

# **The Suffolk Guild of Ringers Newsletter**



***Summer 2007***

**Editorial**

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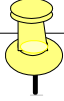
**Deadline for Autumn Issue**  
**Friday 31st August**

***Thought for Summer***

O God, who made the earth in all its  
glory: the sun, flowers, birds, fish, sea  
and sky, You are the Lord of all beauty  
and splendour

The sun cries out in shouts of praise; the  
flowers, the colours, and all people  
proclaim Your Name

Lord of the Summer, as we ring our  
Church Bells, may they shout Your  
praise to all who listen



**Letter from the Editor**

Dear ringers and readers,

We've had some wonderful weather recently, some say that's all we're going to get! I hope not!

Thank you to all those who have sent articles for this issue—lots happening! Can you guess what Church is on the front cover? It now has a tower and six lovely bells!

Please keep on sending me your news, personal, district or Guild. Also your ringing and church news and activities. It is really good to see what's happening in our churches and ringing chambers.

I hope you all enjoy the Summer period, keep up the ringing and keep producing those wonderful sounds for all to hear!

Carl

## **Bell Ringing Trip to St Albans**

On March 24<sup>th</sup> 2007 a set of intrepid bell ringers, mainly from West Suffolk and led by Yvonne Green, set off on a memorable outing to St Albans. The choice of venue brought back many memories to Yvonne, who was born and brought up in the City and her mother continues to live there.

As we zoomed along the A14 Yvonne's young son Alex played happily on his portable Playstation. Others intently studied various 'blue-lines', leaving me to stare out of the window, pondering my own bell ringing inadequacy. I needn't have worried though, everyone was extremely friendly, encouraging and supportive and it was great experience ringing in different settings.

We rang at three churches, St Leonard's, St Michael's and St Peter's. We were warmly greeted and each church had its own unique charm and elegance. The towers ranged from six to ten bells. For novices like me there was the opportunity to ring rounds and call changes, interspersed with attempts at plain hunting. More experienced ringers rang various methods that I can't even pronounce let alone ring, something Major or Royal I seem to remember.

The highlight of the day was a visit to St Alban's Cathedral. The building is simply magnificent in its splendour and includes the famous and spectacular Rose Window. Here we were joined by Yvonne's mother

and other members of her family. This was of particular significance as Yvonne's parents were married in the cathedral. Her mother was rightly proud as she listened to her daughter ringing the bells so beautifully and I bet her late father would have been equally delighted. It truly was an extremely emotional and spiritual experience. As well as ringing the bells, that was a great privilege in itself, we were also allowed to see the bells and climb to the top of the tower, taking in spectacular views across the City and beyond.

It would have been nice to conclude our trip at one of the many and normally welcoming pubs in St Albans. However after trekking around the City, the coffee and muffin in Starbucks was most welcome and provided sustenance for the journey home.

OK, so yes we had to miss the Israel vs. England match, but many thanks to Yvonne for organising a wonderful outing that I'm sure we'll all remember for many years to come.

Colin White

Sheffield Universities Guild of Change Ringers -Suffolk Tour  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April

This years SUGCR Easter tour was held in and around Ipswich over a gloriously sunny and highly amusing weekend!

Accommodation was, of course, upmarket, with camping the offered option, although some members decided the posh hotel around the corner was superior. After sever laps around the campsite and some skilled team work, the tents were up and we were moved in with plenty of time to get to Friday's tower, Sproughton.

Sproughton was a lovely six but unfortunately only 5 SUGRites had arrived for it, so we slipped in a cheeky tour quarter of Grandsire and Plain Bob doubles, which was rung brilliantly by all - special congratulations to John Prebble for his first of Grandsire and of two methods.

After Sproughton we headed back stopping at a local chippy for tea which most of us took back to the campsite for a chilled out evening of food, drink and many amusing anecdotes. Unfortunately Tom was volunteered to play chauffeur and had to wait hours at the cold train station for Pete and Catherine to arrive!

The highlight of Saturday morning had to have been waking up to the smell of John frying bacon (or eggs in Nick's case) for breakfast! We were all well fed and set for the day ahead thanks to the resident chef! The weather cleared up wonderfully over the morning and we met up with lots of the local Suffolk Young Ringers in Ipswich. Thanks to all the emergency help from everyone who came to ring - the tour wouldn't have happened without you! Ringing was of a very high standard all day with everything from call changes to Grandsire Cinques to spliced surprise Major being rung (eventually successfully!)

After jogging and skipping down to a wine shop to deposit the key for St Matthews, a few very worn out bell ringers met up with everyone else and attempted to get to the pub. Lunch was superbly arranged by Tom Scase. The pub, having orders before hand, were serving lovely food just as quickly as a bunch of hungry bell ringers could eat it!

Eventually, after a slight petrol station disaster followed by directional issues, everyone was en route to Offton - one car was lost on the way (maybe due to speedy gonztommy?) but made it for a ring in the end, hoorah!

The afternoon was just as successful as the morning with ringing at Henley and Grundisburgh, and after the last tower some people headed to the local public house whilst the rest of us lounged in the church yard with tea and biscuits, yum yum.

That evening's entertainment was held in the 'happening' bar on the campsite, aided by a box of jaffa cakes and a pack of cards. After a little alcohol had been consumed, Peter Elliot decided to introduce a card game which is popular with the Oxford ringers. Not everyone was so keen on the 'compulsory' calls and bodily gestures suggested by Peter, which involved shouting 'Seeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeen it happen!' accompanied by throwing ones arms aloft.....

More mouth watering bacon sarnies on Sunday morning and an equally speedy decamp meant we were on the road by 8:30am. Some people headed to Debenham, some to Bury St Edmunds for service ringing which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

All in all, a very successful tour, and thank you very much to Claire for organising it, and to the Suffolk ringers for helping out at the towers, even if it did clash with the AGM!

### **Suffolk Guild, North West District Quarter Peal Week**

It's an encouraging sign that last year's NW District Quarter Peal day had to be expanded to a whole week this year, and a very successful one it was too, with at least half of our members taking part and hardly any losses of attempts. In total, 13 quarters were scored with 5 different conductors. A quarter at Bury planned for the end of the week had to be postponed until next Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) because of cathedral commitments, so fingers crossed for that one to make it 14.

School holidays running into the start of the week meant that a great opportunity presented itself for a day's quarter peal ringing in the Mildenhall area on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. The glorious sunny weather must have had a beneficial effect as six out of six quarters were rung that day. On Marion Turner's recommendation, most of us met up at the Plough Inn at Icklingham for lunch, which met with everyone's approval – very clean, comfortable and welcoming!

Fortuitously for Carl Melville, his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday fell during the week so he had three quarters rung for that! Sarah Monk avoided ringing by having an operation on her shoulder but still managed to organise a quarter at her tower, in which Yvonne Green rang her first on the treble. The Ixworth Bowls Club celebrated their centenary and showed their appreciation of the ringing by inviting the ringers for a welcome cup of tea at their very luxurious clubhouse afterwards. In fact, many appreciative comments were received by ringers during the week and it's great to know that the sound of church bells is held in such affection by the general public.

Special congratulations go Craig Gradidge (Mandy's son, aged 13) who showed real determination in ringing his first quarter despite a massive blister on his finger which popped 15 minutes



from the end! Well struck and not a foot wrong, Craig did himself proud. Well done, Craig!

Thanks go to everyone who took part in the whole week's ringing, including incumbents and tower captains who helped to arrange things, sometimes at short notice.

Well done to everyone.

### **15 April**

**Stowmarket.** 1280 P B Major: Mary Allum 1, Carol Girling 2, Lesley Wilson 3, David Steed 4, Carl Melville 5, Josephine Beever 6, Brian Whiting 7, Winston Girling (C) 8. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first ring after 1967 restoration of bells. 20<sup>th</sup> birthday compliment to Carl Melville, and also birthday compliments to Lynda Allum, Susie Beever & Julian Colman.

### **16 April**

**Euston.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Kay D Nunn 1, Janet R Sheldrake 2, Lesley Wilson 3, John Allen 4, Gordon E Slack (C) 5, Christopher R Nunn 6.

**Brandon.** 1320 Cambridge S Minor: Joan Tipple 1, Sue Munford 2, Ruth Suggett 3, Louis Suggett (C) 4, Paul V Stannard 5, Steve Munford 6. First surprise as conductor.

**Lakenheath.** 1296 Cambridge S Minor: Carol Girling 1, Carl Melville 2, Ruth Young 3, Joan Garrett 4, Barry Dixon 5, Winston Girling (C) 6. 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday compliment to Carl Melville.

**Mildenhall.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Kay Nunn 1, Chris Nunn 2, Carol Girling 3, Carl Melville 4, Winston Girling (C) 5, Robert Rolph 6. 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday compliment to Carl Melville.

**Eriswell.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Louis Suggett (C) 1, Ruth Young 2, Ruth Suggett 3, Paul V Stannard 4, Barry Dixon 5.

**Freckenham.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Joan Tipple 1, Sue Munford 2, Janet R Sheldrake 3, Steve Munford 4, Gordon E Slack (C) 5.

### **18 April**

**Walsham-le-Willows.** 1309 P B Doubles: Yvonne Green 1, Becky Munford 2, Carl Munford 3, Ruth Suggett 4, Louis Suggett (C) 5, Steve Munford 6. First quarter 1.

### **19 April**

**Buxhall.** 1260 Doubles: (4m) Ian Kendal 1, David Steed 2, Lesley Wilson (C) 3, Mary Allum 4, Josephine Beaver 5, Graham Hickman 6.

**Hunston.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Ruth Suggett 1, Maurice Rose 2, Louis Suggett (C) 3, Chris Moveley 4, Michael Royalton-Kisch 5. Best wishes to Sarah Monk.

### **21 April**

**Pakenham.** 1259 P B Minor: Sandy Miles 1, Becky Munford 2, Joan Tipple 3, Sue Munford 4, Sal Burrows 5, Louis Suggett (C) 6.

### **22 April**

**Rougham.** 1260 Grandsire Doubles: Craig Gradidge 1, Ruth Suggett 2, Joan Tipple 3, Sal Burrows 4, Maurice Rose (C) 5, Elizabeth Teverson 6. First quarter 1 (aged 13). Birthday compliment to HM The Queen, and also Bert Boardman and Eric Nice, Rougham ringers, and also to Craig's Auntie Happy. Golden Wedding celebration for Deryk and Barbara Worley. 22<sup>nd</sup> and last reunion of Rawlins 40/46 Association (bells not available at Quorn).

**Ixworth.** 1260 Doubles: (3m) Kay Nunn 1, Ruth Suggett 2, Louise Whitehead 3, Chris Nunn 4, Maurice Rose (C) 5, Danny Willis 6. Rung for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ixworth Bowls Club and birthday compliment to Jo Gray.

**Monk Week 2007**

**St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket  
Monday 16th—Sunday 22nd July 2007**

Come along and support Carl Melville, as he  
lives in Stowmarket Church for the week

Services Mon-Fri will be held at  
6am (Primes), 9am (BCP), 12noon (Mass),  
3.30pm (Evensong), 8pm (Vigil), 10pm  
(Compline)

Saturday at 6am, 9am, 11am (Mass), 6pm  
(Evensong), 8pm (Watch), 10pm (Compline),  
12 midnight (Prayer Service)

Sunday at 6am, 9am, 10.45am, 3.30pm with  
*Sunday Service ringing at 10am and 3pm*

Stowmarket Carnival will be processing through  
the town on Saturday 21st July from 12 noon.

Suffolk's Open Church Week starts on Sunday  
15th July and end on Sunday 22nd July.

**There will be lots happening over this week in  
July, so please do come along and support the  
Open Churches in Suffolk**

## North East News

With regret we report the death of Frank Sutton in March this year and offer sympathy to his wife and true partner Helen. Though active able members of the N.D.A, they became attached to our District in the early nineties giving welcome support at many meetings in their quiet way. Helen is a member of the Loddon band but until recently regularly attended Beccles practices.

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It is easy to take for granted the time, skills and effort given by Guild , District and Tower Officials. In the N/E District , 'Bel' Rivers (and husband Ray) served as Secretary for ten years combining it latterly with the post of treasurer. She departed very quietly in November '06. Doug Brooks was 'King Pin' at Halesworth for many years, teaching, raising heavy bells and welcoming all comers. Now resident at Lasefield he has hopes of reviving that tower and knows that Halesworth is in very good hands with the arrival of Maggie and Philip.

So thanks Bel and Doug and other unsung heroes. You are appreciated, as are our current office holders.

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The augmentation and re-hang of Rumburgh seems to have revitalised the Halesworth area where nearby Chediston and Wissett both have restoration projects in hand. New ringers for the latter are being taught at Halesworth. HP

**The North East Striking Competition held at Sax-mundham on Saturday 12th May 2007**

Unusually, only one team rang call changes in the striking competition. Will this encourage fledgeling bands to enter in 2008?

	Faults
1st Halesworth Team A (Pat Bailey Trophy)	31
2nd Southwold (Harry Archer Trophy)	33
3rd Sweffling	43
4th Halesworth Team B	47
5th Aldeburgh	49
6th Reydon (Call change trophy)	57
Judges Josephine Beever Adrian Edwards	

## **South East News**

### **Urgently Needed**

From December Sally Munnings will be retiring from her post as District Secretary, after seven years. Sally is still enjoying it at the moment but she believes that the Guild five year rule stops jobs becoming a chore, which she does not want it to become.

Ideally, Sally would like someone or persons to take on the Treasurers and Secretary jobs but if it comes to December and no one is willing to be treasurer she would do that for a little longer.

The Secretary job *could* be divided between:

Minute Secretary—generally no more than two District meetings a year and two committee meetings.

Programme Secretary—after agreement of committee and then District members on the programme in November for the following year, writing to ten towers i.e. in some cases could be done or confirmed by phone or email. The Outing and Striking Contest generally being undertaken by the Ringing Master. This is best done in blocks then sent off to What's On and Ringing World twice a year. All postage paid by the Guild.

Come on South East District—there must be someone who could relieve me of this task.

Hoping for the best  
Sally Munnings

## **Guild Clothing**

Two Children's Fleece in size 36 inches, one Ipswich Town Blue and one Bright Red. Both with the Guild Logo. £15 to Guild Bell Fund

Orders for Guild Clothing to Sally Munnings  
ASAP please.

Sweat Shirts, Polos long and short sleeve, T-Shirts and Fleece both Adult and Children's sizes in a variety of different colours. To order please ring Sally on 01473 743596.

## **For Sale**

One Baby Burco Boiler in excellent condition.  
£20 in aid of bell fund. Please contact Sally Munnings (Number above).

## **The Ringing Master's Son**

Now that I've reached the grand old age of four months (at the time of writing), my daddy felt it was time I wrote something for the newsletter to keep up family tradition. So I thought I would report on my experiences in life so far.

I instantly had a misleading experience - Ipswich Town scored a goal just two hours into my life. 'Ah', I thought, 'I'm onto a good one here'. I then thought I was going to be drawing my pension before I saw the next goal. 'Welcome to life as an Ipswich fan', my daddy said. Mummy supports Chelsea. Hmmm. I don't think this is going to be the toughest decision of my life.

It wasn't even as if cricket was going to be an option. Or rugby. Never mind, the olympics will be here when I'm five years old - but mummy and daddy won't have any money to spend on me because they'll be paying for them. I wonder if I could apply for Australian citizenship yet...

Actually, Australia may not be too bad an option if the weather here in my lifetime is anything to go by - mind you I'm only a few months old and I've spent most of my first paragraphs in life moaning, so I doubt I'll qualify for being anything other than British.

Bell ringing seems like good fun though. I've been going to lots of places including the Young Ringers practice. They all seem quite old to me though, almost as old as daddy! When I was young, someone said to me that you could tell how old someone was by the size of their waist. Uncle Stephen from Grundisburgh must be very old. Mind you he's quite clever - he manages to get daddy out of bed on a Saturday morning to ring bells. I can get daddy out of bed on a Saturday morning too. Several times in fact.

There seems lots of nice people who are ringers. Aunty Ruthie keeps daddy in order via a regime of brutality, but it



works and he doesn't seem to mind. Aunty Kate encourages her, but Aunty Mary from Pettistree just shakes head and mutters something about 'kids'.

Nanna and Grandad are good fun too. They sleep more than me! They've got a great little chair that bounces around lots and makes me throw up. Daddy likes that... They've been to Australia too, although I've not been alive long enough yet to get through all their report on it.

There's also a bloke called Geoffrey who is a 'man of God' - sounds quite important. He's good because he can burp himself all on his own. He smiles when he gets wind too.

There is a big thing in April which the bell ringers do called the 'a gee em'. It's weird. They talk lots like usual, but there's a lot more of them and it's not in a pub. Daddy sits in front of them wearing silly clothes, Aunty Mary plays games on her computer and the man from KFC tells them all when to stop talking.

Then there's all these striking competitions, they seem like good fun, especially as it means there's lots of people standing around giving me lots and lots of attention and Daddy gets to put his medal on again. But I didn't see anyone striking anyone. This language business is going to be a funny old thing to learn.

Daddy's also told me not to mention anything about Chelmsford or his car keys. I don't know where either of them are, but apparently they were both in the same place once when Daddy wasn't, which is bad.

Anyway, I'm going to stop going on because I've used all the words I know and Daddy says people get fed up of the family taking over the newsletter. I'm really looking forward to seeing you all again soon so I can play with some more people!

### **Mason Crane (4 months old)**

PS Daddy also wants to say thank you to everyone who has helped look after me - there's been a lot of you!

Veteran's Afternoon

**Debenham**

**Wednesday 11th July  
2pm-6pm**

**Names for tea please to  
Muriel on 01473 890350**

**Frank Clarke**

Bands visiting St Margaret's, Reydon, were usually welcomed by a silver-haired enthusiast, Tower Correspondent, Frank Clarke.

He died after a short indisposition on the 18th May, aged 92, being still a valued member of Southwold, St. Edmund's choir. He learnt to ring at Southwold, served for many years at nearby Reydon as Church Warden and became Treasurer of the bell fund opened there in 1991 to augment the single bell to 6. This project was initiated by Revd. Canon Harry Edwards who has since been instrumental in bringing at least three other towers back into working order.

A Thanksgiving Service was held at Reydon last September on the 10th anniversary of the Dedication of Reydon bells, at which Frank ably introduced the speaker Revd. Harry and prayers were led by George Pipe.

For his own funeral Frank requested that only 6 of St. Edmund's 8 bells should be rung. So on Saturday 26th May they were; a reminder of the many years he rang on the 6 at St. Margaret's. His wife Bette shared in his singing activities

And supported ringing. Frank's family played a part in his Funeral Service as did Revd. Harry, Revd. Simon Ward, Vicar of Reydon and Team Rector Revd. Canon Jane Wilson.

At Frank's request a film was shown of the last train leaving Southwold railway station accompanied by Flanders and Swann 'The Last Train' Frank and his Funeral will not be forgotten.

HP

## **Congratulations**

### **1st Quarter Peal**

Craig Gradidge and Yvonne Green

### **1st Peal**

(For Ely DA) Sarah Johnson  
(a new member at Exning Tower)

Congratulations goes to Suffolk's own  
Claire Monk, who was elected Ringing  
Master of Sheffield University Society

All Saints Church,  
Stoke Ash

Invite you to...

*Travel through time  
with pictures*

During Suffolk's Open  
Churches Week  
July 15th—22nd

Open each day from  
10.30am—3.30pm

Refreshments will be available