

# CHANGE RINGING FOR THE FUTURE

## REPORT ON BREAKOUT GROUPS EAST REGION

### A. What's working well in your area?

<b>Working together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clusters of local towers ringing together</li> </ul>	x 4
<b>Practices/meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well organised district programme and committee</li> <li>Midweek practice group</li> <li>Visiting ringers at practice night to make more interesting</li> <li>Workshops for specific aspects of learning at a local level</li> </ul>	x 2
<b>Training and development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essex Ringing Course</li> <li>Local ringing schools</li> <li>Ringling centres (Castor and new centre at Stretham)</li> <li>District training initiatives</li> <li>Invited pupils to learn with an experienced band</li> <li>Recruitment &amp; Training Subcommittee (RATS)</li> </ul>	x 6 x 2 x 4
<b>Young ringers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth bands have regular practices promoted by the Guild</li> <li>Youth bands take part in the Young Ringers Striking Competition</li> </ul>	x 8 x 3
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>League-based striking competition brings local bands together on their practice night</li> <li>New Year outing</li> <li>Recruitment and publicity tactics in some towers</li> <li>Recognition of the need for change, and for advice and guidance</li> <li>Well established pattern of ringing</li> <li>Help for individuals at their request providing a core band for them</li> <li>Diocesan 100<sup>th</sup> celebration</li> <li>NDA linked with Suffolk re the St Peter Mancroft 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary (could do this with other events)</li> <li>The time and commitment from a few individuals prepared to teach recruits, make ringing fun and keep bells going</li> <li>Suffolk Guild has invited quotes for ringing software eg simulators, training courses, recruitment initiatives</li> </ul>	x 4

## B. What's NOT working well in your area?

<b>Working together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication outside the guild</li> <li>▪ Asking for assistance cross boundary</li> <li>▪ Non-cooperative towers</li> <li>▪ Limited cross-border advertising of events (within/across guilds)</li> <li>▪ Communication at all levels</li> </ul>	
<b>Association</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication between guild reps (except at AGM weekend!), plus between reps and the General Management Committee</li> <li>▪ Engagement of all ringers and towers in district events</li> <li>▪ Opportunities for association training</li> <li>▪ Difficulty at tower level in answering criticism when guilds do not state what their grievances are</li> <li>▪ Getting people to take on roles and responsibilities</li> </ul>	
<b>Recruitment and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruitment</li> <li>▪ Recruitment particularly youngsters</li> <li>▪ Retention – many are taught to ring but not enough are retained</li> <li>▪ Insufficient teachers available for after-school and week-day teaching</li> <li>▪ Publicity and recruitment at schools, colleges, universities</li> <li>▪ Overall recruitment strategy</li> <li>▪ Overall publicity strategy</li> <li>▪ ITTS uptake is good but follow up after critical course is rather hit and miss</li> <li>▪ Competent manpower for early training (both instructors and helpers)</li> <li>▪ Training</li> <li>▪ Approach to teaching at a local level</li> <li>▪ Development of ringers from rounds to simple methods, and from simple methods to Surprise</li> </ul>	<p><i>x 10</i></p> <p><i>x 4</i></p> <p><i>x 4</i></p> <p><i>x 3</i></p>
<b>Practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Weekly practices at some towers now restricted to once a month/ fortnight</li> <li>▪ Tower captains controlling who rings the bells</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Too male-dominated</li> <li>▪ Recognition of ringing as a performance art</li> <li>▪ Drive</li> <li>▪ Critical mass (ie band needs outside support to reach its potential)</li> <li>▪ Greater inertia to change amongst regular church authorities – initiatives from ringers being refused by PCCs</li> <li>▪ Inertia from established ringers to embrace change re ITTS etc</li> <li>▪ Making use of available slots - insufficient ringers</li> <li>▪ Bells falling into disrepair due to no local band</li> <li>▪ Distance between towers</li> <li>▪ Top-end ringers isolated from grass roots</li> <li>▪ Anti-help tower captains</li> <li>▪ Towers without ringers</li> <li>▪ Tower members not ringing at other towers</li> <li>▪ Tower members arriving at practice without doing any preparation</li> </ul>	

### C. What cross-boundary initiatives are happening near you?

<b>Working together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Going over the border to towers for district meeting</li> <li>▪ Some towers affiliated to both neighbouring guilds</li> <li>▪ Association practices</li> <li>▪ Local tower practice night exchange (monthly during term)</li> <li>▪ Occasional joint district meetings</li> </ul>	
<b>Contests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ridgman Trophy</li> </ul>	x 2
<b>Training and development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ITTS training (but noone has actually signed up yet)</li> <li>▪ Essex Ringing Course</li> </ul>	x 5 x 2
<b>Young people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suffolk young ringers - successful and popular – taking monthly practices and activities to all areas of the guild</li> <li>▪ RWNYC</li> <li>▪ Recruitment drive by Ely Guild resulted in new ringers for Peterborough Guild</li> </ul>	
<b>10/12-bell ringing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advanced ringing tuition and practice</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None as far as I am aware</li> <li>▪ There are no cross boundary opportunities in our area</li> <li>▪ Only local tower initiatives</li> <li>▪ Hunsdon practice (not official)</li> <li>▪ Annual cycle outing</li> <li>▪ Open email lists for advertising events</li> <li>▪ Southern Universities Association</li> <li>▪ Peterborough Cathedral practice</li> </ul>	

### D. What are the cross-boundary opportunities in your region?

<b>Working together</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suggestion: Suffolk Guild publishes monthly 'what's on' with all the district activity and contacts listed – could adjoining guilds share 'what's on'?</li> <li>▪ Relations with bordering associations are good in the border areas but not with the association in general</li> <li>▪ Unknown events in nearby guilds</li> <li>▪ Joint cross border branch outings and meetings</li> <li>▪ Pooling resources (eg peal ringing)</li> <li>▪ Guild/district outings</li> <li>▪ Joint meeting, joint 12-bell midweek, during day – Herts/Bucks</li> <li>▪ Northants/Peterborough</li> <li>▪ Combined tower practice – once per month one 6-bell and one 3-bell tower</li> </ul>	x 4
<b>Contests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ringing competitions</li> <li>▪ Ridgman Trophy</li> <li>▪ Guild/association joint striking competition – rivalry!</li> </ul>	x 2 x 2
<b>Training and development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinated recruitment and training</li> <li>▪ Strategic targets for recruitment and training</li> </ul>	

<b>10/12-bell ringing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10/12-bell practices</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our area is already too big</li> <li>▪ Publicity and public relations</li> <li>▪ Publicity at shows etc with mini-rings</li> <li>▪ Very full district calendar already, so difficult to fit in anything else</li> <li>▪ None that I am aware of but there must be several possibilities</li> <li>▪ Sharing best practice – focused practice</li> <li>▪ Stellar local band – difficult to bridge the gap to join</li> <li>▪ Organised tours being more open and better advertised (Campanophile/BellBoard)</li> </ul>	<p>X 2</p> <p>X 2</p>