

South East District of The Suffolk Guild of Ringers Annual District Meeting Saturday 2nd December 2023, 18.00hrs at Rushmere St Andrew Church Hall

The meeting opened with thanks given to Rev Alan Comfort for taking the service and Paul Sharples, Mary Odam, Linda Sager, Elaine Townsend, Liz McCloud [Rushmere St Andrew bellringers] for organising the tea.

1. **Welcome:** 38 members had been present on the day, from 15 towers across the district
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from John Girt, Shirley Girt, Roger Coley, Ray Lewis, Joanna Crowe, Simon Curl, Graham Ridgway, Janet Looser, Mervyn Scase, Tracey Scase, Richard Munnings, Ruth Munnings, John Taylor

3. Absent Friends

The District Remembered Loraine Beer [Falkenham & Kirton], Kevin Hohl [Offton, lately SE Unattached], Rose Godfrey [Bramford], Hilary Mann [formerly Talbot] [Rushmere St Andrew and Pettistree] with a minutes silence.

4. Minutes of the 2022 ADM

Draft Minutes of ADM 2022

The chairman asked whether there were any objections to signing the minutes as a true reflection of the ADM. there were no objections. The chairman signed a written copy of the minutes.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising

6. Election of new members

name	tower	category	proposer	seconded
Mary Leaming	Hollesley	70 - 79	Peter Harper	Micky McBurnie
Simon Curl	Sproughton	Full	Ralph Earey	Tessa Earey
Clement Day	Barking	FTE	Phil Day	Jenny Scase
Joshua Gitsham	Hollesley	FTE	Peter Harper	Micky McBurnie

Mary, Simon, Clement and Joshua were welcomed into the Guild.

7. Presentation of Suffolk Guild of Ringers, SE District Centenary Achievement Certificates

The chairman shared his rationale:

- 100th, 200th etc - certificate only if for the Suffolk Guild
- First quarters/peals - certificate
- First on a working bell - certificate
- First as conductor - certificate, potentially also a certificate if first as conductor at a more complex level
- First on higher numbers - certificate if significant step
- First in method - in general no certificate [for several ringers these would end up being awarded very frequently]

name	tower	achievement	date/venue
Tom Scase	Debenham	1st peal of spliced surprise maximus - 5042 Yorkshire and Cambridge	25.02.23/Bury St Edmunds, Norman Tower
Richard Munnings	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	1st peal of spliced surprise maximus - 5042 Yorkshire and Cambridge	25.02.23/Bury St Edmunds, Norman Tower
Sue Williamson	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	1st QP of major on an inside bell - 1260 Grandsire Triples	07.03.23/Offton
George Heath-Collins	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	1st QP away from cover - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	09.03.23/Ipswich St Matthew
Alfie Allsop	Hacheston	1st QP - 1260 Doubles [2m]	18.03.23/ Hacheston
Lorna Penaluna	Ipswich, St Matthew	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	19.03.23/ Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower

Ian Culham	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	100th peal for the Guild - 5040 Surprise Minor [7m]	29.03.23/Clopton
Andrew Beattie	Clopton	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	14.04.23/Clopton
Amanda Richmond	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	1st peal of surprise maximus as conductor - 5042 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus	22.04.23/Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower
Tristan Shaw	Sproughton	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	07.05.23 /Sproughton
Kate Hepworth	Bramford	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	11.05.23/Ipswich, St Matthew
Matthew Thomas	Ipswich, St Matthew	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	11.05.23/Ipswich, St Matthew
Mark Ogden	Pettistree	200th peal for the Guild - 5040 Minor [9m]	13.05.23/Ipswich, St Matthew
Sonia Docherty	Ipswich, St Mary-le-Tower	1st QP on 8 bells - 1260 Grandsire Triples	21.05.23/SMLT
William Herbert	Rushmere St Andrew	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	28.05.23/Sproughton
James Smith	Unattached	100th peal as conductor for the Guild - 5040 Cambridge Surprise Maximus	19.08.23/Cambridge, University Church of St Mary the Great
Already presented at Suffolk Guild AGM - April 2023			
Isis Holmes	Holbrook	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	27.03.23/Holbrook
Samuel Rawson	Holbrook	1st QP - 1260 Plain Bob Doubles	27.03.23/Holbrook

8. Presentation of Suffolk Guild of Ringers, SE District Centenary Recognition Certificates

No presentations were made

9. Reports

The **District Officers Reports** [Chairman, Ringing Master, Belfry Advisory Committee SE District Technical Adviser] and **Treasurer Report** had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting and are on the The Suffolk Guild of Ringers website listed under guild Information/SE District/SE District Reports. No questions or comments arose at the meeting.

The **District Area Tower Reports** had been distributed via email to all SE District members prior to the meeting and are on the The Suffolk Guild of Ringers website listed under guild Information/SE District/SE District Reports. A question arose as to why information from Tower Correspondents had been included in the Report this year, and not just information from the current Area Representatives. It was explained that not all Areas of SE District had Area Representatives in 2023 and where Tower Correspondents had shared news by email with the SE District Secretary during 2023, this had been included in this years SE District Area Tower compilation report. Through the Area Representative reports, news from 54 of the 55 towers in the SE District was shared. An Area Representative shared that their report wording was not as had been submitted to the SE Secretary.

The District Ringing Master gave a verbal report on behalf of the SE Representatives on the **Recruitment and Training Committee**. The most recent meeting discussed the awarding of grants, the need for more teachers, encouraging attendance on ART [Association of Ringing Teachers] M1, M2F and M2C courses, the Golden Bottle Fund, the success of an ART Teaching Hub established in NE District [there is now a Teaching Hub in the SE], Guild Young Ringer Outings and discussions as to whether some training events will begin to be organised and delivered by the Guild.

The District Chairman gave a verbal report on behalf of the SE Representatives on the **Guild Management Committee** [GMC]. The most recent meeting discussed a proposal to increase grants, and matters linked to the Guild handbells. All minutes of this year's GMC meetings can be found on the [Suffolkbells website](#).

10. Election of SE District Officers and Representatives for 2024

The following officers, Area Representatives, SE GMC and R&T Representatives were elected.

post		Proposed	Seconded
SE Chairman	Stephen Christian [Henley]	Jonathan Williamson [SMLT]	Amanda Richmond [SMLT]
SE Ringing Master	Hal Meakin [SMLT]	Amanda Richmond [SMLT]	Jonathan Williamson [SMLT]
SE Secretary	Elizabeth Christian [Ashbocking]	Barrie Pyke [Henley]	Caroline Goodchild [Offton]
SE Treasurer	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	Jenny Scase [Debenham]	Abby Antrobus [SMLT]
SE Technical Adviser	Chris McArthur [Brandeston]	Chris Garner [Pettistree]	Mary Garner [Pettistree]
			any number of positions
Area Representatives	David Stanford [Clopton]	Abby Antrobus [SMLT]	Diana Pipe [SMLT]
	Abby Antrobus [SMLT]	David Stanford [Clopton]	Hal Meakin [SMLT]
	Janet Looser [Harkstead]	Lesley Barrell [Falkenham]	Alison Looser [Harkstead]
	Elizabeth Tydeman [Stonham Aspal]	Roy Newson [Stonham Aspal]	Adrian Frost [Tuddenham St Martin]
	Peter Harper [Hollesley]		
	Robert Scase [Debenham]	Tom Scase [Debenham]	Margaret Cherry [Earl Stonham]
	Miles Ellis [Henley]		
			5 positions
SE District Representatives on the Guild Management Committee [GMC]	Stephen Christian	Jonathan Williamson [SMLT]	Amanda Richmond [SMLT]
	James Smith	Mary Garner [Pettistree]	Jenny Scase [Debenham]
	Mary Garner	Jenny Scase [Debenham]	Katharine Salter [The Wolery]
	Jenny Scase	Katharine Salter [The Wolery]	Mary Garner [Pettistree]
			2 positions
SE District Representatives on Recruitment & Training [R&T]	Hal Meakin	Amanda Richmond [SMLT]	Jonathan Williamson [SMLT]
	Elizabeth Christian	Barrie Pyke [Henley]	Caroline Goodchild [Offton]

Thoughts were shared by some members as to their views on what the role of an Area Representative involved. There was a question from the floor asking for more detail as to the role of a SE District Representative on the GMC. A response was given by the Guild Chairman, Mark Ogden.

11. Safeguarding

Members present were encouraged to check they had the current Safeguarding poster up in their ringing chambers [Suffolk Guild of Ringers Safeguarding Requirements poster](#).

A reminder was shared that as bell ringing is a volunteer role within the church, safeguarding training is completed as soon as an individual either starts to learn to handle a bell or an experienced bell ringer joins your band. Help your new members to link up with the PSO [Parish Safeguarding Officer].

A member expressed concern that the 'What to do with a Safeguarding Concern' section is confusing to act upon. Their thoughts will be shared with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and appropriate action taken, if required.

Members were directed to the 'Permission to Ring' and 'Permission to Attend an Outside Activity' Young Person permission forms [under 18yrs]. A reminder was shared that these are for every bell ringer across the age group, regardless of ringing ability and membership of the Suffolk Guild.

12. 2024 SE District events programme

The 2023 SE District Ringing Master informed the meeting that initial enquiries have been made for a District Ring from 10.00 - 12.00hrs on Saturday 6th January at Hollesley [TBC].

The 2024 SE District Ringing Master shared his reasoning behind introducing bimonthly Friday evening Surprise Major practices. The first one is at Ufford, 26th January, 19.30 - 21.00hrs. Methods will be from the Standard 8 to begin with. Details of all practices to be found on What's On.

The remainder of the programme will be discussed when the 2024 SE District Committee hold their first meeting.

13. Christmas Ringing in Ipswich 2023

Katharine Salter directed everyone to the Guild website What's On page where all details can be found as regards ringing on Saturday 23rd December 2023 at St Matthew, St Lawrence, St Mary-le-Tower, St Margaret, St Clement, The Wolery

The post will be updated in respect of where refreshments will be made available.

14. Any Other Business

Striking Competitions

Jonathan Williamson described two different 'Striking Competitions' he and Amanda Richmond had been involved in over the year as a discussion starter for the SE District Striking Competitions to be held in 2024 following the nature of the mix of ringers now across the district. In 2023 Clopton, Bramford, St Lawrence, Barham & Henley all had bellringers who had learnt to ring recently in their call change bands. Since then even more have started on their ringing journey. We need to have something in place to offer these individuals/bands.

Ipswich Teaching Group

- Their developing and supporting ringers drew bands from a 'pot' [when J and A not present]
- The bands took turns to ring, while the Amanda and Jonathan judged from afar
- The judges provided feedback

NE District Striking Competition 2023

specifically designed to be flexible, exciting and include involvement by all members

- 3 trophies competed for
 - highest scoring method ringing team
 - highest scoring call change team
 - a team who has not won either of the above and who in the opinion of the Ringing Master gave the most impressive performance, taking account of improvement since the previous competition and the level of experience of the band
- test piece
 - method may be 120 changes [Doubles or Minor] or 12 courses of Plain Hunt Doubles/3 or 4 plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles or Grandsire Doubles
 - call change teams
 - rounds teams

The suggestion of forming a Working Party is now with the SE committee.

12. Next ADM

Saturday 7th December 2024

The 2023 Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19.50hrs