



## What is a Learning The Ropes Festival ?

- It's a great reason to get new ringers together.
- It has specific aims and remains focused.
- New ringers meet others who are at the same level.
- Ringers can enjoy the experience of learning.



## Why did we think we could do this ?

- The MRDC a purpose built teaching centre in the city of Norwich
- City centre location
- Encouraged by ART to try something new.
- It's about developing skills rather than just having a go

# The first Learning the Ropes Festival



# Learning the Ropes

## The programme for the day

- Inspired by the Birmingham Level 5 masterclass
- Do a few topics really well
- Give a flavour of the wonderful world of ringing

Nikki Thomas & Ruth Suggett



3 August 2019  
Norwich

## Learning the Ropes Festival

An event open to Learning the Ropes ringers based in East Anglia  
Register at: <https://events.bellringing.org/festival>

### Saturday 3 August

09:00	Registration <b>Chantry Hall</b>		
09:00 - 17:00	ART Shop selling Books, Badges, DVDs, CDs and LTR Polo Shirts A chance to ring on the Carter mini-ring – Richard Carter Talk – social history of bell ringing – Gareth Davies – 2:30 – 3:30 Talk – All about Simulators – Roger Booth – 10:30 – 11:30 Learn how to splice ropes – Steve Day		
	<b>Mancroft RDC</b>	<b>Colegate</b>	<b>St Giles</b>
10:00 - 12:00 <b>Workshop 1</b>	<b>1A Listen &amp; Strike</b> – Ruth Suggett & Nikki Thomas (16 places)	<b>1B Raising &amp; Lowering</b> – Catherine Sturgess (12 places)	<b>1C Foundation Skills Masterclass</b> – Lesley Boyle (12 places)
12:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
12:15 - 13:45	Open ringing (with helpers) – Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre		
	<b>Mancroft RDC</b>	<b>Colegate</b>	<b>St Giles</b>
14:00 - 16:00 <b>Workshop 2</b>	<b>2A Ringing with a Simulator</b> – Steve Farmer (16 places)	<b>2B Handling Surgery</b> – Catherine Sturgess (12 places)	<b>2C Say it Out Loud</b> – Lesley Belcher (12 places)
16:30 – 17:30	Open ringing – Coslany		
17:00 – 18:00	Open ringing – All Saints		
17:30 – 18:30	Open ringing – St Giles		
18:00 – 19:00	Open ringing – Colegate		

### Where to get lunch

There are many places close to St Peter Mancroft where you can get food. Tesco, Marks and Spencer are very close. The Market is right next to the church and has lots of stalls selling wonderful food and there is plenty of seating at the back of the market if the weather is fine. The Octagon, in the south-east corner of the Church, will be open for afternoon tea. This is being run by James Hughes and the Mancroft Ringers and the cakes are homemade and absolutely delicious.

### Price

£15/attendee payable at time of registration if your registration includes workshops.  
£5/attendee payable at time of registration if you don't attend the workshops.

### Venues

<b>Chantry Hall</b> The Chantry, Norwich. NR2 1RQ	<b>Mancroft Ringing Discovery Centre</b> , Millennium Plain, Norwich. NR2 1TF	<b>St Giles on the Hill</b> Upper St Giles Street, Norwich. NR2 1AB
<b>St George's, Colegate</b> Norwich. NR3 1AW	<b>St Michael and All Angels</b> Coslany, 1 Oak St, Norwich NR3 3AE	<b>All Saints</b> , 15, St Martin at Palace Plain, Norwich, NR3 1RW

The City Centre car parks are rather expensive. There are two close to St Peter Mancroft, the St Giles Multi Storey Car Park and The Forum Car Park. A cheaper alternative is to use the City's Park and Ride which is at six locations on the outskirts of the city. The Bus Station is right in the centre of Norwich and Norwich Railway Station is a short walk away or there is a good bus service from the station into the city centre.

All enquiries please contact [nikki.r.thomas@googlemail.com](mailto:nikki.r.thomas@googlemail.com) or [bardwell.ruth@googlemail.com](mailto:bardwell.ruth@googlemail.com)



## Difficulties encountered

- Getting started
- We are amateurs but we need to be professional.
- Even for a small number of participants we needed a lot of support and help.
- The huge amount of things to think about
- Costing



## Problems solved

- Just Do It!
- Started dialogue with ART really early on.
- Good relationship with the church.
- Useful to have other networks and local contacts
- It was alright on the night!

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## Admin

- Paperwork!
- Make space for admin.



## Positives on the day

- A long day
- Huge turnout from helpers
- Lunchtime session on Mancroft bells
- People came from far and wide.
- People wanted to learn.
- The evening social for those that helped



## Lessons learned

- If you are successful you'll be asked to do a presentation at a conference.
- If you make notes, don't burn them or bin them
- Never underestimate the learners' appetite for learning and gaining new experience
- Go for quality rather than quantity.
- Don't underestimate the number of helpers required.
- Don't ask too much of individual teachers.
- Be really clear what you'd like your teachers to do.





## Are you ready for the challenge ?

- It's not as daunting as you think!
- The rewards are great for everyone.
- People like to be asked to help, especially if it is fun!
- Minimum requirements.

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## Feedback from the day

*We have a fantastic teacher and the dedicated ringers who help us, but to hear the teaching from different people and have delivered in the structured manner that you use has focused us and given us greater expectation. I would strongly recommend any band coming up for a focused session with you and it's such super value.*

*I will come again. I will recommend others to visit, it's very good all round.*

Nikki Thomas & Ruth Suggett

*Inclusive, encouraging & good for families.*

*Ringin up and down was a great help as there is so little chance to improve this technique at tower practice sessions.*

*Very useful all round. Extremely well delivered, would be lovely to visit again.*

Art Conference Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March Derbyshire

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## Feedback from the day

*Excellent. At no time did I feel over worried about having a go. Help and encouragement all the way.*

*The relaxed atmosphere helps with confidence and makes the course doubly enjoyable. Thank you.*

Nikki Thomas & Ruth Suggett

*Clarified bad habits, filled in gaps in knowledge, helped a lot. Thank you.*

*I've gained in confidence in believing that it's ok for me to try this now at my home tower.*

*Very impressed by MRDC, a valuable resource.*

Art Conference Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March Derbyshire