

Guild Events

Six and Eight Bell Striking Competitions

These take place annually, where teams of ringers compete to be named the best in the county. If you are not taking part it is an opportunity to hear some of the best ringing in the Guild, and of course a chance to meet fellow ringers.

AGM

This meeting held just after Easter elects officers for the coming year, presents accounts and reports, and provides all members with the opportunity to discuss how the Guild is run.

Ringers' teas

Most events other than evening practices involve ringers' teas, a traditional and substantial afternoon meal.

Guild Social

This annual event takes place in September and is a chance to partake in some non ringing activities with your new ringing friends. In the past we've had rambles, barn dances, and quizzes.

Every five years we also host a Guild dinner. This is a rare formal occasion to get together to celebrate our achievements in ringing throughout Suffolk

www.suffolkbells.org.uk

www.bellringing.org

District Events

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers is divided into four districts: North East, South East, North West, and South West. There are various district events held approximately monthly throughout the year. These provide opportunities to meet ringers from other towers, a chance to chat with others who may have similar experiences to you, to practise new methods, and to ring on some different bells around our beautiful county.

Your District will have an annual striking competition where the emphasis is on ringing which is even and rhythmical. It provides a good opportunity to listen to other groups as well as being a good social occasion.

They'll also have a group outing to other towers which is a great day out.

The monthly 'What's On' guide and Guild website will give you all the details of upcoming events across the county.

And finally...

The pub

Most ringing practices conclude with a social gathering in a local pub where errors are forgotten, new acquaintances become friends, and plans for more ringing are made.

Contacts

Chairman: chairman@suffolkbells.org.uk

Ringing Master:

master@suffolkbells.org.uk

Secretary: secretary@suffolkbells.org.uk

Membership Secretary:

membership@suffolkbells.org.uk



Learning to Ring



www.suffolkbells.org.uk

Some questions answered

Why learn to ring?

Ringing is an exercise for the body and the mind. It involves concentration, and application. Plus it's a great social activity too.

Do I need to be strong?

No. It's all about the technique. As long as you can manage the tower stairs, you'll be fine!

Do I need to be musical or mathematical?

No, all you need to be able to do is count. You can become a very good ringer knowing nothing about music or advanced maths.



How long will it take me to learn?

The initial teaching will take several hours over a period of weeks after which a learner can begin to ring with the rest of the band. The more frequently you ring the quicker you'll progress. Most towers have a weekly evening practice, but once hooked you'll want to go to more!

Do I need to be a regular churchgoer?

No, ringers are of all faiths and none. But, you may be expected to ring before services at your local tower on most Sundays.

Who rings?

Ringers come from all walks of life, men, women and children, and range in age from about ten to ninety!

How do I choose which other practices to go to?

Depending on how much time you have, and how quickly you wish to increase your skills, you will probably want to ring more often at other towers. You will be made welcome at any practice, but some may be better suited than others to your level of ringing. Your Tower Captain or District Ringing Master will offer the best advice.

What does it cost?

The annual subscription to the Suffolk Guild, which you can join when you can ring independently, is £20. Some towers ask for a donation each week towards maintenance of the bells and ropes, not usually more than £1. That's all!

Can I ring when I am away from home?

The Suffolk Guild is one of many ringing societies which exist across the UK, and you will be made welcome at any of their practices, that's one of the great things about ringing! To find out if there is a band of ringers practising near you just run an online search for bellringers in that county.

Going abroad? Australia, New Zealand and the USA also practise bell ringing as in Suffolk.



What should I do next?

You can:

- Turn up at your local tower on practice night. For details on towers see www.suffolkbells.org.uk/towersaz.php
- Speak to anyone you know to be a ringer
- Ask for more information from the Guild Ringing Master: master@suffolkbells.org.uk



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Suffolk Guild of Ringers