

October 2019

I must apologise for the lack of a newsletter and contact of late but as many of you will know personal matters have been my priority.

However, there have been lots of other communications and I hope you, your teachers and ringers have seen them all – if not I can send them to you. ART WORKS and Tower Talk are very well read and are bursting with ideas and stories of real achievement. Do make sure there is a copy of both for everyone to read. The ART Facebook page also keeps you up to date with events and activities. There has been a recent newsletter for ART Assessors. The Workshop Leader's newsletter remains outstanding – another task for me in the next few weeks.

The FAQ area of Smart Ringer contains lots of information particularly on assessment and there is a new addition – a how to complete your log book video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDW5zBIPJLw> It includes some advice on completing lesson plans – do we need more in terms of examples – not specimens that can be copied though? Feedback please!

Another short video on the Learning the Ropes Level 1 assessment is now available. You can view this on YouTube – <https://youtu.be/NsWXnEOB7cE>. We want to include this video in the Module 1 course as a way of promoting the Learning the Ropes scheme and reducing inconsistencies in the assessment which our LtR ringers have been telling us about.

Mentoring Workshop

The quality of mentoring remains an issue. Running a mentoring workshop before a course is impractical but I wonder if there would be benefit in running one soon after or just in an area with lots of mentors to support them and improve quality. At a hub of course! What do you think?

New Hubs

There are three new hubs since I last wrote – Cambridge University, York and the East Riding Ringing Centre. Welcome to the ART Hub Community!

Liaison & Sharing Good Practice

Each hub should have someone who will visit the hub every year or two and act as a link to the ART Management Committee. They will help to:

- Ensure that you feel engaged with and valued by ART
- Gather feedback from you on teaching, ART, good practice and any issues about which ART can help provide advice or support
- Identify how ART may assist with resources, teaching or recruitment
- Share and maintain good practice and ideas

This scheme is in its infancy but over time this will help ensure we share ideas and learn from each other's experiences.

Learning the Ropes Festival

I am sure you will have read about the fantastic LtR Festival of Ringing that took place in Norwich this Summer. This was a great experience for everyone involved. We hope to roll this idea out and have a multi-centred festival next year. Do you want to be involved? If so let us know.



ART Masterclass

You will have seen reports of this event hosted in Birmingham in various publications. All LtR Level 5 Achievers get an invitation and it is sponsored. Do have a look at the report and encourage teachers to get their learners through LtR Level 5 and come on what is a memorable day for all concerned. Only two months left to get an invite for the 2020 Masterclass.

ART Awards

I hope that you have been able to promote a group or individual in your area for one of the ART Awards. Applications are open NOW! The winners will be announced on the evening of the ART Conference. Once again there are valuable prizes to be won – as well as the prestige of having achievements recognised. Did you see the RW article about where past prize-winners are now? Evidence I think of the value of these awards.

Learning the Ropes Plus

LtR Plus is establishing itself as the structured way ahead for post Plain Bob Minor learning. For practices at this level do use it as a tool to monitor progress and encourage learners to record achievements in the progress logbook and claim certificates. Think about the tower management section too and use that as a tool to encourage others to develop the skills required to run towers.

Hubs were offered a free copy of the Learning the Ropes Achievement Logbook – if you have not requested your copy yet then email me!

The scheme is open to ANY ringer, at any stage of learning. If you're not registered on SmART Ringer you can now register yourself and then you're on your way. Personal Achievement logbooks can be ordered through the ART shop [ringingteachers.org/resource-centre/shop]. It is a flexible scheme that can be dipped in to. Unlike LtR, it is not progressive, so if your tower rings Minor, for example, there's no need to complete the Doubles section (unless you wanted to), but it is structured, so that you might want to complete each section before moving on to the next.

The ten modules range from ringing Doubles to ringing on higher numbers. Some modules are aimed at broadening experience in ringing and encouraging people to take leadership. Each section gives learning outcomes, then sets tasks to achieve them, and provides a place to record ringing achievements. The method ringing sections all include quarter peals.

Here's a thought – if some of the pathways LtR Plus suggests were adopted by towers before their learners get to the end of the five LtR levels, their ringers will be ready to support them in their further progression. For further information, visit ringingteachers.org or www.learningtheropes.org

Module 2F

This is our M2 course of preference so do try and get commitment to do an M2F immediately after an M1 – that's when it is the most use. M2C still remains key as teaching teachers how to introduce change ringing in a structured way has great value – we should not assume that we need only to teach to foundation skill level. There is an M2C top-up course available to focus on post-M2F teaching skills. Where you have run a M1 do encourage local teachers to complete M2F and perhaps take the initiative to hold one in your hub.

GDPR

GDPR has implications for many of us and Les Boyce has sourced this video (which is about 8 minutes long) – <https://youtu.be/Assdm6flHIE> – which explains the principles of GDPR. You may also want to view the new Data Protection Policy on the ART website.



ART Conference

Don't forget the Conference weekend on 14th & 15th March. Make sure you have the dates in your diary now!

Where is it?

I hear that one of our centres will be augmenting from 8 to 12 in the next year – where would that be ... somewhere I know well! Any guesses?

Our most Remote Hub?

Helen McGregor writes. The most southerly ART Ringing Centre in the UK is on the delightful island of Alderney. With a population varying between only 1300 and 1500, depending on the season, front doors are not locked, cars are parked with keys in, bank tellers have no glass screens, passengers on the flights/ferry to Guernsey/UK embark by first name, parking is free island-wide, milk is sold from a machine dispensing it into the customer's own receptacle, cars stop to talk to drivers coming the other way, items lost are found and handed in, drivers routinely offer lifts to pedestrians, pedestrians routinely accept lifts from drivers, volunteers man the very successful cinema, library, museum, ambulance and fire service – and the lifeboat of course.

St Anne's, Alderney, is home to the 13cwt 12-bell ring made famous by the 2056 changes of Bristol Surprise Maximus rung in October 2017 – the longest peal yet rung on twelve. Considerably less well known is the Channel Islands' Ringing Centre – home to Wells Bells, a 3cwt 8-bell ring, a Higby simulator and a set of handbells. Five novice ringers recently spent a week here on Alderney 'improving' their ringing. We had sessions on handling, and changes were called at handstroke, at backstroke, and by place. They were called by students initially outside the circle and eventually while ringing too. We had fun with kaleidoscope ringing and Mexican wave, flipping from rounds to reverse rounds. Leading was perfected by hunting on five from 6th's place down to 2nd's and back so that the turnaround at the front was lying over a bell permanently leading. We walked Plain Hunt, we moved playing cards around the tabletop to emulate Plain Hunt, we 'fired' the bells in the rhythm of Plain Hunt. We rang Cloisters with students on the hunting bells & tenor cover – with both a Grandsire start and a Plain Bob start. By the end of the week the students were very happy plain hunting on five even when the bells had been swapped out of Rounds for the start.

Having all day access to an easy peal of bells, a simulator and a set of handbells, a friendly group of helpers and willing class of students, we just went from strength to strength. A donation of £90 for ART was collected from the students at the end of the course.

Readers may be interested to know that there are no residency restrictions on Alderney and that anyone entitled to reside in the UK can buy a house here. Even if you don't move here you should spend at least one holiday here! St Anne's practise on Saturdays from 10am to 12 Noon and Monday evenings 5-7pm, followed by curry. Wells Bells practise on Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm, with handbells on Tuesdays.

Perhaps a venue for an ART Hub conference one day?

Finally, as I do not expect the next newsletter to be sent before the end of the year, can I wish you a great Christmas and a happy and busy new year!!

If you have something which should go in our newsletter let me know!

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