



Dear Essex member

As I have only recently taken on the role of Education Officer, this is my first Training Day. This year, we can't have tower sessions, however, this has given us the opportunity to change things up a bit, and arrange some virtual sessions using the meeting app Zoom, and Ringing Room, the site you have probably heard of that was built by two enterprising ringers in Boston, Massachusetts. It's for change ringers to continue ringing with one another even when socially distanced.

So via Zoom and Ringing Room, there are theory and practical sessions which you can join from the comfort of your home; we know that we are at the mercy of IT gremlins but hope it all runs smoothly. There are three modules and there's something for you whether you are ringing call changes, or want to become a Surprise ringer.

We are also offering two handbell groups, according to the 'rule of six' which will be face-to-face sessions, one module for beginners and one for those wanting to ring handbells to methods. The sessions will be at either Coggeshall or Writtle, and we will allocate learners to whichever is the most convenient. There will be a charge of £5 for the handbell sessions only – payable on the day – as we do have to pay for the use of the venues.

As many of us have started appreciating online sessions on activities from yoga to singing, we realised we could ask some knowledgeable people to give us interesting ringing talks as part of the day. Again, you can access these from the comfort of your home so we hope lots of Essex ringers will sign up for them. The first is by David Sparling, a member of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) management committee and a valued Essex ringer. He is going to tell us what training is offered by ART and how the Learning the Ropes scheme works, and more!

I am delighted to announce that the evening talk will be by Simon Linford, President of the Central Council. Simon will mainly explain how the Birmingham School of Bell Ringers, of which he is a founder and where he still teaches, came into being, what it has achieved, and whether the model can be replicated elsewhere.

Please don't think that just because we can't practise in our towers that you can't get involved in some training, in fact maybe now is a good time to take your next step either in method ringing or in ringing handbells.

Download the course information [here](#). Don't worry if you haven't used Ringing Room or Zoom before, just let me know and I will make sure you get some sessions in advance of the courses to familiarise yourself with the programs.

Places are limited so please book as soon as possible. Booking will close on 7th November so we can make final arrangements. There is a link at the end of each course outline to *Eventbrite*, an online booking system so you can register your place but if you are concerned about using online booking, feel free to email me direct or call.

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