

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS – RINGING RECOVERY GROUP

Tower Captain’s Checklist – Questions to ask yourself and to talk to your band about

Help with answering many of the questions posed in this checklist can be found in the Survival & Recovery Toolbox (SRT) prepared by ART and the Central Council: <http://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox>

RETURNING TO THE TOWER	RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP
Safety check of the bells	SRT – Getting the bells and tower fit for ringing ; Introduction to basic belfry checks and routine maintenance (https://onlinelearning.bellringing.org/)
Risk Assessment of ringing room – limiting numbers, frequency/length of ringing, how good is the ventilation?	SRT – Getting the bells and tower fit for ringing
How are your ringers? Have you been in regular contact?	Email; Telephone; Skype, Zoom, Tower Facebook page SRT – Keeping in touch
Any refresher training needed? Are some lacking confidence? How can you help them?	SRT – Helping others feel confident ; SRT – Confidence building techniques
Have we got enough to ring? Which other towers or ringer groups could we partner with?	Your Mission Community towers; Other branch towers SRT – Ringing Clusters
What can we do to “build back better”? Such as use new technology, use Ringing Room for extra practice, use national online learning materials.	https://onlinelearning.bellringing.org/ (ART’s online courses); SRT – Online ringing products ; SRT – Online ringing for variety
Do you have sufficient experienced people to lead the tower and cover all the jobs that need to be done?	SRT – I’m a tower captain - post pandemic; SRT - I’m a new tower captain
RETENTION	
What do your ringers want to get out of ringing as individuals?	NE Branch Ringer Attitude Survey: http://ringingtraining.pbworks.com/w/page/90045113/FrontPage ART Resource: Why do ringers enjoy ringing?
Has the band got any goals? What happens to those who aren’t keen on them?	Tips on goal setting: http://ringingteachers.org/resources/teaching-tips

Running a good practice – inspiring and fun?	Maintaining motivation: http://ringingteachers.org/application/files/7115/8411/2656/Maintaining_motivation.pdf
How are the handling and foundation skills? – bell control, listening & ropesight	Tips on foundation skills: http://ringingteachers.org/resources/teaching-tips
How good are our performances? What could we do to improve striking and make ringing more enjoyable?	Listening skills exercises: http://tadhill.com/ringing/#
Many ringers enjoy the social side of ringing – what’s on offer to our band? If the pub after practice is a big part of this, how do you keep the non-pub ringers involved?	
RELATIONSHIPS – CHURCH AND COMMUNITY	
More than just one ringer on the PCC?	
Involvement with your church community, eg helping with fundraising, attending services, regular contact with incumbent and churchwardens	SRT – Building good relationships – church ; Mark Regan “Engaging with your stakeholders” ;
Do you have a DBS disclosure and are your ringers registered with the parish as volunteers? Have they completed their Church of England safeguarding training C0?	https://cccbr.org.uk/safeguarding/ .
Will your community welcome the return of bells after a year? How have you prepared them?	SRT - Building good relationships – community ; Mark Regan “Engaging with your stakeholders” ;
Do local people know when and why you ring?	Church website; Tower Facebook page
RECRUITMENT	
When will we be able to teach bellhandling safely?	CCCBR & Guild guidance – not yet available
Do you have a plan for when, how and who you want to recruit?	SRT – Recruitment & Retention ; ART’s recruitment resources: http://ringingteachers.org/resources/recruitment-and-retention

Are all the members of the band committed to recruitment and supporting new ringers?	ART Resource: “Making recruitment work for everyone in the band”
Could you work with youngsters’ groups or schools?	SRT – Youth ringing (to be developed)
Is there a plan to replace your older ringers (succession) when they are no longer able to ring?	
Who will teach new recruits and what training have they had? Who will help them?	SRT – Teaching bell handling
Do you use a recognised training scheme such as Sherbourne Bell Club or ART’s Learning the Ropes? How do you keep track of learners’ progress?	http://ringingteachers.org/about/learning-ropes ;
What ringing opportunities do you offer to the new ringer who can just about ring a bell in rounds? Do you hold extra practices to develop foundation skills?	
LINK TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH	
Do you encourage your ringers to join in branch activities? What proportion of them attended at least one branch event in 2019?	Guild calendar
How could the branch help your tower to thrive?	Let the branch Ringing Master or Education Officer know of any training needs your tower has.