



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 12

Winter 2013

Awl a'huld



Window in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Barsham.

Inside this issue

Editorial.....	2	Young Ringers in York.....	11
From the Chairman	3	A Moment of Madness.....	12
Round the Districts	4-7	Reydon Scarecrows	13
Five Go on a Pilgrimage.....	8	Stutton Bells' Centenary	14
Peal Compositions Part 3.....	10	Helen Price Looks Back	15
		Most Holy Trinity, Barsham	16

From the Editors

Welcome to the twelfth issue of your Guild magazine. December is the busiest time of the year for tower bell ringers as there are all those extra Christmas services. We are all going to be busy ringing for carol services. As he has done for many years now, Revd. Brian Redgers is organising ringing in Ipswich for the last minute Christmas shoppers on Saturday 21st December. He needs 51 ringers so if you can help, please contact him at revredgers@live.co.uk or 01473 436575. Hand bell ringers too are much in demand at this time of the year. We hope that, amongst all this activity, you will find time to read this offering. There is certainly plenty of variety in this issue, from bungee jumping to making scarecrows, but also much ringing news.

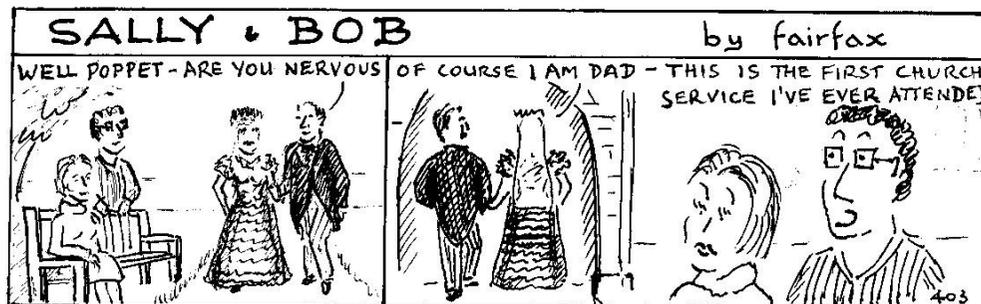
We are grateful to all our contributors, without whom there would be no magazine. On this occasion we would particularly like to mention Rowan Wilson's article: Five Go on a Pilgrimage. This is a condensed version of the much fuller account which appeared on page 1000 of the Ringing World on October 4th. Many thanks also to the Reverend John Buchanan for his notes on Barsham church and its treasures.

To other contributors: apologies if your piece has not been included this time. Rest assured it has been stored safely away for future use.

Since Alan has been elevated to the lofty height of Guild Chairman there is now a vacancy in the editorial team. If you would be interested in helping to produce this little publication, please let us know.

Copy and photographs, wherever possible, for the spring issue should be sent by the end of February to magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or by post to Sue Freeman, High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG. All that remains is to wish you all a very happy Christmas and joyful ringing in the New Year.

Sue Freeman and Richard Gates



From the Chairman



As with so many things that we do there is a thread running through them. As I set out to put my thoughts together for this edition, I started by looking back at the piece I wrote for the last issue of the magazine, and I find that there are topics there that I should add to. I have continued to get out and about. As many of you will know, Bishop Nigel Stock has left his post as Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to take up a position at Lambeth. After a suggestion was put forward at the South East District meeting, which was then discussed by the executive and agreed by the GMC, I went along to a farewell Evensong service at the Cathedral where, on behalf of The Guild, I presented Bishop Nigel with a framed certificate marking his time as President of our

Guild. What a wonderful service with the Cathedral full to standing room only and the choir in fine voice.

Two great finds, in no particular order, as they say on X Factor. A young ringer representing the North West District to serve on the GMC; welcome Neal Dodge; he attended the GMC meeting in October, and at a stroke the average age of GMC members has reduced by..... well I won't say how many years. And secondly at the same meeting (NW ADM) the Guild found its new Report Editor. Another younger ringer, George Reynolds, making a significant contribution to the Guild. Great stuff George.

And while we are on the topic of the Annual Report can I appeal to all contributors to make it as straight forward as possible for George by getting your report content to him as early as is possible. I know that some content cannot be finalised until the year end but even so please try to get it done sooner rather than later. As before the address is report@suffolkbells.org.uk

This past week-end (9th November) I attended the North East ADM and spent a pleasant late afternoon, early evening, with ringing at Southwold and Reydon, two new towers for me. Thanks to all those folks for making me so welcome. I must mention the huge appreciation that was shown by the District to the outgoing Ringing Master, Maggie Ross, to which I added the Guild's thanks on behalf of all our young ringers.

And congratulations to our young ringers on their splendid performance in the RWNYC at York in July.

Enjoy the festive season and your Christmas ringing.

Alan Stanley

From the North East District



In the empty, redundant church of St Mary at Quay

not just a male domain.

During the morning we dealt with clock hammers in the way, witnessed rope splicing in three minutes flat and laughed nervously (all you can do) when ringing some rather peculiar bells with dubious 'go'. But for all the challenges, we still managed to ring St Clements at St Clements; we tried St Nicholas at St Nicholas and rang a decent touch of Ipswich to finish our day in Ipswich.

Massive thanks go to Maggie for organising the tour. It was such a positive day and great to see so much enthusiasm and encouragement. Even the weather was perfect.
Ambrin Williams

What an amazing turnout for the North East District Outing to Ipswich on Saturday 12th October! In the words of our retiring District Ringing Master, 'It was brilliant (if slightly overwhelming) to see so many people crammed into the ringing chamber at St Mary Le Tower. I believe well over 40 people rang over the course of the day.'

The day gave us the opportunity to ring on some very challenging bells in the morning at St Clements, St Mary at Quay and St Nicholas, before moving onto the easier bells of SMLT, St Margaret, St Lawrence and St Matthew in the afternoon. It was fantastic to see people ringing outside of their comfort zones – there were a number that hadn't rung on 12 before, who all seemed to stand their bells with a massive grin on their faces, including young Richard Stephens who I think was the youngest ringer of the day. Then there were all the female tenor ringers (also at SMLT) showing that the heavier bells are



At St Mary le Tower

Congratulations to Ambrin Williams on ringing her first peal, at Reydon, on Sunday June 30th. She rang the treble to plain bob minor.

Good News from the North West District

Four new ringers at Bardwell have just gained their Level One certificates in the Learning the Ropes Scheme. With the help of some loyal and dedicated ringers from neighbouring towers, they were taught by Ruth Suggett who attended the Module One ITTS course at Mildenhall in April. Learning The Ropes is an excellent scheme which is supportive to both the learner and teacher alike, and lays the foundations for good handling, which in turn will allow better progression towards change ringing. Why not check out the website of the Association of Ringing Teachers for more information on how you could get involved?



Left to right: Jane Dow, Teresa Ives, Kian Ives and Jasmine Ives.

Brian Thaxter, chairman of the Horringer Peal Appeal writes, In September St Leonard's took part in a Heritage Open day and welcomed visitors from far and wide, which gave an opportunity to publicise our 'Peal Appeal.' In October we held a second open day, aimed at our villagers who have given the Bells Refurbishment Project such magnificent support. We are grateful to both Ruth Suggett and Brian Whiting who brought teams of ringers to help. The WI Handbells Group again gave an enjoyable concert. The borrowed Mini Ring was a great success, especially with youngsters. There are certainly budding ringers out there!

We are close to making that all important application for funding, and bucked by the VAT concessions recently announced.



Ruth Young of Hopton rang her first peal since 1975 while on holiday with friends in Yorkshire. On 21st September they rang 5060 Yorkshire Surprise Major at the church of St Alkelda at Giggleswick in Craven. It was rung with the band's best wishes to Ruth for her forthcoming significant birthday and to Maurice for his approaching 70th birthday. The picture shows the band outside Ripon Cathedral.

Left to right: Maurice Rose, Louis Suggett, Ruth Suggett, Joan Garrett, David Stanford, Ruth Young,

Brian Whiting, Ian Boocock.

Notes from the South East District

As usual, it's been a busy few months for us in the South East. The June meeting held at Coddenham was particularly eventful, having eight new members elected, and it was great to have two of them with us that day! It was also lovely to see Alan Smith, who managed to come down to the church at the end of the meeting to see us all. Sadly since then he has passed away, so it was particularly poignant to have him with us that day.

July saw us venture over to Monewden and Cretingham, two towers the district had not been to for some time. Even though these towers are a bit 'out in the sticks', it was good to have plenty of support on what was a glorious sunny day. What's more, the Cretingham Bell is practically opposite the church, making a tempting stop off point for lunch!

August is a tricky month. With so many people on holiday, or enjoying the weather wherever they may be, it can be difficult to get a worthwhile practice going.



In the pub on Quarter Peal Evening

Through our annual Quarter Peal evening (always followed by a meal in a nearby pub) the August event has become more and more popular. With three towers lined up with bands chomping at the bit to ring, Tom Scase found himself with more ringers than ropes. So, with a bit of scrambling round before I went on holiday, we found two extra towers to accommodate the influx of volunteers. It was a great night, with all quarters scored and plenty of food consumed! Thanks to Tom for organising the bands, and also

to Kate Eagle who booked the pub, this year the Three Tuns at Pettistree.

It was with great sadness that George Pipe decided to stand down from his post as magazine correspondent. He took up the post some years ago, and has badgered people as well as writing many articles himself, so that the district always put something forward for the magazine. It was also really wonderful to see him at the September Quarterly Meeting at Sproughton. Many had not seen him for some time as he recovered from his illness, but we are pleased he is doing so well, and although he stepped down from his post, he hasn't put down his pen yet! Expect to see more jottings from George. We must also welcome Elaine Townsend to the team, as she has stepped into the shoes George has left to fill. If you have any articles or items from our district for the magazine, Elaine will be happy to receive them.

Ruth Munnings, South East District Secretary

The South West District on tour

A lovely sunny afternoon on Saturday 28th September saw twenty ringers arrive at the church of St. Lawrence the Martyr at Ridgewell in Essex. Until recently these bells were an unringable five but now they are an easy going, ground floor six. We had amongst us a variety of abilities and therefore catered for all, with rounds and called changes as well as doubles and minor methods. We then moved on to Toppesfield to ring at the unusually dedicated church of St. Margaret of Antioch. These bells have also been fairly recently restored and have been augmented from a five to an eight. They are a galleried ring with a 14cwt. tenor and again are easy going. With eight bells we had the opportunity to ring Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples as well as rounds and called changes.

We drove through some lovely autumn countryside to Gosfield to our final church, St. Catherine. We were due to arrive at 5.30pm; although several of us arrived early, Dave was already there to greet us. He showed us the second ground floor ring of our tour before leaving us to enjoy another session of easy ringing.

The final leg of our mini tour through the Essex countryside brought us to Halstead and our dinner destination: The Bird in Hand on Chapel Hill. Fifteen sat down to an excellent meal, efficiently served in pleasant surroundings. We would like to thank David Lee for his excellent organisation, the incumbents for allowing us to ring their bells and those who let us in for being so welcoming.

Lynda Lee

Congratulations to Johann Tasker on ringing his first quarter peal, at Polstead, on Sunday 13th October. He rang the tenor to Plain Bob Doubles.

Monks Eleigh bell ringers, always keen to mark a royal event, were quick to celebrate the birth of Prince George, although at the time he was known only as the Royal Baby. They rang for 20 minutes ringing to Queens and back to rounds. The photograph was taken at 2118 hours on 22nd July. Left to right: Malcolm Every, Mandy Coll, Sally Long, Barbara Sims and Charlie Brown.



Derek Rose reports,

On the 28th October an open day was held at St Peter's Sudbury to show the public what can be put on in this redundant church. I jumped in with both feet to promote the art of ringing. Unfortunately this was just after the strong winds so it was a slow start to the day but the afternoon and evening were quite busy. Between 35 and 40 people came up the tower, some having a go some not so willing. Since then five people have contacted me and we have met up at St Gregory's. The Friends of St Peter's will hold another open day in the new year and we will be there representing the Suffolk Guild again. I would like to say a big thank you to Sue Freeman, John Smith, David Walters and Jed Flatters for their support on the day.

Five go on a Pilgrimage (5th to 9th August)

As with all the best ideas associated with ringing, this one started in the pub after a practice night at the Norman Tower. 2013 marks 1000 years since the body of St Edmund was returned to Bury St Edmunds having been taken to London for safekeeping from the Danes. We had just heard that a group from the Cathedral congregation were going to celebrate the anniversary by walking from St Paul's Cathedral following the original route as closely as possible. What a great chance this would be, we thought, to support the pilgrims by ringing at churches on the route but, as some of the towers were a few miles from the route, we decided to cycle instead of walk.

On Monday 5th August we all met on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral. There were 20 walkers, 4 (later 5) bellringing cyclists and a support crew.

There was no ringing scheduled for our first day unfortunately. The first night's stop was at Ongar, where we spent the night at St Martin's church hall. With only four ringers for the first part of the week we were rather restricted at Fryerning, our first tower, but managed some simple Minimus and Stedman Singles. The church was too far from the walkers' route but at least we were signalling their arrival in the area.

A very reliable source (Bishop Nigel) told us later in the week that our efforts to ring the bells en route was very much in keeping with what would have happened in 1013 as the local churches celebrated the return of St Edmund's remains to East Anglia.

At Chelmsford Cathedral we were welcomed with tea and biscuits before evensong. We were unable to ring but made up for it later at Writtle where we were made very welcome at their practice.

At the first tower of the third day, Broomfield, the footpath went straight past the lych gate so we thought that the walkers would certainly hear us as they passed by. We didn't unfortunately account for an earlier than usual start! We knew that our next tower, Great Leighs, was a bit of a long shot as the walking route had been changed slightly but our final tower of the day at Stisted surely had to be a dead cert as the walkers would be arriving for tea and biscuits followed by a service.

After a nervous wait, we managed to time the ringing perfectly and rang as they arrived. Up to this point I think we felt a bit like hangers-on; although we were covering the same mileage as the walkers it was much easier by bike. The walkers were obviously very tired after their third day but were very appreciative of our efforts and we felt we had earned our place as fellow pilgrims.

Our accommodation for the night was at St Paul's Braintree. Once we found someone to let us in we discovered the best church hall facilities you could ask for. On day four we were foiled again with our first tower, Greenstead Green, as the walkers had been bussed further on to Earls Colne in order to reduce the day's



Window in Greenstead church showing the torture of King Edmund by the Danes in AD869 as he refused to renounce his Christian faith

mileage and ensure that they were not late for the service to be taken by Bishop Nigel at St Stephen's Chapel, Bures. Not disheartened, we rang and then pedalled on to Bures where lunch was served after the service in the grounds of the Chapel (traditional site of the coronation of King Edmund on Christmas Day AD855).

We were joined for the service and lunch by our biggest group of well-wishers yet, some of whom (including Bishop Nigel) would be walking the final leg of the day to Sudbury. It was difficult to drag ourselves away from the beautiful surroundings but we had some more ringing to do. As the walkers came down the hill, the bells of Bures rang out, our numbers swelled by local ringers and two more Norman Tower ringers (one of whom was going to cycle with us back to Bury). Again the timing was perfect and the homecoming to Suffolk was duly marked.

Thinking that the walkers were well on their way, a brief stop at the Lamarsh Lion was slotted into the itinerary. Unfortunately, with their numbers swelled from 20 to nearly 40, they were walking rather slowly so they caught us in the act of having a pint (or two). This was in fact only our second pub visit on the whole Pilgrimage; hard to believe but with all of the sandwiches, tea and cakes provided we'd not felt the need to seek the normal refreshment stops associated with ringers!

Our final night was spent in Sudbury where we rang at St Gregory's, again being helped by the local ringers one of whom had joined the walkers for the afternoon.

Being the final night, we managed to persuade some of the walkers to join us at Mauldon's Brewery Tap in Sudbury for a celebratory pint.

On our final day there was no ringing booked on the way to Bury so we had an easy morning. The walkers had a tighter schedule as they had to reach Bury for a final service at the Cathedral followed by a special service at the High Altar ruins in the Abbey Gardens.



The five intrepid cycling ringers. Left to right: Clare Veal, Jed Flatters, Abby Antrobus, George Reynolds and Rowan Wilson

This was to be the climax of the ringing as, supported by some of the other Norman Tower ringers, we rang for the service which we then joined. Little did we know that, as we rang to welcome the walkers back into Bury, the townspeople, who had been following the Pilgrimage on Radio Suffolk, had come out in force and lined the streets to cheer their arrival. We unfortunately missed this emotional arrival but we heard

later that many of the walkers had shed tears of joy as they arrived to the sound of the bells and the cheers of the local people.

Rowan Wilson

Understanding Compositions part three

Place Notation is a very simple system of recording the methods we ring using the smallest amount of space. The rules of ringing methods are not dissimilar to call changes. A bell can only do three things. 1) Stay where it is in the row. 2) Change places with the bell it is following or 3) Change places with the bell that is following it.

Most methods rung are symmetrical. A few asymmetrical methods have been rung and in Doubles there are some asymmetrical calls but in general ringing you are unlikely to come across these. Most methods have a set Treble path. You can tell this from the name. Plain Bob, the Bob indicates a plain hunting treble. Treble Bob, Surprise and Delight, indicate a treble dodging method. Alliance indicates the treble has a different path to normal and Little indicates a reduction in the normal. So "Little Bob" indicates plain hunt to a position less than the number involved, in Major to 4th place and "Little Surprise" indicates a treble bob to a position less than the number involved.

Additionally methods run to "regular" lead ends; these are the lead ends produced by plain bob. 35264, 56342, 64523, 42635, 23456 for minor, 3527486, 5738264, 7856342, 8674523, 6482735, 4263857, 2345678. These are the limiting rules for methods.

A system of recording all methods was developed called Place Notation. It looks like x16x16x16 LE 12. It used to be found against the diagram in the diary but what does it mean? Each piece of information relates to a row. You will see that in x16x16x16 there are six pieces of information. 3 X's and 3 16's. These six pieces of information create the first half lead of plain bob minor.

Starting from rounds:

123456 x indicates that all adjacent pairs swap
214365 16 indicates that bells in positions 1 and 6 lie still
241635 x indicates that all adjacent pairs swap
426153 16 indicates that bells in positions 1 and 6 lie still
462513 x indicates that all adjacent pairs swap
645231 16 indicates that bells in positions 1 and 6 lie still
654321

This is the first half lead of plain hunt or plain bob minor. Because all methods are symmetrical you just need to repeat the above in reverse x16x16x16 to end up with a full lead and rounds. However the place notation adds LE 12 at the end. This means you run the reversal to the lead head 132546 (row 11) and then apply 12 for the lead end. 132546 12 gives 135264 which repeated four times gives the course.

34.16x16x16 LE 12 is the place notation for Reverse Canterbury. The 34.16 indicates that places are made over the rows. So 123456, 213465 (34), 231645 (16) and so on.

For Treble Dodging Minor there will be 12 pieces of information in the place notation. Cambridge Surprise Minor is x36x14x12x36x14x56 LE 12. Calls where not standard are always specified by place notation. B = 14, S = 1234 are standard

for Plain Bob and Cambridge. They mean that at a Bob (B) the bells in position 1 and 4 lay still. For Norwich or other sixth place methods it would be B = 14 S = 1456.

Other types of calls, (tones and big bobs or non standard bobs or singles) will be defined at the end of a composition. S = 1256, B = 1456, T = 34, B = 18 and so on. The same will be true of half lead calls. HLS 3478, HLB 58.

Once you have learnt to draw out methods by place notation you can then learn to use it as a guide to ringing. Where are the places made? If two bells are laying still what are the others doing? and so on. Some hand-bell ringers never learn the lines ringing solely by place notation.

~~David Salter~~

Young Ringers' Trip to York – July 2013

One sunny Friday, eight youngsters (and additional adults) made their way up to the majestic city of York, to take part in the Ringing World National Youth Contest. We stayed the night in a Travelodge, laughing the night away with food and drink following a hilarious trip to Sainsbury's. After a decent night's sleep, we set off early on Saturday morning, with the sun already blazing brightly.

After a quick grab on the Charmborough Ring (a mini-ring), we visited the open towers in York City Centre. At each of the towers, there was a 'focus method.' These ranged from Bob Major and Grandsire Triples to Bristol Major and Yorkshire Royal. Just before our allocated time, we trekked nervously to St Lawrence Church, passing other teams as we went. We rang our



test piece (a touch of Bob Triples), the best we could and waited to find out the results (nervously... again!)

After a nerve-wracking wait, the result for the Suffolk Guild was that we came 3rd (out of the 3 that rang a method.) However, overall, we were joint 11th out of 16 teams.

I thoroughly enjoyed the competition and I am positive that everyone in the Suffolk Young Ringers' Team (and the other teams) enjoyed the contest, immensely. Those of us that represented Suffolk this time round have now bonded amazingly well, despite the age range



between us all. Each and every one of us has some wonderful memories of that weekend that we will all remember and cherish forever.

Ambrin Williams

A Moment of Madness

The two questions I am asking myself are: what am I doing here and will I actually do the jump?

The answer to the first one goes back a couple of weeks when David in the White Hart at Boxford said he was organising a sponsored bungee jump to be held in the pub car park. After this announcement someone said to me, 'Richard, that's the sort of thing you'd do isn't it?' Clearly I wasn't thinking straight for I said, 'Yes of course.' and the next thing I know a couple of friends have put up sponsorship money so now I can't back out. I sometimes wonder about my friends and how they manage to get me to do stupid things.

Anyway, three weeks later and having raised about three hundred pounds in sponsorship to be divided between a Breast Cancer charity and the Samaritans, it is too late to have second thoughts, although my first sight of the crane from which the jump will be made does cause me to have a moment of reflection.

The mechanics of the whole operation are very straight forward. Two straps are put round each ankle and another one attached to a body harness. Then I'm weighed so they can determine which bungee to use prior to my getting in to the metal basket that is hauled up to the top of the crane.



Going up

The basket when at the top is on the same level as the spire of Boxford tower and the crowd below in the White Hart's car park look very small. The operator in the basket with me opens the safety gate and asks me to stand on the edge. I do so looking straight ahead then I close my eyes; I don't want to see the earth coming up towards me. He says, 'I'll say one, two, three, bungee and you just lean forward, o.k.?' I nod, he says the words and as he says bungee I feel a slight pressure on my shoulder. That answered my second question. Then I'm falling head first. A moment later I'm being sprung back up and when I open my eyes I can't work out which

way is up or down

although I can hear the crowd cheering. A couple more bounces and then I'm lowered to the ground.

It is not something I plan to do often but it was an experience and the support of the village was summed up for me by one lady who said, 'You've got more balls than me, Richard.' Well that's good to know.

Richard Gates



Safely down

Reydon Bell Ringers' Beach Outing

Responding to a plea for scarecrows for the Reydon Scarecrow Trail, Suffolk, the bell ringers grouped together to make 8 life size scarecrows, each representing a particular ringer, with a theme of ringers' beach outing. Nothing too unusual so far maybe, until you look closer at the scarecrows. Scantily clad ringers were apparently sunning themselves, but then there were the bikini scarecrow and the mankini - wearing scarecrows representing our youngsters.

Ringling transcends all generations and encourages team work, but so does making scarecrows! Putting together the display was another team effort, (as was taking it down). We might be rural, coastal Suffolk, but ringing in this little village is alive and well with ringers of all ages, just like our scarecrows. We even came a very respectable third place in the voting for best scarecrow!

Ambrin Williams



George's Jottings

Alan Smith. Diana and I were saddened at Alan's passing after a long 'illness' cheerfully borne. Not only did he serve us as Treasurer but in other ways too, and his contribution to the Diocese on financial and related matters was exemplary. He enjoyed his ringing at Henley and elsewhere and I well remember years ago he asked me to call him a Quarter of Stedman Triples at Henley. We were successful; how thrilled he was to score. The Coddenham parish will miss him keenly.

Peter Laflin. If you weren't able to read The Revd Brian Harris's tribute in The Ringing World to Peter Laflin you missed a treat. He not only gave us the very interesting life story of this fine Debenham gentleman (what a book he could have written) but included two other wonderful Suffolk ringers who moved to Cheshire between the wars: Edward Jenkins from Earl Soham and Alan Bailey from Leiston. In their time, all three in the top flight.

Peter was one of the most gracious of men and could ring 'anywhere in the circle' on all numbers. He was in Diana's first peal (Cambridge at Debenham in the early fifties) and my last peal with him was at Stonham Aspal. Happily ringing continues through his family but we still miss his lovely smile, especially when the striking was good.

Pretty good stable Debenham: Peter Laflin, the Grimes (Alf was in William Pye's band in East London), Bill Rumsey and Bill Groom who shared the conducting, the Rowes, Tom Chapple, Leslie Wightman (also of the Framsdon/Helmington band). Ringers all worthy of Debenham's fine eight.

George Pipe

The Centenary of Stutton bells

One hundred years ago the Ipswich bell-founder Alfred



Bowell installed a new bell frame and cast six new bells for St Peter's church, Stutton. The work was carried out in memory of the Reverend Thomas Hill Jones who had died in 1909. In 1553 there had been three bells (none of them remained at the beginning of the twentieth century) and before 1913 there were five bells. Bells 1, 4 and 5 were cast by Miles Graye in Colchester in 1684, bell 2 by Charles Newman in Norwich in 1692 and bell 3 by Henry Pleasant in Sudbury in 1706. The inscriptions on the five old bells were reproduced on the new bells and a new treble bell was inscribed 'Donum dedit C.S.T. in memorium T.H.J. + 1894-1909.' The total cost of the work was £271 0s 3d which included some necessary repairs to the interior of the tower and the belfry. The bells were dedicated on 19 October 1913 at Evensong by the Bishop of Norwich and the first full peal was rung on the bells on 30 November in that year. On Sunday 27 October this year the first peal of 5040 Stutton Surprise Minor was rung by the following band:

- 1 David G Salter (C)
- 2 Rev Geoffrey P Clement
- 3 Colin F Salter
- 4 Jon Waters
- 5 Ian J Culham
- 6 George M Salter

It was rung to mark the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the bells and to mark 100 years since the first peal that was rung on the restored bells.

Jenny Warren

Photograph by John Pereira

Computer free to a good home

I have a redundant personal computer system, with tower, VDU (cro type), keyboard, mouse and loudspeakers and running Windows 98. All very dated and not at all trendy, but working well with ABEL installed. Is there anyone, or any tower who could make use of it to hone their method skills? It is available free, gratis and for nothing. I could even be persuaded to deliver the same.
John Smith 01787 312731

Helen Price looks back

In 1998, to encourage less experienced bands in the North East District to enter the striking competition, Don and I commissioned our daughter Rosie, then in her early days as a silversmith, to fashion a bell-shaped trophy with removable lid. She based the shape on Reydon's fifteenth century 'Gabriel'. She inscribed the bell as follows: 'I was commissioned by Helen Price. My body spun by John Need. Designed and made by Rosie Stephenson May 1998. Inspired by Gabriel, Reydon Church Tower.' Round the edge was, 'Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.'



My album records that the bell was first won on Saturday 9th May 1998 by Horham. The competition took place that year at Saxmundham.

On one occasion the winning Reydon band filled it with mint imperials before returning it at the next competition as a pleasant surprise for the winners. The following year the same mints were still there. 'We thought they were moth balls!'

Suffolk Guild Clothing for Christmas?

Why not give those ringers close to you some Guild clothing this Christmas? Stephen Cheek has organised a range of clothing items incorporating the Guild logo. You can choose from a vast range of sweat shirts, polo shirts, fleeces, rugby shirts etc. and samples can be seen at the following link: <http://stephencheek.com/downloads/SGclothing.pdf>

To order any item please contact Stephen on 01206 230429 or mail@stephencheek.com

If you can't see what you require, please get in touch with Stephen, as it is not possible to show everything and he can probably supply just what you want.

Single items may be ordered, and the order can usually be completed within a week. Alternative versions of the logo are shown below.



The Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Barsham

The Shell Guide to English Parish Churches by Robert Harbison says the church of the Most Holy Trinity, Barsham near Beccles possesses astonishing interest for one of its size. Simon Knott in his Suffolk Churches website includes the sentence, 'The exterior of this building is the most beautiful of any small church in Suffolk.' So we have much to live up to: yes it has an ancient round tower, but the nave is older, almost certainly Saxon in origin with decorated thatch. The tracery on the east gable covers the whole exterior wall and is unique: it has a likeness to the Etchingham shield of silver fretty work on an azure background and is not inconsistent with work of the 1450s; the family were lords of the manor here from 1423 to the 1550s.

We have a wealth of fine stained glass; only one main window is still plain. The 42 panels of the east window were painted by C E Kempe over the decade from 1870, the nave and chapel windows were almost certainly painted in 1900-1910 by James Fisher from rough sketches provided by F C Eden, architect here from about 1889 to the 1920s.



Madonna sewing after Guido Reni

The Suckling family came here in 1610; many became rectors. From the 1850s they were strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement which is still reflected in our focus on a sung Eucharistic service but without much of the accompanying 'smells and bells.'

It was here in 1725 that the wife of the rector, Dr Maurice Suckling DD, gave birth to Catherine, Maurice and William. Catherine became the mother of Admiral Lord Nelson, Maurice became a fine Royal Navy Captain fighting a famous battle on 21st October 1757; he later became Comptroller of the Navy whilst his younger brother William became Comptroller of Customs. Needless to say there were three other siblings who died in infancy and are

buried in the chancel.

Nowadays we have a rare Equinox Event not seen elsewhere since the Reformation when all Roods were taken down. The setting sun casts a spotlight, first on Mary, then Christ on the Cross atop the Rood Screen; both images last but four minutes and hold the audience spellbound. To see this Google 'Barsham Equinox'

Revd. John Buchanan