

# Young Ringers Hub “How To” guides



## Hosting an event for young people involving a mobile belfry

### Background

Using a mobile belfry is an engaging and fun way of introducing young people to what ringing is about. The Mobile Belfries Trust website sets out what they do and provides useful guidance on using mobile belfries.

### [The Mobile Belfries Trust – The Mobile Belfries Trust](#)

This guidance supplements the information in the Trust website, giving practical advice on how to prepare for and run a successful event for young ringers from school age to age 30, based on lessons learned from an event held at Rugby School and other feedback.

Events using mobile belfries are suitable for many youth demographics e.g. youth groups (scouts, guides, boys brigade etc) schools, universities, festivals etc



### Before the event

This link to the planning page of the Mobile Belfries Trust sets out some key things to consider when planning an event.

### [Planning – The Mobile Belfries Trust](#)

Below are some issues to consider in addition to the information on the website, based on experience at the Rugby School event:

“Site requirements” is very important and can make or break an event. At Rugby School we had a noise complaint and made some makeshift additional muffles using microfibre cloths and elastic bands! Supplementary chamois leather muffles can be provided if required.

Choose the location carefully and consider who may be affected, make sure that all are on board with the proposal and request the additional muffles if required.

“The Charmborough Ring” is quite challenging to put up and requires 6 people, who are strong and confident lifting heavy objects, to assemble it.

“Health & Safety”, including risk assessments, is the responsibility of the hirer to manage with support from the Trust.

“Safeguarding” is the responsibility of local organisers, so contact your local safeguarding officer for advice.

“Insurance & Security” The hirer will need to consider how best to look after the ring when it’s in their care when looking at the siting of the ring.

### Format of the event

Key things to consider include:

- What do you want to get out of the session(s) e.g. a taste of ringing
- Target age group / demographic
- Who will come and how do you manage attendance
- Time available
- Number of young people involved

At Rugby School, there were a number of activities that the children could sign up for as part of a wider event, which included ringing. Each group consisted of between 7 and 12 young people who were with us for 45 minutes. We did a short introduction, covering how a bell works (using a small model bell), physics, music and a did a short ringing demonstration. We then split each group in to 2 and let half of them have a go whilst the others did a word search and methoduku.

We also took the opportunity to invite the youth team and others who were interested to have a ring during the evenings, before and after the event.

### Logistics

Organising an event involves a lot of work beforehand and on the day. Some key pointers to consider:

- There needs to be an overall lead (organiser), who agrees who will do what, keeps tabs on progress and makes sure all are aware of what’s happening.
- An appropriate number of ringers (preferably those who can teach) are needed to run the event on the day. If there are 6 bells, you need 6 ringers plus someone in overall control to keep an eye on things / engage with any groups not ringing, deal with issues etc.

- Getting volunteers can be difficult, so ask your local guild for support in recruiting ringers for the event, including people to help put up / down the ring.
- Book the mobile ring in plenty of time and confirm availability and location before you enlist volunteers.
- The organiser will liaise with the Trust to get the ring delivered and collected at agreed times / locations, or delegate someone to do this.
- The organiser needs to make sure that someone is tasked with organising volunteers in plenty of time
- A communications plan is helpful to set out when to communicate with people, who needs communicating with (e.g. students, neighbours, volunteers) how this is done and who does it. Don't assume someone else is doing it!
- Attendance needs to be carefully managed by the overall lead e.g. when will students need to be enrolled, how do we manage drop outs, security arrangements etc.
- Agree a method of communication with those involved, so all are kept in the loop with arrangements. At Rugby School, we had a WhatsApp group for those involved on the day and shared information.



- You will also need able bodied people on hand who can climb ladders and deal with slipped wheels, lost backstrokes, apply additional muffles etc!

## Activity materials

Having activities for students to do when not ringing is useful. They are also useful “takeaways” to remind them.

There are lots of materials available that are suitable for young people. At Rugby School, we used the following

- [Bell diagram word search](#)



belldiagramwordse  
arch.pdf

- [Methodoku](#)

[Methodoku Mayhem](#)

[Methodoku Online](#)

[Introduction to Methodoku – Treble's Going](#)

A plentiful supply of pencils and something to lean on is important! Clip boards are good, especially if it's windy!

## Domestics

We were blessed with fabulous weather at Rugby School, but it's worth planning for all eventualities! Some pointers:

- Make sure there are drinks available
- The organiser needs to make sure the volunteers are fed!
- Seating is helpful to enable volunteers to rest
- Schedule in time for breaks
- Make sure everyone knows where the facilities are
- Thank you tokens for the volunteers are very well received
- Put up a gazebo if rain is forecast

## Recruitment

The youngsters were given a Central Council recruitment flyer to take away, which includes the ART “learn to ring” link, hence it doesn’t need customising.

[Learn to ring - bellringing.org](http://bellringing.org)

Ask your Guild or CC reps if you can borrow banners / flags for the event.

Talk to youngsters to raise awareness of ringing at university – there is a website address on the flyer.

If you’re arranging a university recruitment event, ART offers a sponsored University Recruitment Package to help with the event.

[University Recruitment Package - bellringing.org](http://bellringing.org)



*Contact the young ringers workgroup via [YR@cccbr.org.uk](mailto:YR@cccbr.org.uk) if you need any further advice and support and we'll do our best to help!*