

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Charity Registration Number 292250

Invitation to apply for grants from the Recruitment and Training Fund

This fund is to be used to encourage the development and preservation of bell ringing in Essex. Districts, towers and individuals are invited to apply for grants to facilitate and enable training and ringers' skill advancement. Grants can be given for the following reasons:

1. To support the recruitment of new ringers and the training and skill development of Essex ringers; in particular the Association will financially support the development of local training centres. Grants may be awarded for capital expenditure and for the costs of maintaining capital equipment.
2. To extend the training of Essex ringers to become teachers of ringing. The Association may pay course fees for such courses run by recognised training bodies such as the *CCCBR or *ART.
3. To support all fully paid-up Essex members, who may apply for a grant towards any course costs and reasonable expenses which will be considered on the basis of financial need, at the discretion of the sub-committee having taken advice from a local sponsor.
4. To subsidise resources (for example room hire, software, DVDs) required for running training courses.
5. For work to improve the 'go' of the bells for ease of teaching and maintaining an active band such as rope guides; also for sound control to enable training sessions where the sound of bells used for teaching will create hostility from neighbours.
6. To provide training equipment including simulators, handbells, CCTV cameras, computer software and hardware.

Grants specific to the Essex Course and Essex training sessions

- Junior members attending the Essex Course will have their course fees subsidised; the amount of the subsidy will be agreed prior to the course announcement. Additional subsidies may be available.

- Whilst it is expected that course helpers pay their own expenses, part reimbursement of reasonable travel costs will be considered on the basis of financial need, at the discretion of the sub-committee having taken advice from a local sponsor.

Applying for a grant

Requests for grants should be submitted by email to the Education Officer and they will be considered by the Recruitment and Training (R&T) sub-committee. Please use the application form available on the EACR website under Education and Training > Education fund to structure your application.

Timing: The sub-committee meets approximately every six weeks (see EACR Events for dates); for applications above £250, the sub-committee must consider the application and then, if satisfied, pass it forward for approval by the Trustees, advising the Trustees three weeks before their next meeting. The Trustees meet in early February, Mid May and mid September.

- The committee must be satisfied that the grant offers:
 - a) good value for money **and**
 - b) either significant educational benefit to existing ringers **or** is likely to result in recruitment of new ringers for whom training is available.
 - c) an opportunity to make a difference – to ensure that training that otherwise might not happen can go ahead, or to ensure higher quality outcomes.
- Plans for setting up ringing centres must include confirmation of discussion with (and no objection from) the tower captain and confirmation that there is no objection from the Incumbent/PCC*. Details of research into a requirement for a faculty, etc. and an estimated timeframe is to be submitted with the grant application in order that training funds can be allocated efficiently. All necessary permissions for the project must have been obtained before a grant is made; note that even if works do not require a faculty, the installation of simulators and other teaching aids need to have Archdeacon's approval (your PCC can advise, also see https://cccbr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SM_Faculty_Changes_2021_Ver_2-corrected-list-As-to-Bs.pdf). If there is any doubt about permissions that are needed, the Education Officer will provide assistance.
- Members awarded a grant for a course but failing to attend that course must repay the amount awarded.

Awarding grants

Applications for grants of up to £250 can be approved by the Recruitment and Training sub-committee on majority approval; applications for grants over £250 will be reviewed by the R&T sub-

committee and brought to the next Trustees Meeting meeting (which meets in early February, mid May and mid September) for approval.

Resources, for example simulators, will be provided by the Association to training centres that can prove that they have the permission of the incumbent, PCC and, if necessary, the Archdeacon and willingness by a group of supporters to run regular training sessions that will benefit ringers from a local area or district.

If the Ringing Centre no longer requires the installation or it falls out of regular use, the centre agrees that it shall be offered back to the Essex Association Property Trustees at no charge, for further reuse.

Recruitment

- Recruitment resources will usually be developed centrally and designs made available free of charge for customisation to towers and districts running recruitment drives.
- Grants may be applied for to cover costs associated with recruitment drives, for example printing recruitment material or hiring a mobile belfry.

Payment

Payment is made direct to suppliers, to PCC or Tower accounts. Grant money is not paid to individuals unless in specific circumstances as agreed in advance with the Association Treasurer. Grants will not be made for retrospective applications. Grants are valid for 2 years from notification by the Education Officer to the applicant that the grant has been successful.

Notes to the criteria

1. Applications are more likely to be successful if some funds have been raised towards the project locally to indicate support from the tower/area.
2. In order to secure individual commitment to the training, the Recruitment and Training Subcommittee recommends that prospective and current ringers attending training sessions are asked to pay a reasonable contribution to fees, course costs and expenses.
3. Grants for training and education are available via church, community and youth work organisations. Where appropriate applicants should research these opportunities to raise funds elsewhere in order not to deplete the R&T funds unnecessarily.

*CCCBR - Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

ART - Association of Ringing Teachers PCC - Parochial Church Council

Beth Johnson, Education Officer, May 2021 2nd rev August 2023

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