



# Training Times

## New Centres, New Media & New Futures!

### New Ringing Centres: East Riding R.C.



It was in 2002 that the recently revived tower of Barrow-upon-Humber was designated a Recognised Ringing Centre. However development at Barrow continued and, following the setting up of the Barrow & District Society to manage and support the ringing centre and the Society's affiliation to the Central Council in 2013, an interesting model for ringing centres has emerged. More information about the Barrow Society is contained in our Guide to Good Practice at:

<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/ringingcentres/goodpractice/>

When the Beverley & District Society decided to follow the Barrow model they choose North Cave as a suitable location for a new centre and decided to work in partnership with Barrow. North Cave offers excellent facilities with an 11 cwt ring of 6, a modern classroom with kitchen and toilet facilities, a simulator and full sound control. ITTS courses are being held for trainee teachers and use is made of the "Learning the Ropes" scheme from ART. The training programmes of both centres are advertised on a joint website and a monthly newsletter keeps members from both societies informed of events.

More information about the East Riding Centre and its Barrow partner can be found at:

<http://www.lowwood.org.uk/training.html>

### Using Social Media in Ringing Centres

Peter Dale of the Cinque Ports Ringing Centre recently alerted us to the Centre's new Facebook page. He asked if we knew if other centres were using Facebook or other social media. We do not hold that information currently, but have included a question about this in the annual survey request just issued.

Rosalind Martin is attempting to collate information on bell ringing Facebook groups and has published a list at:

<http://bellropespider.org/2014/06/04/facebook-groups-for-bellringers/>

The Cinque Ports Facebook pages can be viewed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1452438541689958/>

and we are aware that Bradpole also launched a page in December, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/383587258481999/?fref=ts>

Rosalind has also published an interesting and thought-provoking paper on the use of social networking and how it could be applied to the Central Council. Her three main recommendations are:

- Create an online discussion forum for Council members to speed up debate and moving projects forward.
- Make greater use of consultation and discussion via networks to drive change and engage grass roots ringers.
- Use coherent and sophisticated cross-media communication to provide effective leadership to the ringing community. The core of this could be a Council blog.

Similar issues of how to communicate effectively face our active ringing centres. The paper includes a useful overview of the range of social media and a helpful case study of how her local branch is using such media. The full text is available at:

<http://bellropespider.org/2015/02/27/how-cccbr-could-be-using-social-networking/#comments>

## New Ringing Centres: Chigwell



Back in 2011 a ringing centre was set up at St Mary's, Chigwell by the Essex County Association using grant aid from the *Arts in Essex Small Grants Scheme*. Use was limited to start with, but with recabling and relocating computer equipment the Centre's simulator became more accessible and easier to use. This prompted a re-launch in 2014 and Chigwell now offers a comprehensive programme of training from bell handling through basic skills and early method ringing to advanced practice. The "Counting your Place" guided training scheme offers modules from covering and leading, through plain hunt and treble bob hunt to preparing to ring an inside method bell.

In addition, individuals or groups can book a simulator session or join the monthly workshops. Tyre mufflers are fitted to the bells so that a wide range of daytime and evening sessions can be offered. C.C. Recognition was awarded in Jan. 2015.

In the future it is planned to install Beltower with a data projector and screen so that animated ringers can be displayed to develop ropesight. Also on the cards is starting a Saturday morning ringing school serving the local area.

More information can be found on a comprehensive website at: [www.chigwellringingcentre.co.uk](http://www.chigwellringingcentre.co.uk)

### A Ringing Centres Facebook page

The Committee has been concerned to improve contact, discussion and the flow of information between centres and with the Committee. The existing "Ringing Centres Network" hosted by John Camp at [bellringer.net](http://bellringer.net) has been little used in recent years and so we are recommending that it is wound up.

In its place a "Bell Ringing Centres" Facebook page has been set up at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ringingcentres/?ref=ts>. This is a "closed" group, so if you have not

already done so you will need to apply to join by clicking the "Join" link on the page.

We hope that Centres and others interested in ringing training will find this a useful forum. Why not check it out today and start a new conversation?

### "Change Ringing for the Future"

A copy for this paper has gone to Centres. It sets out proposals at the C.C. meeting in Hull on 25<sup>th</sup> May to create regional Ringing Development Leaders and promote a co-ordinated approach to recruitment, training and ringer development through a "New Learner Initiative"

The paper implies that ringing centres have a significant contribution to make to this strategy. Many centres are already working across traditional boundaries and attract support from the enthusiasts in their areas. This project seeks to encourage similar collaborative working and suggests the establishment of regional training funds to support work which existing societies find it difficult to do.

If the proposals are agreed, the Committee will give guidance on how centres can become fully involved.

### The Committee - who we are and what we do

Chairman: Norman Mattingley

Members: Phil Bailey, Alan Bentley, Les Boyce, Robert Brown, Paul Marshall, Richard Newman, Pip Penney and Matthew Sorell.

Alan Bentley has recently stepped down from the Central Council after serving on this Committee for a number of years. We thank him for his hard work in maintaining the Directory of Ringing Centres and Contacts and in analysing the annual returns from centres. Anyone interested in assisting in the work of the Committee is invited to contact Norman Mattingley ([normanmattingley@gmail.com](mailto:normanmattingley@gmail.com)).

The Committee's remit now includes a brief to support all groups which offer training to ringers outside their own tower, including youth groups, not just formally Recognised Ringing Centres. We would like to hear from any such groups wanting help or support—please contact the Chairman.

A Reminder that a series of case studies and other guidance for centres and those interested in group recruitment and training, is available at:

<http://cccbr.org.uk/ringingcentres/goodpractice/>

*Comments and Contributions for future editions of "Training Times" are very welcome. Please e-mail Les Boyce at: [lesboyce@gmail.com](mailto:lesboyce@gmail.com)*