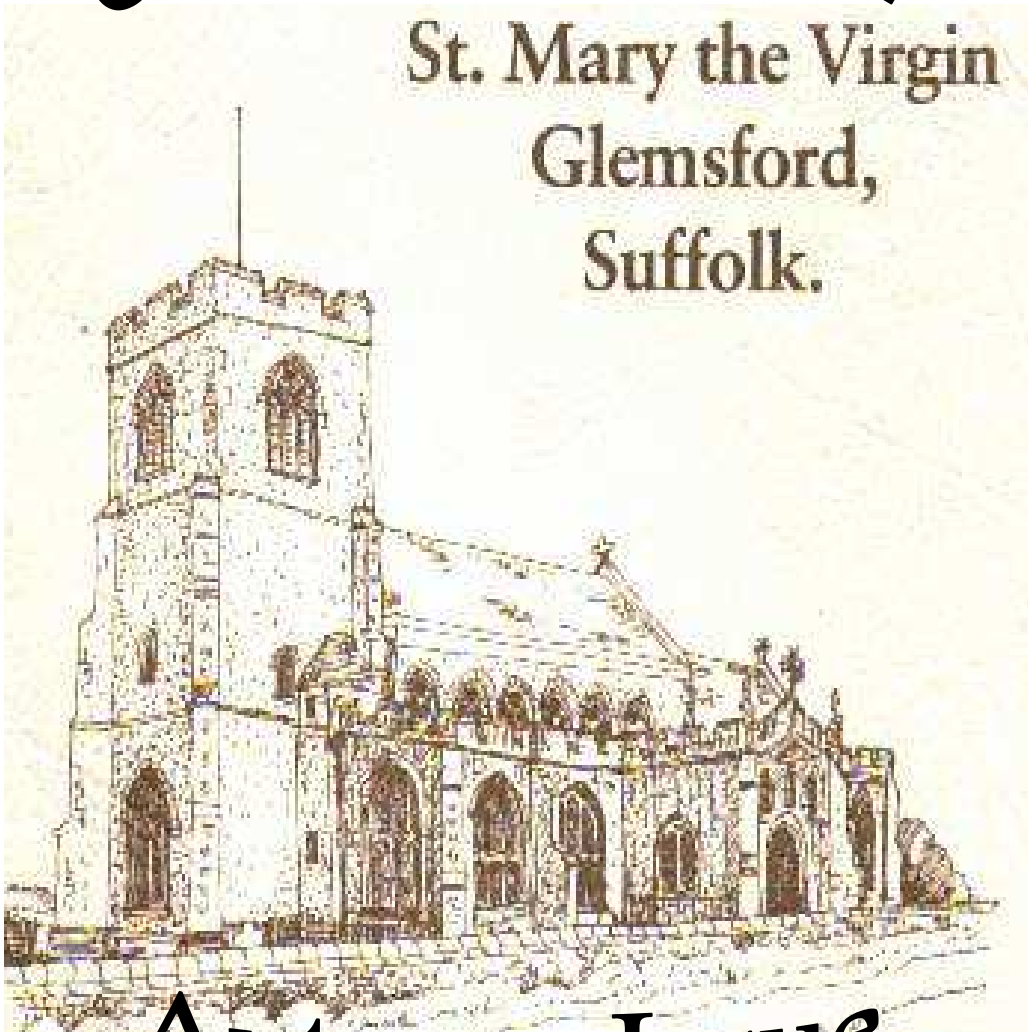


**The Suffolk Guild  
of Ringers Newsletter**

St. Mary the Virgin  
Glemsford,  
Suffolk.



**Autumn Issue**

**EDITORIAL**

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*Thought for the season*

Grant to us, as we seek you O Lord, Almighty God, that whenever we ring these bells we remember that Your eyes are upon us; and that we who call others to worship here may so live by the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, that we may dwell in the House of the Lord for ever. We ask this and all our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**Winter Issue Deadline**

**W/B 6th November**

Christmas recipes, your puzzles  
and quizzes, questions,  
congratulations and well dones,  
winter wonders etc etc...

## **Letter from the Editor**

As many of you saw, heard and/or witnessed, I spent a week in St. Peter's Church in Stowmarket as a Benedictine Monk, raising money for our restoration project. The week saw £1000 come in for the project, but got me wondering about what happens when we raise money. I came up with the following...

People team up, communities get involved and want to know more. Our Guild has seen some strange ways of raising money for bell restorations I'm sure, but I know we are going to see even more to come. So just as a word of encouragement I'd like to say well done to all those who organise these fundraising ideas, thanks to all those who support and attend these events, but more importantly thank God that with the gift of money we can do some fantastic things and make some incredible sounds! (I'm looking for Monks for next year, or invite me to your church to live!)

Winter is coming!! The Christmas issue is already building up, but please send in something about your Christmas ringing and activities over the festive season and I look forward to bringing you the winter/Christmas Issue.

Carl M

### **South West District Car Tour**

Members of the South West District enjoyed a ringing tour in mid Suffolk on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The first tower, Stowmarket, caused a few problems of access as it was carnival day and roads through the town were closed. Determined ringers, however, were not to be deterred and found their way to the church.

Other towers visited were Old Newton, Bacton, Tostock, Pakenham and Rougham.

The day finished with a convivial meal at the Rushbrooke Arms at Sicklesmere.

Many thanks to all the local ringers who welcomed us to their towers and a special thank you to Rolie Whiting for organising such an enjoyable day out.

Sue Freeman

#### **Editor's Outing**

About 16 ringers enjoyed a fine day out in Norfolk visiting Castle Acre, Litcham, Whissonsett, East Rayham and Fakenham. We were made most welcome at all towers.

We enjoyed and made the most of beautiful weather and tucked into a picnic in the churchyard of East Rayham Church, where we were made most welcome to ring the new peal of eight bells.

It was a really good day and we all enjoyed each others company, but not Winston's driving!!

## **South West District Striking Competition 24<sup>th</sup> June**

This year our striking competition was held at Edwardstone. We were delighted that five bands took part, a great improvement over recent years. It was especially pleasing that several new ringers, notably in the bands from Hadleigh and Polstead, were ringing in their first competition.

The winners were Edwardstone, with Kersey in close second place.

It was a lovely evening so people were able to enjoy the tranquil setting of the church while listening to the ringing. A shared supper meant a wonderful variety of delicious food much enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks to Diane Simpson who provided hot drinks, bringing to the church all the necessary ingredients, including the water.

Our judges were Bernard Fairhead and Tom Sharp, borrowed for the occasion from over the border in Essex. We are grateful to them for coming and for their helpful comments on the ringing.

Next year - how about some entries from other parts of our district?

Sue Freeman

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00pm in the Methodist Chapel, Old Newton.

**Present:** Winston Girling (chairman), Mary Garner (secretary), Richard Knight, Trevor Hughes, Jonathan Stevens, Jason Busby, Rolie Whiting, Carl Melville, Maurice Rose, Revd Brian Redgers, Richard Gates and Carol Girling (observing).

**Welcome:** Winston (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Revd Brian Redgers to his first management meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Keith Ashton Jones, Richard Munnings, Ian Harris, John Pereira.

2. **Minutes:**

3. **Matters arising** from those minutes not itemised later in the agenda.

(i) **Insurance.** Mary (MG) reported that she had attempted to distribute a summary of the Insurance cover to be displayed in every tower. It was produced by David Salter and distributed at the AGM. Trevor Hughes noted that one had not yet been displayed at Aldeburgh.

(ii) **Membership Forms** MG reported that membership forms were arriving steadily and that it was her intention to send certificates and brochures to those who have joined this year. She also reported that the data forms were coming in steadily and that we should soon be in a good position to estimate our income from subscriptions from this information. WG thanked her for the work being done.

(iii) **All Saints', Sudbury.** Richard Knight reported that he has passed the information requested to the Vicar but as yet had received no response.

4. **Correspondence:** The insurance renewals had been received and dealt with. Nothing else extra to requests for reports and grant requests (later in meeting) had been received.

5. **Financial Report:** The Treasurer's Report stated that the overall Guild assets stand at £83 403. The General Fund balance is £4970. In the Restoration Fund the balance available for allocation, before the Lenny Sharpe bequest (currently at £34 154), is £22 854. The balance allocated but as yet

unpaid is £16000, Parham £5000, (due any time, with the dedication on July 2<sup>nd</sup>), Gislingham £6000 and Hopton £5000. There is still fund raising at Hopton.

The Guild finances appear to be in a reasonably healthy position for this stage of the financial year, and mirror closely the position in June 2005.

#### **6. Ringing Master's Report:**

The Ringing Master's report was read to the committee. In it Richard recorded that he considered it an honour to have been elected at the AGM. He commented on the Striking Competitions at Tunstall and Orford, and the Ridgman Trophy at Writtle, the previous weekend. He hopes to be reporting on progress through the National Twelve Bell competition in 12 months time, hoping that it will be possible to involve twelve bell ringers from across the county, not simply St Mary-le-Tower. As well as many local practices he has attended practices at Debenham, Stowmarket and Tostock. This latter was a young ringers' practice. Richard sees this as the future of the Guild and was keen to encourage any young ringers from around the Guild to contact the Monk girls. He is also looking forward to the Veteran's Day in Debenham in July. He is looking forward to the next few months, hoping to bring some ideas to fruition in his new role, and helping to take the Guild forward.

WG thanked the Master for his report. Maurice Rose congratulated Richard on his report and was pleased to hear of his ideas to carry the Guild forward. He thought it would be good to see us in the 12 bell if possible. Well done to the Tostock Young Ringers.

**Ridgman Trophy** WG reported that nine teams took part and that the bells were quite challenging. He thought that the Suffolk team, which came third rang really well. Essex came first with Bedfordshire second. There was a bit of controversy after the results had been announced and the shield collected. It concerned one team over running practice time by 37 seconds. Richard Knight enquired when the competition might next be expected to be in Suffolk. WG explained that there is a rota for the venues.

In the discussion that followed the idea of a Guild ten bell competition was put forward as one means of improving the general skill level within the Guild. This would be mentioned to Richard Munnings for him to investigate a way forward.

**Action MG**

#### **7. Sub-committee Reports:**

(i) **Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)** held at Kersey on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

WG reported that Work at **Gislingham** is progressing ahead of schedule. It was suggested that the frame supporting 7 and 8 at **Stonham Aspal** could be repaired and the bells rehung with new fittings. At **Felsham** the new ringing floor is almost complete, the proposal for the eight bells to be tuned as a descending melodic minor scale. WG is about to attend a PCC meeting at **Stowmarket** with respect to a possible rehang and augmentation to 10. The 6 at **Parham** has been installed and rung. **Rattlesden** has held its first fund raising event. English Heritage have agreed with the proposals, Taylors Eayre and Smith are the chosen bellhangers. The PCC at **Assington** refuses the Guild any access to check the tower and bells, a matter for concern.

Discussion followed particularly regarding Assington. It is known that the frame moves. The committee felt that we should be able to inspect them to monitor the state of the tower and the fixtures and fittings. There might be an issue of Health and Safety if neglected. A letter to the incumbent and the Archdeacon of Sudbury was felt to be appropriate. It was suggested that a phone call to Laurence Pizzey be the first move as he will have local knowledge about the situation.. **Action: WG to ring Laurence Pizzey**

**(ii) Recruitment and Training:** ~ no report.

### **8. Applications for Grants**

**(a) Ixworth** Quotations had been submitted to the BAC. The PCC has chosen Whites to do the work, retaining but strengthening the wooden Bullock frame, which was made in the village. Cost £31 408 for the six, with an additional £12000 to augment to eight.

The BAC has expressed reservations about the wooden frame but the GMC felt that Whites could be expected to strengthen the frame appropriately.

Much discussion followed, especially with regard to the Lenny Sharpe bequest. An initial suggestion of a grant of £8000 for the restoration and rehang of six bells with £10 000 offered were there to be a rehang, was followed by a suggestion of £25000. Further discussion ensued and the following proposal was made, seconded and carried unanimously: a grant of £8000 be offered towards the project, the Guild to give two trebles to augment to eight, in memory of Lenny Sharpe. This would not include the fittings for the new bells and would be subject to a ceiling of £6000. **Action: MG to write to Ken Brown**

**(b) Stradishall** The chosen bellhanger is Whites. The quote for remov-



ing the bells, drilling out the crown staples, strengthening the frame, strengthening and re rimming the wheels with all other fittings to be renewed came to £18 321. The BAC had asked that the Technical advisor should look at the wheels.

It was reported to the GMC that the parish was keen to go ahead and that after grants the project was to be funded largely by one person.

A proposal was made, seconded and passed unanimously that an offer of a grant of £2000 should be made. **Action: MG to write to Mr Robert Clinton.**

**(c) Fressingfield**

Dr Paul Cattermole from Norfolk has now visited and made recommendations based on a new steel frame underneath the present lower wooden frame. Heavier bells would be installed in the new steel frame while the lighter would be in the lower wooden one, which will be strengthened. The final report is not through yet but the price being quoted by Fressingfield remains at £100 000. This seems out of line when most restorations seem much less. Any decision regarding grant offers will be held over until the next meeting, when further details should be available from Whites.

**Action: WG will write to them**

**(d) Bardwell** Three reports have been submitted to the BAC. The PCC have chosen Hayward Mills as the bellhangers. It is proposed to fit a six bell steel frame, which would be extendable to eight, underneath the present frame, rehang with all new fittings, replace or recast the third (a poor bell). Total cost £49 166.

A grant offer of £6000 was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously by the GMC. **Action: MG to write to Dave Ray**

**(e) Chediston** Three reports have been submitted and Nicholsons have been chosen as the bellhangers. It is proposed to fit a steel frame under the present frame, refurbish and re hang the bells. Cost £39 858.

A grant offer of £6000 was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously by the GMC.

**9. Ratification of NRLM**

Emma J Southerington elected before a peal at the Norman Tower, BSE on 25/03/06

Roger G R Collins elected before a peal at Stowmarket on 21/05/06

Further, the Peal Secretary reported on the withdrawal of Jeremy Spiller's

Handbell Peals. Although she had received no direct notification from Jeremy, the two peals (on 4 March 2005 and 28 September 2005) have now been removed from The Ringing World website ([www.peals.co.uk](http://www.peals.co.uk)). Details should appear in the "Amendments and Corrections" column in due course.

There was some comment regarding the withdrawal of something which had already been printed in the Annual Report. Was this possible, did it mean that the whole report was invalid?

#### **10. Any Other Business**

(i) Clarification was asked for regarding the posts of Technical Advisor and the Representative on the DAC. Would there be a conflict now that these positions were held by two people? It was explained that the DAC post was a Bishop's appointment. The committee could only advise and that the any decisions made lay with the Chancellor. Furthermore it was recommended that these posts should be held by different people and that no conflict would be expected.

(ii) Rolie Whiting drew the GMCs attention to the SW Car Outing to mid Suffolk on July 15th, saying that further details were available from him. These will be posted on the website. **Action: RW and MG**

(iii) Mid week ringers based on the SE, organised by Brian Redgers, were meeting next at Offton on Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup>, the emphasis on 5 surprise. Lunch to follow in the Limeburners. All welcome. This will be put on the website. **Action:**

**MG**

(iv) Spare Newsletters. Carl expressed concern about the monies being spent on the newsletter. He was reassured that the costs were lower than in the past and that if he has a few spare copies they could be sent to District Secretaries to give to new members along with a Report and a badge.

(v) GMC attendance Concern was expressed that attendance was only about 50% at the meeting where important decisions were made about the whole Guild. It was felt important that each area had the opportunity to air its views at the meeting.

(vi) Jonathan Stevens raised the question of Guild control of bells in churches which became redundant or even sold. In particular he expressed concern that we might award grants and then a few years later no longer have access. Some discussion followed during which it was felt that at least if the Guild were informed of any change of use, we would be in posi-

tion to make some suggestion about the bells if necessary. This would be far preferable to “just finding out”.

**Action: MG to write to Diocesan Secretary**

(vii) WG had been contacted by the Tower Captain of Barsham regarding difficulties between the bell ringers and the PCC during an interregnum there, concerning the appointment of the next priest. The committee was advised that things had moved forward now and it was likely that the situation would be resolved soon.

(viii) Concern was expressed about the cost of circulating minutes and agenda separately. The Secretary explained that she thought it important that minutes were sent round as soon as possible, but that the Agenda would not be prepared for another 14 weeks or so. She added that more than two thirds of the committee were contacted by e mail, which costs the committee nothing.

WG thanked Carl and Carol for making refreshments. The meeting closed at 5.04pm

**Please send items to be included in the Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> October to Mary by 21<sup>st</sup> September.**

Mary Garner  
Hon Sec

### **Suffolk Guild Clothing**

Do you feel a bit underdressed while you ring? Let us help...

**Sweat shirts**– good quality 340g with Guild Sewn Badge. Sizes ex-small up to 4x large £16 Colours: black, navy, blue, bottle green, grey, maroon.

**Long sleeved polo shirt** (new) £15

**Unisex polo shirts**– 250g as above in sizes. Ex-small up to 4x large. £13 Colours: white, black, navy, blue, red, bottle green, maroon, sky and yellow

**Children's Polo** (new) £8

**Children's sweat shirts** (new) £11

**Fleeces** Long and short zip £20 Colours: black, navy, royal, red and bottle green

Ladies polo colours: as above apart from grey, maroon and key but PLUS lime and lilac.

Ladies t-shirts only in white, black, navy, green.

T-shirts unisex colours– white, black, navy, red, green and grey.

All orders must be sent with cheques made payable to Sally K Munnings at 216 Ashcroft Road, Ipswich IP1 6AF. Tel. 01473 743596. No exchanges for sizes guaranteed but possible for most popular sizes in Navy, black and maroon.

## **Tattingstone Bell ringers**

In the latter part of 2004, I advertised in the Parish magazine that Tattingstone bells had been silent for a number of years and it might be nice to get a band of ringers together.

I received a great response and with the help of experienced ringers from other towers, we started in February 2005 with a band of 10 completely new ringers.

We have progressed well and I am please to announce that one of our team – Richard Beeston rang his first Quarter Peal on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Hopefully there will be more soon!

Please feel free to pop along and enjoy our bells. We practise on a Monday evening 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Richard Hobson  
Tower Captain.

[www.tattingstonebells.org.uk](http://www.tattingstonebells.org.uk)

## **SUFFOLK GUILD 8-BELL STRIKING COMPETITION**

In 1984 the “Rose Trophy” was presented to the Suffolk Guild by Anita and Maurice Rose to be awarded to the winners of this competition. St Mary le Tower have won the trophy seventeen times since, but did not enter a band this year. The South East District has won twice, St Margaret’s Ipswich and Grundisburgh once each. Only in 2005 did the trophy leave the South East District when it was awarded to the North West District.

This year’s competition was held at Orford on 20<sup>th</sup> May and judged by Fred and Mary Bone from Essex. The winners were the North East District who rang Grandsire Triples. The winning band was:

Trevor Hughes and Richard Rapior (Aldeburgh)  
Philip Gorrod (cond) and Maggie Wolverson  
(Halesworth)  
Don and Helen Price (Southwold)  
Suzanne and Jonathan Stevens (Rendham)

The other bands were:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pettistree  
3<sup>rd</sup> North West District  
4<sup>th</sup> Offton  
5<sup>th</sup> South East District

HYP



## **Parham Bells**

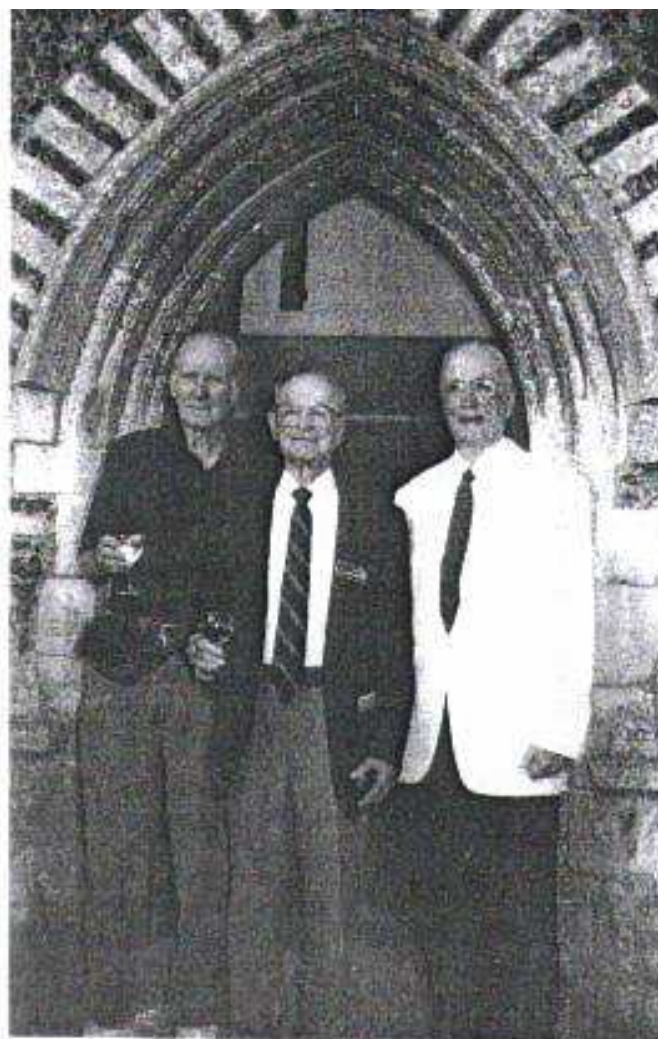
### **St. Mary's the Virgin Church, Parham: Dedication Service, 2nd July 2006**

Parham Church was packed for the service of dedication for the new ring of six bells, and it was a particular pleasure to welcome three veterans from America who flew B17 bombers from Parham Airbase in the 1940s. William F Pennebaker, now aged 88, Richard E Drain, 83, and Norman M Coats, 80, flew just under 90 missions between them, and have fond memories of Parham. One of the new bells is dedicated to the memory of those who served in the 390th Bomb Group and Support Units at Parham Air Base, and Norman Coats read the second lesson "Let us now praise famous men." George Pipe, noted bell ringer and speaker and Honorary Lay Canon, led the prayers. Bell Committee Chairman Adam Paul presented the Rector, Canon Harry Edwards, with a bound book of Donors, and the Churchwarden George Culpan presented one of the original bell clappers, mounted on a board of medieval wood, to the Tower Captain Richard Wicks, as a symbol of the link between the countless worshippers who had heard the original bells over the centuries and the present congregation. The new ring incorporates one of the two 12th century bells and the 17th century one, along with four new bells, cast by Taylors, the remaining original bell becoming the service bell. Following the words of dedication by the Rector, and just before the bells were rung, the Benefice Choir led the singing of a special hymn written by Martin Riley of Parham, Vice Chairman of the Bells Committee with a tune specially composed by Graeme Hall of Hacheston. A four minute peal was then rung by the new Parham band of ringers, followed by open ringing and refreshments. Adam Paul made a presentation to Simon Cottrell, Hon Treasurer of the Bells Committee who had worked tirelessly on grant application, specifications, and all the finer details of the project, and Simon's wife Audrey received a bouquet of flowers.

**George Culpan**

Article - printed in PARHAM PAPERS (with thanks!)





American Veterans Dick Drain, Bill Pennebaker and Norman Coats  
outside St Mary's Church Parham (Photo supplied by Derek Rosent)

## **DEBENHAM BELL RINGERS ENDURE A DAY OF MIXED WEATHER**

7<sup>th</sup> August 2006 was a day for the Debenham Bell ringers to look forward to due to the hard work of our tower captain Jenny Scase and her son Tom. Most of us awoke to find the weather was wet and uninviting! Five other young ringers and I met in Debenham to begin our trip by cycling while nine more experienced ringers preferred Karl Benz's form of transport, otherwise known as the car! We were 11 miles from our first tower, Bacton.

At Bacton we practised rounds and call changes and a variety of other methods while the weather outside was in the process of improving itself for the rest of the day. For us, the most inspiring feature of the church was the uncovered medieval wall paintings over the nave.

Our next stop was Wetherden, where we performed our first all junior set of rounds which for all of us was not only very good practise but a major step forward as well. After Wetherden we moved to Haughley where we were to have a well earned two course meal in the Kings Arms. After recharging ourselves, we moved across to the church where we met another of our ringers who later put across her delight in everyone's progress since our last trip in Easter. Haughley church was a real treat mainly due to the 'Medieval air-conditioning' vent which was present while ringing! After a series of winding roads and a bump or two over the railway crossing our last stop would be Old Newton where we climbed two stories to get to the ringing chamber, the lighter weight of the bells was at times a

shock but in all we performed well. The stop was also another treat, in which two members of our group also found another form of entertaining, Organ playing and provided a tranquil conclusion to the day. After a long slog home on our bikes we often came across sign posts with an ever increasing mileage to Debenham but due to our knowledge of the area we all arrived home safe and sound.

On behalf of all of the participants of the visit I would like to give a big thank you to Jenny Scase and Tom Scase and the warm hospitality of the captains of the towers we visited. We all appreciated your efforts and courage.

P.J.Mutton

**THANK YOU!**

· Ringing at Debenham is going from strength to  
· strength which is brilliant to see! A huge thanks  
· goes to the Scase family for all their hard work  
· in teaching and training the new recruits.

Well Done!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

· To Winston Girling! The Church has just  
· celebrated the 50th year anniversary of his first  
· peal at Stowmarket, where he has been ringing  
· ever since. Well Done!

**Chediston Bell Restoration Project**  
**Forthcoming event...**

Dance and Hot Chicken  
Supper  
8th September  
St. Clement's Social  
Club, Foxhall Road,  
Ipswich

Featuring: '**Rave On**' playing 60s, 70s  
and 80s music

Tickets £8 from Jenny Beeston on  
01449 737847  
*(no tickets on the door)*