

# **SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS**

## **SW District Report 2024**

During 2024, practices were held at venues right across the district. We visited Lavenham, Polstead, Kersey, St Gregory's, Sudbury, Edwardstone, Bildeston and Great Thurlow. All these practices were very well attended. In addition, the SW District Striking Competition took place at Polstead in June, and in October, a very enjoyable outing to five towers in the Aldeburgh area attracted 29 people. At every event during the year, new members have been elected to the Guild. The superb total of 25 is a testament to the dedicated teaching effort taking place across the district. It is particularly pleasing to recruit young members. During the year, four junior members from Long Melford and one from Lavenham were elected. Many will remember seeing them all ringing together at the Polstead practice in February.

In May, we assembled a band to represent the SW District in the Guild Eight Bell Striking Competition at Felixstowe. The band was placed fifth, a creditable performance, with several unable to take part due to holidays and other commitments. Our own District Striking Competition took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Polstead and was judged by Maurice Rose and Neal Dodge from the NW District. It was a huge success, attracting eight teams in all, with Little Cornard C emerging as worthy winners. This year, there were no entrants in the method ringing category, a good target for next year.

August was SW District Quarter Peal Month. The aims of providing opportunities for 'firsts' of various kinds as well as encouraging wider participation in quarters were achieved. In all, eleven quarters were rung, and congratulations go to Robyn Slater and Duncan Riches for ringing their first quarter peals. Also, Eleanor Waller achieved her 'first inside' and Jill Apter her 'first of Treble Bob'. Thanks go to the experienced ringers who helped to make up the bands, and in particular, to Alan Mayle for conducting eight times.

It has been a year of considerable progress, which would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of members, for which the officers are very grateful.

Richard Knight, SW District Ringing Master  
Pauline Brown, SW District Chairman