

2023 Area report from Robert Scase

Framlingham

Framlingham is happy to report that we have a team of ringers for both Sunday mornings and Tuesday evening practice (more on Tuesdays). We often ring all eight bells on a practice night.

We have rung for weddings, funerals and special events though out the year and have been thankful for ringers from other towers who have helped in the holiday

We rung for the King in May and also took part in the Framlingham coronation celebrations where we had a recruitment stand. We borrowed a local bell demonstration model and this was successful. We have welcomed some interested ringers and one of which is now fully trained. We would like thank visiting teachers Chris McArthur and Ray Lewis for their continued support and teaching experience.

Rachel Chesman Tower Captain

Otley

With the wonderful support of ringers from nearby towers, we sustain a weekly practice at Otley (followed by social time at the White Hart) and monthly service ringing. The occasion of the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023 was marked with general ringing. Otley also entered a call change band in the SE District striking competition at Barham in May.

Tig Sweet Tower Captain

Debenham

Regular service and practice ringing has continued throughout the year.

The numbers for weekly service ringing is good. We are usually able to ring all 8 bells on Sunday morning. Tuesday practices continue to be well attended. Visitors are always welcome. The ringing ranges from rounds to surprise major/Stedman triples. Other ringing opportunities are arranged at local towers for ringing development and quarter peals. Being placed first (jointly with Pettistree) in the SE district method striking competition, for the first time was pleasing. Practise and many years of entering a band has led to steady improvement.

As well as ringing in celebration of the coronation, other special ringing has taken place during the year. Suffolk based members of the College Youths rang a peal of Double Norwich, for the Suffolk Guild, on the 100th anniversary of the first 8 bell peal rung for the Guild, also rung at Debenham. We were delighted that Diana Pipe was able to ring a quarter to celebrate the 70th anniversary of her first peal. Also rung here.

Framsden

The back 6 of these bells, which are near end of life, and only to be rung occasionally, were rung twice during the year. They were rung in celebration of the coronation and for a benefice service. The ringing was organised by the Debenham ringers.

The BAC are suggesting doing some safety repair work to the floor under the trebles. This should enable all 8 bells to be rung, but will not change the condition of the bells, which will remain at condition 4.

Helmingham

The 3rd Friday practices have continued over the year and are usually well attended. Debenham Sunday service ringers continue to ring for the monthly service. This is sometimes only on 6 bells due to clashes with other services in the area. They were rung for the coronation, weddings and by visiting bands.

Winston

Debenham ringers have arranged for these bells to be rung for important services and events, including the coronation, benefice service, and Christmas.

Jenny Scase Tower Captain (Benefice)

Badingham and Dennington

Continue to alternate their Thursday evening practice and ring for services when possible, it has been pleasing to see new members elected from these two towers.

Cretingham, Earl Soham, Monewden

All in the mid-Loes Benefice, are rung when possible for special services and by visiting bands.

All three towers were rung during the weekend of celebration of the coronation.

Area Representative Report

The **Shotley peninsula** ringers are largely a single band. Practice night is Monday at Tattingsstone, and mostly Holbrook, but sometimes Stutton or Harkstead on a Tuesday. There is usually good attendance at the practices, with as many as 17 at Holbrook on occasions. It's a bit cosy when that happens.

Our band of young ringers, age ranging from 10 to 18 rang for the Coronation, organising themselves, and ringing some very respectable rounds and call changes.

Over the summer, we have joined with the Falkenham and Felixstowe ringers for practices. Having a few more experienced ringers helps the learners enormously, enabling them to make progress.

[cut and paste from Janet Looser's email to SE Secretary]

Area Report for SE Annual District Meeting December 2nd 2023

Barham

Barking

Barking has had a reasonable year. An extra ringer has been gained for the regular Monday night practices. They are very fortunate to have a young ringer who is developing rapidly, enabling the band to occasionally ring Cambridge and Stedman on practice nights.

Sunday service ringing can be a problem due to not being able to find enough ringers but the ellacombe chimes are rung when possible.

Ringing for one wedding took place and a peal was rung to mark the 20th anniversary of the passing of former Tower Captain ,David Barnard.

Coddenham

No practice night or Sunday Service ringing.

Ringing for weddings and Special Occasions take place with the support of ringers from other towers.

Earl Stonham

No practice night.

Sunday Service ringing once a month, a mix of band members and support from other towers.

Ringing for all the festivals but no weddings in 2023.

A quarter peal is rung once a month by local band.

A booster group of ringers practice occasionally on a Thursday afternoon, led by the Tower Captain from Debenham

One member of the band attended a Suffolk Guild course for ringing up and down in peal, held at St Margaret's church ,Ipswich in September.

Henley

Stonham Aspal

It remains challenging to persuade ringers to attempt even some of the Stonham Aspal ten.

In spite of this, ringing has taken place for most of the major events, largely relying on ringers from other towers .Unfortunately the aim of service ringing once per month has rarely been met .Partly this is because other local towers are ringing at the same time, partly because of the reputation of the bells and partly because of the steep ladder to reach them.

There have been a number of visiting bands. Hopefully the newly built state-of -the- art toilet facilities about to be opened in the church might encourage others.

All towers were involved in ringing for the King on the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles 111 , May 6th

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Margaret Cherry Area Representative.

Area Report for SE District ADM Falkenham/Felixstowe

Felixstowe, although there is no band, is teaching three learners with help, and one of them has taken a keen interest in steeple keeping. Sunday service ringing takes place with help from Falkenham.

Falkenham is becoming a stronger band with our more inexperienced ringers improving all the time, the emphasis being on listening and striking. Help from Felixstowe and Holbrook is much appreciated. Sunday service ringing is well-supported, usually with all six bells. We also have enthusiastic cake-makers amongst us which goes down well with a hot drink on a cold evening.

As with both towers, experienced ringers would be most welcome and all are encouraged to visit other practice nights, district meetings, etc, work commitments permitting. Neither tower has ringers under 18.

With the CCCBR weekend still fresh in mind, it would be beneficial to continue with the odd training course here and there like raising/lowering in peal or progressing to surprise minor/major – there are many possibilities; learners and teachers alike benefit from training courses.

Lesley Barrell Falkenham TC

David Stanford - Area Report - Clopton, Hasketon, Burgh, Grundisburgh, Woodbridge

Clopton

There are weekly Friday practices with an average attendance of nine comprising both Clopton tower members and regular visitors. The bells are rung for Sunday service on the 4th Sunday.

Four people were taught to ring during the year all of whom joined the Guild as Clopton tower members. There are no ringers under eighteen years of age.

The bells were rung for the Coronation of King Charles III by Clopton ringers and regular visitors.

A combination of good fortune and foresight resulted in the acquisition of a tower vacuum cleaner and there is optimism that a clean ringing room will ensure good ringing into the future.

Looking ahead the band will progress to simple change ringing and some additional proficient ringers will be helpful to those learning.

Hasketon

There are no Guild members or ringers associated with Hasketon but a benefice-wide band rang for Sunday services at least once a month with the exception of when the church was not accessible due the installation of a kitchen and toilet. The congregation express their like of the Sunday service ringing and usually ensure a suitable gift of appreciation is given to the ringers at Christmas time.

Burgh

There are no Guild members or ringers associated with Burgh. A benefice-wide band aim to ring the bells once in the months when there are Sunday services.

The bells were rung for the Coronation of King Charles III in May by ringers from benefice towers.

Grundisburgh

There are practices most Thursdays with attendance being sporadic but usually sufficient to ring some doubles methods. Some additional regular visitors would help those who currently attend and possibly be a step toward ringing all twelve bells (and ultimately the National Twelve Bell Competition).

The bells are rung weekly for Sunday services when there are typically eight ringers from benefice towers.

The bells were rung by ringers from benefice towers to mark Commonwealth Day in March and the Coronation of King Charles III in May.

There are no ringers under the age of eighteen and at this time no learners being taught to handle.

Woodbridge

Woodbridge has a very loyal band of ringers who ring every Sunday morning for the morning service with attendance being typically ten ringers. Most of the ringing for Sunday services, weddings and special events is

posted on Bellboard. One Sunday in January an entire Woodbridge band of eleven ringers rang before morning Eucharist Service and in May fifteen ringers gathered to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III. There are no ringers or learners under eighteen years of age. Two members of the band having completed the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) module one teacher course are teaching new recruits and working towards ART teacher accreditation. The band is self-sufficient and progressing but welcomes visitors.