

**Minutes: NW Annual District Meeting
At Fornham St Martin
Saturday 11th October 2025**

Present: Neal Dodge (Chairman), Josh Watkins (Ringing Master), Mary Oliver-Barratt (Secretary) Kim Rutter-Moye (Treasurer) plus 20 other members

1. Chairman's opening remarks and votes of thanks; notification of Any Other Business

Neal Dodge welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance today and at the District Meetings throughout the year. Neal also thanked all involved in organising the events of the day.

The Chairman thanked all the Officers for their service over the last year and a round of applause followed.

2. Obituaries

None noted for this region.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jo Beever, Julian Colman, Cath Colman, Nathan Colman, David Everett, Sylvie Fawcett, Joan Garrett, Clare Gebel, Winston Girling, Martin Kirk, Steve Munford, Angela Packer, Serena Steggles, Mark Steggles & Sally Crouch

4. Minutes of previous meeting; approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated. No amendments were made and they were unanimously approved and then signed by the District Chairman.

5. Matters arising

It was confirmed that Ruth Young was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Guild in recognition of her service to the Guild at the Guild AGM in April 25.

6. Reports from officers

Ringing Master: Josh Watkins reported that the Monthly District practices had been very well attended, and the schedule included some new towers. Good progress has been made on ringing Quarter Peals (QP) and the NW District has 6 of the top QP ringers in the Guild. The District outing in the Yarmouth area on 9th August was well received and for 2026 the plan is to visit the Braintree area as well as a mini outing in June. The attendance at the NW Striking contest was excellent with Buxhall winning the Method Trophy and Troston the Call Changes Trophy, which have now been engraved and presented. Regular practices have commenced at Stowmarket dedicated to higher number ringing. Josh also informed the Meeting that additional special practices were being planned

7. Election of new members

There were 4 new members proposed and seconded at this meeting.

Name	Proposed	Seconded
Michael Frap	David Everett	Mary Dunbavin
Alexandra Huggins	Sally Veal	Mary Oliver-Barratt
Isobel Bradshaw	Maurice Rose	Mary Oliver-Barratt

Peter Salkus
All were elected

Deborah Blumfield

Mary Oliver-Barratt

8. Election of officers

See Table below for results. All were unanimously approved.

The Chairman explained the responsibilities of the Vacant GMC NW District Rep. There were no nominations but it was explained that nominations would also be welcome outside the meeting.

9. Programme of Events

Josh Watkins presented the draft plan for 2026. Three towers have yet to confirm and some of the additional towers still need to be contacted.

Jed Flatters suggested that the NW striking contest be scheduled before the Guild contest - This is to be looked at by the committee

The Secretary pointed out a typo she had made regarding Chiming at St Mary's which is planned for 9th May not March 14th. Once all towers have confirmed the plan will be published

10. Any Other Business

Maurice Rose wished to table a vote of thanks to Josh Watkins for the excellent support he provided Ruth Young after last year's ADM when she took a fall. The meeting agreed.

The Secretary informed the Meeting that the next District Meeting would be Hinderclay on Saturday 8th November and next year's ADM would be at Ixworth on Saturday 10th October 2026.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Election of Officers 2025/26

Position	Current Holder	Elected 2025/26	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Neal Dodge	Neal Dodge	David Steed	Clare Free
Secretary	Mary Oliver-Barratt	Mary Oliver-Barratt	David Steed	Clare Free
Treasurer	Kim Rutter-Moye	Kim Rutter-Moye	David Steed	Clare Free
Ringin Master	Joshua Watkins	Joshua Watkins	David Steed	Clare Free
R&T Reps	Mary Oliver-Barratt Clare Gebel	Mary Oliver-Barratt Clare Gebel	Josh Watkins	Sally Veal
GMC District Reps				
	Mark Steggles	Mark Steggles	<i>En bloc:</i> Proposed by Josh Watkins and seconded by Lesley Steed (with 1 vacancy)	
	Neal Dodge	Neal Dodge		
	David Everett	David Everett		
	David Steed	David Steed		
	Vacancy	Vacancy		