

All about ART by David Sparling

This talk by David Sparling will explain the background to the foundation of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART), how their various courses are run and what they cover, and details of the teaching scheme Learning the Ropes. Find out about all their resources and workshops, open to all ringers. Make this the start to your ART adventure, whether you are a learner or a teacher.



Via Zoom 12.45pm to 2pm. Register for the talk [here](#).



David Sparling learned to ring at St Michael's Kirby-le-Soken at the age of 10 and served as Tower Captain at Kirby-le-Soken from 1985 - 1997. David joined the Essex Association in October 1969 and has served as Master, Central Council Representative and Interim Secretary and is now a Life Vice President. He has been involved in teaching of new ringers since 1980 and has been a regular Tutor on the annual Essex Ringing Course since its foundation in 1991.

David first became involved in ART in 2014 and now acts as a Trustee and Management Committee member. He has been an ART Tutor, helping to deliver ART Modules since 2019.

Simon Linford talks about....

The Birmingham School of Bell Ringers, of which he is a founder and where he still teaches, how it came into being, what it has achieved, and whether the model can be replicated elsewhere.

Via Zoom 6.30 to 7.30pm. Register for the talk [here](#).



Simon's ringing experience is very broad, since learning at his father's church of Cannock as a 13 year old. Simon is currently President of the Central Council, after 10 years as Master of the St Martin's Guild. He is a Past Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and a well known contributor to the Ringing World. His ringing activities led to him receiving the ART Award for Inspiring Leadership in Ringing, the citation for which can be read here <http://ringingteachers.org/recognition/awards/2017-winners/simon-linford>

In terms of his own ringing, he has pretty much run out of difficult things to do. He is particularly keen on all the work spliced surprise, a passion which started when he lived and rang in Essex, and has been in all the record length all the work peals on all numbers, conducting half of them and organising the rest. He has rung 250 peals of spliced maximus and 30 peals on more than 12 bells. Most recently he has been in the two peals of 23 spliced surprise major rung on Ringing Room which he thinks were the hardest of all!

However, despite all that he is very active in ringing training. He runs a young ringers band in Moseley called the Brumdingers, and every Saturday before lockdown would have been teaching at the Birmingham School of Bell Ringing, which he co-founded in 2013 when Master of the St Martin's Guild. The perception of Birmingham has shifted in recent years from just being a hotbed of 12 bell ringing and winning the 12 bell contest, to being a pioneer in ringing training, and a place where integration of the most experienced ringers with the grass roots has been very successful. A big supporter of ART, the School followed the Learning the Ropes programme from the start.

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The Essex Association of Change Ringers

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