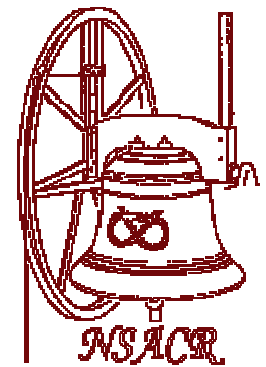


# North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers



## New Member Information Pack

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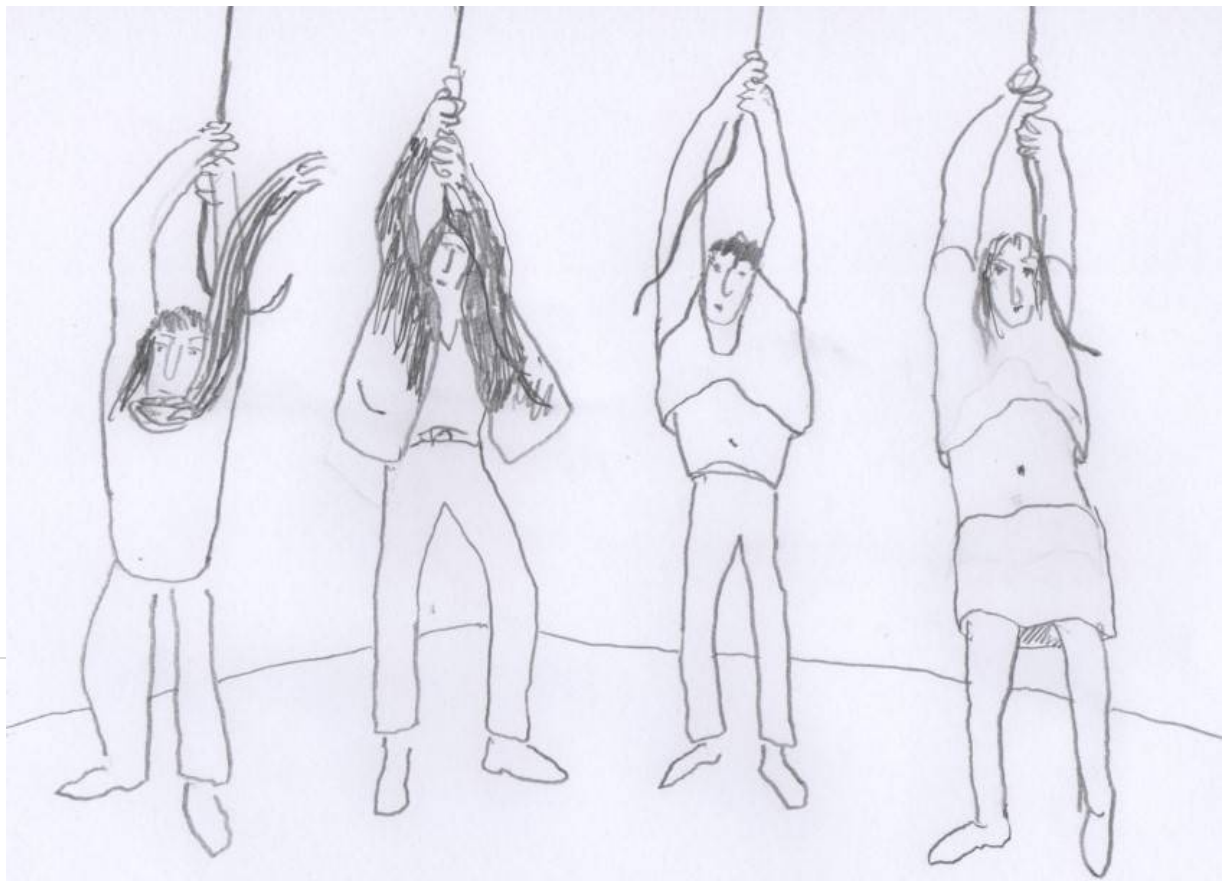
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# Safety and Etiquette

## Safety and Etiquette for bell ringers

Part of the joy of ringing is about visiting other towers; you ring with a different band, on different bells, and that could be joining practice night, ringing on a special occasion, or attending a workshop. All of that increases skills and experiences. And so many of the very experienced ringers give up their time gladly to teach and mentor new ringers and they will happily answer questions, or give advice. So, moving around different towers is encouraged. Across North Staffordshire there are many towers and apart from first checking with the Tower Captain, (details on the NSACR website) that it is convenient to attend when you want to, there are some guidelines you should follow for your safety, and out of courtesy, whatever tower you are in.

- Never go into a ringing room or belfry alone;
- Never touch a bell-rope until you know that it is safe to do so;
- Do not move around (or enter the ringing chamber) while ringing is in progress;
- Keep both feet on the floor when seated;
- No talking in the tower, it is distracting;
- Ring only when invited to do so by the Tower Captain;
- Long hair should be tied back or put inside clothing;
- No scarves, ties, hoods, drawstrings, long necklaces or dangly earrings;
- Loose clothing (such as floaty skirts) should be made safe;
- Ringers should check that extending the arms upwards does not indecently reveal areas of the body – mind those gaps and flaps!
- Be kind & courteous to other members and officers of the Association



# Ringer's Jargon

**Introduction.** Bell ringers (Ringers) use terms and jargon just like any other profession and don't realise that what might appear obvious to them, can cause panic and confusion to others. This document is a guide to some of the terms used and their meaning/s and should be a growing document that can be added to by you as you come across a new term. If you wish me to add anything please send an e-mail to [len.venables@btinternet.com](mailto:len.venables@btinternet.com).

**Sally.** This is the "Furry Bit" that everyone associates with a bell, can be plain or multi-coloured, there is no significance or meaning in the colour.

**Tail end.** This is the rope beneath the sally and usually has it wound in and out of its self, this enables the tail end to be lengthened or shortened to accommodate different ringers.

**Hand-stroke.** When you pull the sally.

**Back-stroke.** When you pull the tail end, the rope is usually in the air, or should be.

**Clapper.** The big bit that hangs down from the centre of the bell and swings from side to side so causing the bell to sound, when the bell is "up" it will swing once and sound on either stroke. When the bell is down the clapper is free to swing to either side and so can be chimed.

**Ring up/down.** Up is where the bell is rung (pulled) from its "safe" position to the ringing "dangerous" position, by coiling up the tail end and slowly letting these coils out as the bell swings higher. Ringing down is the reverse of this where coils are taken in to shorten the rope and reduce the swing of the bell.

**The bell is up wrong.** This does not mean that when the bells were installed someone made a mistake but, during the process of ringing up, the clapper did not swing correctly and so finished up laying on the wrong side of the bell for that stroke. To correct this, the bell can be rung down and back up; or someone has to climb up to the bells and move it across (this can be dangerous).

**Chiming.** This is achieved by pulling the rope when the bell is down and then pulling the rope sharply down as it goes up a little to stop the bell, and so make the clapper swing against the bell and so ring (chime).

**Stay.** This is the brake for the bell, made of wood and is designed to break if the bell is rung too vigorously.

**Balance.**This is the ideal ringing position where the bell swings just to its maximum at either stroke, the bell is designed to go beyond this a little before it bumps the stay.

**Look to, ... treble's going, ..gone.** The ringers equivalent of ready, steady, go. The first call is to ensure that all the ringers are ready, the next as you just start to pull and the last as the bell comes off the balance.

**Treble.**This is the first bell to pull and to ring (strike). If you are ringing this bell you are said to be leading.

**Tenor.**The last bell to pull and to ring.

**Rounds.**The most common sound of bells that ringers and non-ringers associate with bells, if there are 6 bells the order of rounds is 1 to 6. i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

**Stand** This is the conductor calling the ringers to finish ringing the particular thing that they are doing, it means to stop at the next hand-stroke.

**Call Changes.** These are where a selected person (the conductor and or Ringing Master) will call out which bells are to change, the change takes place at the next hand-stroke pull.

**Your Place.** This is not some subtle way of finding out where you live, but refers to the position of your bell within the ringing circle i.e. if you are on bell number 3 whilst ringing rounds you are in 3rds place.

**Hunt.** A way in which the bells move in order from either front to back or back to front, one jump at a time.

**Plain Hunt.**Where each bell moves either from the position it is in towards the front or the back one jump at a time, the position changes at both hand-stroke and back-stroke, Even bells go IN towards the first position where they do a complete pull in that position (they lead) and odd bell go OUT toward the back where they do a complete pull in that position (they lie).

**Dodge.** Where the bell you are ringing moves back a place from the direction in which you were moving, and then carries on in the initial direction, this can be either from front to back or vice versa.

**Double Dodging.** This is where you dodge more than one time with a bell (it can be more than a double dodge in some cases 5 dodges) note that you may have to strike over different bells when doing the dodge.

**Treble Bob.**This is where the treble moves and then dodges back and then moves upwards or downwards to the next but one position and dodges again. i.e. (looking at places) 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 6, 6, 5, 6, 5, 4, 3, 4 etc.

**Places.** Where the bell you are ringing makes a complete pull in that position, i.e. it rings twice in for example 4th place.

**Closer or “Close it up” or Cut.**To ring a little quicker so that the gap between you and the bell you are following is not too large, can be achieved by either, depending upon which stroke you are ringing, moving your hands up the tail end or catching the sally a little higher. Note these adjustments do not have to be too large they can be just a matter of an inch or two.

**Let some rope out or “Stretch”.**To some extent the opposite of “close it up” this is achieved by letting some of the tail end rope out by moving your hands towards the end of the rope, again only a small adjustment is necessary, this will have the effect of slowing the bell down as it has further to swing.

**Hold it up.**If you are told to “hold it up” you are ringing too close to the person you are following and need let the bell rise to its maximum swing and so on to the balance at either hand-stroke or back-stroke, can be achieved by “letting some rope out”.

**Bring it in.**To ring a little quicker, similar to “closing it up”.

**Blue Line.**The ringing books of old called “Diagrams” showed the places of a particular bell and its movements in either direction as a “blue line”, similarly the treble used to have a red line, you have to learn the blue line to ring the method.

**Method.**This is the name given to “our tunes” and defines the pattern/s the bells are to make so that they can produce a “blue line”.

**Bell Control.**This is the ringers equivalent of clutch control in a car, not easy at first but once mastered can make for an easier ringing performance.

**Rope Sight.**Where you the ringer can see which bell you are to ring after, this is not an easy skill to learn but is essential if you wish to progress and ring changes.

**Pass the treble.** Where you ring before the treble in one place and after it in the next place i.e. if the order is 2,3,1,5,4,6 at hand-stroke and 2,1,3,4,5,6 at back-stroke the 3<sup>rd</sup> bell is said to have passed the treble in 2/3 up. In some methods this will define the dodge that you will have to carry out when the treble next leads.

**Drumming or going bong behind.** Where if you are ringing the tenor bell, you always stay in that position (last place) irrespective of what the bells in front of you are doing.

**Peal.** Where the number of continuous changes rung at one time is in excess of 5,000 usually without repetition, depending up the characteristics of the bells; is usually about 3 hours in length but can be shorter or longer.

**Quarter Peal, usually shortened to the term “quarter”.** This is a minimum of 1250 continuous changes and is usually about 45 minutes in length, again this can be longer or shorter. Quarters are used by ringers to consolidate learning a method.

**The Comic.** This is usually referring to the main publication of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers “**The Ringing World**”, it is produced weekly and has articles of ringing interest and also records peals and quarter peals that are rung throughout the world.

**Bob** This is not the trouble maker in the tower that everyone keeps shouting at, but a way of telling the other ringers that at the next change they must do something different to what they would normally do, this will affect a number of the ringers..

**Single.** Again another way of telling the ringers that at the next change they will have to do something different.

**Lead/Lie.** This is where you make a full lead (hand & back or back and hand) to lie, this is not to tell fibs, but to make a double pull at the back (again it can be either way round but typically is hand and back).

**Changes.** The maximum number of changes (without repetition) and the names give to them are:-

**4 bells** = Minimus, 24 changes i.e.  $4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 24$

**5 bells** = Doubles, 120 changes i.e.  $5 \times 24 = 120$

**6 bells** = Minor, 720 changes i.e.  $6 \times 120 = 720$

**7 bells** = Triples, 5,040 changes i.e.  $7 \times 720 = 5,040$

**8 bells** = Major, 40,320 changes

**9 bells.** = Caters, 362,880 changes

**10 bells** = Royal, 3,628,800 changes

**11 bells** = Cinques 39,916,800 changes

**12 bells** = Maximus, 479,001,600 changes

**Grab.** To go for a grab or having a grab, is not to handle someone; but to go to a tower not previously visited and ring, some people make a hobby of “Tower Grabbing” both at home and abroad.

**In/Out or Up/down.**The direction of travel when ringing, In or Down (usually to the lead), Up or Out, going to the back of the method. See the plain hunt explanation.

Len Venables July 2017

# Resources for New Ringers

## ART

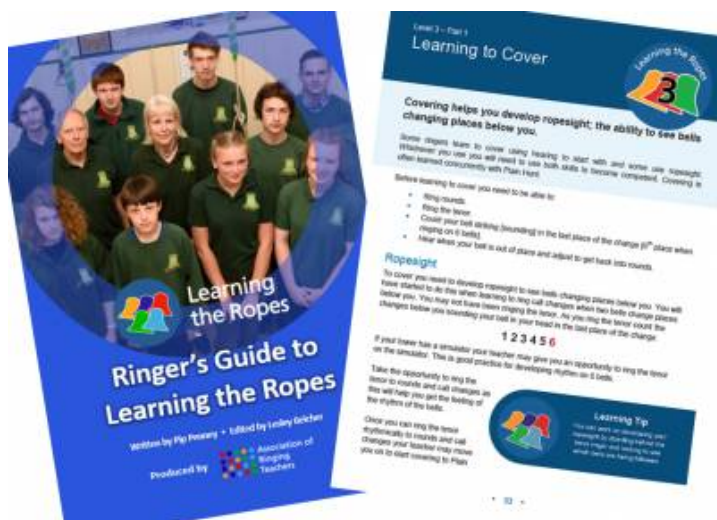
The NSACR is not directly linked to the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) but members may find some of their resources useful.



The DVD follows the structure of ART Training Scheme Module 1 – Teaching Bell Handling. It covers some of the theory of learning a skilled activity, gives examples of proficient bell handling, demonstrates many of the common handling problems learners have and explains how to correct them. The DVD also features a major section showing a learner with no previous experience being given their first training session based on ART Training Scheme principles.

£15.00 from:

<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop>



The fundamentals of ringing are explained in an easy to read, uncomplicated style with a full range of useful photographs which will appeal to all age groups.

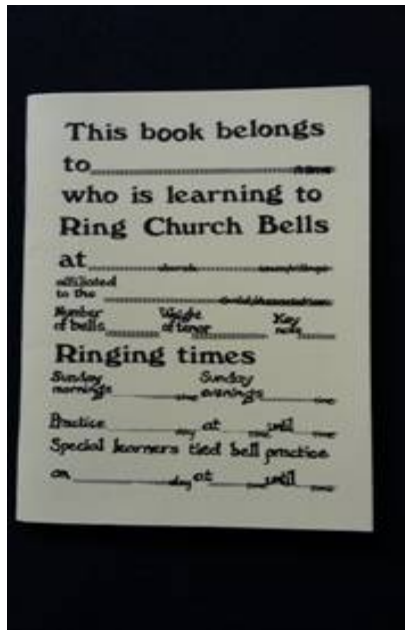
Learning tips are provided to highlight certain important information and guidance is given on skills building at every stage with emphasis placed on the importance of developing all the foundation ringing skills.

The book is easy to dip into to find the relevant information about each stage of learning.

£6.80 from:

<http://ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop>

**CCCB**

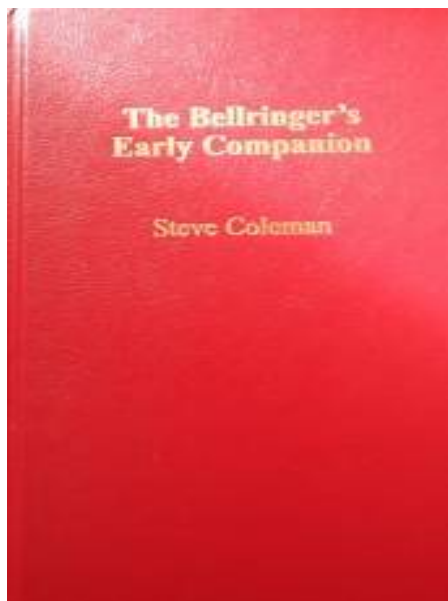


This booklet is usually issued at the tower where you start to learn to ring.

On first glance it may appear quaint, as the style is simple, but it is full of useful information. It provides an overview of ringing from bell handling to methods.

If not available from your tower:  
<http://www.cccbr.org.uk/pubs/pricelist/>  
pack of 5 for £5.00

## ***Ringling Books***



Very accessible and encouraging.

Quote from the sales website:

*'It's the book that holds your hand through your first couple of ringing years.*

*Steve guides you gently and clearly through all the things you need to know.*

*Even better, he's really entertaining and funny as he does it.'*

£14.95

<http://www.ringingbooks.co.uk/>

## ***Ringling Info***