

**2024 Annual General Meeting of
The Suffolk Guild of Ringers
For the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Saturday 6th April 2024. SS Peter & Mary, Stowmarket**

Minutes by Kate Gill

1. Welcome, thanks and apologies

The meeting started at 6.00pm.

- a. Mark Ogden, as Chairman, welcomed everyone present to the Guild's AGM. He congratulated all on the excellent centenary year the Guild has had. It is good to see that peal and quarter peal ringing has now returned to pre-Covid levels.
- b. The Guild Centenary Dinner was a success. The CCCBR weekend in September, hosted by Suffolk, was another success, and Mark thanked Katharine Salter, and all the CCCBR representatives and volunteers for their planning and running of the weekend.
- c. Membership numbers have grown, with 20% of our members now arising from recruitment for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 'Ring for the King'.
- d. Mark thanked the NW District and Stowmarket band for the excellent arrangements and meal today. Mark also thanked xxx for taking the service and xxx for playing the organ.
- e. Apologies were received from 41 members and have been recorded in the Attendance Book.

2. Absent Friends

Mark read out the names of the following members who have passed away since the 2023 AGM.

Elizabeth Teverson, Rougham (died just before last AGM); Edwin Hynard, SW unattached; Kevin Hohl, SE unattached; Malcolm Roberts, Fressingfield; Michael Pizzey, Cavendish; Diana Whiting, Nayland; Ian Harris, Rumburgh; Brian Wells, Barrow; Muriel Page, Stonham Aspel; Adrian Knights, SMLT; Jill Rood, Thurston.

Also remembered are Rosetta Godfrey and Hilary Mann.

Members observed a period of silence in remembrance of these absent friends.

3. Election of New Members

- a. Application forms and subscriptions were received from two prospective new members. Subscriptions have been paid.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Tower</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Deborah Kingston	Rumburgh	Pam Harris	Erika Clarke
Dan Brown (Associate)	Felixstowe	Jacky Savage	Lesley Barrell

- b. All members were in favour of their election with no abstentions.
- c. New member certificates have been produced for Elizabeth Goodchild, Gavin Edwards, Andrea Collins and Christopher Graham. Elizabeth was presented with her certificate, with the remainder to be passed over in due course.
- d. Mark reminded members that the previous Chairman, Rowan Wilson, had started a Centenary certificate scheme, which has now been extended to district level as well. The Guild Executive has decided that there are two members deserving of a Guild level certificate:
 - i. Christine Knight, for 20 years of service as Guild Peal Secretary. Christine was presented with her certificate and members applauded.
 - ii. Jill Apter, who has rung her first quarter peal, inside, and first peal, in the space of four months. Christine will hand her certificate to her.

4. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Chris Davies proposed, and James Smith seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. All were in favour with no abstentions.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none, other than items already on the agenda.

6. Trustee Reports

There were no questions.

7. Officer Reports

- a. Mark invited any questions about the officer reports in turn. There were no questions about any of the reports.
- a. David Steed proposed that the reports be accepted en bloc. This was seconded by Robert Scase. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

8. Annual Report – Editor's Report

- a. Mark Ogden thanked all who had contributed to the report, especially to the obituaries, together with the final proof readers, Mary Garner and Kate Gill.
- b. He explained that the length of the report necessitated a different binding, and the internal margins are a little narrow.
Members gave a round of applause.

9. Central Council Report (2023)

- a. Neal Dodge said that this report is available on the website. There were no questions.
- b. Mark Ogden commented that during his time volunteering during the CCCBR weekend, he realised that it is not necessary to be a CCCBR

representative to sit on one of the working groups. These working groups are mainly focused on 'Ringing 2030'.

10. Subscriptions and Peal Fees (2025)

These will remain unchanged.

11. Elections for 2024/25

Prior to the elections, Mark Ogden said that Kate Gill's five year term as Guild Secretary and Trustee ends today. Christine Knight is resigning as Peal Secretary, after 20 years service.

Mark presented Kate and Christine with a small gift each and members applauded.

Christine thanked everyone for their support and said 20 years have flown by.

11a. Election of Officers

Election of Guild Chairman

Mark Ogden vacated the chair for the election of the Guild Chairman. He is willing to stand again, proposed by Chris McArthur and seconded by Mary Garner. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions. Mark Ogden was duly elected.

Election of Guild Ringing Master

Katharine Salter is willing to stand again, but said she will be standing down next Easter, due to other commitments. She is proposed by Richard Munnings and seconded by Amanda Richmond. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions. Katharine Salter was duly elected.

Election of Guild Treasurer

Tim Hart is willing to stand, proposed by Rowan Wilson and seconded by Maurice Rose. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions. Tim Hart was duly elected.

Election of Guild Secretary

David Everett is willing to stand, proposed by Neal Dodge and seconded by Lesley Steed. There were no other nominations. All members voted in favour, with no abstentions. David Everett was duly elected. Mark welcomed him to the role.

Other Officer Posts

These are shown in the table overleaf. There were no other nominations. Each post was voted on in turn, with all in favour of each and no abstentions. Each was duly elected.

Post	Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
BAC Chairman	Chris Davies	Mark Steggles	Chris McArthur
Technical Advisor	Alan Moulton & Jed Flatters (jointly)	Chris Davies	Winston Girling
PRO	Neal Dodge	Josh Watkins	Maureen Gardiner
Report Editor	Vacancy		
Librarian	Abby Antrobus	Katharine Salter	Mark Ogden
Peal Secretary	Vacancy		
Handbell Trustee	Brian Whiting	Jed Flatters	Rowan Wilson
Mini Ring Trustee	Brian Whiting	Rowan Wilson	Jed Flatters
Webmaster	Chris Garner	Richard Munnings	Mark Ogden

- i. Mark Ogden said that he is willing to provide support to a new Report Editor, but that one needs to be found by December if there is to be an Annual Report & Handbook next year.
- ii. He also said that finding someone to shadow Chris Garner as Webmaster would be useful.

11b. Election of CCCBR Representatives

Elected	Proposed by	Seconded by
Neal Dodge	Josh Watkins	Maureen Gardiner
Cath Colman	Tim Hart	Kate Gill
Marion Knight-Dixon	Neal Dodge	Martin Kirk
Mark Ogden	Neal Dodge	Chris Birkby

There were no other nominations. Members voted for their election en bloc, with all in favour and no abstentions. They were duly elected.

11c. Election of Trustees

- i. Mark Ogden said that it has been the usual practice for the Guild Chairman, Guild Ringing Master, Guild Treasurer and Guild Secretary to be the Guild Trustees.
- ii. James Smith proposed, and Mary Garner seconded, that Mark Ogden, Katharine Salter, Tim Hart and David Everett be appointed as the Guild Trustees.
- iii. There were no other nominations. Members voted all in favour, with no abstentions and the Trustees were duly elected.

12. St Edmund's Clapper Competition

- a. Tim Hart introduced this item and reminded members that the competition began in 1991, with the magnificent clapper being made by a Southwold member, the late John Udon.
- b. The Norman Tower ringers raised £100 through their volunteering during the Beer Festival and are this year's winners.
- c. Cath Colman accepted the trophy on behalf of the Norman Tower band.

13. Appointment of Independent Examiner

- a. Tim Hart proposed, and Chris Garner seconded, that BAS Accountants be appointed as the Guild's independent examiners for the 2024 accounting year.
- b. Members voted in favour, with no abstentions.

50 year Membership Awards

Mark Ogden explained that in this point of the meeting, the Guild usually makes awards to mark 50 years of continuous membership. This year, there are no members who meet this strict criterion, but there are a number of members who have been members for 50 years, but with a break in membership.

Julian Colman falls into this category, with his original election to the Guild being exactly 50 years ago today.

14. Guild Events 2024/25

- a. Katharine Salter reminded members that the Guild Striking Competition is on 18th May, with methods and call changes competitions. She encouraged teams to enter. All the details are on 'What's On'.
- b. Mark Ogden advised that there will not be a Guild Social this year, but if any district wishes to arrange one, they will be supported by the Guild.

15. Any Other Business

- a. Jenny Scase announced that Veterans' Afternoon will be on 10th July.
- b. Neal Dodge says he has a supply available today of 'Learning to Ring' leaflets.
- c. Kate Gill thanked everyone for the kind gift and for all their support. She welcomed David Everett to the role of Guild Secretary.

Date of next AGM. Saturday 26th April 2025 in the SE District.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.