

The Society of Sherwood Youths

Handbell Ringing Course

Double handed changeringing for beginners (and rusty revivers)

When?	7.30 to 9.00pm. 1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays of the month. Starting Wednesday 4 th March 2009.
Where?	Plumtree Belfry. (Use west end tower door and up the stairs).
Who for?	Reasonably competent tower bell ringers who would like to be able to ring changes on handbells.
Run by?	David Marshall – SoSY Steward.
Fee?	Normal SoSY ‘steepleage’ of £1 each attendance.
Enrolment needed?	Yes – to gauge numbers and teaching requirements. Ring or email:- Tony Lees (0115 9830588; secretary@sherwoodyouths.org.uk). David Marshall (0115 9372326; steward@sherwoodyouths.org.uk).
Attendance?	Join when you want to and finish when you feel you have attained the standard you wanted. Come as often as your time permits.
SoSY membership?	Not essential (but hoped for - joining fee currently £3 for life).
Performances?	Quarter peals or peals on handbells by arrangement towards the end of the course. (SoSY membership expected).
Course content?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theory of double handed changeringing• Handling and ringing handbells• Rhythm and striking instruction• Ringing plain hunting on all pairs• Ringing plain bob on all pairs• Method construction• Ringing other methods• Conducting handbell ringing

The Society of Sherwood Youths

FAQs

Is it likely to be too hard for me?	Definitely not – it’s a different way of learning changingringing that allows you to ring two bells at once without having to ‘split your mind’ two ways.
If I miss a week will I get behind?	No – there will be individual tuition and practice taking you from where you are to the next step each time you turn up.
As a beginner, how long will it take before I can ring a quarter peal?	All people learn at different speeds but an average would be after attending 10 sessions.
How can I get some sneaky practice in-between sessions?	Easy – if you don’t have access to handbells use your thumbs. You only need one more person to practise minimus and two to practise minor. Alternatively you can consider purchasing the Abel ringing simulator for PC, which has a handbell option.
How does it differ from the tower bell ‘blue line’ learning?	With handbells you learn set patterns instead of lines. There are three patterns to learn for ringing minor and one more for every two additional bells. Instead of learning ‘blue lines’ you learn to swap between the patterns by knowing about method construction.
What is this method construction?	It’s the places being made (3rds, 4ths, etc.) as the treble follows its path. (Called the place notation). The place notation for Plain Bob Minor is just 2nds at the lead end whereas Cambridge Surprise Minor is 3,4,2,3,4,5 with 2nds at the lead end.
Will there be any opportunity to retain or improve handbell skills after the course finishes?	Often small groups get together in each other’s houses or a local belfry. Hopefully some will spring up naturally from the course. I shall try to facilitate this.

The Society of Sherwood Youths

Application form

Please let David Marshall have the following information and await confirmation of enrollment prior to attending the sessions.

- Name:
- Telephone:
- Email:
- Local tower:
- Experienced tower bell ringer or not
- Experience on handbells -
 - 0 - none whatsoever
 - 1 - coursing pair
 - 2 - Plain Bob on trebles
 - 3 - Plain Bob on inside pair
 - 4 - Another method
 - 5 - Surprise
- Whether rusty or not on handbells
- If handbell experience is 3 or above, are you prepared to:-
 - 1 - be a helper
 - 2 - be an instructor