

Keep the Spark

Motivation & Retention in Focus

An event open to all ringers, organised by ART

Booking from January 2026 at events.bellringing.org

Conference 2026

Fearon Hall and
John Taylor Bell Foundry
Loughborough

Saturday 7 March – Conference

09.30 – 17.00	ART Shop selling Books, Badges, DVDs, plus other stalls and displays		
09.15 - 09.45	Registration with delegates seated by 9.40 – tea and coffee available on arrival		
09.45 - 10.45	Chairman's welcome followed by Reviving the spark How to motivate people to continue or become bellringers Dr Cheryl Travers		
10.50 - 11.30	1A Building a new band Jez Bowman	1B Safeguarding: It's what good people do Andrew North	1C What is the role of the hub? Matt Lawrence
11.35 - 12.15	2A Building a new band Jez Bowman	2B Safeguarding: It's what good people do Andrew North	2C What is the role of the hub? Matt Lawrence
12.20 - 13.00	It's her turn now Equal pull – the psychology and practical tips on teaching women and how this may differ, or not, from teaching men Julia Cater		
13:00 - 13.45	LUNCH (<i>available to prebook</i>)		
13.45 - 14.30	Inspirational leadership The ripple effect: leadership that lasts Elva Ainsworth		
14.30 -15.20	3A The ART of recruitment Moira Johnson	3B Step up your ringing journey Paul Lewis & Dee Smith	3C Managing and motivating a team Ian and Louise Wilson
15.20 - 16.10	4A The ART of recruitment Moira Johnson	4B Step up your ringing journey Paul Lewis & Dee Smith	4C Managing and motivating a team Ian and Louise Wilson
16.10 - 16.20	TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE		
16.20 - 17.15	Advancing the ART How residential ringing courses and specialist training centres can help Hayley Young, Lynne Hughes, Nikki Thomas. Individual presentations and Q&A		
17.15 -17.45	Motivation and retention. What have we learnt so far? Close by Andrew Slade		
17.45 -18.45	ART Awards ceremony Drinks and nibbles. Sponsored by Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers		
From 19.00	CONFERENCE DINNER (<i>must be prebooked</i>)		

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Sunday 8 March – Conference

09.00 - 10.00	Supporting local Sunday service ringing. <i>List of towers to be arranged</i>	An opportunity to ring on the foundry bells	Visit the Hope Bell
09.00 - 10.00	ART Tutors meeting (current ART Tutors only)		
10.00 - 10.15	TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE		
10.15 - 11.00	Saving the Red Zone How to keep potential Red Zone ringers inspired, engaged, and moving forward with enthusiasm Simon Linford		
11.00 - 11.30	Ringing 2030 unlocked: The journey, the jumps, and the jitters Increasing local engagement with Ringing 2030 Tina Stoecklin		
11.30 - 12.15	5A Ropes and how to avoid breaking them Philip Pratt	5B Keeping the bells and tower in good condition Simon Adams	5C Making the right connections Steve Farmer
12.15 - 13.00	6A Ropes and how to avoid breaking them Philip Pratt	6B Keeping the bells and tower in good condition Simon Adams	6C Making the right connections Steve Farmer
13.00 - 13.30	LUNCH (available to prebook)		
13.30 - 14.15	7A ART Assessors meeting (current ART Assessors only) Dee Smith	7B Rope splicing workshop John Newbold	7C An opportunity to ring on the foundry bells Sally Brown
14.15 - 15.30	Tour of the Loughborough foundry Sally Brown		
15.30 - 16.00	Best towers and ringers: how to keep your tower and band at its best The view from the bridge Neil Jones		
16.00	<i>Event close</i>		
After 16:00	Quarter peals at local churches and the Foundry Foundry bells Barrow in Soar Hathern Prestwold Loughborough Parish Church Ropes need to be booked. We will accommodate as many people as we can – express your interest in taking part in a quarter peal when you book. Tower fees will be collected on the day.		

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Saturday 7 March	Sunday 8 March
Fearon Hall Ticket: £30 Lunch is available as an optional extra within conference booking (£8.50) Conference dinner is available as optional extra within conference booking (£18.00)	John Taylor Bell Foundry Tickets £30 Lunch is available as an optional extra within conference booking (£8.50)

Booking options are Saturday only (£30), or both Saturday and Sunday (£60). It is not possible to attend just on the Sunday.

Discounts are available for:

- ART Members – £5 off conference booking
- ART Sponsors – £7.50 off two booking, when booked at the same time
- ART Patrons – £15.00 off two bookings, when booked at the same time

Tickets include tower fees and donations.

For more details on the sessions and speakers: bellringing.org/conference. If you have any questions, please contact: conference@bellringing.org

Venue

Saturday

Fearon Hall
Rectory Road
Loughborough
LE11 1PL
<https://fearonhall.org.uk/visiting-the-hall/>

Sunday

John Taylor Bell Foundry
Freehold Street
Loughborough
LE11 1AR
<https://taylorbells.co.uk/contact-us/>

Fearon Hall is situated in a conservation area close to Loughborough town centre. Located on the Parish Green adjacent to the Parish Church two minutes' drive (traffic permitting) from the A6 ring road.

There will be no parking available at the Hall – there is one disabled space available on a first come, first served basis. Please do not park on Rectory Road as it is residents permit parking only. There is other on-street parking nearby but as this is restricted we recommend you use The Rushes car park which is a 5-minute walk away through Steeple Row and the Parish Green.

Taylor's is located in a residential area, so there is a limited amount of free on-street parking around the foundry. Free parking is typically available on the surrounding streets. It is within easy walking distance of the town centre.

The nearest railway station is Loughborough, a short walk from both the Fearon Hall and Taylors. Taxis are available at the station.

Saturday/Sunday lunch

You can pre-book an optional 'grab bag' lunch on campus as part of your conference booking. This will consist of a filled roll plus crisps, a cookie, a piece of fruit and a snack bar at a cost of £8.50 per delegate. Please include details of any dietary requirements/allergies with your booking.

Saturday evening meal

A group booking for a meal on the Saturday evening has been made for conference delegates at The Three Nuns, 30 Church Gate, Loughborough LE11 1UD. If you would like to join us, please ensure you include this option with your conference booking. The cost of a 2-course meal is £18 per delegate. Please include details of any dietary requirements/allergies with your booking.