

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Charity

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 December 1975, registration number 266869. The Charity's registered address is Millbeck House, Harleston Green, Shelland, Stowmarket, IP14 3HU. It is governed under a constitution originally registered in 1977 and most recently revised in 2010.

Principal objectives

The purpose of the Charity is to promote and encourage the practice of bellringing within the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; to recruit, train and encourage bellringers in the practice of their art; to cultivate the art of scientific change ringing; and to promote and advise on the preservation of bells in an efficient condition.

Trustees

The Trustees during the period were P J Gorrod, G E Slack and A J Shedden.

Review of Progress and Achievements

Bellringing activities Ringing takes place in most of the towers with ringable bells, both for services and practices. Each of the four Districts holds regular activities for members. Striking competitions take place in each District, and the Guild holds an annual striking competition. A good number of peals and quarter peals are rung. The Vestey Ring has been used to demonstrate what the Guild does, at the Suffolk Show and other events.

Restoration activities Major projects have been completed at Campsea Ashe and Helmingham. Members of the Belfry Advisory Committee frequently give advice and support, both for routine maintenance and restoration projects

Guild Finances

Policies All money in the Guild's funds not required for day-to-day working purposes is invested or deposited by the Treasurer, as directed by the Guild Management Committee. Grants from the Restoration Fund are authorised by the Guild Management Committee but are only paid after completed work has been approved by the Guild Ringing Master and the Technical Adviser. Grants are normally only offered for work to restore bells and their fittings for full-circle ringing, but may include augmentation and other ancillary work associated with any such project.

General Fund Leaving aside the final donation to the Vestey mini-ring, General Fund income in 2011 was almost unchanged from 2010 with increases in subscription income and peal fees offset by a decrease in sales (primarily of rope). General Fund expenditure increased slightly from 2010.

Significant savings were made in the printing of the 2010 Annual Report but these were balanced by increased administration costs and the purchase of a sizeable stock of badges. Administration costs are monitored carefully and the growth reflects increased activity within the Guild.

Restoration Fund Restoration Fund income showed a 25% increase over 2010 primarily from an increase in the Gift Aid refund and donations from a variety of sources. Tower Affiliation income was up as was income from Guild events, reflecting the additional activity referred to above. For the third year running Grant approval at £1,850 was low (£5,500 in 2010 and nil in 2009). The sum now available for allocation to new projects stands at £45,374.

Payments of previously allocated grants, totalling £13,750, were made for three projects completed in the year. The amount reserved for grants allocated to three projects still in progress stands at £5,200.

Summary A satisfactory year financially with an increase in the General Fund balance. The Restoration Fund has a significantly higher balance available to contribute to projects that may arise in 2012.

P J Gorrod

G E Slack

A J Shedden

Trustee & Chairman

Trustee & Treasurer

Trustee & Secretary

February 2011

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