

South East District of Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Annual District Meeting 2019

Saturday 7th December 2019 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Debenham, c.6:00pm

1. The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
2. There were approximately 40 people at the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from: Helene Berry, Stephen Cheek, Owen Claxton, Joanna Crowe, Glenys Fear, Claire Haynes, Janet Looser, Richard and Ruth Munnings, Diana and George Pipe, Amanda Richmond, Marian Saker, Jacky Savage, James Smith, Jimmy Wightman, Sue Williamson, Karina Wiseman
3. The district remembered Peter Hamilton-Jones, ringer at Orford, and Mrs Monica Taylor from Otley (1922-2019), with words from Tig Sweet.
4. The minutes of the 2018 ADM had been previously circulated. Minor corrections had been sent by e-mail, including properly naming Reverend Leslie Siu, and adding thanks to Mary Garner for playing the organ. Katharine Salter noted that the sentence which referred to churches being now in the care of the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust implies a more recent change than is the case, and also that St Nicholas is in the care of the diocese. The minutes were signed by the chairman.
5. Matters arising from the minutes: Stephen Cheek had requested circulation of a list of towers covered by each Area Rep. The secretary apologised for not noticing this action point and can do better next year (see item 8).
6. The following were elected as Guild members:

Name	Tower	Category	Proposer	Seconded
Lorna Banham	Otley	FTE	Tig Sweet	Tom Scase
Miles Ellis	Otley	FTE	Jimmy Wightman	Tig Sweet
James Mallinder	Hollesley	Adult	Peter Harper	Jane Harper
7. Reports (see Appendix 1)
 - a. *Chairman's* report was circulated at the meeting. Mark reiterated thanks to Jonathan, the outgoing Ringing Master, and the meeting gave a round of applause.
 - b. *Ringing Master's* report was pre-circulated. John Girt commented on the visit to Mancroft and asked whether the Guild has proposals for a similar facility in Suffolk.
 - The Guild Chairman, Rowan Wilson, responded that the ringing centre at Mancroft is intended for the whole of East Anglia, and that people do travel to it. She added that it wouldn't be straightforward to replicate it in Suffolk, and so energy is being put into other things. There are proposals to use Golden Bottle money to provide new simulators in each district.

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- Jenny Scase observed added that one of the Debenham ringers goes to sessions at Mancroft and that we could encourage use of the centre.
- Jonathan Williamson reiterated that Norwich is not really that far away.
- John Taylor asked a question about existing simulators and pointed out that they are not always used. Mark Ogden replied that the intention would be that the new ones would be easier to set up and operate.
- Rowan reiterated that Nikki Thomas has a team of volunteers at Mancroft, and highlighted that travel distances across the county would mean that a facility in Suffolk could actually be equally as far away as Norwich for some. She added that the new proposed simulators will have supporting persons (e.g. to help out with any glitches).

c. *Treasurer* – Tracey Scase reported that the District started the year with £100 and that she has transferred £118.81 over the course of the year so far. Accounts run to 31st December, and we will start 2020 with £100. Payments of 18 subscriptions are still outstanding.

- Mark Ogden and Rowan Wilson noted an increase in Guild subs, and that there will be an e-mail from the Guild Treasurer.
- John Girt asked about donations to churches where meetings are held and questioned why we don't hold collections for the BRF. Tracey replied that we give each church we visit a donation, and money left over from the donations box is transferred into the BRF. The District Chairman suggested that members donate £1 per tower to the box.

d. *Recruitment and Training* – reports are published on the Guild website. Mark Ogden added that taster days were under discussion, and that a new Ringing Master may want to take this forward. The District was reminded that any points for the R&T committee can be passed on to the reps.

e. *Technical Advisor* – the report was pre-circulated. The committee has met 3 times and been active across the county, including at Bredfield, Woodbridge (refurbishment by Taylors), Hintlesham (work by Neville Whittell), and at Framsden. The Salter family has done a lot of work at St Clements.

f. *Guild Management Committee* – reports are published on the Guild website and a new one is expected soon. Some key points were raised:

- Mark Ogden advised the meeting that the criteria have now changed in relation to donations made by the guild.
- The Guild 6-and 8-Bell striking competitions will next year be held on separate days (6-bell in May, 8-bell on the same day as the Social).
- It is advisable for district meetings to be held after GMC meetings so that information can be passed on at appropriate times (after meetings, and before the Guild AGM in April). John Girt supported this as a two-way system to also pass on opinions to GMC.

g. *Ipswich Historic Churches Trust* – Katharine Salter reported that the IHT is talking for planners about a major project at St Clements to bring it back into use (e.g. with toilets, kitchen facilities etc), but that it has been generally a quieter year.

h. *Updates from Deanery/Area reps* – reports were pre-circulated or distributed at the meeting.

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8. Deanery/Area reps – Mark Ogden reminded the meeting that there had been discussion at the 2018 ADM about changing the Areas covered by Reps. Not all of the posts were filled, and some Reps had decided to stand down this year. It was therefore proposed that volunteers should be sought and then the responsibilities shared out according to who was elected (with support from the committee where possible) –The GMC is currently conducting an exercise to map ‘roles and responsibilities’, which may provide further information to guide the reps. The role has changed as much communication is done electronically. There were no objections to the proposed approach.

9. The following Officers were duly elected:

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconded
Chairman	Mark Ogden	Mary Garner	Sally Munnings
Secretary	Abby Antrobus	Jonathan Williamson	Chris Garner
Ringing Master	Jenny Scase	Mark Ogden	Tom Scase
Treasurer	Tracey Scase	Ralph Earey	Jenny Scase
Technical Advisor	Chris McArthur	Mary Garner	Jenny Scase
Area reps	Mary Garner	Elected on a general ‘aye’	
	Margaret Cherry		
	Robert Scase		
	Leslie Barrell		
	Janet Looser		
	Jonathan Williamson		
Magazine correspondent	<i>Currently no magazine</i>		
Recruitment and Training committee	Jenny Scase	Chris Garner	Jonathan Williamson
	Mark Ogden	Mary Garner	Jonathan Williamson
GMC reps	Mary Garner	Abby Antrobus	Jonathan Williamson
	Mark Ogden	Mary Garner	Jonathan Williamson
	Jenny Scase	Jonathan Williamson	Mary Garner
	Abby Antrobus	Mark Ogden	(Jonathan Williamson)
	Tracey Scase	Mervyn Scase	Mary Garner

Some points to note:

- The Ringing Master took the chair for the election of the chairman.
- Ringing Master – Jonathan congratulated Jenny on her election and said that her ability to organise and to run practices mean that she is brilliant for the job.

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- Reps: we are basically looking for people willing to contribute to how the district is run, help with communication and the distribution of reports, and Mary Garner's unofficial contribution to date was acknowledged. Janet was nominated in her absence, and the secretary will confirm that she is happy with this.
- David Stanford volunteered to be the Magazine Correspondent.
- R&T – it was noted that is useful for District ringing masters meet at R&T
- GMC: Mary Garner emphasised that we should fill our quota of reps.
- Mark Ogden is young ringer's rep for the guild. Given the numbers of young ringers, a district rep is less necessary. (The success of the Gather event was noted at this point).

10. The District 2020 programme is presented in outline (Appendix 2) to allow input from the new Ringing Master, who may or may not wish to follow last year's model. The January meeting will be at Woodbridge at 2:30pm. The walk was successful. John Girt asked about the business meetings mentioned above - these can be added to the district programme.

11. Katharine Salter asked people to let her know if they're intending to join Christmas Ringing in Ipswich 21st December, to ensure towers are covered and to help with numbers for catering. There is an extra quarter peal at St Lawrence, and open ringing there was also requested. Katharine will do a press release for radio/papers, as feedback from the Heritage Open Day this year was that people would like to know when ringing is happening.

12. The date of the next ADM will be December 5th 2020.

13. Any Other Business

- Jonathan Williamson proposed a vote of thanks to the secretary.
- Mark Ogden thanked the Debenham band for arranging the tea and service (much appreciated at relatively short notice), James Smith for playing the organ, and Rev'd Susan Bates for taking the service.
- The Chairman also thanked the Guild Chairman, Rowan Wilson, and Public Relations Officer, Neal Dodge, for attending the meeting, and acknowledged the presence of the Guild Ringing Master, and friends of the District Jed Flatters and Mike Cowling.
- Ralph Earey added that he would like to see the district return to Mancroft, and he had been pleased to see members there who might not usually attend other events. He also highlighted that visitors can go there any time, and that links to Mancroft calendar is provided on the What's On. Group save discounts on trains were mentioned.

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- Neil Dodge noted that next year sees the 75th anniversary of VE day (May Bank holiday is Friday 8th May) and that we will be co-ordinating ringing across the guild. There is a national campaign for ringing at a certain time, although the Guild (and Central Council) is keen that ringing fits in with local services/parades etc.
- Mark Ogden noted that 21st June Suffolk is Day
- All are welcome at Peter Harper's monthly morning sessions - 2nd Tuesdays.
- The secretary has badges and annual reports for any new members who may have missed out during the year

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Meeting closed at 18:57.

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Provisional Programme 2020

4th January – Woodbridge (2:30 -4pm)
1st February – practice
7th March – practice/meeting
4th April – Training session?
2nd May – Striking competition
9th May - VE day bank holiday
6th June - practice and meeting?
4th July – practice/meeting
1st August – Quarter peal and meal event?
5th September - practice
3rd October – District outing?
7th November - practice/meeting
5th December - Annual District meeting
Date tbc December – Ipswich Christmas Ringing
2nd January 2020 – Practice
6th February 2020 – Practice

The intention is for the committee to also discuss repeating events from last year, including a Bake-off and a walk.