

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS – SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON-LINE VIA ZOOM
28 November 2020

Present: Guild Public Relations Officer; Guild Ringing Master; District Officers and Representatives; and members from Clare, Cowlinge, Kersey and Lavenham. Total attendance 15.

Thanks: The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked Neal Dodge and Tom Scase for attending on behalf of the Guild. A welcome video message from the Guild Chairman, Rowan Wilson was also played.

Silence for Departed Members: A minute's silence was observed in memory of Frank Gilbert, past Ringing Master and ringer at Clare and Tony Clayton, District Committee member and ringer at Sudbury.

Apologies: These were received from Neville Whittell, Kate and Ray Banks and Sue Hopkins.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Several typographical errors were noted and once corrected the minutes would be accepted for signature.

Matters Arising: None

Election of New Members:

Evelyn Reeve (Bures) – p. David Lee, s. Lynda Lee

Ratification of Belfry Elections:

Keith Crozier (Clare) – p. Tim Forsey, s. Jane Forsey

James Bird (Sudbury, St Gregory) – p. Pauline Brown, s. Tim Forsey

Rodney Downer (Kersey – although resident in IOW) – p. Christine Knight, s. Kate Banks

Alex Cutmore (Sudbury, St Gregory) – p. Pauline Brown, s. Tim Forsey

David Issac (Higham St Mary) – p. Brian Such, s. Martyn Carr

Chris Ward (Cavendish) – p. Duncan Riches, s. Tim Forsey

District Officer Reports:

Ringling Master / Chairman

Due to the Coronavirus, only three District Practices took place since the last ADM.

In November we visited St Nicholas, Rattlesden. There were more than 20 ringers present and a variety of methods and called changes were rung.

In January we were at SS Peter & Paul., Lavenham. 31 ringers were present, and the ringing favoured the large number of learners present.

In February the practice was at St Mary's, Glemsford and the Ringing Master thanks Richard Knight for taking the practice in his absence. There were 16 people present and a variety of mainly simple methods and called changes were rung plus Cambridge Surprise Minor.

Members of the district continued teaching the new band at All Saints, Little Cornard until lockdown halted all ringing activities.

Between the first lockdown and the present one, some towers with enough space were attempting some service ringing but this had to stop because of renewed limitations on activities. We are all hoping for a return to our usual ringing as soon as possible.

David Lee, SW Ringing Master

November 2020

Pauline Brown, SW Chairman

Treasurer

Membership Summary (2019 figures in brackets)

	Sudbury	Lavenham	Clare	Hadleigh	Unattached	TOTAL
Adult	13 (16)	14 (15)	20 (18)	14 (14)	3	64 (63)
>70	15 (18)	4 (10)	5 (7)	6 (11)		30 (46)
>80	0 (6)	3 (5)	4 (5)	10 (13)	2	19 (29)
FTE	1 (3)					1 (3)
Life	0 (1)				1	1 (1)
Associate	0 (2)			3 (1)		3 (3)
TOTAL	29 (46)	21 (30)	29 (30)	33 (39)	5	118 (145)

Note:

1. New members who joined in Q4 2019 do not pay any additional subs for 2020.
2. In 2019, senior age categories were >65 and >75.
3. In 2019, unattached members were included in the deanery figures.

SG Subscriptions 2020

Rates and age bands as agreed at the Guild AGM in April 2019 and effective from 1st Jan 2020 as follows:

Ringing Member	£20
Ringing Member > 70	£15
Ringing Member > 80	Free
Ringing Member in full time education	£10
Non-resident Life Member	£10
Associate Member	£10

£1515 subscriptions has been paid into the Guild account.

SW District Petty Cash 2020

DATE	ITEM	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	BALANCE
	Brought forward from 2019			£94.74
24-Jan	Lavenham meeting donation	£12.00		£106.74
29-Jan	Secretary's expenses		£8.40	£98.34
22-Feb	Badge sale	£5.00		£103.34

Nigel Gale, SW District Treasurer

November 2020

Election of District Officers:

Richard Knight, Bryan Mills and Tony Read have decided to stand down as representatives of the district on the Guild General Management Committee. The meeting thanks them for their past service. No member has expressed willingness to replace them nor in standing for any position in the district. Remaining current postholders were therefore re-elected *en bloc*, proposed by Tony Read and seconded by Richard Knight:

Chairman – *Pauline Brown*

Ringling Master – *David Lee*

Treasurer – *Nigel Gale*

Secretary – *Tim Forsey*

General Management Committee Reps - *Pauline Brown, Tim Forsey*

Recruitment and Training Committee Rep - *Pauline Brown*

Deanery Contacts - *Christine Knight, Lynda Lee, Martin Weaver, Richard Gates*

Ringling Programme for 2021:

David Lee was of the opinion that normal ringling was unlikely to resume before Easter and proposed that a programme based on this year's list of towers be organised to start after that date. This was agreed with the addition that the new ring at Hitcham would be an attractive inclusion if possible.

Any Other Business:

St Edmund's Clapper Challenge - This is an initiative to raise funds for the Guild and details can be found on the Guild website. Members are encouraged to think of innovative ways to raise money in the district. It was noted that the easiest way to raise funds is for members pay their subscriptions.

Update on St Peter's, Sudbury and Hitcham - Neal Dodge described proposed changes to St Peter's following a grant of £1.6 million from Heritage Lottery for renovation. Part of the proposed scheme involves moving the ringling room down to a gallery, however the plans submitted show this would significantly reduce the area for ringling. A full circle would not be possible so objections have been

made to make it clear that this would be unacceptable. Although ringing from a gallery could be a benefit from a PR point of view, it might also reduce the opportunities for ringing while other activities were taking place in the church.

Neal reported that the 6 at Hitcham which was previously unringable, has been renovated and augmented to 8 with a grant and assistance from the Guild. In recognition of this contribution, the Guild logo has been cast into the headstock of the tenor. Tom Scase has rung each bell individually and attested that they are likely to be excellent ring of 8 and an asset to the SW District.

In reply to a question, Pauline Brown outlined the proposals for renovating the bells at St Gregory, Sudbury.

Update on sales of George Pipe's biography - Christine Knight reported that sales were going well and to date 500 copies had been sold and a reprint was underway. Orders were slightly delayed due to difficulties at the Ringing World. Christine noted that the book was more than a biography and was in fact a 'book for everyone'. Also, since the SW District features heavily, it would be nice if more orders could be made by members of this district. It was agreed that Christine would send out another promotional email.

Dates for Guild AGM 2021 - The consensus was that a virtual meeting in April would be preferable.

Other

As a thank you to members for attending this ADM, a virtual raffle was organised by Nigel Gale. The lucky winners were David Wedgwood and Tony Read.

In response to a question, David Lee summarised that during the pandemic 10 towers in this district were able to ring in some form, mainly for services and some special occasions like weddings. (This excluded ringing for Remembrance.)

Date of next year's ADM: Saturday 23rd October 2021 – venue TBC