

Tower Talk

The newsletter for ringers using



Learning
the Ropes

Association of Ringing Teachers / Learning the Ropes – www.bellringing.org

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Our Summer edition of Tower Talk has been prepared in the heatwave and brings you ideas for ringing holidays, ringing in the heat and taking charge when others are away on their own trips.

We are delighted to begin by celebrating the recognition of Pip Penney MBE and then to bring her listening tips to a fresh audience, as we know we always have new readers joining us as they embark on the Learning the Ropes journey.

You will find updates from ART Awards winners and a host of LtR achievements, demonstrating the contagious enthusiasm which bellringing encourages!

I think it's particularly inspiring to hear from Kris about the new Burghill Teaching Hub. Less than two years from a Module 1 day course and now eight accredited teachers are taking learners through into LtR Level 2 with Sunday service bands complete and ringers enjoying ongoing development together.

If you have a story to share of your recent experience as a bellringer email me to be part of the next Tower Talk.



Pip Penney, MBE

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Pip Penney, MBE

Rose Nightingale & Annie Hall

Congratulations to ART's founding Chair, Pip Penney, on receiving the MBE.

In June, everyone at ART was delighted and proud to hear that our founder, Pip Penney was to receive an MBE for services to Church Bell Ringing and to Young People, as part of the 2026 King's Birthday Honours.

Many ART members and past course delegates will know or remember Pip, who used her professional knowledge as a physiotherapist to break down skills required to ring a bell into clear, manageable steps and devise a structured plan for teachers to use in the tower.



Pip tutored 52 day courses, including the first M1, M2F and M2 courses

Developing the day courses

The award recognises a contribution to ringing that has transformed the way thousands of people learn and teach our craft. As a practising physiotherapist, Pip brought a different perspective to ringing instruction. She carefully analysed the physical skills involved in handling a bell and broke them down into a series of clear, progressive steps. What had often been taught as an instinctive skill passed from one ringer to another became a structured learning process that could be taught consistently and effectively.

Although there have always been excellent ringing teachers, and plenty of ideas of how to teach ringing, Pip's work evolved into the Learning the Ropes programme which is now used widely by thousands of teachers and ringers all over the world.

From first steps in bell handling, starting with the bell in the down position (so that a new ringer doesn't have to cope with fast moving ropes until they have developed several basic handling skills first) through to learning to hear a bell in rounds, starting call changes, dodging, making places and steps towards plain hunt, Pip's approach was to avoid overwhelming new ringers with big steps which often leads to a loss in confidence.

By putting in place good groundwork and working on each skill individually, the Learning the Ropes scheme has been widely adopted as a way of teaching steps gradually and maintaining good bell handling as a ringer progresses.

This work became the foundation of the Learning the Ropes scheme, which is now used by teachers and ringers throughout the world. The accompanying Learning the Ropes Logbook provides a clear pathway from the first lesson through to becoming a competent and confident ringer. This influence can be seen in towers across the UK and far beyond.

In 2012, Pip founded the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), an organisation dedicated to improving the standard of ringing instruction and supporting those who teach others. Through its training modules, mentoring, resources and accreditation, ART has helped equip ringing teachers with the skills and confidence to bring new people into ringing and retain them. The organisation has become one of the most influential developments in ringing education in recent decades.



Pip selling ART at the Newbury Ringing Roadshow

What our members say

Through the ART training modules Pip developed for teaching handling, foundation skills and early change ringing, many people have learned and extended their teaching skills, so following the news of Pip's award, ART asked our members to write in and let us know how using the ART approach had changed the way they taught.

We heard from teachers from all over the world, many of whom had been new to teaching before attending an ART course, but who needed to step in when their band was dwindling, or if there was a quiet tower nearby with people who wanted to learn.

“

I've been teaching people to ring for over 20 years but am a relatively new recruit to ART. I am absolutely delighted that I took the plunge as I know that what I learned has taken my teaching to a new level, for both new recruits and existing ringers.

“

The courses revolutionised my teaching and our tower produces better ringers with a much lower drop out rate.

“

It must have been at the Teach the Teachers day in Devon in 2010 that I first encountered Pip's teaching, and I thought she was inspirational from the first.

“

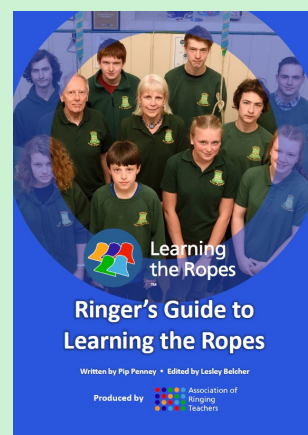
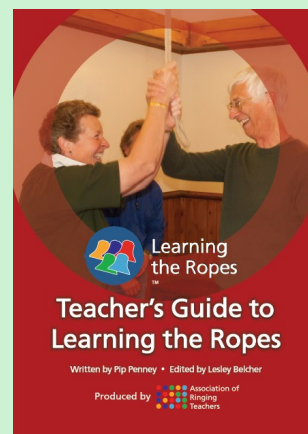
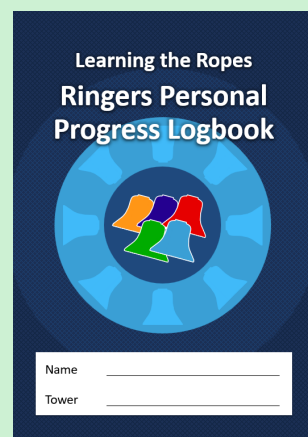
Without ART I don't think I'd be teaching ringing now, as before it came along I was too scared to try. Since doing both ART courses 12 years ago I've taught several people to ring, plus assisted others to teach, and mentored a couple of new teachers. Thanks for giving me the tools, skills and confidence to teach ringing.

“

Without ART I'm certain ringing would be in a poor state in our four towers and I would not have enjoyed it so much either. I LOVE teaching handling and seeing people progress.

“

We came back to Sydney with far more confidence and far safer teaching methods.



This honour is thoroughly deserved recognition of an extraordinary contribution to ringing. We are proud to celebrate Pip's achievement and offer our warmest congratulations on her award of the MBE.

The Difference between London and Wellington

Lucy Chandhial with Dylan Thomas



Dylan giving a tour at Wellington

Dylan Thomas, Ringing Master at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul in Wellington, New Zealand, won the Len Roberts Award for the Promotion of Ringing in the 2026 ART Awards.



When, where and why did you learn to ring?

I first learnt to ring at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, New Zealand in January 2019. This wasn't the first time I'd visited though, as back in 2017 when my interest in bells had just started I managed to convince my mum to wake up early on Sunday morning so we could head into Wellington, a half hour's drive away, to watch the bellringers before the service. I don't remember much from this day but I do remember the Ringing Master, Derek Williams, and the rest of the team being very welcoming, explaining things and keen to show me around.

I did follow up about lessons but for whatever reason I forgot about it, and it wasn't for another two years that I returned to the tower and finally took up bellringing! I learnt to ring initially purely because I enjoyed the sound – I'm originally from Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, and in Germany they ring bells much more regularly (3 to 4 times per day) and they are swung automatically, so I really was exposed a lot to that whenever we visited. I enjoy the amazing noise and resonance produced by a bell the most out of anything, even though so many other things about change ringing are amazing!

What was your first impression of ringing in the UK the first time you visited?

I don't really remember it that well, but I do remember it being nerve-wracking. It probably didn't help that my first ring in the UK was at a practice at Southwark Cathedral. Kindly invited by Dickon Love, I rang rounds and call changes and we rang the bells down afterwards. It was over the following few days (ringing at Amersham, Burnham-on-Sea, Wells Cathedral, and a bunch of other towers on an outing to Wiltshire) that I began to realise just how cool it is that there are so many towers! Endless choice. Most of the ringing was extremely good, to a standard I didn't often experience back home. I think I was just in a state of wow.

Are there any clear differences you have noticed between organising ringing and leading a tower in London vs Wellington?

Well, it's definitely easier to get ringers if you live in London. In Wellington you don't have much choice. Also there's no other towers, so you can't do tower outings, share teaching duties as much etc etc, which means your trainees don't get the same experiences and maybe not the same progress as someone might do in London or a city with many towers and different bands. Sadly, all the pubs close at 8/9pm so no pub after ringing! Promoting ringing at Wellington was easy because we have a wide open viewing gallery in both the belfry and ringing chamber and an elevator, so visitors can easily ascend the tower! It's located near parliament so we stick a sign out on the road and tourists and keen folk can easily come up and watch and listen. But in some senses it's harder due to ringing being less of a cultural norm, so people don't know as much about it and the ringing might annoy more people in nearby houses, etc. But apart from those aspects it is mostly the same, except I was dealing with a cathedral rather than the village church of, say, St Anne's Highgate!

What's your proudest moment as a leader in ringing?

I struggle to pick one, so I'll share a couple: My proudest moment as a teacher is definitely recruiting and training four young ringers under the age of 30 in Wellington, three of whom are still ringing regularly and are very keen. My proudest moment as a ringer/ leader in ringing has been essentially the saving of Wellington ringing from the brink of destruction, with fresh ideas, a drive to recruit, the complete reorganisation, tidying and painting of the ringing chamber, better communication and involvement with the cathedral (which they love) and just generally better vibes. It is now an environment where people WANT to stay and keep ringing, rather than one which is cold, dilapidated and full of retirees' junk.

What advice would you give to a young ringer who wants to contribute in their local tower, and help improve the ringing opportunities in their local area?

Encourage as many young people as possible to learn and learn to teach yourself. The more there are the more likely other young ringers will arrive in the future, and DON'T stop recruiting, always keep going.

TALK to your church/cathedral and/or get INVOLVED. The church loves it when you help them or show enthusiasm. If they know you're putting effort in to clean a ringing chamber or belfry for example, they're more likely to help you with "things". Even just being nice to the clergy/priest/manager – I became friends with the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul Manager and man it really helped. We worked on promotional material, tower signage, projects, and health and safety policies together and are now designing an app which we can't share too many details about yet!

But do get to know the people in your church and don't feel like you shouldn't tell them (them being church management/leadership) what's going on in the tower. It's much better if they know because they can help when you have trouble, as I found out when we had issues with one particular ringer causing problems last year.

Support ringing opportunities in a local area. You could always try visiting towers that don't ring much and organise a session there. Organise outings, etc.

Branch practices are good too and we're just thinking of starting them in Melbourne, AUS!

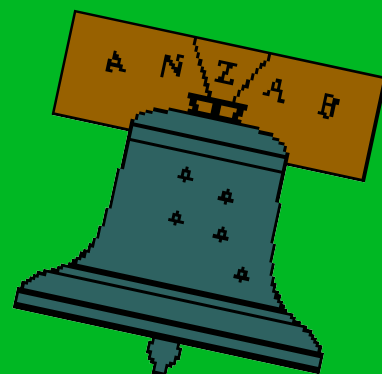


Encouraging visitors to Wellington Cathedral Tower

If you are thinking about joining Dylan in New Zealand or experiencing Australia then the Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers (ANZAB) website is a good place to start: <https://anzab.org.au/>

Bellringers worldwide are a welcoming group of people, and there is a long tradition of ringing while on holiday. If you are doing 50 Ringing Things 'Ring at a tower when on holiday' is Green 9, and if you are following the LtR Call Changes programme, going on holiday to the West Country will give you the opportunity to ring call changes with experts.

There are lots of hints and tips about ringing on holiday in Issue 33 of Tower Talk, and Aveline Pérez de Vera provides some insight into international ringing on page 9 of this issue



The South West Ringing Course

Claire Thomson

*At the time of writing this little piece, I am sitting in the car on the journey home after, what I can only describe as, **the BEST WEEKEND EVER!***

When I left on Friday morning for Millfield School and the Advanced Devon Call Change lowering and rising course, I felt a mix of excitement at the opportunity to improve my striking and to master 'taking the coil' and trepidation as to what lay ahead!

I had no need to worry though as Graham, Suzanne and their amazing band of tutors just swept us away in a bubble of support, tuition, encouragement and above all laughter, for the whole three days.

On Saturday we rang at three towers, Sunday one, and Monday two – our tutors observed, analysed, guided, taught, refined and reaffirmed our learning in the most understanding and caring way.

Words can't express how appreciative I am – I now ring with a coil and let the rope slide through my hand (please fellow Cornish ringers don't judge!!) and whilst feeling totally alien, come the last ring today I felt more at one with the rope, could more easily lengthen the backstroke and above all, I rang down in peal (not perfectly) but I had FOUR COILS! Cracking!

“

I have so much now to take away and practice, but I feel more confident.

“

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing event – it was fantastic!

Millfield is a great setting...

- The DIY bar provided a really welcome social to end each day...
- The quiz strengthened teams and was highly competitive!
- The training bell afforded opportunity to practise...
- The optional sessions offered opportunity to cover conducting, running a practice, rope splicing and a whole raft of other things...
- And the quarter peal rung on the Charmborough Ring was just mesmerising.



Booking as a student on the South West Ringing Courses opened in May and is now closed. Look out for next years course at: <https://southwest-ringing-course.org.uk/>

I do Like to Ring Beside the Seaside

Rose Nightingale

M I N E H E A D P W R W M L H
E S T A N D R E W S S H Y Y W
V W T S A L C O M B E I W M R
O A H T U H C O E M O T W E A
B N D B Y J J L T R Y S H R P
W A M O R T E H O E K T I E O
L G E U Q K Z N S B N A T G B
H E V R P S N E S A E B B I D
L L A N B E D R O G R L Y S D
N T B E Z Y N G C E W E L K R
U V M O R E C A M B E Z W Y W
D R L M R N F O R M E B K A I
E W E M B U R Y T T Z T O B J
A N T D N C N N R V H N R Z A
H G R E A T Y A R M O U T H N

CLOBELLY CROMER EASTBOURNE GREATYARMOUTH LLANBEDROG
LYMEREGIS MINEHEAD MORECAMBE MORTEHOE PENARTH RYDE
SALCOMBE STANDREWS SWANAGE TENBY WEMBURY WHITBY
WHITSTABLE ZENNOR

How did that Happen? We're a Teaching Hub!

Kris Perruzza, Burghill Teaching Hub Lead

Step 1

Organising a day course

When I decided to organise an ART M1 course, I never imagined it would lead to the formation of the Burghill Teaching Hub. We'd already had some success in recruiting and retaining a new cohort of ringers at Burghill quite organically, some of whom stood out as future ringing teachers.



We had five willing participants; so, to reach the numbers required to run the course, we invited local towers to put ringers forward to attend the course. In speaking with these towers, we discovered that they, too, were having success in recruiting but needed additional support in teaching.

We quickly filled the course with local ringers, many of whom were acting Tower Captains of the towers that now form the Burghill Teaching Hub: Burghill, Bodenham, Fownhope, Marden and Wellington. The course took place on Saturday 31 August 2024. Our tutors were Frank Seabright and Paul Lewis. Everyone got on really well, was engaged, and the day was a great success.

There were nine teachers in total, and experience levels were almost split evenly. Three of the teachers had been actively teaching bell ringing and were confident; two had been teaching reluctantly and lacked confidence, and the final four had never taught before.

I asked quite a few questions for Frank and Paul about how the after-course processes, when we get accredited and what to expect. It was obvious to me that the success of the course depends on fostering good relationships and creating a supportive environment to ensure we complete the process.

Step 2

Starting to teach

We created a WhatsApp group, and after the day course, arranged a session for the teachers to practise the techniques they were taught on each other. This proved to be a really good idea as it meant the teachers could ask questions, have a go, make mistakes and work through them in a safe and supportive environment. It also allowed the mentors to get to know their mentees.

This was the start of what turned into monthly practices. These sessions included new ringers and supported both them and their teachers. The teachers found it helpful to be supported through the stages of teaching they needed help with, and to ask for advice and guidance. The new ringers enjoyed sharing the experience with each other, building friendships and having sessions tailored to their needs.





The WhatsApp group was a good way for the teachers to keep in touch, ask for support and plan future sessions. The mentors started visiting the teachers' individual practices to support them, and this helped to forge the bonds that ultimately led to the formation of the Teaching Hub.

I kept in regular contact with the new teachers and course tutors and helped to organise the assessments. I made sure that the teachers and learners were prepared; made the arrangements; made sure they had completed their logbooks and brought them, and made sure the student was prepared by explaining what was going to happen and that the Assessor was there to assess the teacher, not them.

In total, Frank conducted eight assessments, and eight of our nine teachers have been accredited with ART. We only lost one teacher because she moved away for work. Before she left, she had been actively teaching learners.

Step 3

Stand-alone foundation skills practices

As the new ringers started to achieve their LtR Level 1, it soon became clear that trying to fit the LtR Level 2 curriculum into a busy regular practice night with established ringers wouldn't work. I arranged a Level 2 practice, focusing on the LtR Level 2 curriculum, working on kaleidoscope ringing, bell handling techniques with those learners and the teachers.

We all enjoyed them, and that group has now been meeting twice a month for almost a year. Several of our ringers have achieved their LtR Level 2 as a result of these sessions, and we always focus on bell handling, striking and foundation skills.

We have just introduced a monthly LtR Level 1 session for our next cohort of ringers, and they are enjoying it.



Step 4

Formation of the Burghill Teaching Hub

Before we started this journey, each tower struggled to get a band for Sunday service ringing. Now, we ring all the bells for most services. It is a testament to the hard work of every teacher and their commitment to promoting excellence in teaching bellringing.



When the Cat's Away...

Mary Jones, Norfolk



*We have had to work it out for ourselves, which has proved rather a blessing.
We do things Our Way, often to the bemusement of visitors*

At our tower, everyone is encouraged to volunteer to lead the weekly practice. Leading a practice has a few advantages, not least that having herded the cats and got them focused, one realises how hard it is, and this makes one less likely to chat oneself on another occasion

Two of us have attended the ART Module 2F day course (Rounds to Plain Hunt), although neither of us has completed the Module or would call ourselves an ART teacher.

We pick up ideas from here and there and, if the band enjoys them, then we develop them further. However, if the idea of call changes by place puts anyone off, then we don't bother because, first and foremost, our ringing is unpressured and fun.

Our main aim is to leave the tower having learned a little something and with smiles on our faces, looking forward to next week.

Keeping everyone happy is not easy

Making sure that everyone attempts something perhaps just outside their comfort zone but not so much that they feel uncomfortable is not easy.

Knowing when to stop flogging a dead horse and call stand without making anyone feel totally stupid needs a light touch. Praising appropriately but not overdoing it takes experience. Some of us have some of these skills from our professional lives, but not everyone is comfortable pointing out that the past few minutes have been unsatisfactory and that we could do better.

When to take the mantle of leadership

The summer holidays are a good opportunity to try on the mantle of leadership. Towers tend to be quieter, and just like the rest of us, the traditional leaders take holidays.

Summer is the chance to volunteer to lead a practice or the Sunday ringing. Even if you are not as skilled as the usual incumbent, at least the tower will be ringing rather than skipping a week due to lack of leadership.

You do not have to be a marvellous ringer to lead a band for an hour or two. If methods are currently beyond you, then lead a practice which may be different from the usual format. There should be no expectation to replicate what *normally* happens. This is your chance to do it your way. Most people will be grateful that you have stepped up to the mark and thereby saved themselves the trouble. If they do not like what you provide, then perhaps they will offer to take charge themselves next week.

Have a plan; be flexible

It is important to have a plan, even a sketchy one. Unless you know exactly who will turn up, then a personally devised plan targeted at individuals is a waste of time. It is demoralising to have given careful thought to each ringer and then find that they are camping in the Lake District.

What you need is a generic plan that can be rolled out on any occasion and for any group of people. Unless the band is very experienced, then I think it should include a good slug of bell handling.

Most of us need a good slug of bell handling; even some people who have been ringing for decades could benefit from a game of Russian Roulette (rules below). I would then recommend some sort of theme rather than bits and bobs of this and that. Perhaps you could decide to smarten up everyone's striking and offer exercises to help with this.

The rhythm of the practice

Depending on the experience of the band that you are working with, the finale could be something as simple as three minutes of *judged* Rounds or as ambitious as a touch of Cambridge. The acid test is, has our striking improved over the practice?

Good teachers understand that any session should start with the familiar and end with something that everyone can manage to accomplish with relative ease. Save any meaty bits for the middle and work hard to avoid sending anyone home feeling either disappointed, picked on, ignored or downhearted.

If everyone leaves the tower having seen an improvement, however small, whilst having enjoyed their ringing and the company, then you will have done a good job.

Russian Roulette



Russian Roulette requires a pack of playing cards. Turn over the top card and the band rings that many Rounds before standing their bell. Obviously, if an odd numbered card is drawn, any standing will be at backstroke. Move around the tower in an anti-clockwise direction each time to prevent anyone hogging their favoured bells.

If you are feeling kind, take out some of the odd numbered cards to increase the odds of sighs of relief as a 2/4/6/8 etc card is drawn. No-one enjoys the Ace!

Go on... volunteer to run a practice this Summer

Ringling Holidays

Aveline Pérez de Vera

My quest to travel the globe started long before I learnt to ring. However, combining the two has added pleasure to both pastimes. Whether on purpose or accidental, the mix of strange and familiar can provide a wealth of travel anecdotes as well as novel ringing experiences.

Travel Ringing

Even when overseas, take heart that ringers speak the same language. In fact, as an Australian who learned to ring in England, when I first visited the Swan Bell Tower in Perth (Australia), I couldn't believe I was still the only Aussie in the ringing room (the English ex-pats were just the first to arrive that day!) In my experience, the principle that ringers are a welcoming bunch holds true – from a post-practice coffee in Vancouver, to a beer in Bamburgh, or a nice air-conditioned cuppa at Swan Tower – once you've met the local ringers, you will find the invitations to socialise and ring at other towers come thick and fast!

Check before you go – use online resources (start with [Dove's Guide](#)) to easily find and contact a tower about when and if a practice is going ahead (travel during popular holidays may mean cancellations). My best tip – ask about ringing room access – the variety of tower entries is as diverse as the bells! But don't fret if you haven't done the research. One of my fondest holiday rings was an accidental one when I heard the bells going up from a nearby beach. I felt quite brave trying all the church doors to find the stairs. But I received a warm

welcome, especially as I was happy to support their learner session. So, even if you can't or don't ring complex methods, you can still contribute. Go with the flow, and accept that sometimes the doors may be locked, so just enjoy the bells, like most tourists!



Coffee with a view of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Rosary Vancouver

Ringling Travel

For serious ringing holidays, start by planning the towers first, and the holiday second. Like an extended tower outing, a small group can spend several days visiting local towers (cycling is popular) from a base hotel. Added skills in organising this type of holiday include judging travel time between tower bookings, navigating routes, car-pooling, and finding convenient local accommodation and eateries.

The best of these (and judging by how quickly they sell out – I'm not alone in

this appraisal) is the annual Ladies Guild of Change Ringers holiday, which has been running for many years. Around 40 ringers visit 20 towers in a week (quite the organisational feat). This is now one of my favourite ways to see the English countryside (Lincoln, Derby, and Worcester so far). I even have the shirts to prove it!

So, give it a try. Whether starting small with a friend's ringing weekend, joining a large ringing holiday, or finding a tower near your travel destination, there's no better way to both explore your bell skills and meet the locals.



Swan Tower Perth

Catching up with Clare

Lucy Chandhial

Clare Tilling, the recipient of the 2026 LtR Achievement Award, was featured in the last edition of Tower Talk. Lucy caught up with Clare and asked her what she had been up to since reaching LtR Level 5 in August 2025

I ring with a band where most of us have only been ringing since 2024. Last year our target was to all ring a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles together and we did it which made us all very happy and I spent some of my winnings from the ART Award on buying a peal board to celebrate the occasion! We recently rang a mixed quarter of Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles to keep our brains active! Spliced next?

This year we are working on Stedman for fun, and Bob Minor for our badges! I've signed up for the Stedman Triples course at Bradfield in the Summer and was lucky enough to get a place. I've been having a go at it every time I get a chance and have found that it is surprisingly hard to count to seven when you've been used to counting to five!

Clare is ringing at multiple practices in a week and progressing at many levels by doing so: "I'm also ringing with a local surprise major band where I've started trebling to various methods (yes, counting to eight is even harder) and ringing Lessness inside, which is great fun!

I've got the Learning the Ropes Plus Logbook and have rung a quarter peal of Reverse Canterbury so I can tick something off without getting distracted by things that are too challenging. Actually, I really enjoyed it particularly the bobs!

In our practice sessions, I am ringing St Simons on Tuesdays but would be surprised if Francesca allowed me to get away with a straight quarter peal of this so am expecting to have to splice it with other methods. I'm also ringing Surfleet when I've got a moment and am looking forwards to ringing a quarter peal of that when I've got it sorted. More homework required first. Happily, the Summer holidays are coming up so I'll have more time to concentrate on ringing. I can't wait.



Clare on the rare occasion when she's not ringing



Learning the Ropes Plus

If you've completed your LtR Level 5, why not join Clare on Learning the Ropes Plus.

There are plenty of goals ranging from more complex methods to ringing on higher numbers to conducting or tower management. The choice is yours and you can tackle them in any order. Certificates are available for all levels of LtR Plus.

Learning the Ropes Plus Achievement logbooks are available from the ART shop:
<https://shop.bellringing.org>

Grab a friend and work through the book together!

Tower to Test Room

Charles Chikuruwo



*My name is Charles Chikuruwo
and I am a bellringing
fanatic.*

I love everything about bellringing, whether it's the melodious tuneful hum of the bells themselves, the kindness of the ringing community or even the slightly annoying blisters you get from the time to time.

Over the past few months, I have had to reign in my enthusiasm for bellringing whilst I studied for and then took my final A-level exams. During this time, I of course had less time to ring, limiting my ability to attend practice nights and plan or partake in ringing quarter peals.



I found this hard at first but having less time to ring only made me appreciate those moments up the tower more. They helped to soothe some of the general stress that such crucial exams can bring.

I also found that learning new methods helped to reduce stress in some ways, as it as it helps exercise a different part of my brain when I am tired of studying.

Like many young ringers all over the UK, I, as a member of the Essex Young Eagles, was anxiously awaiting the upcoming RWNYC.

It was my final year and like many ringers I like to perform to my best for competitions, making the preparation for the competition slightly stressful as we aimed to weed out any mistakes. However, this was all made worth it as we had another expertly organised and wonderfully arranged day in Nottingham, and I can do nothing but thank the organisers for a lifetime of memories.



The Essex Eagles at RWNYC 2026 in Nottingham



In the future I hope to continue learning new methods, meet new people and get even more involved in my local ringing.

Charles recently rang a peal of Rutland Surprise Major to celebrate his 18th birthday and we wish him, and everyone else who has exam results coming this summer, the best of luck!

**Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Ringing
World National Youth Contest in Nottingham on 4 July 2026**

**If you are under 19
and would like to
get involved go to:**
**[https://
rwnyc.ringingworld.
co.uk/](https://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk/)**
**for details and
contact your local
guild or association
to find out about
their youth team.**

Listening for your bell

Pip Penney



Listening, both to your own bell and the entire row, is a vital skill to develop. It's the basis of (jargon-alert) what is called good striking which requires you to listen and then act on what you've heard to adjust your place in the row. Each row should sound even – with all the bells evenly spaced within it.

Your aim is to identify your bell when ringing rounds. Although this might sound easy, it can be surprisingly challenging to start with, especially if a fair amount of your brain power is already being used to control your bell.

Listening whilst not ringing

When sitting out during practice night, take the opportunity to listen to a particular bell in rounds and listen to which place it is in, hearing the note each time, noticing whether it is being struck evenly, or if it is slightly early or late. You can then move on to listening to the same bell whilst it is ringing call changes. Which place is it ringing in?

Listening whilst ringing

Listening and ringing with others on a small number of bells can be easier to start with. Start by ringing with just three or four bells before building up to five, six or even more. When ringing (say the third out of four bells), try to think of the numbers during rounds and pick out your own sound:

One, Two, ME, Four

One, Two, ME, Four

Using words or phrases can also help you to feel your place in the rhythm. By choosing a sentence which has twice the number of syllables than the number of bells being rung, you can emphasise your own bell both at handstroke and backstroke. On six bells:

I want to GO to town

To buy some FISH and chips

Exercises to develop your listening skills

If you're ringing in rounds and it's not obvious which bell sound is yours, try using the 'crash and gap' technique. Deliberately ring your bell closer or further from the one you're following until you can hear either a crash (or clip) or a big gap. This will help you identify which sound is from your bell. Hearing which bell is yours can then lead you to alter the speed of your ringing so that the ringing sounds more even.

In a tower equipped with a simulator, where the sound is generated electronically, it's possible to use individual ringing time to develop these listening skills, especially if the screen is turned off and you need to rely on listening alone to ring evenly. If there are any choppy bits of ringing rounds with a simulator, you know the culprit must be you!

In towers without a simulator, ringing with everyone facing outwards from the circle is a good way to recreate this experience. As it's not possible to see the rope in front, ringing well struck rounds relies on everyone hearing their bell.

Learning the Ropes Achievers



Level 1 – Bell Handling

Safe and competent bell handling including raising and lowering a bell

May 2026

Nancy Smart - Knowle
Holly Carter - Moresby
Megan Carter - Moresby
Isobel Crocker - Bradfield
Chris Gill - Marchington
Evan Gill - Marchington
Darren Lively - Marchington
Kathryn Rham - Stretham REC
Jedd Wragg - Marchington
David Fitzgerald - Marchington
Andrew Lee Jones - Carlisle
Joanna Hart - Membury
Harry Collins - Dublin
Harry Duncan - Ingatestone
Ted Earnshaw - Knowle
Yoshiki MacCarthy - Ingatestone
Oliver Mackay - Knowle
Hanna McWilliams - Loughton
Susan Eatough - Manfield
Sam Freakley - Wells next the Sea
Mark Howes - Wells next the Sea
Sophie Midgley - St Ives
Claire Minto - Manfield
Mark Hart - Nantwich
Suzette Payne - Melksham
Sean Tandy - Anstey
Rose Tuimatanisaga - Melksham
Peter Brierley - Landbeach
Lucy Kingsford Payne - East Witton
Pete Tallent - Lichfield
Jenny Williams - Holmer
Robin Mason - Ludgershall
Emily Gaunt - Bewdley
Carol-Ann Muller-Jones - Bewdley
Edwina Newman - Bewdley
Tanya Ward - Bradfield
Toby Dixon - Litlington
Andrew Eadon - Dunster
Joanne Eadon - Dunster
Nathan Kimpton - Leek Wootton
Sandra Buckingham - New Alresford
Susannah Forsyth - Edinburgh
Suzie Steady - White Waltham
Jackie Downing - Beckenham
Karen Laffar - Anstey
Julie Fox - Thame
Richard Haill - Cambridge
Benjamin Richard Hundley - Sunderland
Tricia Johnson - Carhampton
Jason Wood - Shirenewton
Joshua Crabtree - White Waltham
Liz Hamilton - Southampton
Wee Keong Tan - Singapore
G Raj Kumar - Singapore
Charlie Timpson - Bawtry

June 2026

Emily Anguish - Etwall
Carol Blanksby - Etwall
Vicky Burton - Etwall
Constance Dorling - Etwall
Georgia Dorling - Etwall
Lauren Dorling - Etwall
Iona Hague - Etwall
Philip Hickson - Etwall
Kelly Hurd - Etwall
Colton Kindrich - Honolulu
Rachel Moffatt - Westbury on Trym
Caroline Morris - Etwall
Darren Owen - Etwall
Helen Stafford - Etwall
Jonathan White - Westbury on Trym
Lydia Figg - Loughton
Liz Lockton - Lytchett Matravers
Trevor Lockton - Lytchett Matravers
Kevin Thompson - Ruskington
Paull Goodall - Polesworth
Saifon McCormack - Nantwich
Tommy Potts - Nantwich
Paget Silvester - Walberton
Jayshree Boot - East Witton
Mark Boot - East Witton
Dale Dunn - Hilgay
Dianne Farrow - Hilgay
Tom Ervine - Newtonjuxta Sittingbourne
Sophia Leigh - Bredgar
Rachel Hayter - Bishops Cleeve
Brian Chambers - Datchworth
Lynn Pollard - Bodenhall
Charlotte Robinson - Thurcaston
Melody Southern - Roker
Tia Malik-King - Harborne
Sienna Weekly - Bredgar
Jane Fyson - Skelton in Cleveland
Jon Mansfield - Skelton in Cleveland
John Aspill - Calne
Karen Goodger - Loughton
Umme Ahmad - Cambridge
Iryna Fastovets - Cambridge
Elouise Gaunt - Bewdley
Mollie Smith - Bampton

July 2026

Alison Allen - Horley
Ava Broadbent - Cockermouth
Brian McBurney - Newcastle
Callum Grainger - Dunblane
Carol Barge - Burstow
Charlotte Butcher - Stoke Golding
Chloe Kim - Sydney
David Snell - Whitnash
Elizabeth Coles - Devizes

Ellen Richards - Histon
Elysia Jongue - Sydney
Ethan Grainger - Dunblane
Ivo Ellershaw Clarke - Castor
Izzy Upton - Belper
Jill Girling - Copdock
John Jones - Dulverton
Jonathan Aberly - Chelmsford
Karen Harris - Belper
Kirk Sullivan - Honolulu
Laura Moseley - Thurcaston
Leesah Hendry Grist - Eling
Louis Moon - Castor
Michelle Musto - Dulverton
Ni Ni Wu - Lincoln
Penny Ettling - Lytchett Matravers
Rebecca Ashworth - Great Chishill
Reina Chia - Honolulu
Rhiannon Hall - Hurworth
Sara Hathaway - Lincoln
Sarah Ulmer - Lydlinch
Sunny Pedersen - Castor
Timothy Adam - Histon
Toby Laing - Worth
Tori Nurse - Wittering



YouTube – Raising a bell

To achieve your LtR Level 1 you need to be able to ring your bell up and down. This YouTube video breaks the process of raising a bell into its individual components.





Level 2 – Foundation Skills

Ringing with others. Able to dodge, make places and ring simple changes

May 2026

Helen Best - Tickhill
Jim Baker - Norwich
Holly Carter - Moresby
Megan Carter - Moresby
Susan Hardy - Arlecdon
Diana Boyles - Nantwich
Roger Boyles - Nantwich
Tobias Jaggs - St Ives
Claire Jordan - Nantwich
Gill Clark - Newington juxta Sittingbourne
Sara Gardner - Bosbury
Carol-Ann Muller-Jones - Bewdley
Steve Coates - Barming
Giles Davies - Wellington
Jason Fairbrass - Barming
Jeremy Lee Ranson - Maldon
Julie Lee Ranson - Maldon
David Naylor - Terrington St Clement
Hannah Scurry - Maldon
River Ashton Paul - Northampton Ringing Hub
Jackie Downing - Beckenham
Rosemary Jones - Maldon

June 2026

Samuel Saloway-Cooke - Walsham le Willows
Emily Anguish - Etwall
Carol Blanksby - Etwall

Vicky Burton - Etwall
Constance Dorling - Etwall
Georgia Dorling - Etwall
Lauren Dorling - Etwall
Denise Driver - Maldon
Iona Hague - Etwall
Philip Hickson - Etwall
Kelly Hurd - Etwall
Caroline Morris - Etwall
Darren Owen - Etwall
Helen Stafford - Etwall
Sue Hanley - Hutton
Victoria MacMorland - Maldon
Rachael Sullivan - Maldon
Samantha Clanford - Fornham St Martin
Helen Corris - Fornham St Martin
Peter Salkus - Horringer
Tim Barrett - Swainswick
Jenny Darwen - St Annes on the Sea
Alexandra Huggins - Horringer
Marek Michalak - Rochester
Mason Simpson - St Annes on the Sea
Sofia Whatley - St Annes on the Sea
Elizabeth Bomber - Bolton
Jacqui Chapman - Thorley
Barrie Grimer - Brentwood
Wendy Roberts - Bodenham
Louise Edwards - Bodenham

Mark Hart - Nantwich
Sheila Devlin - Fownhope
Kate Harris - Carlisle
Philip Foster - Bewdley
Elouise Gaunt - Bewdley
Alex Mosedale - Maldon

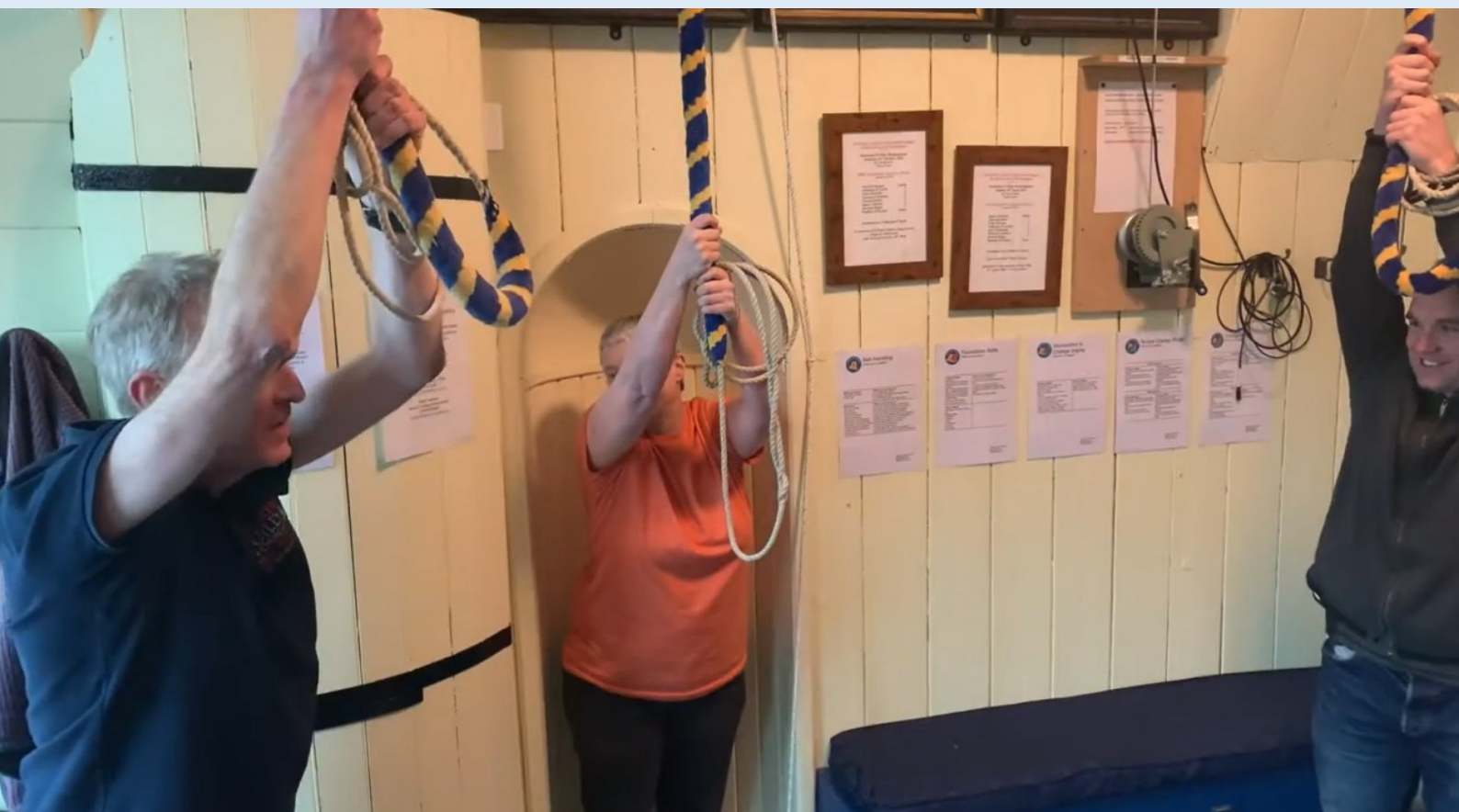
July 2026

Amber Seymour - Heathfield
Avril Allan - Barnard Castle
Carol Paterson - Stowmarket
Christopher Dunster - Rochester
David Snell - Whitnash
Elan Joseph - Burwell
Elizabeth Rowland - Furneux Pelham
Em Santus - Great Gransden
Jo Batley - Great Totham
Julie Sandilands - Brough
Lavinia Carey - Sturminster Newton
Lou Cox - Cradley
Natalie Crossman - Loughton
Peter Fry - Sturminster Newton
Samuel Banerjee - Kirkburton
Sonya Johnson - Burwell
Spencer Barrington - Aldershot
Sue Smith - Taunton



[YouTube – Call Changes](#)

For your LtR Level 2 you will need to be able to ring Call Changes. In this video some very experienced ringers demonstrate call change ringing. The beginning and end of the video also shows them ringing up and down in peal which is a requirement of LtR Level 4.





Level 3 – Introduction to Change Ringing

Competent at Plain Hunt and Covering

May 2026

Lou Cox - Cradley
Noah Corlett - Studley
Dan Bulley - Boughton
Caroline Noonan - Edington
Luke O'Connor - Rochester

June 2026

Judith Faux - Ledbury
Matt Leak - Oswestry
Lesley Wells - Cheltenham
Luke Stark - Shenfield
Luke Hollingsworth - Burghill
Tracy Kelly - North Shields
Noah Powell Tuck - Wellington
Diana Boyles - Nantwich
Claire Jordan - Nantwich

July 2026

Yvonne Hadley - Broseley
Louise Lush - Dymock
Alex Perraud - Shenfield
Jonah Kettleborough - Bampton
Alice Ponder - Stoulton
David Snell - Whitnash
Julie Sandilands - Brough
Linda Taylor - Stoulton
Lucas Hoyle - Orton
Ray Nicholson - Offenham
Rosie Dixon - Litlington
Sarah Griffiths - Dunster



Level 4 – Novice Change Ringer

Ringing and calling touches of a Doubles or Minor method

May 2026

Liping Liu - Kirtlington
Dave Easley - Beeston
Fiona Dyer - Great Chishill
Alex Hopwood - Hathern

June 2026

Jenson Newton - Roos
Noah Corlett - Studley
Caroline Noonan - Edington
Tracy Ball - Heathfield
Katie Swaby - Ruskington
Helen Treacher - Wyke Regis
Catherine Choi - Kingston upon Thames



Level 5 – Change Ringer

Ringing and calling touches of a second method

May 2026

Sharon Court - Haresfield
Daniel Styles - Feniton

June 2026

Shane Yuen - Singapore
Louise Swash - Unattached
Reuben Lomax - Abingdon



YouTube – How to learn a method



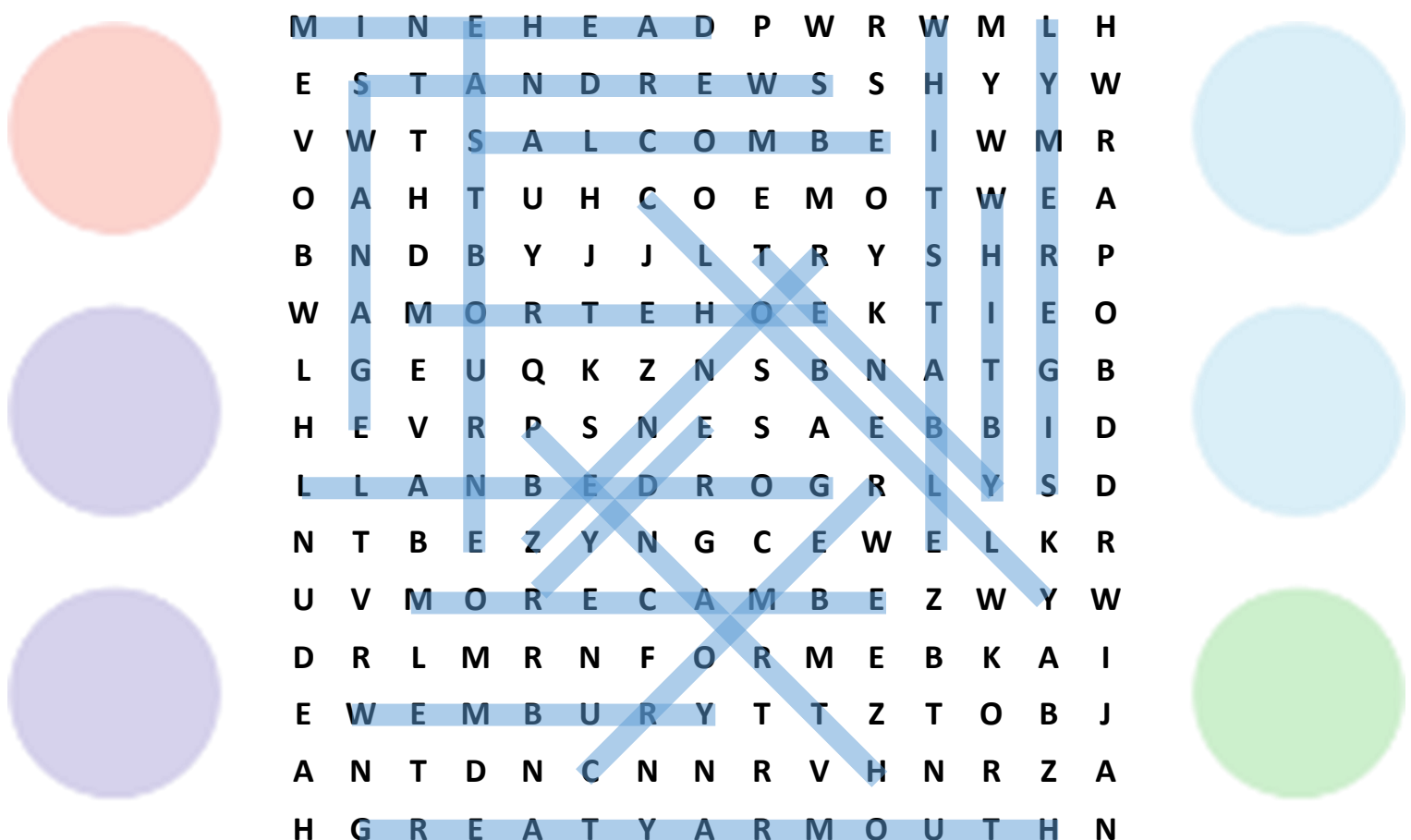
The higher levels of LtR require you to learn and ring a method. In this webinar, Tom Hinks explains how to learn methods – you might be surprised at how many learning tips and signposts there are which can help you ring them.

Congratulations to our LtR Achievers!

Don't forget that when you achieve LtR Level 5 you will be able to attend the **Learning the Ropes Masterclass** and can be nominated for a **Learning the Ropes Achievement Award**.

I do Like to Ring Beside the Seaside

Solution



M	I	N	E	H	E	A	D	P	W	R	W	M	L	H
E	S	T	A	N	D	R	E	W	S	S	H	Y	Y	W
V	W	T	S	A	L	C	O	M	B	E	I	W	M	R
O	A	H	T	U	H	C	O	E	M	O	T	W	E	A
B	N	D	B	Y	J	J	L	T	R	Y	S	H	R	P
W	A	M	O	R	T	E	H	O	E	K	T	I	E	O
L	G	E	U	Q	K	Z	N	S	B	N	A	T	G	B
H	E	V	R	P	S	N	E	S	A	E	B	B	I	D
L	L	A	N	B	E	D	R	O	G	R	L	Y	S	D
N	T	B	E	Z	Y	N	G	C	E	W	E	L	K	R
U	V	M	O	R	E	C	A	M	B	E	Z	W	Y	W
D	R	L	M	R	N	F	O	R	M	E	B	K	A	I
E	W	E	M	B	U	R	Y	T	T	Z	T	O	B	J
A	N	T	D	N	C	N	N	R	V	H	N	R	Z	A
H	G	R	E	A	T	Y	A	R	M	O	U	T	H	N

50/50 Club Draw News

Gill Hughes, Belper

The 50/50 Club supports the Association of Ringing Teachers in delivering training for teachers and ringers.

It is a simple way of supporting the work of ART as well as having the chance to win a cash prize. All you have to do is join, pay the subscription of £12 per year (can also be £3 per quarter) and your membership number will be entered into a quarterly draw. Over the year, half the money received goes to ART... and half is shared out in prizes by a draw of member numbers.

Prize winners in the June draw:

Trisha Hawkins

Richard Heath

Gordon Gray

Why not get
your whole
band to join?

Everyone with a SmART Ringer username login can join the 50/50 Club

Full details on how to join are here

<https://bellringing.org/donate-to-art/>