

Facts about Bells & Ringing

Bells have been in use for at least 4000 years.

It is 'only' since the Reformation that bells started to be mounted on a wheel to make control easier.

Only in the last 400 years have full wheels, sliders and stays been installed to enable full control.

There are still bells in regular use in Britain which are over 400 years old.

Bell metal is approximately 77% copper and 23% tin.

The heaviest bell in a ring is the tenor and its weight is used to describe the bells. Thus St. Mary's, Storrington, has a "9 cwt. 6", in other words a ring of 6 bells of which the heaviest is 9cwt. (457kg). The lightest bell is called the Treble, in this tower it weighs 3 cwt (152kg).

Ringling has a vocabulary all its own. Changes rung on 4 bells are described as Minimus, on 5 Doubles, 6 Minor, 7 Triples, 8 Major and so on up to 16. Method names (tunes) include Grandsire, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, Kent Treble Bob, Cambridge.

Surprise. You'll learn to hunt, dodge, make places, lead right and wrong, snap - and what to do at a bob or single.