



The North West Ringing Course

A new residential ringing course!

We are proud to announce a new residential ringing course, to be held for the first time in August 2022 and annually thereafter. The residential centre is located in the North West of England, but the course is open to all ringers, wherever they are based.

We are aiming at ringers in the middle ground – those who are no longer at the early stages of learning, but are not yet experts. So students will typically be comfortable ringing touches of a few methods, and now want to extend their skills to the next level.

As well as being educational, the course will, we hope, be informal, relaxed, friendly, fun and entertaining.

What are the dates?

The course will run from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th August 2022. We will meet at lunchtime on the Thursday for some introductory sessions, followed by ringing in the evening. Then there's a full programme on the Friday and Saturday, with the course ending at lunchtime on Sunday – though there will be optional ringing on Sunday afternoon at Liverpool Cathedral for those who don't have to rush home.

SAVE THE DATES!
Thursday 11th to
Sunday 14th August 2022

Where is it based?



The residential base is Myerscough College, which is near Preston. Ringing will be in nearby towers.

The college has extensive facilities, including classrooms that we will use for theory sessions. It has an on-site pub that will be available for our exclusive use during the course – and yes it does serve real ale!

What will it cost?

Exact prices aren't known yet, but we are aiming to keep the cost to about £350 for students and about £200 for helpers. This includes three nights accommodation, meals (except for lunches on Friday and Saturday, when we will be away from the college), and tower fees. But you'll have to pay your own bar expenses!

We'll give full details of pricing on the website when all the costings are finalised.

What topics will be covered?

For theory and practical sessions, attendees will be split into groups, each studying one of these topics:

Moving on in Minor

This is aimed at ringers confident at Plain Bob Minor and maybe a few other minor methods, but who wish to expand their minor repertoire.

From Six to Eight

Designed for those who ring in six-bell towers or have little opportunity to ring on eight, and so want experience with triples and major.

Stedman

This is for those who ring Stedman Doubles, and are looking to move on to touches of Stedman on higher numbers.

Basic Conducting

This explains the calling positions and how to call touches and quarter peals of the more popular doubles and minor methods.

Advanced Conducting

This is for those who can already call touches, but want to learn more about transposition of coursing order and keeping people right.

Each group will have a tutor, six to eight students, and (except for the conducting groups) some helpers. Having helpers enables students to ring one at a time with a good band when necessary, but we also want helpers to provide one-on-one assistance via a 'buddy' system – standing behind when their buddy is ringing, and providing individual advice and mentoring.

Helpers aren't just there to help! We hope that they too will enjoy and benefit from the practical and the theory sessions, and from the less formal evening activities.

Please see the website for more information about each of the course topics, and for the minimum standards for students and helpers in each group.

Any extra-curricular activities?

Yes! There will be a variety of talks, demonstrations, and activities in the evenings, mostly not directly related to the various course topics. The extra-curricular program will include opportunities to learn about tower maintenance and rope splicing, and to practise ringing on handbells and mini-rings.

The Charmborough Ring will be on-site for the duration – and of course the bar will be open in the evenings.



Where is the website?

The website is at <https://nwringingcourse.uk>

At present it contains basic information about the course, but more details will be added soon so please keep an eye on it. In due course the website will allow you to register your interest in attending, whether as a student or helper, and to say which topic you are interested in.

So save the dates, and bookmark the website!



The North West Course is an initiative of the Central Council, being managed by the Volunteer and Leadership workgroup.

DAVID SMITH

