

South East District of Suffolk Guild of Ringers
Annual District Meeting – Minutes
Saturday 3rd December 2017
at Brandeston

1. Welcome -

Ralph Earey (Chair) welcomed members and visitors, including Richard and Belinda Chandler from Tamworth, Staffs. He thanked all the tea makers, cake and sandwich makers, and Roger Coley who lead the service at Kettleburgh.

2. Apologies for absence

Steve Cheek, Laura Davies, Kate Eagle, Glenys Fear, Ray Lewis, Muriel Page, George Pipe, Marion Saker, Louis Suggett, John Taylor, Bruce and Gillian Wakefield, Jimmy Wightman.

3. Minutes of the 2016 ADM (Debenham).

These were read

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Jenny Scase said that under remembrances, it should read Bridget Sayers of Earl Stonham, and Margaret Egglestone formerly from Henley.

5. Remembrances

The meeting stood to remember Susan Dalziel from Tunstall, Derek Martin from Wickham Market, Lord Bridges from Orford and Frank Bloomfield from Felixstowe.

6. Election of new members

Jennie Russell and Annabel Stott (junior members, Harkstead) and Barbara Langridge (Holbrook) were proposed by Janet Looser. Laura Davies was previously a non-resident Life Member (belfry election). Alison Wintgens (Senior) from Woodbridge was proposed by Bruce Wakefield and seconded by Mrs M Sleath (at the time of the meeting, paperwork was forthcoming)

7. Reports

a. **Chairman** - Chairman's report appended

b. **Ringling Master** – Jonathan's report was circulated. He had tried to visit as many practice nights as possible and apologised to those he had not managed to attend. He urged tower correspondents to check that details of practice nights are correct. He thanked Mark Ogden and Ralph Earey for covering practices he had been unable to attend, and thanked Mark for his work with young ringers. The district had been to Hollesley in January, Sproughton in February, Grundisburgh in March, and held a training day at SMLT in April. Jonathan asked

for ideas for 2018's training day. 10 teams entered the striking competition at Bredfield, judged by David and Gill Sparling. The Cecil Pipe Memorial Bell was won by SMLT with Pettistree following closely in 2nd place, and the David Barnard Memorial Trophy won by Debenham. Jonathan encouraged bands to consider entering for 2018, as the competition is open to all. Hollesley won the Lester Brett trophy in the Guild competition and SMLT were joint winners of the Rose Trophy with Pakenham, and the SE district team came 4th in the 8-bell trophy, with only 6 faults between 1st and 4th placed bands. Practices were held at Campsea Ash and Wickham Market in June. Jonathan had set out with featured methods at practices (e.g. to help with rule-based learning rather than just the blue line) but welcomed thoughts on this, asking what the District would like from district practices. Jacky Savage and Roger Coley had organised events at Kingsfleet Primary School in Felixstowe, and John and Shirley Girt and Roger had been working with St Margaret's primary school in Ipswich. He asked the members for their feelings for the quarter fortnight and the evening quarters and a meal – it was agreed that the quarters followed by a meal should be carried on. Jonathan was very pleased with the support at Ashbocking. He highlighted the Central Council planned projects for armistice.

c. Treasurer

Eric Brown reported that the income had been £124.45, expenditure was £138. Current Balance £290.

d. Recruitment and Training

An update on the Guild Recruitment and Training Committee was given.

e. Belfry Advisory Committee

Chris McArthur reported that Brandeston's 4th was being welded. Work at Cretingham was progressing. Maintenance had been done at Hollesley, Hasketon, Framlingham and St Matthews. 2 chain pulleys had been purchased. Three of St Margaret's in Ipswich bells had been recast, 2 support beams were up, and work was to finish in January, with blessing by the bishop on 5th February and Dedication on April 29th at 3pm. Katharine Salter reported on cleaning and painting at St Clements in Ipswich, and the new carillon was still to be installed.

f. Guild Management Committee

The Guild dinner is to be at Elmswell, cost £30. The AGM was to be at Bury St Edmunds.

g. Young Ringers

Mark Ogden reported that there would be a Young Ringers event on 21st December.

h. Ipswich Historic Churches Trust

For Ipswich, Katharine Salter reported that an Arts Centre would be opening at St Clements Church, St Peter's tower had had work done on it. She gave thanks to Bruce Wakefield for running the ringing at St Lawrence on Wednesdays.

8. Election of Officers

- a. **Chairman** – Mark Ogden (Proposed: Ralph Earey, seconded Mary Garner)
- b. **Secretary** – Abby Antrobus (Proposed: Jonathan Williamson, seconded Ruth Munnings)
- c. **Ringling Master** – Jonathan Williamson (Proposed: Mary Garner, seconded Diana Pipe)
- d. **Treasurer** – Tracey Scase (Proposed Ralph Earey, seconded Jenny Scase)
- e. **Technical Advisor** – Chris McArthur (Proposed Jonathan Williamson, seconded Peter Harper)
- f. **Area (Deanery) representatives**
 - i) **Bosmere** – Jenny Scase
 - ii) **Colneys/Felixstowe** - Vacant
 - iii) **Ipswich** – Diana Pipe
 - iv) **Loes East** – Adrian Craddock
 - v) **Loes West** – Adrian Craddock
 - vi) **Samford** – Janet Looser
 - vii) **Woodbridge** – Mark Ogden
 - viii) **Shotley** – Janet Looser
- g. **Magazine correspondent** – Elaine Townsend
- h. **Recruitment and Training committee (2)** - Jonathan Williamson and Mark Ogden
- i. **Guild Management committee (5)** – Mary Garner, Alan and Sally Munnings, Mark Ogden. It was proposed that Jenny Scase stand as reserve.
- j. **Young Ringers rep** – Mark Ogden
- k. **Representative for Ipswich Historic Churches Trust** – Katharine Salter.

9. District events programme 2019

Forthcoming is 6th Feb at Pettistree, 2.30-4.30 and 3rd February at Felixstowe 2.30 – 4.30 (tbc). ART course at St Matthew's, Ipswich, on 27th January is fully subscribed.

10. Christmas Ringing in Ipswich 15nd December

11. Any Other Business

Eric Brown has tins of grey gloss for frame painting free to a good home.

Jonathan asked members for opinions on timings of meetings

Jenny Scase invited everyone to Veterans Day in Debenham, 10th July.

Tom Scase announced Guild Peal week, 10th-18th February.

Mary Garner thanked Ralph for his term in office.

District Chairman's report 2017

I am pleased to report that the district is in good form with attendances at practices increased. The district has been able to hold a monthly event for the whole year.

Jonathan has built on the good work that Tom did and in addition has introduced some new ideas to bring focus to district practices; ensuring the objective is clear and advertised in advance. Jonathan has gone out of his way to 'tee-up' experienced helpers to ensure those attending that are less experienced get the full benefit from the session. This approach has paid dividends.

April saw the district training day at St. Mary-Le-Tower. This year's topic was Stedman Triples (it was April Fool's day after all!). The session was a sell out and the theory was well received by the pupils making the most of the facilities available to us at Church House. Jonathan's organisation and leadership was much appreciated by all those in attendance as was the steady and reliable ringing of the experienced Steadman ringers who were on hand for the practical sessions. What would you like to see a training session on in 2018? – please let the Ringing Master know.

Sat 16th September 2017 saw the district hosting the Guild Social. We laid-on a Barn Dance in the Tithe Barn at Sproughton and the early (& plentiful!) advertising resulted in approx. 80 ticket sales. We danced to the popular band, Inertia Reel, enjoyed a fish and chip supper accompanied by a bar serving a variety of drinks including real ale. Whilst this event was never designed to make a profit (hence the beer was at £2/pint!) we were pleased to be able to send £209 for the Guild funds. The 'surprise' additional entertainment was provided by local acapella group (aptly named 'Acafella') that comprises of 4 male singers, including our very-own Ringing Master, Jonathan and Gareth who rings at St. Matthew's, Ipswich. These guys were excellent and provided a very welcome extra dimension to the evening. A big thank you to all those who helped with the evening. All in all it was a great event and it was fantastic to see all those that were able to, up and dancing the final set.

It was unfortunate that the Guild was unable to field a team for the Ringing World National Youth Contest held in Birmingham in July - perhaps we can next year?

At today's Annual District Meeting we will need to fill a number of vacant posts and I would urge you to consider if you could fill one of those posts; they are not overly arduous, in many cases they could give you a reason/excuse/incentive to visit other towers and ring with other members and, you never know, you may just find yourself enjoying it! The vacancies include the post of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

I will close by thanking all of those officers in the District who have given freely of their time over the previous year and for the support I have been given over the past 4 years serving as your Chairman; it has been an honour. I wish the District and new officers every success for the future.

Ralph Earey, Chairman, SE District, Suffolk Guild of Ringers, 20/11/2017