

University Ringing



Organising Socials

Produced by the CCCBR Young Ringers Workgroup

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1. Where to Start

Arranging social activities that don't involve ringing can be a daunting task. You may be well-versed at standing in a circle of apprehensive silence together, but will that chemistry transfer beyond the ringing chamber? Thankfully, we've put together a guide:

1.1 Make it a Committee Role!

For looking at organising socials more generally, a great place to start is assigning responsibility. Especially for larger societies, trying to make group arrangements can be tiresome, particularly while organising ringing! Having a social secretary (or similar) role in your committee will share the workload while also presenting a great opportunity to get new recruits involved in the society, as the role can be given to anyone with any level of ringing experience.

1.2 Find a Date and Time

Before making any concrete plans, gauge availability and interest in your social. Polls can be an especially good way to do this. It might be that your chosen date takes place in reading week and most of your members have gone home, or there might be a particularly important computer science exam coming up. These are things you want to establish as early as possible.

1.3 Find a Suitable Location

Of course, the location of the social will be heavily dependent on the activity. For general socials, such as board game or quiz nights, a familiar venue, such as a committee member's house, can be a good option. Ensure the location is easily accessible by public transport, or that lifts can be readily provided.



TIP

Be sensitive about money – students are often operating on a tight budget and it is important that, wherever possible, no one feels excluded because a social is outside of their budget.

2. When to Organise

Generally, it's good to aim for around two non-ringing socials per term. Below are some suggestions for good occasions for these, based on feedback from different ringing societies:

2.1 Autumn Term

- I) Start of the Year – important for integrating any new members of the society into the group, especially where you have lots of new ringers
- II) Halloween – Mid-way through the term **and** a brilliant excuse to dress-up
- III) Christmas – End of the term, makes for a great opportunity for Secret Santa

2.2 Spring Term

- I) Burns Night
- II) Pancake Day

Both of these speak for themselves as great excuses to get together and eat food

2.3 Summer

By this point in the year socials may be more challenging to organise – most students will have exams, and many will start to go home once these are finished. Try to gauge who is likely to be around when. Just after the end of exams could be the perfect time for an end of year social.

3. Ideas for Socials

Below are some examples of socials organised by various university ringing societies

3.1 General Socials

- I) Meals Out
- II) Bar Crawls
- III) Quiz Nights
- IV) Board Games
- V) Film Nights



Be mindful about socials centred around alcohol (such as bar crawls) as it can make people uncomfortable and sometimes those who don't drink may feel isolated.

3.2 Seasonal

- I) Secret Santa – there are many websites that can be used to manage the logistics of this, such as <https://www.drawnames.co.uk/>
- II) Christmas Dinner
- III) Post-practice pancakes
- IV) Summer BBQ

3.3 Activities

- I) Ice Skating
- II) Climbing
- III) Bowling
- IV) Mini Golf



TIP

Take lots of photos from socials! Then upload them to a joint-Committee folder – this will be incredibly helpful when it comes to social media posts and designing leaflets for recruitment.

Conclusion

What socials you choose to organise when will be entirely dependent on the interests of your society members. Here, we've provided some examples of what various ringing societies arrange for their socials. The main thing is of course making a consistent effort to plan non-ringing activities, whatever these may be, and making them as inclusive as possible – by following these examples, you can't go too far wrong!