
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Charity

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 December 1975, registration number 266869. The Charity's registered address is Millbeck House, Harleston Green, Shelland, Stowmarket, IP14 3HU. It is governed under a constitution originally registered in 1977 and most recently revised in 2013.

Principal objectives

The purpose of the Charity is to promote and encourage the practice of bell ringing within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; to recruit, train and encourage bell ringers in the practice of their art; to cultivate the art of scientific change ringing; and to promote and advise on the preservation of bells in an efficient condition.

Trustees

The Trustees during the period were A F Stanley (replacing P J Gorrod from April 6th), G E Slack, and A J Shedden.

Review of Progress and Achievements

Bell ringing The Guild continues to attain a presence on local broadcast media and is prominent on social networking sites. It has been another busy year for ringing as shown with the number of peals and quarter peals and other successful ringing events taking place. The advances made last year with the teaching of ringing and the mentoring of teachers have continued in 2013 and our young ringers have made real progress. A presentation from the Guild was made to our retiring President, Bishop Nigel, to express our thanks for his support.

The Pipe Trust Fund In addition to supporting a number of activities for beginners during the year, grants from the Pipe Family Trust Fund helped defray the travelling and accommodation costs of those taking part in the Young Ringers Striking Competition in York. We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of a further generous contribution to the Fund at the beginning of 2014 from the Pipe family, which will help us to continue to support our beginners in the future.

Restoration activities Our main contribution was to Clopton where the restoration of the bells was completed. We also made a further contribution to the Norman Tower as their augmentation reached completion. Members of the Belfry Advisory Committee continue to give advice and support, both for routine maintenance and restoration projects.

Guild Finances

Policies All money in the Guild's funds not required for day-to-day working purposes is invested or deposited by the Treasurer, as directed by the Guild Management Committee. Grants from the Restoration Fund are authorised by the Guild Management Committee but are only paid after completed work has been approved by the Guild Ringing Master and the Technical Adviser. Grants are normally only offered for work to restore bells and their fittings for full-circle ringing, but may include augmentation and other ancillary work associated with any such project.

General Fund Income to the General Fund increased some 8% from 2012 primarily from increased sales of rope to towers in the Guild and from additional peal fees. Expenditure showed an increase of 4% although the only category to show a sizeable increase was our purchase of rope: both polyester and hardy hemp are now available for towers to purchase. The net effect after an increased transfer once again to the Restoration Fund is a reduction in the General Fund of £272 which is more than covered by the increase in our stock and assets.

Restoration Fund Restoration Fund income has increased by 25% on 2012, mainly from a large increase in donations and from an increase in interest as a result of the investment made last year in bonds through the Charities Aid Foundation. Grant approval was low once again continuing the pattern since 2009 and hence the sum available for allocation to new projects has increased to £58,369. With the grants paid to Clopton and to the Norman Tower and other small grants paid, most of the previously allocated grants have now been paid.

Summary The small reduction in the General Fund balance in 2013 resulted from the increase in stock and assets. The Restoration Fund has again grown leaving the Guild in a strong position to assist with projects which we understand are in the pipeline.

A F Stanley
Trustee & Chairman
February 2013

G E Slack
Trustee & Treasurer
February 2013

A J Shedden
Trustee & Secretary
February 2013