



Training Times

Launch of A.R.T. – major new training initiative takes Wellesbourne forward

A key issue raised at the Wellesbourne conference on the future of ringing last November was the standard of ringing and the need to improve ringing teaching. The launch of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) in March this year is a major step in trying to address that issue and in ensuring the continued success of the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS).

Standards and Monitoring

An important role for ART and its Management Committee will be to maintain standards across the ITTS and to monitor how well it is delivering the new teachers and learners that the Exercise needs. A group of independent advisors has been set up to do this.

Continued Teacher Support

New teachers, once accredited, become eligible to join ART as do their mentors. Mentors are usually existing experienced teachers who support the new teacher through the ITTS modules and are themselves then able to join. Through a website including on-line learning resources on Moodle, meetings and seminars members of ART will be supported in their continuing development as ringing teachers.

More information

Pip Penney, Chairman of ART, has written in more detail about the role of ART in *The Ringing World*, 5271 (4 May 2012).

The Ringing Centres Committee is in full support of the ITTS and some of its members are also involved in the Management Committee of ART.

What's happening in the Ringing Centres?

The R C Committee conducts an annual survey of C.C.-Recognised ringing centres. Based on returns for 2011 from half of the centres so far, a number of trends and issues have emerged:

- Though regular training sessions together with some special events/courses are held in most centres, apart from basic instruction in bell handling and the teaching of methods up to six bells there is no set pattern to the services provided by each Centre. This is largely dictated by the availability of local, human resources, in the form of

tutors and helpers, in conjunction with a knowledge of their catchment's needs (catchments are variable in size up to a 50 mile radius). A shortage of helpers is a common problem.



Ringing up and down training at Troye R C

- Five Centres were involved with the training of teachers with two using the ITTS model. A number of other correspondents reported their Centres had plans to run ITTS courses in the future. One comment from the correspondent of a very active Centre: 'There is demand for more ITTS courses, but greater District involvement is needed' (in this context, 10 correspondents indicated that their Centres worked with local associations and societies).

- As well as providing tuition in bell handling and 6 bell method ringing 10 correspondents reported on courses/practices in more advanced methods on 8 bells or more and 7 centres organised regular opportunities for quarter peals as part of a training regime. Four correspondents said their Centres also provided courses on subjects such as tower maintenance, theory, listening skills, etc.

- Public relations and the promotion of ringing with the non-ringing public are another aspect that Centres have become involved with. Five correspondents reported giving talks to local groups and/or organising open days.

- It is evident there is still a lot of good work being carried out by these Centres which relies on a relatively small number of individuals, many with other commitments, for their Centre's continued operation.

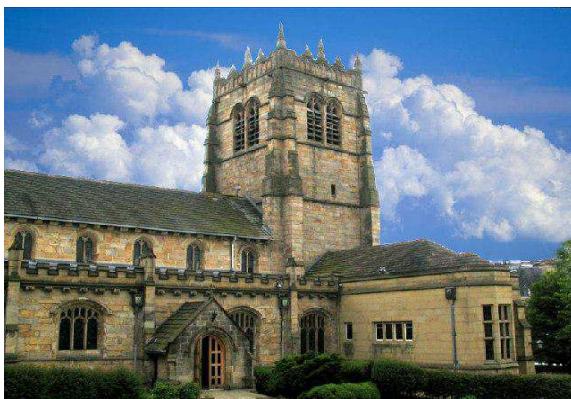
Thus the Ringing Centre movement can move forward by sharing ideas and experiences through the Ringing World, the Ringing Centres' newsletter,

the Training Times, and the on-line Ringing Centres Network, but it is also important that we increase awareness of what they do amongst the Exercise in a positive way to encourage the formation of new Centres and to ensure the movement's and the Exercise's future health.

New Ringing Centres

Bradford

A new ringing centre for West Yorkshire has now been up and running for six months. Based in the Cathedral, the Bradford Ringing Centre started running monthly courses in January 2012 and has been at the heart of an initiative to recruit a new band of Cathedral ringers. Courses have ranged from call changes on 6 bells to Plain Bob Major.



Bradford Cathedral. Photo: Mick Melvin

A successful open event in November has led to four new ringers being trained. These have joined the remaining Cathedral ringers to form a new band and practices are now being held regularly at the Cathedral again.

See <http://www.bradfordringingcentre.org.uk> for more information.

Yarkhill – The Fabian Stedman Teaching Centre

In Herefordshire an ambitious restoration project at Yarkhill is well under way. The parish is notable for being the birthplace of Fabian Stedman, publisher of *Tintinnalogia* and the author of *Campanalogia*. Stedman died in 1713 so the project aims to mark his tercentenary next year.

The project has three phases:

- Rehang the original four as a chime
- Install a new light ring of 8
- Put in kitchen, toilet and teaching room facilities for a new teaching centre

Fund raising is actively in progress and the new bells were cast by Whitechapel in May 2011.

More information about the Yarkhill project is available from: <http://www.yarkhillchurch.org.uk>



Yarkhill , St John the Baptist

Kilburn, NW6 – St Mary's

A youth ringing scheme has resulted in a band of youngsters being trained in neighbouring towers. An appeal to augment the existing 3 bells at St Mary's to 6 and set up the "St. Mary's Ringing Centre" to continue teaching has been launched.

How good are our Ringing Centres?

Details of a proposed star-rating system for ringing centres was circulated in draft form in the last edition of *Training Times* (Jan 2012). This has gone to all centres and some comments, both positive and negative, have been received.

The Committee would still like further comments and these should be emailed or posted to Les Boyce (contact details below).

Spread the word! Sharing good practice in ringing training

Another "work in progress" is to provide an up-to-date collection of guidance and examples of good practice in setting up and running ringing centres. Although guidance on setting up centres, *A Better Way*, is available on the C.C. website, much has changed since it was first published in 2006. In particular with the wider availability of simulators and smart phone technology, there is far less need for emphasis on equipment in ringing centres.

Roger Booth is compiling the revised "*Good Practice Guide*" which will reflect new developments like the setting up of ITTS and a new emphasis on effective recruitment, teaching and retention of learners. It is planned to publish it in the autumn.

Members of the Ringing Centres Committee

Chairman: Norman Mattingley

Members: Phil Bailey, Alan Bentley, Roger Booth, Les Boyce, Mike Clements, Peter Dale, Pip Penney.

Comments or items for inclusion in the next *Training Times* should be sent to: Les Boyce, 75 Belmont Rd., Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6EQ. Email: lesboyce@gmail.com