



Magazine of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Issue 14

Summer 2014

Awl a'huld



St Mary's, Buxhall. See back page.

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From the Editors

Our young ringers form the focus of this issue of the magazine. Congratulations to them on their ringing at Worcester. A full account of their trip can be found on the centre pages.

Congratulations also to Jed, Rowan and Abby and the other cyclists who joined them on their bike ride round the perimeter of the county as their way of marking the centenary of the founding of the diocese. They were joined by local ringers at the 33 towers they visited on their 238 mile journey. A full account of this tour will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

Thank you to David Salter who concludes his series of articles on Peal Compositions in these pages.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue. Please keep your stories and photographs coming in. Copy for the next issue should reach us by the middle of October. Please contact magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or write to Sue Freeman at High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG.

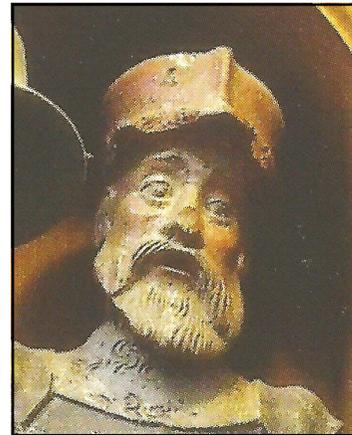


Editors' Quiz

Left: no one offered to tell us that this lovely fragment of medieval glass can be found in Polstead church.

Right: this time the head to be identified can be found in the North East District.

A prize will be awarded for a correct answer received by the editors, as above, by the end of September.



Richard Gates and Sue Freeman



The Guild Social Event

This year's social event was hosted by the South West District on Saturday August 16th. There was a chance to ring at four towers: Polstead, Boxford, Kersey and Hadleigh. Then, from 3.30 onwards the focus was on the purely social in the delightful garden of Hadleigh's historic Guild Hall opposite the church. Here there were garden games, remote control cars to play with and a chance to ring on the Guild's mini ring. Then the barbecue was lit. The Hadleigh ringers produced a lovely array of salads and everyone enjoyed their meal, which was completed with strawberries and cream.

Copies of a quiz compiled by Richard Gates were circulated during the meal so brains as well as jaws were exercised. The quiz was loosely connected with bells, but not with ringing, so non-ringers were in with a chance! When the answers were read out two teams had to be given a tie breaker question. The eventual winners were Neville Whittell's family.

Young ringer Amber Alexander was kept busy selling raffle tickets for the fine array of donated prizes.

Hadleigh ringer and town councillor Jan Byrne took two groups on a fascinating



guided tour of the Grade 1 listed group of buildings that is now collectively known as Hadleigh Guild Hall.

The evening ended with the auction of the two remote controlled cars donated by District Ringing Master Derek Rose.

Richard and Sue Finch and the Hadleigh ringers are to be congratulated on running such a very enjoyable event.

Photographs by Gavin Alexander

South East District Striking Competition- Saturday 3rd May 2014

This year the South East District's striking competition was held at Campsea Ashe. Once again there was a pleasing number of entries - ten in total, representing six towers. Our judges were Stephen and Janet Clarke, from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Five entries requested to ring later in the proceedings, so we held two draws. Firstly the other five entries were drawn followed by the five asking to ring later. Thankfully this worked fine; all those participating were assembled ready to ring in their team's allotted position.

Six entries were competing in the Cecil Pipe Memorial Method Competition and four entries in the David Barnard Memorial Call Change Competition.

My congratulations to Pettistree for narrowly winning both competitions. In the method competition St Mary le Tower A only accumulated two more faults than the winning Pettistree 'Us' entry. In the call changes Pettistree 'Them' only had 3 faults fewer than the runners up, Hollesley.

On behalf of the SE District I reiterate our thanks to the judges, Stephen and Janet, for so effectively judging and then delivering constructive feedback - never an easy task. I would also like to thank Ruthie for her organising, the locals at Campsea Ashe for all their assistance and of course all the ringers who took part.

Results

Cecil Pipe Memorial Bell - Method Competition

Position	Tower	Faults
1 st	Pettistree 'Us'	15½
2 nd	St Mary-le-Tower A	17½
3 rd	Offton	26
4 th	St Mary-le-Tower B	29½
5 th	Debenham M	30½
6 th	Sproughton A	46

David Barnard Memorial Trophy - Call Change Competition

Position	Tower	Faults
1 st	Pettistree 'Them'	35
2 nd	Hollesley	38
3 rd	Debenham C	39
4 th	Sproughton B	45

Tom Scase
SE District Ringing Master

From the North East

The North East District might be the smallest of the Guild, both in geographical area and in membership, but within the space of just a week we have had six successful first quarter peal attempts. Many congratulations to Sange and Steve Wilson in their joint effort, to Sal Jenkinson, Catherine Draper and Matthew Rolph (who each rang in one of three simultaneous quarters organised by Maggie Ross and Philip Gorrod), and Richard



Above, Rumburgh band. Left to right: Matthew Rolph, Graham Wright, Nicole Rolph, Maggie Ross, Alex Rolph, Ed Rolph.



Left, Chediston band. Left to right: Catherine Draper, Philip Gorrod, Chrissie Pickup, Michelle Williams, David Hammond, Peter Lock.

Stevens who rang with his parents, godfather and village ringing friends in his first at Sweffling.

A big thank you to those who have taught, helped, cajoled and provided positive reinforcement along the way. Here's hoping that these are the first of many for them all.

The photographs show the bands who rang simultaneous quarter peals.



Above, Wissett band. Left to right: Sal Jenkinson, Nikki Thomas, Hugh Spink, Veronica Downing, Neil Thomas, Graham Downing.

Michelle Williams

North West District Quarter Peal Week

A total of 19 quarters were rung for the above between 6th and 13th April. This was two more than last year and these were rung at 16 District towers with one (over the border) at Edwardstone. There were 10 conductors, with notably 5 new names for this year – Neil Dodge (PB Minimus at Ampton) Laura Davies (PB Triples at Bardwell) Betty Baines, Louis Suggett, Clare Veal (PB Doubles at Gt Barton) and Timothy Hart (who rounded off the week with Erin Caters at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds).

Conductors were Lesley Steed and Winston Girling (4 each) David Howe (3) and Louis Suggett (2) . The remaining conductors had one each.

This was a first class effort by all who arranged, conducted and took part in these quarter-peals. It is a clear indication in my view of the health and increasing vigour of our District. It is also excellent to see the increasing participation by our very talented young ringers. Well done to all.

Details of all the quarter peals can be found on the Guild website.

Winston Girling

NW District Ringing Master

Ruth Suggett writes:

On 30th May a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung at Woolpit to mark the



Golden Wedding Anniversary of David and Janet Brand. David himself rang the treble. He returned to ringing some years ago after a period of fairly prolific peal ringing in the 1950s. He now attends the Rougham practice on a regular basis and is always keen to ring quarter peals and learn new methods.

Left to right: Brian Evans, Eric Nice, Ruth Suggett, Maurice Rose, David Brand, Winston Girling.

Winning ways revealed for striking competitions

Ringers taking part in the South West District Striking Competition were given a special insight into the secrets that make a successful band.

Six teams took part in the district competition, held at St Mary's Church, Polstead, on Saturday, 16th June. Speaking afterwards, visiting judge David Sparling from Essex praised the participants and had some words of wisdom for competitors.

'Eight minutes is quite a long piece of ringing for call changes and it really does require constant concentration,' Mr Sparling told listeners. 'One of the things you must not do in a striking competition is get worse as you go along.'

Judges tried to be absolutely consistent throughout marking a competition, said Mr Sparling. But it was human nature that ears became sharper as ringing progressed. 'If you start off well, with a good rhythm and then deteriorate, those sharpened ears pick up every mistake. The secret is to get better,' he added.

'The next rule about striking competitions is that gaps are much less noticeable than clips. When one bell clips another, you can really hear it. But when there's a bit of a hole, the judge may let it go – especially if the ringing is improving.'

No-one had ever taken part in a striking competition and not made a mistake, said Mr Sparling. 'The secret is not to worry about the last mistake – worry about the next one. When you make one, forget it. Move on. Everybody makes them.'

When ringing call changes, some combinations were better than others. 'Some bells are odd struck – some ringers are odd struck. If you get the wrong combination of those, you can pick up a lot of faults – one after the other.'

If you are the conductor and you hear that happening, get them out. It is especially true about leading. Some people lead better than others. The lead is always important in ringing, but especially in a call change competition. Ringing was a team effort and it was unfair to single out any individuals, explained Mr Sparling. But if the front of the row was solid, all the better, he said. Conversely, a poor lead would affect the rhythm. 'If you have someone leading who is struggling, get them out quickly.' It was important for any band to ring consistently for the designated length of time. Ringing for longer unnecessarily meant more chance of picking up faults.

Competition Results

Position	Tower	Faults	
1	Polstead	80	
2	Stratford St Mary	84	* Rang method rather than call changes.
3	Hadleigh	85	
4	Nayland	92	
5	Kersey*	95	
6	Boxford	119	

Johann Tasker

RWNYC 2014

The Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) is a recent success that has been growing over the last few years from just a striking competition for under 19s to being an amazing day out with lots of different activities and ringing going on across a city.

This year's Contest held on Saturday 5th July was hosted by Worcester with the competition bells being the back 8 of the lightest ring of 10 in the country: Old St Martins in the Cornmarket. This is the fourth year the contest has taken place and the third time Suffolk has entered a band. Suffolk young ringers were drawn to ring last of the 16 teams who had gathered from all over the country.

On top of this, unlike previous years, we had the ability to bring along a whole group of ringers, 31 to be exact! 15 of those came along on the minibus and in total 28 came up the night before to stay at the University of Worcester.

The young ringers of the Suffolk band had been meeting monthly since September and our final practice was at Henley where a certain ringer with the initials GMS managed to break the rope of the treble in one pull. A sign of things to come?

The ringers selected to represent Suffolk and who were tasked to ring the 168 of Plain Bob Triples were:

Treble Ambrin Williams of Reydon

2 George Salter of Ipswich (C)

3 Ellie Earey of Sproughton

4 Nicole Rolph of Halesworth

5 Neal Dodge of Great Barton

6 Alex Rolph of Halesworth

7 Colin Salter of Ipswich

Tenor Simon Veal of Great Barton.

As well as 'the team' 10 other young ringers from all over Suffolk were involved in the whole build up to the contest and the day itself.

This includes: Jasmine Ives -

Bardwell, Matthew Rolph - Halesworth, Jack Robinson - Mildenhall, Richard Stevens - Rendham, Claire & Rebecca Last and Clara Gostling - Sproughton, Clare Veal & Ruth Eyles - Great Barton, Emma Driver - Parham.

After a good night's sleep and an excellent breakfast we had a lovely walk along the river Severn up to the cathedral where we registered. After a brief talk the team and some of their supporters went to St John the Baptist in Bedwardine, a smooth 15 cwt eight that were recently rehung, where the team grabbed hold in their positions and rang a very respectable course of Plain Bob Triples. After this the team then split off into little groups and then spent a few hours roaming around Worcester ringing with many other young ringers from around the UK. All the towers in Worcester were open and all tower captains were very welcoming to anyone of any ability. The same can be said of Tom Hinks running the handbells who as always did a super job at running all sorts of things from rounds to Bristol.



At about midday most of the team met up for the 12 bell master class being run by Simon Linford, the chief judge at the last contest, on the fine 20cwt 12 of All Saints. This was an introduction to 12 bell ringing with 8 experienced ringers and 4 young ringers in at any one time to give them a great go at taking part in some very good 12 bell striking. Shortly after this it was Suffolk's slot at the teaching centre. This is an amazing facility where 8 dumbbells are hung in a room below the ringing chamber of the cathedral and each bell is connected to a laptop with Abel installed. It is a fantastic facility for all ringers of all abilities and the young ringers and supporters who attended this session got a great deal from it. After some ringing at the other towers in Worcester we met up back at Old St Martins in Cornmarket to ring the test piece, with some arriving more promptly than others!

The practice touch went well but there was room for improvement. After a quick team talk the signal was given and we began the test piece. We were all pleased with how the team rang as it had no method mistakes and it was a great improvement from our practice piece! Overall a good effort that the whole band and Suffolk should be proud of.

The next thing to do was go to the ringing at the Cathedral. These are a two ton 12 that can be a little tricky for novice ringers though no one from Suffolk disgraced themselves and even the less experienced young ringers from Suffolk put some older ringers to shame. Service touches of call changes were rung by bands of invited young ringers including George and Colin. Then everyone involved with the competition met up in college hall at the back of the Cathedral and Mark Regan introduced the judges. Alistair Cherry, Andrew Rawlinson, Ed Mack and David Pipe (Chief) were the judges and apart from David they were all young ringers! The results were then given and Suffolk came 3rd in the method category with a B+, our best result so far! This meant that if you put all 16 teams together we came 4th with Bedfordshire winning again with an A* in call changes.

The whole team are thrilled to have done so well and represented Suffolk in such an amazing competition. We are also very proud to have chosen to ring a method when other teams who are much more able than our own chose to ring call changes. To be able to produce a method team of ringers who are under 19 is a great achievement and it shows that Suffolk is leading the way in encouraging young people in to ringing and makes the future of ringing in Suffolk that little bit brighter.

On behalf of everyone who was involved with the team and the contest we have to say a huge thank you for all the support. From buying raffle tickets to organising the accommodation and transport, thank you! It is excellent to know that Suffolk's young ringers are being supported by those around them to achieve the very best they can.

Next year's contest is to be held on 11th July in Oxford. We plan to begin the 2015 campaign with our first practice some time in September. We want all young ringers from across the county to come along and join us. We are a friendly bunch (really we are!!) and whilst we work hard to achieve a high standard we do so while having fun.

George Salter and Neal Dodge

What a Weekend!

Ralph Earey gives the view of one of the accompanying adults at the RWNYC.

The conclusion of months of practising, planning and emailing had culminated in our trip to Worcester for the competition.

Mark Regan and the Worcester ringers had been even busier: everything was prepared, from the warm welcome at the Cathedral, the executive coach to transport ringers to the remote towers, helpers on hand at the Cathedral teaching centre (wow - you must go!), discounts at local eateries and judges for the striking competition through to the wonderful evening sunshine to accompany the hog roast in the grounds of the cathedral. The city was awash with young ringers, easily identified by their smart team tee shirts – a pleasure to see.

The day had a real buzz about it and was a fantastic opportunity not only for the striking competition team members, but equally for the other young ringers in attendance to support and enjoy the experience. Mark had the unenviable task of running the open ringing on the heavy and slightly awkward 12 at the Cathedral; an event that could so easily have been elitist and divisive was managed superbly, making everyone feel at ease and all young ringers getting to have a



The teaching centre from above



The Suffolk Squad

ring on the magnificent bells. The Suffolk organising team are to be congratulated and thanked for their never-ending enthusiasm, guidance, encouragement and nagging, resulting in 18 young ringers representing the Guild well and the team's result did us proud. The team are very grateful to the Pipe Fund and other donations and fundraising sponsoring the young ringers' attendance at this national event.

Compositions - putting it all together

Having taking in the various aspects, there are a couple of odd areas to cover. Firstly course ends given in parentheses. For example (32456). If shown on the top line of a composition it indicates a start other than normal. This is usually described at the end of the composition. Back stroke start. If a course end within the composition is shown in a like fashion (23456) it indicates that that course end is not reached at that point.

W F/I (45623) then M W 26354. The course end 45623 is not reached because the course is entered at I with calls following at M W. You need to watch and understand these if they are in the composition to be called.

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Charles Middleton

B M W H 23456
2 2 3 35264
X 3 56342
2 2 3 64523
2 2 3 42635
2 2 3 23456
58/32 cru's

So looking at the above, 5056 rows produced, Cambridge method, Surprise method type, Major rung on eight.

Charles Middleton, the composer.

B M W H 23456, calls only at Before, Middle, Wrong and Home. The start is from rounds.

Call 2M,2W,3H for 35264.

Call B, 3H for 56342.

Call 2M,2W,3H for 64523.

Call 2M,2W,3H for 42635.

Call 2M,2W,3H for 23456.

Ringing the composition will give: 58/32 cru's.

I

hope you will now see that there is nothing mystical about compositions and that a little thought about what you are doing should bring results. Most importantly if there is something in a composition you do not follow ask a well-known conductor or composer. Most of us are very friendly and always happy to offer help and guidance.

A wise word of advice is not to 'comment' on a composition unless you are 100% sure of your ground. Musical tastes vary and we are all entitled to our views on what constitutes a musical or interesting peal.

David Salter

The Cleaning Power of Bells!

My job as an occupational therapist with adults with learning disabilities often requires me to incorporate personal experiences into my approach in order to encourage my clients to participate in their treatment regimes. This is the story of one particularly successful occasion.

The client was a man in his mid thirties who lived on his own in a flat with his cat. His mother lived in another part of the town and tried to keep an eye on things. He had one hour of support weekly to help him with correspondence and finance. It was this support worker who referred him to our service because he was not keeping his flat clean and was in danger of losing his tenancy and also because his personal hygiene was so poor he was at risk of losing his part time job as a cleaner at the local sports centre.

My colleague carried out the initial assessment and asked one of our very experienced clinical assistants, Lorraine, to work with him to establish a successful routine. Because once a week did not seem to be working well, my colleague asked Lorraine to increase the visits to twice weekly. Lorraine asked me to review the case. She explained that when she worked with him he would do all the tasks but left on his own nothing was happening and the flat was as messy as ever the next time. She said he was very shy and rarely spoke much but was polite and would be willing to let me in. We arranged a date for the review and she explained this to the client. I asked her not to get him to tidy up before I arrived so I could see the situation.

He greeted me at the door very anxiously and asked me to come in but struggled to make much eye contact and said nothing except 'Hello.' Things were quite dirty and untidy in the flat when I arrived. There were papers screwed up and thrown all over the floor. There was a pile of washing on the bedroom floor with the papers; he does have a continence problem and some of the clothes were soiled. Washing up was piled in the sink; meat had been left to thaw on the work surface without being covered, the cat's dishes were dirty and covered with flies.

Glancing down to the floor I spotted a brand new yellow Sherbourne Teaching book. Seizing the opportunity I said, 'There's a book I recognise, I carry mine with me all the time; are you a bell ringer?'

This was like opening the flood gates. He rings at an eight bell tower. He has helped the tower captain to teach new ringers, hence the new yellow book. He has rung quarter peals of Bob doubles and Grandsire doubles and has called the changes for

This book belongs
to name
who is learning to
Ring Church Bells
at church town/village
affiliated
to the guild/association
Number Weight Key
of bells of tenor note
Ringling times
Sunday Sunday
mornings time evenings time
Practice day at time until time
Special learners tied bell practice
on day at time until time

weddings if the tower captain is unable to be there. Lorraine sat open mouthed as she had never heard him talk about bell ringing before or indeed anything else with such animation.

He said he did not want to lose either his job or his flat so together we decided that there were tasks he needed to do regularly. He agreed to try to work to a list of basic jobs which we called rounds and call changes and because the church had 8 bells the first item on the list was 'Look to, treble's going, she's gone', then there were seven other tasks for him to complete on a daily basis, finishing with 'Stand'. The tasks were not particularly big jobs but just washing up, putting paper in the bin, washing the cat's dishes, wiping round the toilet and basin and making sure that there was toilet paper available, washing himself and tidying the lounge would go a long way towards improving the situation in the flat. If this proved to be helpful we would look at another list of bigger jobs which needed doing weekly and we would use a 'method' for that list, but this was for the future. He talked about really big jobs such as cleaning cupboards and windows etc. but we decided that would be at least a quarter peal and we were not ready for that as he was still learning to 'handle' his cleaning properly. He agreed to a review date six weeks later. Lorraine would continue to work with him but only once per week.

After six weeks the date for review arrived. Lorraine said she had been encouraged by his progress but had not gone into detail about it. I arrived at the appointed time and was ushered into a very different looking flat. There was no paper on the floor, clean washing was hanging on the airer to finish drying, there was no washing up in the sink and the kitchen was tidy. There was a new settee, chest of drawers and desk in the lounge. The flat was transformed. He told me later that his mother had been so pleased with his efforts that she had bought him the new furniture. He was clearly very pleased with the difference and it was lovely to be able to praise his efforts. As he had not managed to keep the cat's dish clean, teasingly he was scolded for standing his bell early. He was asked whether he thought his tower captain would find this acceptable and he did not think he would; then he laughed and said he would try to improve.

We are looking forward to seeing if he can keep up the improvement!

Sue Tye

Have you been a member of the Suffolk Guild for 50 years or more?

At a recent Guild Management Committee meeting it was suggested that it might be a nice gesture if the Guild were to recognize its long-serving members by presenting them with a certificate acknowledging their commitment both to the Guild and to Suffolk ringing.

The committee were keen on this proposal and Peter Harper agreed to collect details with a view to making the first presentations at the 2015 AGM and then at all subsequent annual meetings.

Peter will be pleased to hear from you if you became a member in 1964 or earlier. Please contact him on 01394 411355, or at harpers123@btinternet.com or by post at 2 Oak Tree Close, Hollesley, Woodbridge, IP12 3QW.

100 Years, 100 Treasures

As part of the celebrations of the centenary of the formation of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich the diocese has produced a delightful little book. We are grateful to the diocese for permission to print some of the pictures here.

One hundred churches in the diocese are represented, each by a particular object. There is a wonderful range of treasures here, from all periods of Christian history. The cover, for instance, shows a modern work: Dame Elisabeth Frink's bronze statue of St Edmund outside the Cathedral.

Inside there are stained glass windows, fonts, wood carvings, wall paintings, decorated roofs, whole towers, tombs, memorials, even a ringers' gotch.

Each treasure has a page devoted to it and at the bottom of the page are

suggestions of other treasures that can be discovered in that particular church. As an example I show a bench end from Hadleigh church, showing the wolf carrying St Edmund's head.

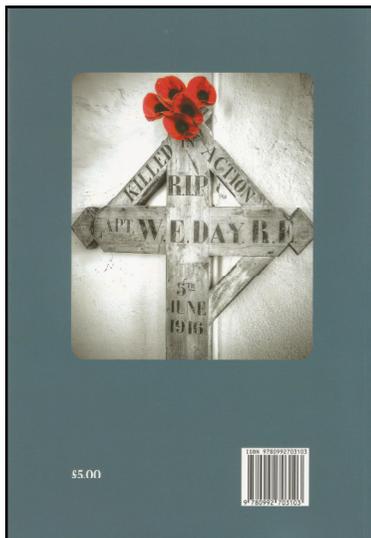
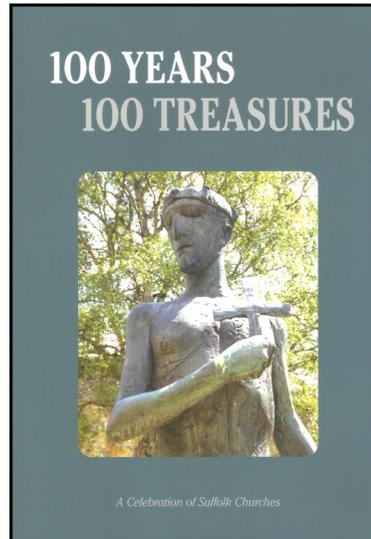


The back cover shows the wooden cross from the grave in Flanders of Captain Walter Day who was killed in 1916. This is to be found in All Saints, Blyford and is a poignant reminder that 2014 is also the centenary of the outbreak of the first World War.

The book has no index, but at the back there is a map of the diocese showing the locations of the churches, then a list of those churches.

The book is small enough to put in the pocket or bag and have with you when visiting Suffolk's remarkable churches. All the treasures are in churches that are open every day, so they are all accessible.

Ask at your parish church for a copy. £5.00 will secure it of which £3.00 will go to your church.



Celebration of Bellingring and Welcome of new Guild members

Over fifty people enjoyed the special bellingring service at Hacheston on Sunday July 13th. This included eight ringers elected to membership of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers recently who rang for the service; they were welcomed by the Revd. Deirdre West and given a round of applause. Harry Edwards, who was the inspiration for the restoration of the bells at Reydon, Hacheston, Parham and



The Revd. Harry Edwards at the time of the restoration of the bells.

Campsea Ashe, and for the care of the bells at Marlesford, returned to give the address. He made special mention of the Hacheston 5th, cast around 1450, which has the Latin inscription which translates as 'Here I stand sweet in voice, I am called the bell of Michael', and reminded us of the article Paul Heiney wrote for *The Times* about our attempts to restore Michael's voice which brought in donations from around the world. Harry reminded us of the significance of bells as communicators; using the metaphor of the cross, they link us vertically to heaven, while horizontally they link us to the community they serve reminding it that the centuries-old tradition of prayer and worship continues. Michael and his companions sound out their message of Christian love and hope to all who hear them, and as George Pipe commented in the Tribute he paid to Harry and Inger for all they have done for bell restoration and bellingring, 'Bells are the loudest voice the church has.' The service was followed by a bring and share lunch in the village hall, with open ringing at the church in the afternoon.

Grateful thanks go to Deirdre for arranging the service, Harry for giving the address, George Pipe for paying the Tribute to Harry and Inger, and Jonathan Stevens for looking after the open ringing. Thanks also to all who attended, including friends from Reydon, who made it such a joyful occasion.

David Clough

Harry Edwards, who was the inspiration for the restoration of the bells at Reydon, Hacheston, Parham and Campsea Ashe, and for the care of the bells at Marlesford, returned to give the address. He made special mention of the Hacheston 5th, cast around 1450, which has the Latin inscription which translates as 'Here I stand sweet in voice, I am called the bell of Michael', and reminded us of the article Paul Heiney wrote for *The Times* about our attempts to restore Michael's voice which brought in donations from around the world. Harry reminded us of the significance of bells as communicators; using the metaphor of the cross, they link us vertically to heaven, while horizontally they link us to the community they serve reminding it that the centuries-old tradition of prayer and worship continues. Michael and his companions sound out their message of Christian love and hope to all who hear them, and as George Pipe commented in the Tribute he paid to Harry and Inger for all they have done for bell restoration and bellingring, 'Bells are the loudest voice the



All Saints, Hacheston.

St Mary's, Buxhall

The name Buxhall is very ancient with 18 to 20 spelling variations and first found in charters from about 995 as Bucyshealae; in the Domesday Book of 1086 it was Buckeshala and Bukessalla. There has been a church here since Saxon times and the first may have been built by St Etheldreda who owned land in the village before her death in 679. It has been suggested that a later church at Buxhall was destroyed in the Rebellion of Henry II's son, 'Young' Henry, in 1175. The present church was built in the early 14th century in the Decorated English style, mainly of flint, probably collected by villagers from local fields. The 95 foot high tower was added after the construction of the chancel and nave.

Inside the church are three wooden panels listing the clergy of Buxhall since 1310. In 1411, the Rector was William Copynger and from 1569 until 1948 – excluding the Cromwellian period – every incumbent came with the exception of one was a Copinger or a Hill. The Hill connection came about when a Copinger heiress married Dr Thomas Hill in 1719. The former Rectory, now re-named Copinger Hall, dates from 1710 and is still lived in by Copinger descendents. Much of the woodwork which replaced the old fashioned pews during the restoration of 1875 came from Buxhall estate oak trees, and was carved by one of the then Rector's nieces, Miss 'Millie' Hill.

Behind the ringers' gallery is the Perpendicular west window which contains stained glass rescued from a heap of coloured glass discovered over 150 years ago in the belfry under a pile of sticks brought in by jackdaws. The centre panel shows Christ, with his hand raised in blessing, with Mary and two angels.

During restoration work in 1923, several drawings and carvings of men, women and animals were revealed when whitewash was removed from the tower arch pillars. Also carved on the tower door post is 12345 21345 23145 23415 23451 2.... Ronald Blyth of Akenfield fame claims that this was done 50 years before Stedman's *Tintinnalogia* was published in 1668: discuss!



Information from Canon Cosmo Kendall's booklet and Tony Clayton's Guide to Buxhall Church

Lesley and David Steed