replaced the ropes, and obtained estimates for the remainder of the work. They decided on Nicholson's as their bellhanger of choice and obtained a quotation of £19,348. Nicholson's also offered a discount of £1,749 for two able bodied assistants to help with the pulley and bearing part of the re-furbishment, reducing their quote to £17,599. If two local volunteers were available to help with the re-painting, then a further reduction of £4,248 would be applicable.

The BAC recommendation is subject to approval by the R&T Committee that Blythburgh is a tower meeting the criteria for grant aid. However, the BAC strongly supported keeping this iconic Suffolk Church ringing into the future. A 5% grant, for the work less repainting, would amount to £879.95, but in this case the committee felt we should be more generous and recommended a grant of £1,000, or 5.68%. If local volunteers were found to assist with the re-painting of the frame, and the Guild remained happy to provide grant aid of £1,000, it would mean that the grant would increase to 7.49% of the total project cost.

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

Barham St Mary: Problems with the treble in this 18-month-old installation. Technical Advisor in process of investigating.

Bedfield St Nicholas: Advice was provided by the technical advisor regarding their six, currently unringable, bells.

Blythburgh Holy Trinity: Advice on refurbishment of fittings. Help with grant application.

Burstall St Mary: Checked the fittings and bells to enable the parish to chime the bells for the coronation.

Copdock St Peter: Repositioning and fitting of new rope guides.

Framsden St Mary: Inspection at the request of the parish to ensure they remain safe to ring/chime. Subject to some ongoing minor repairs to the bellchamber floor, and a test ring, the bells should be able to be rung as an eight in the summer.

Great Barton Holy Innocents: Tightening of clappers.

Eriswell St Peter: Advice reference clapping. Frame tightened and installation inspected.

Hatcheston All Saints: Stay replacements.

Haughley St Mary the Virgin: Installation and fitting of a new No2 wheel.

Hinderclay St Mary: Stay replacement.

Hintlesham St Nicholas: Completion of a long running project to install new roller bearings on all six bells. Bells have been test rung and await their first quarter peal. This project represents a tremendous effort by one BAC member, assisted by local help and has made a huge improvement to the going of these bells. On behalf of both the BAC and the Guild, thank you to that individual for his dedication and hard work in bringing this project to such a successful conclusion.

Ingham St Bartholomew: Frame tightening and inspection.

Ipswich St Mary le Tower: Ongoing project to install training bells.

Lakenheath St Mary the Virgin: Technical advice reference the poor going tenor bell. Recommended new bearings.

Long Melford Holy Trinity: Advice from the technical advisor.

Otley St Mary: Check over of the bells and frame at the request of the parish.

Pakenham St Mary: Frame tightening.

Stowmarket SS St Mary and Peter: The re-installation of the 10 bell sub-frame was commenced on 22 May and has been concreted into the walls. The remaining frame and bells were re-erected in the week of 5 Jun, with an estimated completion date of 24 Jun.

Stradishall St Margaret: Advice from the technical advisor.

Sudbury St Gregory: Strengthening of an intermediate ceiling and the covering of the ceiling with 18mm plywood, to reduce the noise levels in the ringing chamber. This has proved to be very successful and is considered a great success by the local band.

Thornham Magna St Mary Magdelane: Rebolting and tightening of the tenor clapper, plus a general inspection.

Tostock St Andrew: Fitting of new ropes.

Wickham Skeith St Andrew: Fitting of two new stays.

Wingfield St Andrew: Advice was provided by the technical advisor about a cracked tenor clapper. Subsequently, and against that advice, the parish undertook a local repair. However, some concerns in the parish about the repair has resulted in the clapper and staple being returned to White's of Appleton for assessment (and possible re-forging).

**Suffolk Guild of Ringers**  
**Membership Report to the GMC**  
**25<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The flurry of activity to elect new members to the Guild is continuing into 2023. So far 37 have been elected, in the NE 1, NW 11, SE 22, SW 3. I have heard that there are quite a few others who are "getting close".

The "paid up" membership stands at 581 (correct on June 15<sup>th</sup>) and there are almost 100 who were listed in last year's report who haven't yet paid their subscription. This is the first year that there has been a subscription due from those over 80. Many have paid, a few have refused and it is likely that there are several who no longer ring or may no longer be at their previous tower. We should have a much clearer view of our membership by the end of the year. Another 17 have returned to membership post pandemic.

Sadly four members have passed away since the last GMC meeting:

**Edwin C Hynard**, SW Unattached, previously at Polstead, Bures and Hadleigh. Ed died on May 24<sup>th</sup>, he was 98. Ed first joined the Guild in 1949 at Hadleigh, ringing his first of 27 peals that year. He was listed at Bures in the 1950s and thence to Polstead. In 1972 he was the only member at Polstead, but by 1980 the band had grown to 13 and remained a strong band for decades. He served on the district committee many years and was elected an LHM in 2005. He spent the last 15 years or so in Guernsey.

**Kevin Hohl**, SE Offton, lately SE unattached. Kevin died on May 27<sup>th</sup>, he was 87. When Kevin was elected to the Suffolk Guild in the early 80s he was already a very experienced ringer, having rung the first of nearly 150 peals in 1950. His final peals were rung in 2008, making 223 in all.

**Malcolm H Roberts**, NE Fressingfield. Malcolm died on 28<sup>th</sup> May, he was 82. Malcolm was elected to the guild in 2008.

**Michael G J Pizzey**, SW Cavendish. Michael died on 10<sup>th</sup> June, aged 89. Michael was elected to the Guild in 1949 at Hadleigh, remaining a member there until 1962. He rang two peals, the first in 1951 and the second in 1952. From 1991 he was listed under Cavendish.

Mary Garner  
Membership Secretary  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### **Support**

Continuing a dialogue following 2 enquiries received since the last GMC on 12.02.23.

### **Website**

Additional information is now included on the Safeguarding page of the website.

### **Annual Report**

Positive adjustments were made to the 'Safeguarding Requirements' poster so that all the information could be retained and included on A5 in the Annual Report.

### **Young Ringers**

Received an encouraging 17 responses to the 'Safeguarding Young Persons - forms' email. They came from across the 4 districts.

The responses gave an insight into what is currently happening within the Guild and what advice and support is required and welcomed.

I have since trialed 2 forms with a Young Ringer at Henley.

- Suffolk Guild 'Permission to Ring - Young Person [under 18 yrs]
- Suffolk Guild 'Permission to Attend Outside Activity - Young Person [under 18 yrs]'

These are now with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser [DSA] for approval. Once approved they will go on the Guild website and be shared by the DSA with the PSOs.

### **CCCBR -S11-Audit Tool template**

On completion of the audit, it has highlighted the direction my attention needs to be focussed. We had all 3 colours of the scoring system highlighted.

**Red** - means that a plan needs to be developed as soon as possible

Those highlighted red have already been given some consideration and so are not a complete start from nothing.

- What this does is give the review of the policies direction, and not just to be seen as a blanket update.
- It highlights where to focus our documentation and actions to ensure we provide support to all Young People [everyone under 18 yrs] who are learning bell handling skills, attending weekly tower practices and District/Guild events.
- Provides a structure and some ideas to help with the continuing support dialogues that need action now.

**Amber** - means that some of the measures are in place but others require reviewing or improvement

Those highlighted amber can basically go up to green with a rethink of how to get messages across ..... time to think 'outside the box'!

**Green** - means that the necessary arrangements are in place, up to date and meet the required minimum standards.

3 of the 4 sections all had at least one aspect of green ..... a positive note to end on!

Elizabeth Christian

Suffolk Guild Safeguarding Officer

safeguarding@suffolkbells.org.uk

## PRO Report

Feb to June 2023

### Coronation

The coronation and the associated Ring for the King campaign saw probably the greatest attention focussed on ringing ever from the media. Suffolk ringers have been featured prominently in the coverage with several TV appearances broadcast both here and abroad.

- ITV Love your weekend with Alan Titchmarsh- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX6tE8Tv7l4>
- BBC Radio Suffolk Ring for the King at Bramford- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZD-X28PwJM>
- BBC News- King Charles coronation: 'We want bell-ringers in every church' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-64718027>
- BBC Breakfast Ring for King recruitment campaign in Ipswich <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re0mhV70laQ>
- Suffolk Life- Suffolk bellringers prepare for the King's coronation <https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/people/23463800.suffolk-bellringers-prepare-kings-coronation/>
- Ipswich Star- Ipswich church bell ringers featured on The One Show <https://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/23495805.watch-ipswich-church-bell-ringers-featured-one-show/>

176 coronation ringing performances were recorded in Suffolk on BellBoard including 50 QPs and 13 peals <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/search.php?event=16774&region=Suffolk>

Our communities were extremely grateful for part we played in provide a grand soundtrack to this historic event.

### Sudbury St Peter

The building refurbishment continues and is on track to reopen in September. The building is to be renamed the Sudbury Arts Centre. We have been asked to arrange ringing as part of the reopening celebrations. A meeting will be arranged between the operating manager and the local ringers to clarify processes and responsibilities going forward.

### Wolsey 550

To mark the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Thomas Wolsey a programme of events is being organised in Ipswich. The bells of St Lawrence, 'Wolsey's bells' were rung to mark the launch and Katharine Salter was interviewed by Radio Suffolk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-64889224>

### George Pipe 12 bell contest

Ipswich SMLT's victory at Chelmsford was picked up by the press including an interview with Jonathan Williamson on Radio Suffolk and a piece in the EADT

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/23332219.ipswich-bellringers-show-winning-striker/>

### **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 50th anniversary,**

I was contacted by Geoffrey Probert, the chairman of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and former High Sheriff of Suffolk regarding ringing for the Trust's 50th anniversary. This has been placed on what's on for September.

### **Diocese map**

The Diocesan data manager, Paul Sparrow, has been in touch as they are creating a GIS map of the Diocese and would like to include ringing towers, I supplied the necessary information sourced from Dove's Guide.

### **Westhorpe grant**

The Westhorpe restoration project to restore this derelict 5 and augment to 6 has received £142k from the Heritage Lottery Fund which completes their fundraising. I provide a quote for their press release.

### **Manson House handbells**

I was contacted by Manson House care home in Bury requesting a handbell performance and I was able to put them in touch with the Barking handbell group.

### **Little Cornard church restoration**

On request I wrote a letter of support for a heritage lottery application to be submitted by Little Cornard church to fund repairs to the tower roof and cupola.

### **Fornham St Martin restoration project**

The restoration project at Fornham St Martin is progressing well being led by Maureen, Alan, and I after a request for help from the parish last summer. There is approximately £20k left to raise, with three grant decisions and one application outstanding.

The promotional leaflet has been updated and a sponsorship scheme launched which has already netted over £7.5k. The leaflet is attached. A drawing of the church has been donated by Ben Keating to be raffled off in November; tickets can be bought from me (£1 each)

A project relaunch day will be held on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July, including a presentation on the project detailing how people can help. The tower will be open for viewing and refreshments will be served. The presentation will be delivered at 10am and 2:30pm. All welcome.

## Webmaster's Report for the GMC Meeting on 25/6/2023

### Guild email system (*Mailchimp*)

604 people are subscribed (an increase of 21) to the Guild email system, 563 of these are "members" (an increase of 17).

The system can be used to send emails to groups of subscribers, e.g. *All members, SE District members, All Tower Correspondents, NW Tower Correspondents* etc. Just send the copy to me.

I have sent out 58 emails since the last meeting (up until 18/6/2023).

### Guild email addresses (*name@suffolkbells.org.uk*)

Over the last few weeks you may have experienced difficulties sending emails to Tower Correspondents and Guild Officers.

The system had over 200 addresses (including most towers and all the officers). Despite being reassured by our web host, 123 Reg, that this system would continue to work, 123 Reg decided to remove the existing system and introduce a new one with a limit of 50 email forwarders.

In agreement with Mark I have re-created 36 email forwarders (e.g. *chairman@suffolkbells.org.uk*) for all those on the [Contacts page](#). I have also created a *Catch-all* mailbox which will receive any mail sent to *anything@suffolkbells.org.uk*. I will then forward any mail sent to this mailbox to the appropriate recipient. (This is already working – I have already forwarded emails intended for Coddendam and Stonham Aspal)

Chris Garner  
18/6/2023