

# Keep the Spark

## Motivation & Retention in Focus

An event open to all ringers, organised by ART

Booking from January 2026 at [events.bellringing.org](http://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 <b>Reviving the spark</b> How to motivate people to continue or become bellringers <b>Dr Cheryl Travers</b>		
10.50 - 11.30	<b>1A Building a new band</b> <b>Jez Bowman</b>	<b>1B Safeguarding: It's what good people do</b> <b>Andrew North</b>	<b>1C What is the role of the hub?</b> <b>Matt Lawrence</b>
11.35 - 12.15	<b>2A Building a new band</b> <b>Jez Bowman</b>	<b>2B Safeguarding: It's what good people do</b> <b>Andrew North</b>	<b>2C What is the role of the hub?</b> <b>Matt Lawrence</b>
12.20 - 13.00	<b>Equal pull</b> The psychology and practical tips on teaching women and how this may differ, or not, from teaching men <b>Julia Cater</b>		
13:00 - 13.45	LUNCH ( <i>available to prebook</i> )		
13.45 - 14.30	<b>Inspirational leadership</b> The ripple effect: leadership that lasts <b>Elva Ainsworth</b>		
14.30 -15.20	<b>3A The ART of recruitment</b> <b>Moira Johnson</b>	<b>3B Step up your ringing journey</b> <b>Paul Lewis &amp; Dee Smith</b>	<b>3C Managing and motivating a team</b> <b>Ian and Louise Wilson</b>
15.20 - 16.10	<b>4A The ART of recruitment</b> <b>Moira Johnson</b>	<b>4B Step up your ringing journey</b> <b>Paul Lewis &amp; Dee Smith</b>	<b>4C Managing and motivating a team</b> <b>Ian and Louise Wilson</b>
16.10 - 16.20	TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE		
16.20 - 17.15	<b>Advancing the ART</b> How residential ringing courses and specialist training centres can help <b>Hayley Young, Lynne Hughes, Nikki Thomas. Individual presentations and Q&amp;A</b>		
17.15 -17.45	<b>Motivation and retention. What have we learnt so far?</b> <b>Close by Andrew Slade</b>		
17.45 -18.45	ART Awards ceremony Drinks and nibbles. <b>Sponsored by Leicester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers</b>		
From 19.00	CONFERENCE DINNER ( <i>must be prebooked</i> )		

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### Sunday 8 March – Conference

09.00 - 10.00	<b>Supporting local Sunday service ringing.</b> <i>List of towers to be arranged</i>	<b>An opportunity to ring on the foundry bells</b>	<b>Visit the Hope Bell</b>
09.00 - 10.00	<b>ART Tutors meeting</b> (current ART Tutors only)		
10.00 - 10.15	TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE		
10.15 - 11.00	<b>Saving the Red Zone</b> How to keep potential Red Zone ringers inspired, engaged, and moving forward with enthusiasm <b>Simon Linford</b>		
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Ringing 2030 unlocked: The journey, the jumps, and the jitters</b> Increasing local engagement with Ringing 2030 <b>Tina Stoecklin</b>		
11.30 - 12.15	<b>5A Ropes and how to avoid breaking them</b> <b>Philip Pratt</b>	<b>5B Keeping the bells and tower in good condition</b> <b>Simon Adams</b>	<b>5C Making the right connections</b> <b>Steve Farmer</b>
12.15 - 13.00	<b>6A Ropes and how to avoid breaking them</b> <b>Philip Pratt</b>	<b>6B Keeping the bells and tower in good condition</b> <b>Simon Adams</b>	<b>6C Making the right connections</b> <b>Steve Farmer</b>
13.00 - 13.30	LUNCH (available to prebook)		
13.30 - 14.15	<b>7A ART Assessors meeting</b> (current ART Assessors only) <b>Dee Smith</b>	<b>7B Rope splicing workshop</b> <b>John Newbold</b>	<b>7C An opportunity to ring on the foundry bells</b> <b>Sally Brown</b>
14.15 - 15.30	<b>Tour of the Loughborough foundry</b> <b>Sally Brown</b>		
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Best towers and ringers: how to keep your tower and band at its best</b> The view from the bridge <b>Neil Jones</b>		
16.00	<b>Event close</b>		
After 16:00	<b>Quarter peals at local churches and the Foundry</b> <b>Foundry bells</b> <b>Barrow in Soar</b> <b>Hathern</b> <b>Prestwold</b> <b>Loughborough Parish Church</b>  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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## Conference 2026

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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](http://bellringing.org/conference). If you have any questions, please contact: [conference@bellringing.org](mailto: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.