
From the Editorial Team

Here we are with the 6th issue of the magazine, two years in and still having fun trying to improve it. We would like more feedback please. What changes would you like to see? We have had tremendous support from our contributors who have given up their time to write articles for us whenever asked, and sometimes at quite short notice. We have also been delighted to receive unsolicited articles. They have made our task that much easier. As always we thank our contributors and advertisers, while reminding them that copy for the next issue should reach us, at either magazine@suffolkbells.org.uk or Sue Freeman, High Meadow, Martens Lane, Polstead, Colchester CO6 5AG, by 18th February. As always, we make a plea for photographs to go with your articles.

We make no apology for printing in this issue Mandy Shedden's article about the casting of the new trebles for the Norman Tower which appeared recently on the front page of the Ringing World. This significant augmentation is of interest to all Suffolk ringers and many will not have seen the original article.

The place of female ringers is covered in two very different pieces in this issue. It seems that women are, in ringing as in so many other spheres, now making their mark at last.

The cover picture of Oakley church was taken on Saturday 29th October during the Elmsett fund-raising open towers event. What a great day out with 20 towers open. Some visitors we spoke to from Essex rang at all 20. Officers of the Guild were out in strength. The day was so typical of all the best things about this hobby of ours: sharing and helping, ringing with old friends and making new ones.

We hope all our readers have a very happy Christmas and enjoy lots of festive ringing.

Alan Stanley, Richard Gates and Sue Freeman



From the Chairman



Late autumn is the time for annual district meetings, and I try to get to all four of them. It is interesting to compare the different districts, to see who the movers and shakers are, and to gauge the enthusiasm or lack of it for some of the ideas that are discussed at GMC. The thing that I consistently enjoy is the tea, usually worth the journey alone.

One thing I have observed, which I am sure is by no means exclusive to ringers' organisations, is the general assumption that, once somebody has been elected to a post, they stay there until there is a very good reason for a change: often death is the only

escape! Sometimes officers say, "I'll do one more year, but next year I'm definitely resigning", but then next year comes and they get their arms twisted because nobody else wants to do the job, and so it goes on. Why are people so reluctant to take on responsibility? Or are they just waiting in vain for someone to push them forward?

Under our constitution the Guild Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Ringing Master cannot stay in post for more than five years. One of the reasons I agreed to take on the Chairman's job was the knowledge that it would not go on for ever, and three years on I'm still enthusiastic to achieve what I set out to do and there's not much time left! It would be unrealistic to apply that rule across the board, or even at all at District level, as a certain amount of stability is needed, particularly in those posts requiring specialist knowledge, but I do think a higher turnover of officers would be a good thing. District Committees can play their part by identifying potential officers and encouraging them to stand, perhaps giving them the chance to work alongside existing officers before taking over altogether. The NW and NE Districts have created new posts, that of Assistant Ringing Master, and have elected 17 year olds, fantastic experience for young up-and-comings.

So, let's ban the "re-election en bloc"; let's have a target of at least two new officers each year in each district; let's assume that volunteers will want to retire within a few years: then hopefully any threat of stagnation can be avoided, more ringers can be involved in the organisation, and the Guild can go from strength to strength.

Philip

From the North East Young Ringers Afternoon Wed 27 July 2011

Last year a Young Ringers event was hosted by the NE District. Building on the success of 2010, it was decided to extend the invitation to young ringers across the county this year.

Details as follows:

- Ringing at Theberton 4pm – 4.45pm
- Ringing at Aldeburgh 5pm – 6pm
- Picnic tea and games on Aldeburgh beach 6pm – 7.30pm

At Theberton ringing ranged from rounds and call changes to Plain Bob Doubles, although the ‘oldies’ did grab a sneaky touch of Cambridge while the press photographer was taking the group picture! An article and picture did appear in a local paper.

A similar story at Aldeburgh, but we did finish with Plain Bob Major making use of young and old alike. This also gave several attendees a chance to ring on eight or to ring plain hunt on seven for the first time.

Next up was a picnic tea on the beach, accompanied by somewhat erratic kite flying. Here we were joined by the Guild Master and Chairman.

Those who hadn’t had enough ringing were invited to the Leiston practice in the evening, where we were made very welcome.

All in all a very good day, funded for the young ringers by the Guild. Praise is due to Maggie Ross and her team of able helpers – particularly those who played chauffeur and those who supplied the picnic!

Philip Moyse

These ringing events for young members are so valuable. Older ringers were so fortunate to learn to ring in towers other than their own, that held practices on other nights. Any tower within cycling distance was fair game; towers that are now silent. Ringing friendships made then have lasted all my life; another reason to organise more ringing for young learners.

Don Price

News from the North West 2 new trebles for Bury St Edmunds

On Thursday 15th September a group of 26 people travelled by coach to Taylors of Loughborough to watch the casting of the two new trebles for the Norman Tower. There was a mixture of people on board: ringers, ex ringers, cathedral staff and friends. A small contingent had joined us from Ipswich including George Pipe, who, only recently released from hospital, was in amazingly good spirits. We were joined at Loughborough by five more ringers and two old friends from Kent: Paul Stannard’s mother, Janet and her husband Godfrey. There was an air of great anticipation coupled with a feeling of awe and also achievement. We had not expected to be at this point in the augmentation project so soon. The casting was not scheduled until 2.30 so we had arranged to ring at Loughborough (in the words of Suffolk Guild’s new Ringing Master “probably the world’s finest ten” but then he

News from the North West District (cont.)

would be ever so slightly biased!). They were a delight to ring though and after such exercise we needed to top up our fuel reserves by visiting the Three Nuns pub for lunch.

At 1.30 we were greeted at the foundry by Richard Grimmet and George Dawson and George gave an excellent guided tour of the museum and the foundry. Even though many of us had been the previous year for a tour we all learnt something new. The youngest member of the party, Christopher from Bardwell, was used as a teacher's assistant by George, and he needed no encouragement to hit the display bells with a wooden mallet.

The moment we had all been waiting for soon arrived and we assembled in the viewing gallery to watch our two new trebles being cast. The ladle was loaded with molten bell metal and moved across on the cradle hoist to the area where the bell moulds were sunk in the floor and then..... the foundry men went for a cup of tea! This apparently is a vital part of the proceedings because the ambient high temperature near the men dries them out very quickly! Within a few minutes though we stood in almost silent wonder watching the river of molten metal pouring into the two moulds. The most noticeable sound was the rapid clicking of camera shutters as, like an artillery of shotgun sights, their lenses were trained on the mouth of the ladle as the fire came pouring out.

Once this most dangerous part had been completed the group was allowed down onto the foundry floor where George continued his very informative guided tour.

The whole day was very enjoyable and I am sure that I am not alone in feeling very privileged in being able to witness such a wonderful event in the augmentation project.



The bells will be removed from the moulds after five days and very soon will be on a lorry being transported to St Edmundsbury Cathedral, where they will be on public view for a short time before joining their ten fellow sonorous choir members in the Norman Tower belfry.

Mandy Shedden

From the Southwest

Members of the SW District enjoyed a mini tour across the border in North Essex in September. We rang first at Layer de la Haye. Unfortunately no one came to let us in at the second tower so we hastened on to Wormingford where we were able to ring for longer than originally planned! Ringers were then joined by family and friends at the Crown at Wormingford where we enjoyed an excellent meal together. Many thanks to David Lee for organising the tour.

Some of John Smith's learners at St Gregory's, Sudbury, rang for their first service on 4th September. They were thrilled to do this, as you can see in the photograph taken in the tower.



The picture shows, from left to right: Vic and Wendy Turner (helpers from Toppesfield, Essex), Tina Parry (new ringer at St Gregory's), Robert Lant (helper from Long Melford) and Jerry Maynard (new ringer at St Gregory's). Congratulations to them and the other new ringers who are up to ringing call changes but couldn't make the date. They are Chris

Roychowdhury, Caroline Mountstephen, Brian Tuffen and John and Barbara Pilkington. They continue to practise on Tuesdays.

On 14th October a quarter peal was rung at Polstead by Margaret Roberts, Michelle White, Sue Freeman, Judith Kaufhold, Kate Banks and Neville Whittell (C). This was rung in memory of Elsie Braybrook, ringer at Polstead for over 50 years, who died in September aged 91. While the quarter was being rung Kate's husband Ray wrote the following lines which summarised our thoughts so well:

Dear lady, you of simple grace,
This is your tower, and this the place
Where through long years you rang the bells,
Which now, as day fades into night in twilight's hush
Peal out their last farewells.

Perhaps the spirit roaming free
Will catch familiar strains, and know that we
Keep memory in time's embrace,
The memory of you held in this place,
Dear lady of a simple grace.

South East District News

As I write this (October 8th) we eagerly look forward to the rededication of Helmingham's famous and much-loved octave. This historic ring in its handsome tower sounds really well both inside and outside and we hope the great days of the Helmingham band will return. Well done everyone who has been involved.

Some of our District members accompanied the Norman Tower ringers to Loughborough to witness the casting of the new trebles for the augmentation to twelve. A super day out and splendidly written up by Mandy Shedden in the Ringing World. I am sure we will all be proud of a fine 12 for our Mother Church in the Diocese.

With our chairman Peter's encouragement we have enjoyed going out midweek to various towers, both in our own district and beyond. The usual format works well: a morning ring, pub lunch and an afternoon tower (except Bildeston!)

Our towers continue their Sunday service offering, teaching and practice nights. We'd like more. Perhaps some could take on an extra tower or two on a circuit basis so that parishes without a band can hear their bells.

Harvest festivals have been enjoyed; quarter peal fortnight is coming up and, dare I say it, there are 78 ringing days to Christmas!

G W Pipe

And for news of everything else - www.suffolkbells.org.uk



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The Bells at East Bergholt

Visit St Mary's Church at East Bergholt and one thing will strike you: the missing tower. Rumour has it that it was destroyed by the Devil shortly after it was built. Looking at the remains, this sounds all too plausible. Without a tower, where are the famous bells? They are housed in a bell cage built in the churchyard around 1531.

Although there are other small cages or sheds at Wix and Wrabness in Essex, Brooklands in Kent and Wood Rising in Norfolk, the one in East Bergholt is unique. No others match its size: 24' 3" (4m) square and roughly 24' 6" (7.5m) high to the ridge. The bell frame is about 18' (5.4m) square and 5' 6" (1.65m) high. As far as we



know, it is the only cage where, as with towers, the bells are swung rather than chimed and finally, the bells at East Bergholt are the heaviest ringing set of 5 in the UK with a total weight of 85cwt 2qtr 22lbs. The Tenor weighs 26cwt 0qtr 8lbs.

In many ways the bells at East Bergholt are little different from normal tower bells both in the way they are mounted and swing. The construction of the frame, positions of the bells, the lack of wheels and the metal stays and sliders are the main differences – and of course, how they are rung.

How do we do it? The ringers stand on a narrow platform attached to the outside edge of the bell frame. When at rest the bells remain in the up position, resting against the metal stays. To begin ringing, each ringer, starting with the Tenor, holds onto the rim of the bell and heaves it up to the balance, “Tenor up, Fourth, Third, Second”. This is actually the most physically demanding part of ringing these bells. Some ringers rock the bells against the stay to help “get them up”. The first ringer then pushes the bell over with a “here goes one, two, three,” By the time the third starts, nobody can hear anything due in part to our ear defenders and definitely due to the noise of the bells. With the bell swinging, the ringer steps forward alongside the bell and grabs hold of the headstock. To keep it swinging he leans over the frame pushing the headstock downwards as the bell swings upwards behind him. As it swings back, he changes hands, repeating the process on the other stroke.

The Bells at East Bergholt (cont.)

Necessity means our ringing is different from tower ringing. You can only control the bell by putting extra downward pressure on the headstock as the bell swings upwards. If the bell were to set, there would be no way of pulling off the stay just by holding the headstock, so, we ring fleet. There is no difference between the forestroke and the backstroke (other than which hand you are using). More importantly, unlike towers where the ringers stand in a group, with the disembodied sound of the bells reflecting the up and down motion of the ropes, at East Bergholt you are there amongst the bells. Although you can see them swinging the sounds of other bells are drowned out by the noise of your own, making it difficult to keep time. For example the fourth ringer can only hear his own and the tenor bells and has very limited visibility of the other bells.

The ringers stand on the four sides of the frame with the Tenor ringer in a pulpit in the middle. Each ringer is moving from side to side following the swing of his bell. All you see of your companions is the occasional head, glimpsed between the swinging of the other bells. This, coupled with the noise, makes signalling as much of an art as ringing itself. With the sheer weight of the bells and difficulty in signalling, changes are something that has to be built up to and recovered from, taking three or more rounds to complete. We only move the first and sometimes the second past the other bells and continue past the Tenor taking the bell "round" for a second time to get it back into the correct stroke.

A number of people ask me, "What is it like to ring the bells?" "Real ringing," I reply, "not like those rope pulling campanologists." To stand next to a 1¼ ton bell, sense the whoosh of the air as it swings, feel the frame moving and the vibration through the headstock when the clapper strikes, that is real ringing. We have a thriving band of ringers who all live within the local area. As we practise only in the summer months it can take two to three years for a learner to master the skills needed to ring and change these bells.

Information about the bells and two videos showing them ringing can be found at <http://www.eastbergholt-bells.org.uk>

Paul Ireland (Captain of the bells)



A Peal for my Grandfather

Suffolk Guild

St. John the Baptist, Hagley, Worcestershire

Saturday 13 November 2010 in 2hrs 40 mins (7cwt)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed: N J Pitstow

1 Gordon R Birks	5 Richard J Hurst
2 Stephen Bedford	6 Christopher Munnings
3 Thomas Scase	7 Jonathan Stevens
4 Louis P H Suggett	8 Richard J Munnings

Specially arranged to mark the addition earlier this year of Thomas Owen

Woodhouse – great grandfather of 6 and 8 - , Harry George Evans, George Alfred Mills and Kieran Duffy on Hagley's war memorial.

This peal appeared in the Ringing World and many may have wondered its connection with Suffolk.

About three years ago a second cousin Heather from Hagley in Worcestershire contacted me to ask if I could give a Mr Freeth some information on my late grandfather Owen Woodhouse.

Mr Freeth had been inspired to write a record of all the men on Hagley War memorial, adding little bits of personal information about them: details of their families, where they had lived and worked before the war and so forth.

My grandfather, Thomas Owen Woodhouse, died whilst in the Home Guard, mown down by a car without brakes whilst they were marching during the night. As he wasn't killed in action he didn't appear on the memorial.

It also transpired that two soldiers from World War I were missing off the memorial and there was one soldier killed in the Gulf War.

My grandfather and several of his cousins were members of Hagley bellringers until the war stopped ringing.

Having written the records up Mr Freeth campaigned to get these men added to the War Memorial and in March a brass plaque with their names was dedicated. The vicar was very keen for a peal to be rung as a tribute on Remembrance weekend so Richard, assisted by Stephen Bedford (a well known former Suffolk ringer now living in that area) arranged a band and it was rung. Four ringers travelled over from Suffolk for the peal: Richard and Chris Munnings, Jonathan Stevens and Thomas Scase. Louis Suggett made a trip over from his college in Birmingham and Stephen Bedford from Kidderminster. They were joined by the two locals. Local villagers came up to the church to listen, the bells sounding lovely in the parkland next to the church at the base of the Clent Hills.

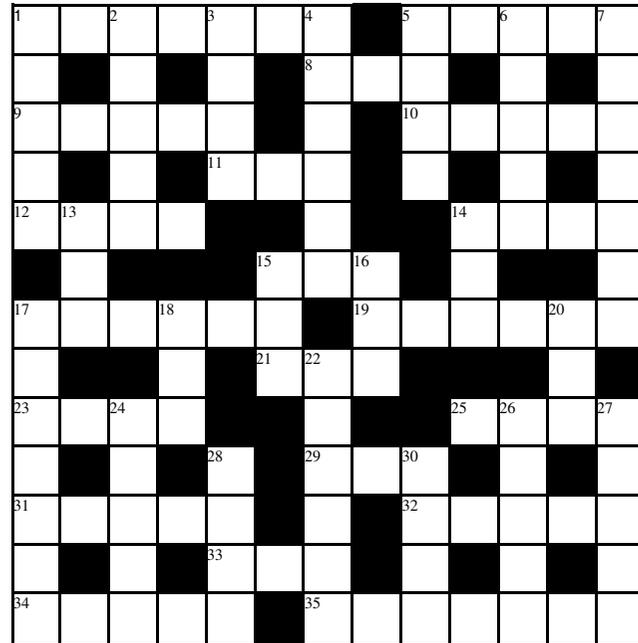
With Chris, we had the pleasure of ringing for the Remembrance Service for the Benefice where, with 250 others, we were able to hear grandfather Owen remembered for the first time in the list of villagers lost to war.

Sally Munnings

Crossword by Richard Gates

Clues across

- 1 Quick trap for sailing race (7)
 5 Pull the queen to a dominating building (5)
 8 Question for TV doctor (3)
 9 Throw out a rearranged EC jet (5)
 10 Water animal taken from hot territories (5)
 11 Fix hair for scoring in tennis (3)
 12 Used to make rope for smoking (4)
 14 Cast off a male sanctuary (4)
 15 Her indoors must be obeyed (3)
 17 Charm a mule before a trace start (6)



- 19 Plus little Lesley makes rotten eggs (6)
 21 Yeti I lose so soon (3)
 23 Either side of sally from four openings (4)
 25 Scottish Celt sounds like a strong wind (4)
 29 A Northless near gives audio assistance (3)
 31 Very important person hesitates to make a snake (5)
 32 Metal bar forging other parts (5)
 33 Card for an unreturned service (3)
 34 Footballer's kit taken off (5)
 35 Glen Rig provides one for petty details (7)
- 5 Sound from or to others (4)
 6 Keeping an eye on a time piece (5)
 7 Screen repeated religious education with computer programme (7)
 13 Tree from Elmsett (3)
 14 Unhappy beginning of Saddam (3)
 15 Pig's home in an eye (3)
 16 Tea reorganised means it is time to (3)
 17 Ravers I find ending a journey (7)
 18 US civil war general gives shelter (3)
 20 Sunset time for the first lady (3)
 22 One less than maximus makes 2300 (6)
 24 Dad by a preposition has material to write on (5)
 26 Heavenly body for shepherd's messenger (5)
 27 Not on time is partly a flat error (5)
 28 A snare for some Trappist monks (4)
 30 Boxers' arena around your finger (4)

Clues down

- 1 New for a first year uni student (5)
 2 Meats organised to produce power (5)
 3 They catch one at cricket practice (4)
 4 Sudden jerk for an evil lady with a T (6)

Ringling at Last!

As a young child I always loved to hear the sound of church bells. I have no musical ability at all and being very shy and not a church goer I did not think to go and ask about learning to ring.

When I was 17 my very musical school friends had seen an advert for youths to learn to ring bells at Shrub End church in Colchester so we went to join. We were sent away with, "Did you not read the advert? It says youths, not girls!" Disappointed, I walked away with my friends, believing that only boys were allowed to ring bells and fervently wishing I was a boy.

40 years later my husband and I joined the MG Owners' Club. Another couple there were bell ringers and arranged an evening run to Edwardstone church where Richard Gates, the tower captain encouraged everyone to have a go at chiming a bell. It looked so difficult. I am uncoordinated and have arthritis; what chance did I have when others younger and stronger were finding it hard? However I took hold of the sally and tried to follow Richard's instructions. The bell chimed! I was thrilled. I remember saying, "I can actually do this!"

It was agreed that I would start to learn when the practices returned to Edwardstone the following spring. So on April 28th 2010 I had my first lesson. Later in the year I was offered the opportunity to go to the Polstead practice as well which gave me more awareness of the richness of the bell ringing experience.

From the start my husband, Steve, came with me and since November he has been learning too which has been a tremendous help, even if he is much quicker at learning than I am. Richard, Sue Freeman and other ringers have needed the patience of a saint with me but gradually I am improving. In September we were asked to ring for the harvest festival. We had never rung for a service before, and certainly I was terrified of making mistakes but it was a wonderful experience.

Do I wish I had the opportunity all those years ago? Perhaps, but I cannot change what was. All I can do is to thank those who have given me the chance now and seize it with both hands.

Sue Tye

Women Ringers in the Guild

A summary of a recent study by Mandy Shedden of the historical place of women in ringing in Suffolk.

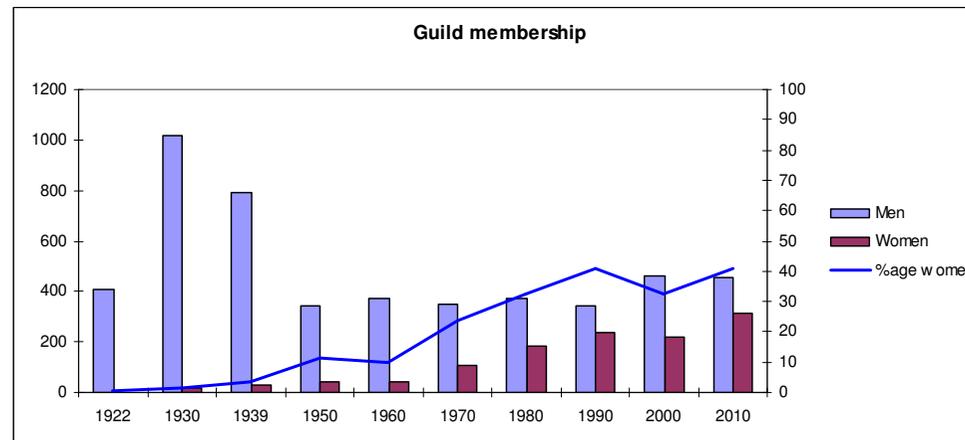
Essentially, no statistics were available to me before the first Guild

report dated 1923 which was the year that the Suffolk Guild was formed. Since that time with the exception of the war years of 1940-44 I was able to compute the number of female ringers year on year. It was from the post war years that the number of females started to rise

Women Ringers in the Guild (cont.)

gradually and a contributory factor for this was almost certainly because the Second World War had taken many young men's lives. Before that time bell ringing was not seen as an appropriate activity for young women and girls to take part in, firstly because of the largely Victorian attitudes that still prevailed especially in more rural areas (a woman's place was in the home) and secondly because of the prerequisite for the women to be physically strong enough to ring. At first the names appearing were obviously those of the vicars' wives and daughters and in most instances the higher numbers of women were in towers situated in large towns where access was not such a problem. It would have been almost unheard of for girls and young women to be taken in cars to practice nights, and car ownership was not high in the general population. From the 1960s onwards there was a huge drive for recruitment and the highest numbers of females appearing in the reports were wives of the existing male ringers, as

this was the quickest way to boost numbers. The numbers continued to rise steadily from then until a peak at 42% of the total membership in 1984. There was a significantly higher number of female learners in the towers that had a reputation for teaching. This was probably because young girls more than boys tend to join activities together with their peers. It was not unusual for four or five females to be listed under probationers. From then onwards, women in general were more active and made more welcome in a significant number of churches in various roles and bell ringing was no exception. Today, I would say that at least half the members of the Guild are female and there are certainly many more female officers than there have ever been. Obviously there were exceptions to the general rule and we have some excellent longstanding and experienced women within the Guild who are prime examples, e.g. Diana Pipe, Rosemary Palmer and Muriel Page to name a few.



A Well Travelled Bell

Around 1994 we at St Mary's, Haughley, Suffolk were fund raising to put our bells on ball bearings, and maybe add another treble to make them into a six.

Here the story really starts. A brother to Mr and Mrs Frost (once ringers at

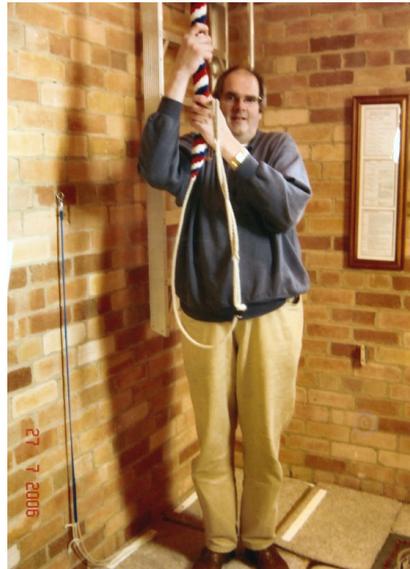


Haughley) found a bell in a scrap yard in Manchester. He bought it and delivered it to my workshop where I hung it up. I contacted the professor of all bells, Ranald Clouston, who was amazed at our find. He came with his tool kit, measuring and tuning forks, and made a report in February 1995. The bell turned out to be from Matthew O'Byrne's foundry in St

James Street Dublin. Cast in 1904, it was originally from St Patrick's R.C. Church. It had a new design with a central clapper support, to enable it to be turned many times – a patent rotary mounting.

The bell being too small for our tower, we put it in the "unwanted bell" lists, where a Mr Ron Shepherd from Australia earmarked it for a tower in Canberra. He wrote and agreed a price, sending

Australian dollars in the post. We took the bell to Whitechapel and they shipped it to Canberra.



In 2006 I visited the City and stayed with Ted Reid (a good friend of George Pipe). The church earmarked for the bell is St Paul's, Manuka, and here Ron Shepherd has expertly installed the O'Byrne bell as the seventh, in a very small octagonal brick tower.

So, on a practice night, I finally got to ring my bell!

Richard Coe

Mandy Shedden, Secretary of the Suffolk Guild

I became a resident of East Anglia in 1972, having been born in Gloucester some 140 miles west of where I live now. Nearly 40 years on I am beginning to feel more like a local but when I get agitated my Gloucestershire dialect gives the game away!

I began ringing in 1975 as a direct result of being given a challenge by my Guider to learn a new skill and pass the Guide Bell Ringers' Badge, the last badge to gain in a programme aimed at the ultimate goal of achieving the Queen's Guide Award before I reached 16 years of age. I was a Guide in a company attached to the Baptist Church in Clare. I had less than 2 years to complete it and it was by no means an easy badge to gain but with the help of Walter Perry and David Smith at Stoke by Clare, and then latterly the Mayles, Richard and Christine Knight and other long suffering souls at Clare I managed to pass the badge with a month to spare. I then was awarded the Queen's Guide Badge in July of 1977.



Although bellringing opened up new horizons to me, I had always attended church on a Sunday from the tender age of two weeks, when I played the part of baby Jesus in the nativity service. I am still a regular church-goer but not in an Anglican Church. I am a non-conformist and proud of it! Craig and I ring at the Cathedral in Bury and scuttle off to an ecumenical church service on the other side of town.

I remember being taken to a Guild AGM in the early 1980's and thinking to myself that all the officers elected in such a long drawn out process, must be highly skilled and intelligent people and certainly I was never likely to reach such dizzy heights and here I am..... Now that I have got over the shock of being elected, I quite enjoy meeting new people and getting involved in a larger scale with the eclectic and benignly eccentric community that is the Suffolk Guild. Its members are a delightful mix of enigmatic characters old and young, with a myriad of skills which are seamlessly shared, lots of little cogs in a giant machine that enables our Sunday commitments and our hobby to exist in harmony with each other. It really is an honour to be considered a useful part of the process.

Now that I have got used to the role, I have realised that it is just an extension of the job I was doing as a District Secretary in the North West District, just as well really because I have never had experience of being in a similar position in the other areas of my life.

Outside of ringing I enjoy singing and until recently was a member of the Bury Bach Choir. My other hobbies include cycling and bird watching but all of these have taken a back seat while I am studying for a BA Hons Degree in English and History. Who knows? By the time I have finished I might just be able to spell without relying on the computer to correct my mistakes when typing out the minutes of the AGM.

St Nicholas Oakley

The church at Oakley (Magna) is possibly on an 8th Century site or certainly pre Norman. Its sister church St Andrews at Oakley Parva, demolished 1440, could be even earlier. No distinction is now made and modern maps just show Oakley.

In the 14th Century Robert Bucton Lord of the Manor built the 60 foot tower. His daughter Philippa married John Cornwallis in 1440. He was the son of Thomas Sheriff of London and for 423 years the Cornwallises remained in Brome and Oakley. The Cornwallis Arms Hotel is to be found close to Brome church. On the right side of the 15th Century porch can be found a stone shield with the ancient Cornwallis arms of three Cornish choughs and a fess dancette (the diagonal band) which later became straight. The left shield may have been Bucton. The wrought iron gates have the initials of the Rev. George Mapletoft Paterson, rector of Brome and Oakley 1847—1887. The church, mainly 15th and 16th Century, had a Victorian restoration by Sir Edward Clarence Kerrison (squire and patron) and his wife Lady Caroline and Rev. Mapletoft Paterson.

Heaton, Butler and Baynes made the memorial window for Sir Edward Kerrison who died in 1886. His father was General Sir Edward Kerrison whose arms can be found in the lower left corner with two 7th Hussars as supporters. Kerrisons purchased the Cornwallis and Maynard estates in 1823 and then the General built Oakley Park (demolished 1920's) on the site of Hoxne Hall.

Above the altar and a good part of the full width is a glass mosaic reredos of The Last Supper (after Raphael). It was given by the widow of Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker of Oakley House.

The lych gate was added by Lady Bateman Hanbury, the sister of Sir Clarence Kerrison and the printed church guide tells us to look for the estate carpenter's spelling mistake without stating what it is: lytch instead of lych. See photograph.



The stone pillar in the hedge beyond the lych gate remains a mystery.

The tower has six bells with a 10 cwt tenor. The oldest, St Catherine, dates from about 1400. They go well thanks to recent minor works and the new ropes make them a real pleasure to ring. The tower window depicts the Rev. Mapletoft Paterson's last sermon.



The Lych gate with its spelling mistake