



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 275

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Headlines

- 1 ALL BRANCH RINGING EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
- 2 ASSOCIATION SUMMER SCHOOL BY ZOOM - END OF AUGUST
- 3 NO GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL RINGING IN SEPTEMBER

August- September 2020

Editor's Note

It is encouraging that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to subside in this country, albeit rather slowly now.

In line with the relaxation of restrictions on a whole range of activities, guidelines have now been produced to enable the resumption of ringing in a limited form. These guidelines are summarized below and they should be read carefully before starting ringing and then followed. It is important that your Church's priest and PCC are happy with the procedures you intend to use before you start. It is equally important that your ringers are happy too and that they do not in any way feel pressurized to return to ringing too soon.

Chris Greef

Ringling in a Covid-19 World

Guidelines for a return to ringing have been produced by the Central Council following consultation with Church authorities. Full details are given on the Central Council's website at <https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus> and you should consult this because the advice is continually updated as the pandemic situation changes.

The overall guidance is still to:

- be meticulous in our hand hygiene
- maintain social distancing - 2 metres apart at all times except for members of the same household
- reduce the number of people with whom we interact.

More specifically:

Before ringing

- check that the bells and tower are in a safe mechanical condition to ring (this should be done by someone with appropriate knowledge and experience)
- be sure that your incumbent is content for you to ring – a guidance sheet is available for them
- liaise with the church in completing a risk assessment for the church and tower (partly specific Covid-19 measures, plus checking the condition of tower and bells after an extended period of them not in use)

During ringing

- limit the amount of ringing in a session to no more than 15 minutes, and leave 72 hours before the next session

- restrict the number of ringers (just enough to ring) and ensure that they will not need assistance

- keep ringers on the same ropes for an entire ringing session, including ringing up and down

- make sure bells can be rung which are 2 metres apart. (Where ropes fall in a straight line then 1.5m will be sufficient distance so long as ringers remain facing forwards into the centre of the ringing circle and the ringers opposite are at least 2m away.)

- limit the number of things that can harbour the virus and that different people may touch – put away or mark off "clutter" that is not needed for ringing

- maintain good ventilation – air changes are important in reducing the risk of virus transmission

- don't have refreshments in the tower

- clean all surfaces in particular "touch points" regularly

Chris Greef

From the President's Blog

If the concept of peals being 5000 changes had never been instigated, what length of ringing would we set for our upper target of performance? I asked this question online last weekend and it got some fascinating responses. Quite a lot of people suggested something around the 3000 changes or two hour mark – long enough to get sustained good striking, but short of the fatigue zone.

It wasn't an original question. Albert York-Bramble raised it in *The Ringing World* in 1955, the same year he founded his ground-breaking, and short-lived, "College of Campanology". He advocated 3000, although the reasons at the time were based on needing to prevent the general public opposing excessive noise from church bell towers in the days before sound control.

Simon Linford

Association Summer School

In the absence of Association training days, our Association secretary Steve Coleman is organizing a Summer School for the last week of August. There are over three dozen different topics in the draft programme, each of which will be run as a discussion or

tutorial via Zoom. Keep your eyes open for details when the programme is finalized.

Chris Greef

Far-cited outings

All outings have been cancelled until further notice.

Ringling Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - £3 each.

G&B badges - £5.

Tony York

Central Council is Recruiting Volunteers

The Stewardship and Management Workgroup covers an important part of the Council's function, giving advice on a range of matters relating to bells, installations and towers to ringers, churches and other interested parties. We have a team of around 20 members with a very broad range of knowledge, supplemented by others with very specific expertise.

The Workgroup does have a few areas where additional help would be very welcome. Full details can be found here: <https://cccbr.org.uk/nr4smw/> and include financial matters relating to ringling, bell installation and maintenance projects, tower and belfry inspections, and general promotion of the Workgroup and its services to the wider ringling population. You can also find this page directly on the CCCBR website using:

CCCBR > About > Workgroups > Stewardship and Management, then select the Recruiting Tab.

This is an opportunity for any people who may be providing such advice at a local level to help out on a wider basis, or for someone who is hiding their light under a bushel to shine a bit more brightly! You can ring anywhere in the world and it does not require you to be a society representative.

If you think you can be of any help please contact Alison Hodge at: SMlead@cccbr.co.uk

Simon Linford (President CCCBR)

The First Ever G&B Ringing Summer School

Monday 24 August to Sunday 30 August 2020

A selection of Zoom seminars on all aspects of ringing, all delivered by top class presenters. Sign up for any seminar that interests you - and the details of how to do that are at the bottom of this notice.

Meanwhile, here are the seminars. There will be three each afternoon to choose from and three each evening except Sunday.

BUT no previous experience at all is required. No matter what you can ring at the moment, if you're interested in something, come along.

Monday 24 August

3.00 p.m. **Starting Bob Doubles** - with **Kay Hodges** - *Kay will ease you into this most popular of all methods - or if you've already started on it but are feeling wobbly, she'll firm you up.*

First Steps in Calling Touches - with **Julie Miles** - *Never called Go? Never called Bob? It couldn't be easier and Julie will gently guide you.*

Replacing Stays - with **Chris Povey** - *Learn all about this really important job from a real expert.*

7.30 p.m. **"I wish I'd started 40 years ago"** - with **Terina Riches** and **Carol Hinton** - *No longer in the first flush of youth when you started? Finding that a problem? Share your anxiety and frustrations with others who feel exactly the same, and get helpful hints from older learners, Terina and Carol.*

A Start on Stedman Doubles - with **Rob Clive** - *If you can ring Bob Doubles, you can ring Stedman. Rob will show you how.*

Ringling Spliced Surprise - with **Mark Davies** - *Mark will lead you into this most complex area of ringing.*

Tuesday 25 August

3.00 p.m. **Ringling Down in Peal** - with **Steve Coleman** - *Want to know how to make your ringling down sublimely beautiful? Steve will tell all the secrets.*

A Start on Grandsire Doubles - with **Derek Carr** - *Dip your toe into this magnificent method with Derek to guide you.*

Ringing on the Higher Numbers - with **Francesca Cinderey** - *Want to ring on nine and ten - or eleven and twelve - but not sure how to cope? Francesca will give you real world tips.*

7.30 p.m. Bob Doubles with Bobs - with **Hazel Bridges** - *Hazel will help you cope with the heady complexity of it all.*

Cambridge Minor - with **Ian Bucknell** - *Yes, it feels like a big step up. But Ian will explain exactly how to manage it.*

Getting the Best out of Ringing Money - with **Philip Twentyman** - *Gift Aid? Tower funds? Banks? Building Societies? Weddings? Tax? Subscriptions? Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme? Restricted Funds? Get the low down, and ask Philip any questions you like.*

Wednesday 26 August

3.00 p.m. Plain Hunt - with **Sheila Taylor** - *The basic building block of all method ringing. Get it right and everything that follows will be so much easier. Sheila tells you how.*

Breaking into Treble Bob - with **Gill and Chris Greef** - *It's the essential step between plain bob and surprise, and Gill and Chris will guide you.*

Ringing with a Disability - with **Dr Sue Pouncey and Dr David Pouncey** - *We welcome **all** to start ringing, and we want all to continue ringing for as long as possible. Sue and David will discuss how to help.*

7.30 p.m. Ringing up in Peal - with **Steve Coleman** - *Tricky? Yes. Impossible? No. All the secrets for success from Steve.*

Grandsire Doubles with Bobs and Singles - with **Hazel Bridges** - *Hazel will explain all.*

Cambridge Major and Other Surprise Major - with **Ian Bucknell** - *Step up to the really big time with Ian to help.*

Thursday 27 August

3.00 p.m. Acquiring Ropesight and Managing without it - with **Tom Edgeworth** - *Tom gently guides you through ringing's greatest mystery.*

Bob Minor - with **Julie Miles** - *Explore the joys of your first Minor method with Julie.*

All about Bellropes - with **Malcolm Taylor** - *Fitting them, adjusting them, buying them, making them last - Malcolm explains all.*

7.30 p.m. Ringing Terminology - with **Tom Edgeworth** - *Wondering what all those funny ringing words mean? Want help with the Gobbledegook? Want to know why a sally is called a sally - and all that? Come along for a fun afternoon.*

Beyond Bob Minor - with **Hazel Bridges** - *Still Minor but not yet fancy, Hazel will show you the next steps.*

What on earth is ringing theory? - with **Mark Davies** - *The country's leading theoretician, Mark demystifies theory and explains how it corresponds - or spectacularly fails to correspond - to practical ringing in the tower.*

Friday 28 August

3.00 p.m. Coping with Call Changes - with **Sheila Taylor** - *What are call changes all about? How do you know who to follow? What do you do when you get lost? The scales will fall from your eyes as Sheila explains the mysteries.*

Beyond Bob Doubles - with **Tom Edgeworth** - *Venture into the slightly more complex but definitely fun Doubles methods with Tom.*

Organising a Branch Training Day - with **Francesca Cinderey** - *You don't need to be an expert ringer to do this vital job for your Branch, you just need to be determined. Long time expert organiser, Francesca, will give you the tips.*

7.30 p.m. Learning Methods - with **Rob Clive** - *What are blue lines, orders of the work, circles of work, etc all about? Rob will guide you through them all. He'll also show you how easy it can be to learn methods.*

Putting the Band Right - with **Steve Coleman** - *Never thought you could? Sure you're always much too bothered about your own blue line to think about others? Steve will explain how **anyone** can help others while still staying right.*

The Medical Aspects of Ringing - with **Dr Sue Pouncey and Dr David Pouncey** - *What are all the problems and how can you best avoid them? Ringing doctors, Sue and David, really know.*

Saturday 29 August

3.00 p.m. A Start on Triples and Major - with **Rob Clive** - *Yes, it can seem like a really big step if you normally only ring on six, but Rob knows how to take it.*

Kent Treble Bob Minor - with **Kay Hodges** - *A step up from Bob Minor but far easier than Surprise, Kay will explain all.*

The Very Simplest Touches of Minor and Upwards - with **Julie Miles** - *No*

matter how many bells, and no matter what the method, there's always a really simple touch to call. Julie will let you into the secrets.

7.30 p.m. Calling Call Changes - with **Sheila Taylor** - *Sheila explains how to call stress-free and easy call changes for stress-free and happy bands.*

Grandsire Triples - with **Kay Hodges** - *Kay will lead you into the pleasures of this most popular of all Triples methods.*

Stedman Triples and Upwards - with **Ian Bucknell**- *Want to know how to successfully participate in the beautiful sound of ringing's most musical method? Ian will explain.*

Sunday 30 August

3.00 p.m. When You Meet Short - with **Tom Edgeworth** - *Only four on Sunday morning? No trouble. Tom is full of great ideas of what's fun and musical.*

Place Notation and Method Construction - with **Derek Carr** - *Theoretical - yes. But absolutely fascinating too. Derek will enthral you.*

All your Maintenance questions answered - with **Malcolm Taylor and Chris Povey** - *No matter how complex or simple your maintenance questions, two of the country's leading experts will answer them.*

As you can see, there are 39 seminars altogether, and we've done our best to put them in mutually exclusive groups of three. You can attend as many as you want. Just send an email to steve@ringingbooks.co.uk with your selection.

On the day of any seminar we'll send you a logging-in email, and you then click on the link ten minutes beforehand to join in. It's astoundingly easy, but if you've never used Zoom before, please give it a try beforehand by going to <https://zoom.us/test>. And if you're still worried, phone our Zoom expert, Terina Riches, on 01594 529815.

And if your PC doesn't have a camera and microphone, you can still watch and listen.

And as we said, you can attend as many seminars as you want and we much look forward to seeing you. But please only sign up for a seminar if you really do intend to attend. Some of them may be so popular that we'll need to divide the attendees into several groups, and if so, we'll contact you well beforehand.

And yes, there's a deadline for applications. [The deadline is 18 August 2020.](#)

We look forward to seeing you.