

Facebook Etiquette

Be authentic (people aren't fools they know instinctively when you're not being real)

Don't re-post anything until you have **double checked authenticity**

Spelling & grammar, spelling & grammar, spelling and grammar

Do not get dragged into an argument or be defensive, take a deep breath and take the emotion out of your reply

Be nice

Think twice

And finally – **have fun**

It can be a hard-learned skill to get the balance right, putting your point across without shouting. Humour and a smiley face tell others, who are not good at reading between the lines, that you mean no harm. People are very intolerant of grumpy, negative, ne'er-do-wells and will silence them ... with silence ... no responses ... no engagement ... just like tumbleweed blowing down a dusty road.

Useful Links

Pages & Groups

Use the search box in the top-bar to find people and organisations. As well as these bell ringing groups and pages, "like" your local church and community pages – a great way of building up awareness and reaching out to new recruits.

Association of Ringing Teachers

Find out what's going on – regular news updates and interesting stories from ART, its teachers and its ringers.

Ringing Teachers

Ask for advice, share your successes and frustrations with like-minded ringing teachers.

Learning the Ropes

This one's for your LtR ringers. No teachers allowed! They share the ups and downs of learning to ring, ringing holiday photos and some interesting insights into teacher's behaviour.

Bellringers

The largest general bell ringing group. Tap into a wealth of expertise and find out what's happening in the wide and varied world of ringing.

CCCBR

Available as both a group and a page. Find out what the Central Council is up to and what's happening in the ringing world.

And many more ... including the intriguing Ringing Hoovers!



Learning the Ropes

Facebook

Asking, sharing & supporting

There's a lot of talk about social media as a way of getting people into towers and increasing awareness. But how and why?

We are social creatures and social media is just another way for us to communicate with each other. All ages use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Sometimes such shifts in the way things are done don't sit well at first. When phones were invented people probably said "Why would I use a phone when I can write a letter?" And then ... "Why would I email when I can phone that person?" And now ... "Why Facebook or Tweet someone when I can email them?"

The answer? Because it's quick!

With smart phones, response times have lessened to almost conversation speed. Which is great if you need to quickly get ringers for an unexpected event or replacing a person who has dropped out of a quarter or a peal.

It is communication in technicolour

You could of course email people about a tower outing that you've been on but it would seem a little dry, unless you are Wordsworth! But why use just one of our senses? With social media you can add interest with photos and snippets of ringing that do the describing for you – making your message a lot more engaging.

Finally social media is about being nice. People "like" your post and "share" it for others to see, which is the basis of the networking that goes on.

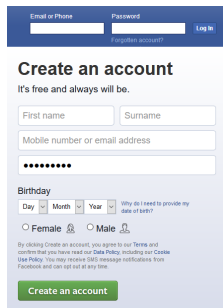


Learning the Ropes

Create an account

1

Type www.facebook.com into your browser to take you to the sign-up page.



Enter the required information and click to sign up.

You will receive a verification email. Open and click on the link in the email to activate your account. You're in and can start posting now!

Set up your profile

2

Once you're logged in you'll be invited to search for friends. If you're only interested in talking to groups then there is no need to do this and you can always add them later.

You can add as much or as little detail as you want at this stage. A photo and some idea of location seems polite so people know who they are talking to. Facebook will prompt you for more, but you're in control, so ignore them if you want.



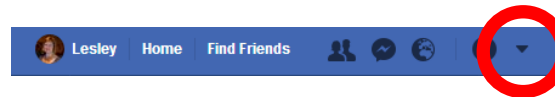
3

Set your privacy settings

Take some time to set up your privacy settings. If you're a bit nervous about using social media, set them to be as tight as possible. You can change them at any time.

If you're only interested in talking to closed groups, tight privacy settings are perfect. If you're interested in talking to family and friends then you will need to loosen them a bit.

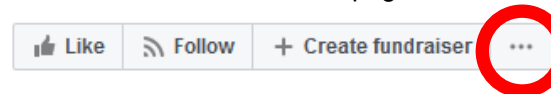
The little down arrow at the far right of your top-bar gives you access to your privacy settings and lots more besides. Its size belies its usefulness!



4

Join some groups

Use the search box in your Facebook top-bar to find people, pages and groups. Select the one that you are interested in and save it if you would like to visit again. Again, the little three dots on the right of the page toolbar is very useful and includes the save page function.



Join a few groups and follow some pages to see how people talk to each other. The ART groups are very friendly and supportive.

5

Start posting

Use Facebook in the way that works for you. You can post on your own account (timeline) by typing in the "What's on your mind" box. If you have second thoughts the three little dots to the top right of the post give lots of options including delete.

To communicate with other bell ringers you need to post on Facebook pages and groups.

Facebook pages are outward looking and connect to the wider world. **Facebook groups** are inward looking and work more like a club – you have to ask the Administrator to join. This is usually a formality unless you're a Russian model, although the bell ringing groups often check to make sure you're a ringer!

If you like a post, then why not say so by pressing the "like" button. And if you want to reply then "comment". If you want to talk just to one person then use Facebook messenger. Finally you can post your own question, photo or observation and tap into the huge number of knowledgeable people out there.

Before you know it, you'll have Facebook friends in Australia who you've never met but share ringing group exchanges with and delight in the little stories which never make it into the headlines – the variety of topics covered is huge.

Finally, know that posts and comments pertinent to the group are contained within the group. Perfect for advertising practice nights, tower outings and shouts for help with weddings.