



KCACR ROCHESTER DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting - Sat 17th Jan 2026, St Botolph, Northfleet

Draft Minutes

Attending:

Tim Ford (chair), Anita Perryman (secretary), Neil Jones, Rona Joiner, Steve Fitton, Nick Wheeler, Florence Hamp, Mark and Charlotte Elvers, Chris Dunster, Jean and Martin Andrews, Marek Michalak, Jacqui Mack, Julia Fillier, Jay Ford, George Marks, Gill and Chris Rapley, Rob Still, Cathy Hall, Joanne Pohl, Stuart Cox, Val Cooper, Annette Jacobs, Keith Tolputt, Lee Cogger, Vicky Jackson, Amanda Horrobin, Penny Scott-Beaulieu, Lizzie Bishop

1. Welcome & Minute's Silence

Happy New Year to everyone.

A minute's silence was held for the following:

Geoff Morad died on 31st December 2025. Geoff learned to ring as a teenager at Cliffe and he was a member of the Association for about 40 years. He introduced many youngsters to ringing through his involvement with the Scouts and he also taught bell handling skills during his tenure as Tower Captain at All Saint's Frindsbury. In recent years he had to stop ringing for health reasons but he remained involved with ringing and still enjoyed running ringing practices at All Saint's and attending practices at St Margaret's, Rochester.

Tom Wallace, who was 89, was an active ringer at Gillingham in the 1980s and 90s. He was tragically killed in a hit-and-run on 29th December 2025.

2. Apologies for absence

Alan Driver, Margaret Funnell, Father Stephen Trafford, Chris M Trafford, Louise Manuel, Mike & Gill Rannard

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the annual district meeting, held at Hoo St Werburgh on 18th October 2025, were circulated prior to the meeting. These minutes were agreed to be correct. They were proposed by Rona Joiner and seconded by Rob Still.

4. Matters arising

a. Feedback on November quarter peal month

RJ: 16 quarter peals were rung during quarter peal month in November, this is one more than last year. They were rung at 14 towers, with 2 each at Milton Regis and Rochester Cathedral. The list of towers where quarters were scored shows the effort some ringers have put in to get out and about. There was one quarter of minimus (with a cover), 9 quarters of doubles, one of minor and 5 of triples. Our leading ringer was Tim Ford with 9 quarters, closely followed by Jay Ford and Chris Trafford with 7 each. Congratulations to everyone who scored a quarter and to those who tried but lost quarters for taking part (with a honourable mention to those ambitious enough to try at Borden).

b. Feedback from KCACR:

KCACR Evensong

NJ The annual KCACR evensong is becoming an established part of the calendar. This year it was held at Canterbury Cathedral. About 45 members attended the service, with a similar amount attending the ringing. Neil thanked Canterbury for their efforts in organising the ringing this year and managing to let everyone who wanted to ring ring. The idea is to keep

circulating around the county, so we will be heading to Greenwich on 22nd November 2026.

Petition for Bellringing to be recognised as Intangible Cultural Heritage

NJ: The link to the petition is here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/heritage/>

UNESCO has a list where intangible cultural practices can be registered; the UK has signed up. Hence, the UK is looking around for unique cultural traditions that make UK what it is. The Central Council believe that bellringing should be included on this list. They have to prove that they have sufficient support from practitioners in order to enter, hence they have created a petition for ringers to sign to show their support. Acceptance on this list will not necessarily result in monetary gain but it would raise the profile and increase recognition of bellringing. The UNESCO logo could be added to documents related to ringing. Please could you sign and encourage other ringers to do so as well.

c. Feedback on Christmas mini-tour and curry

AP: 13 ringers joined us on our Christmas mini-tour on Saturday 13th December to St Olave's, Hart Street, and Bethnal Green. We then went for a pint at The Pride of Spitalfields and followed this with a curry in Brick Lane.

d. ART/Ringing Hubs

SF: the ART training hub at Milton Regis continues to run, the dates for which can be found on the KCACR website, at:

<https://kcacr.org.uk/learning-hubs-update-january-to-april-2026/>

There are training hubs events every 3 weeks at Milton Regis, which cover both M1 & M2 ART skills, from starting to learn to handle up to plain hunting. More dates will be added after April. They have a group of regular attendees and are generally well supported. If you have any learners or aspiring teachers, please refer them to these hubs.

ART have a new chair elect from 1st March: congratulations to Neil Jones!

e. Ladies Conducting Group

RJ: The next Ladies Conducting Group meeting is scheduled for Sat 31st January at Milton Regis. Please contact Rona if you are interested (even if male).

f. Assistant Ringing Master Vacancy

The Rochester district is still looking for a new assistant ringing master to help Rona out. The job description is to help the ringing master with the following: to run district practices; always have health and safety in mind; to organise the team for the KCACR 8-bell competition; organise judges for the district striking competitions; attend committee meetings (~3 per year); they don't necessarily have to be able to ring all the methods called for, but they do need to know (or find out) what people are capable of ringing. This is all easier for the ringing master if we have a deputy to call upon. So we are looking for proposals for assistant master or someone who would like to learn the role. Please have a think and ask around to see if anyone is interested in the role. Please send us your proposals.

5. Election/welcome of new members

- **Ann Lewis** of Gillingham, proposed by Neil Jones, seconded by Jean Andrews, verified by Neil Jones
Ann has been ringing since the new Gillingham band started two years ago, when she followed her ears over to the tower. She has now reached ART M1 standard.
- **Julia Fillier** of Gillingham, proposed by Neil Jones, seconded by Jean Andrews, verified by Neil Jones

Julia is a returning ringer who was encouraged to restart ringing at the Ringing Discovery last August.

- **Marek Michalak** of Rochester Cathedral, proposed by Neil Jones, seconded by Steve Fitton, verified by Neil Jones
Marek contacted NJ last year wanting to learn to ring. He is now ART M1 standard and has joined the Sunday service ringing band.
- **Egon Goodman-Maurer** of Rochester Cathedral, proposed by Neil Jones, seconded by Steve Fitton, verified by Neil Jones
Egon also contacted NJ last year wanting to ring. He too has achieved ART M1 standard and rings on Sunday.
- **Luke O'Connor** (Junior) of Rochester Cathedral, proposed by Neil Jones, seconded by Steve Fitton, verified by Neil Jones
Luke is one of six students from the resurrected King's School band. Luke is the first of new ringers from that band to achieve ART M1 standard and join the local band.
- **Thomas Williamson** (Junior) of Cobham, proposed by Florence Hamp, seconded by Alan Driver, verified by Rona Joiner.
Thomas started last January as part of the Duke of Edinburgh program, he has continued ringing and is now plain hunting.

All were elected unanimously and were welcomed to the association.

Action: New members to complete the online application and payment.

Action: AP: Pass newly elected members details to Doug.

6. Forthcoming events

- Tues 3rd Feb 7:30pm: surprise major practice at Rochester Cathedral
- Sat 21st Feb 10 - noon: training - plain hunt at Cuxton. Sign up will be required, with 6 places available [NB All filled by the end of the meeting].
- Sat 21st Feb 2pm: district practice at Halling
- Sat 21st Mar 3pm: district practice at Tunstall
- Sat 11th Apr 2pm: district 6-bell striking competition and quarterly meeting
- Sat 13th Jun: district outing to Kingston upon Thames
- Sat 26th Sept: Chalk will be hosting the KCACR 6-bell striking competitions (am and pm) - we are looking for volunteers to help with stewarding and refreshments

7. AOB

- NJ: The next advanced 10-bell practice is happening on the evening of Thursday 29th January at Rochester Cathedral. Methods will be Grandsire and Stedman caters, plain and little bob royal and Yorkshire surprise royal.
- VC: there is some half price clothing available, a new price list and some new badges.

A vote of thanks goes to Northfleet for hosting and providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 17:15.