

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Unfortunately vehicle breakdown prevented the attendance of the chairman, technical advisor and one member of the above Committee at the meeting scheduled for Friday, 9th February 2001. Consequently there are no minutes but two items needed to be discussed and a date and venue set for the June, 2001 meeting. In addition, much has been going on during the last four months on the maintenance front, so I have given brief details of this work below.

Item 1 - Grant request for Wingfield (deferred from G.M.C. in October)

A revised and updated schedule of costs for work on the 6 bell installation at St Andrews Wingfield. Members of the Suffolk Guild and others attended on 7th and 8th February 2001 and assisted Tony Baines in removing the bells, bell gear and metal bellframe to the ground floor. The fifth bell is to be welded at Soundweld and the unusual metal headstocks and bellframe are to be sandblasted and painted, and other work is needed on the clappers and bearings. The tower is also to be repaired and this is the subject of E.H. grant. The total cost of the bell work (excluding tower) is given as **£5365.07**, and this includes architects fees of £244.22, which are related to checking the present condition of the 5 metal support beams where they are enclosed in the masonry of the tower walls and making good afterwards. It was to be recommended to the B.A.C. that the grant be based on the figure of **£5365.07** and this recommendation is therefore put to the G.M.C. (17 February) for decision as to the grant level.

Item 2 - Maintenance Seminar

The first District Seminar has been arranged for **Saturday 17 March 2001 at Reydon Church Hall (next to Church) 10.0a.m. to 3.0p.m.** The North East District invited the Guild to Reydon for this Seminar and food is being provided (details on What's On). All are welcome and it is hoped for as much support as possible. If there are members of P.C.C's or clergy who would like to attend we would be pleased to have them. Matters for discussion already asked for are 1) how to clean and maintain ropes; 2) at what point do you decide to call in the experts over bell maintenance; 3) the issue of comprehensive belfry maintenance cards on what to keep an eye on.

It is hoped that as many members of the maintenance team as possible will attend at the Seminar so that after lunch people attending can be divided amongst the team members for group discussion of particular local problems, and it is hoped that in this way more ground can be covered in the allotted time.

District Reports (only those to hand can be mentioned)

North West

Old Newton - report done with a view to install new headstock and ball bearings to treble bell, which is proving to be somewhat difficult to handle. At recent overhaul this bell was the only one left on original plain bearings in the hope that it would be OK, but time has shown that it would benefit from the extra work. **Stowmarket** - steps being taken to ensure even clapping of all eight bells, 3 and 4 completed. **Tostock** - check and tighten carried out. **Whepstead** - letter from Ranald Clouston MBE re possible addition of treble bell. **Haughley** - bells rung following major tower repairs and new headstocks, bearings and clappers, most satisfactory conclusion. **Westhorpe** - inspection and report re potential rehangng. **Norman Tower** work proceeding. **Worlington** - report completed. **Market Weston** - inspection and report.

North East

Brampton - inspection and report re possible re-hang. **Otley** - visit and report re installation of gallery. **Wingfield** - work already taking place. **Laxfield** - inspection and report on bell frame and installation. **Rendham** - inspection and report.

South East

Hacheston - final satisfactory completion by bellhangers following problems with clapping. **Tuddenham** - inspection and report. **Easton** - report on progress and future intentions. **Westerfield** - inspection and report. **Earl Stonham** - inspection and report.

South West

Haverhill - inspection and report with a view to re-hanging. **Long Melford** - report.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 8 2001, 7.30p.m. at 6, Cavendish Road, Stowmarket.

Winston S. Girling
chairman.

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