



ST JAMES BARROW BELLRINGERS

WOMBEL

(ONE-BELL SIMULATOR)



Westmorland & Furness Council



A collapsible and transportable bell-ringing simulator with audio-visual projector and screen, that can be set up in youth and community centres, and other public spaces to reach out to more members of the general public.

Available from summer 2024

For events organised throughout:

- Westmorland and Furness.
- Carlisle Diocesan Guild (CDGCBR) and by member towers.
- Lancashire Association (LACR) and by member towers.
- Other locations considered.

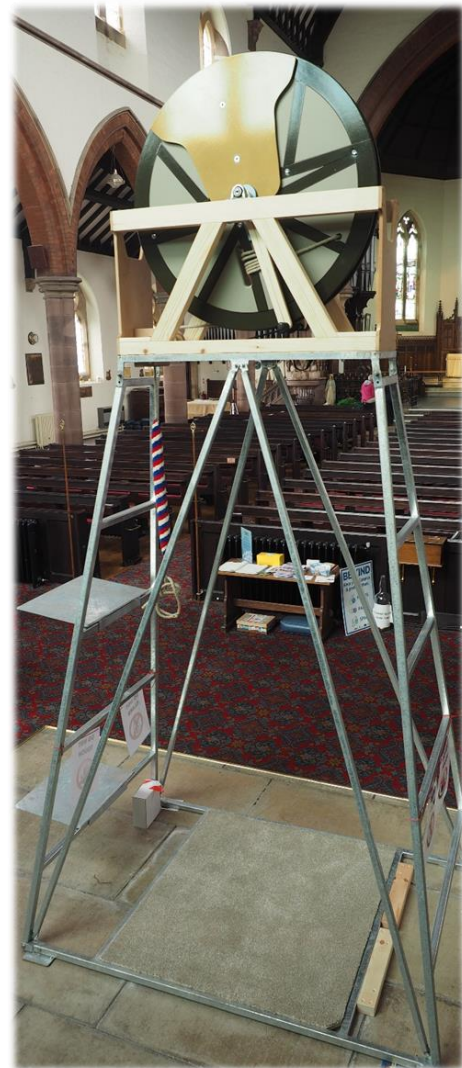
EDUCATION – Demonstrate bell-ringing and use the audio-visual capability to describe to the public what is taking place behind the scenes when they hear bell ringing.

Deliver an interesting, informative and illustrated talk, covering the basic mechanics, the history, the skills involved, and much more!

PROMOTION – use the latest bell-ringing promotional videos from the CCCBR, and talk about what makes bell-ringing such an enjoyable and fulfilling pastime, including friendships and the social aspects.

RECRUITMENT – describe the need for new recruits of all ages, and link with Pillar 1 of the CCCBR ringing 2030 campaign. Offer supervised ‘hands-on’ session and distribute handouts and contact information

TRAINING – Use the Wombel as a teaching aid to improve ringing and learn new methods (possibly with more bells or more complicated methods than you can ring at your home tower)



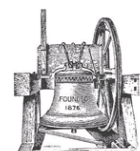
BAE SYSTEMS

ARRANGEMENTS – Applicant will be asked to provide details of their event (date, venue, contact, event title and description etc.). There are also some prerequisite assurances for risk assessments, safeguarding, public liability and responsibility for loss and damage.

TRANSPORT – The event organiser will need to arrange collection and return using a larger hatchback/estate car and roofbars. Reimbursement for fuel expenses may be possible from CDGCBR / LACR (To Be Confirmed)

DONATION – recommended donation of £35 per event to reinvest in repairs and ultimately replace.

Interested in finding out more?
Contact Andy Pollock at wombel@barrowbells.org.uk



Furness & South Lakeland Branch of LACR

The Potential Benefits of the Wombel

(in more detail)

The St James Barrow Bells Wombel aims to provide greater outreach into the community and support recruitment to increase the number of people of all backgrounds participating in the social and skilful heritage activity of bell ringing. The benefits described here may also assist when promoting events involving the Wombel on social media and local press/radio.

For a variety of reasons, it can frequently be a challenge to get individuals or groups of people to *visit a church* to learn about bellringing, the history and heritage, the mechanics, the skills, the healthy physical and mental activity, the social scene, and to take up change ringing as a fulfilling hobby.

One significant distinguishing factor and advantage of the Wombel is that it can be taken apart and transported using a larger hatchback/estate car that has roof bars, to engage the general public at venues away from church, on the 'home turf' of youth and community groups, civic centres and town halls, schools, shopping centres and other public spaces.

It can be used locally or across CDGCBR and LACR to demonstrate and invite participation of members of the public, often in conjunction with a presentation about all the facets of bellringing:

- 🔔 **DIRECT RECRUITMENT:** Many towers are struggling to recruit, with some ringers not returning after covid restrictions withdrawn, and others reluctant to venture out or come to a church to find out more. Many towers now have no regular bellringing sessions or too few bellringers, and recruitment is essential to reinvigorate and restore ringing, and continue to maintain ringers at a sustainable level for future resilience. This Wombel will allow us to reach out to people who would otherwise not consider bellringing as a pastime, and should help recruit people to strengthen the team of ringers in their locality. This may integrate with Ringing 2030 campaign that is under development by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) at <https://cccbr.org.uk/ringing-2030/>.
- 🔔 **HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT:** More members of the public will learn about the heritage of bellringing – both history and mechanics of the art of bellringing and how we can interact and participate in a heritage activity. Bellringing has a dynamic and exciting mechanical arrangement that few people know much about, and Wombel demonstrations and presentations will educate and myth-bust.
- 🔔 **SKILLS EDUCATION:** Bellringing is an intrinsically skilful activity, and educational presentations along with *interactive* demonstrations, recruitment, and tuition using the Wombel can inform and teach these skills. Members of the public can appreciate of the skill involved when they hear bells as a result of using Wombel to explain bellringing. The public often find an event more memorable when they get the opportunity to 'have a go' (under close supervision) which can now be done at their venue.
- 🔔 **PROMOTION:** Bellringing is an inclusive physical and mental activity that helps keep minds sharp and active, while also involving some physical activity. A team activity with a great social aspect where people make lifelong friendships and enjoy social gatherings inside and outside bellringing. When visiting places or moving home, ringers can also expect a warm welcome at towers across the UK and abroad in places where they ring with the English tradition. All can contribute to positive wellbeing.
- 🔔 **INDIRECT EDUCATION AND RECRUITMENT:** Presentations with the Wombel can help raise awareness and plant a seed even in those that have no intention to learn immediately. They may respond more favourably to a future recruitment campaign or at least help indirectly pass on more informed comment about the heritage skills to friends, relatives, and colleagues/peers.
- 🔔 **COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** Recruitment and continued training should improve the number of bellringers and the standard of ringing in the medium to long term, making bellringing more rewarding for the ringers and enjoyable to listen to by the community (practice, services, weddings + special occasions).

Made possible by nearly £4,400 contributions from the Westmorland & Furness Council "Micro to Mighty" grant (underwritten by the National Lottery Heritage Fund); BAE Systems Community Investment Fund; Diocese of Carlisle Digital Innovation Fund; Furness & South Lakeland branch of the LACR; and St Hames Barrow Bellringers.

