

**SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS – SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD AT HADLEIGH**  
**26<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Present:** District Officers and Representatives; members from Boxford, Bures, Cavendish, Drinkstone, Hadleigh, Hitcham, Little Cornard, Poslingford, Polstead and St Gregory's, Sudbury.

A minute's silence was held for departed members Ed Hynard and Michael Pizzey.

**Thanks:** The Chairman welcomed everyone, and thanked Revd Jo Delfgou for taking Evensong, and John Ward the organist.

**Apologies:** Were received from Katharine Salter, Kate Gill, Alan Baker, Tony and Sheila Baker, Martyn Carr, Laura Cook, Desmond Crone, Rodney Downer, Richard and Sue Finch, Chris Hunt, Alison Kenny, Christopher Moore, Margaret Roberts, Chris Ward and David Wedgwood.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** Ringing at St Peter's, Sudbury, was discussed again. The ringing chamber is dangerous and ringing six is unsatisfactory. It was thought that a group consisting of District Officers, Derek Rose and Alan Moulton BAC, should attempt to speak to the Churches Conservation Trust, the Bridge Project, which runs Sudbury Arts Centre, and Alli, the Administrator. Christine Knight offered to write a letter about this.

**Election of New Members:** Alan Game, Cavendish and Yvonne Mowles, Hadleigh.

**District Officer Reports:**

**Ringling Master/Chairman**

We had successful practices across the District at Little Cornard, Haverhill, Boxford, Cavendish, Elmsett and Hitcham.

Our District Striking Competition at Polstead had four entries. The team from Kersey won the method ringing category and a team from Hadleigh won the call change trophy. It was good to see Little Cornard enter a team for the first time.

To celebrate the centenary of The Suffolk Guild, we had ringing at Bures followed by a barbecue on the village common.

In May, bells rang out across the District to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Several towers had new recruits for this occasion and some returning ringers.

A quarter peal was attempted by the Guild to mark the opening of St Peter's as Sudbury Arts Centre, and there was some general ringing.

Thank you to everyone who supported the events throughout the year.

*David Lee, SW Ringling Master*

*Pauline Brown, SW Chairman*

David Lee added that he was expecting to move. He wanted to add an extra thanks for all the support he had received whilst Ringling Master and that he would miss all the lovely people in the District. Richard Knight presented a gift to David and Lynda in recognition of all their hard work.

**Election of District Officers:**

The current post holders of Chairman and Treasurer agreed to continue in their roles. The Ringing Master stood down. Richard Knight agreed to be elected as Ringing Master and Christine Knight agreed to take over as Secretary in April.

Richard Knight was proposed by David Lee and seconded by Nigel Gale.

Christine Knight was proposed by Astrid Gale and seconded by Sue Freeman.

Pauline Brown and Nigel Gale were proposed by Sue Freeman and seconded by Chris Huntington.

Pauline Brown agreed to continue as the District Representative on the GMC and R&TC. Richard Knight agreed to become a GMC representative. Alan Moulton will also continue as a GMC representative.

The Deanery contacts, Christine Knight, Richard Gates and Martin Weaver agreed to continue in their roles and Jill Apter said she would become the Deanery rep. for Sudbury, to replace Lynda Lee, who had held the post for many years.

**Ringing Programme for 2024:**

A proposed programme for ringing in 2024 as follows:

January (3-4.30) Lavenham

February (3-4.30) Polstead

March (3-4.30) Kersey

April (7-8.30) Sudbury Arts Centre

May (7-8.30) Hartest

June (afternoon) Striking Competition – Little Cornard

July – District Outing

August – Quarter Peal Month

September (3-4.30) Nayland

October (7-8.30) Sudbury Arts Centre

November (3pm onwards) Boxford (District ADM)

No firm arrangements have been made as yet.

**Any Other Business:**

Pauline Brown raised the question of a simulator in the SW District, to be paid for from the 'Golden Bottle' fund. The simulator should be available for use by Guild members, and would be better in a lockable ringing chamber.

**Date of Next Year's ADM:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Pauline Brown SW Chairman

