



Rutland Bell-Ringers Newsletter

March 2021

Return to Ringing

The Government's announcement of the roadmap for the country to leave lockdown has been discussed by the CCCBR and the CofE Recovery team. Dates remain open to change and further details will emerge, but there is a plan to open up ringing in accordance with the easing of lockdown nationally.

The update from Simon Linford can be found on page 2

Alternatively see <https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/02/26/roadmap-to-ringing-resumption/>

Limited ringing may be able to start as of 17th May, which is still some way off, but we could well be ringing come summer, and that has to be cause for optimism.

Safety - Preparing to ring again

Now is the time to plan a tower inspection, write or revisit your risk assessment and keep in touch with your band. Many of our bells haven't been rung during the last 12 months, our Branch Steward reminds us that it is essential that tower inspections are carried out before any ringing re-commences. Regular inspections are preferable to one off checks.

PLUS... record your visit and the findings... and what action has been taken or is needed.

The Tower Captains and Steeple Keepers among you may have a copy of the *Manual of Belfry Maintenance* published by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers; it was last amended in 2020 and includes a helpful maintenance checklist. (sent as a separate attachment).

"I am available to assist, either in discussion, or in person if required, but it is always worth repeating that keeping the gear in good order will make ringing easier and safer". *Ted Phillips. Steward*

Subscriptions

Payments are due now for 2021. If you haven't yet paid please see the form on page 4 and get in touch with Sue Baker, Membership Secretary.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme to be extended!

Nigel Huddleston MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at DCMS, announced on 24th February 2021, that 'the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be renewed this year on the same terms as it operated previously. This scheme will continue to benefit listed places of worship across the country during these difficult times. It will also help to ensure that they are able to reopen fully once it is safe to do so.

Items for the next newsletter to Sue Webster
by Wednesday 31st March
suevw@sky.com

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Webmaster: Peter Furness
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CCCBR

<https://cccbbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Latest Update 26 February 2021

On Monday 22 February, the UK Government published a roadmap for exiting lockdown over the coming months, detailing how and when restrictions will be eased if everything goes to plan. It is a welcome and cautious framework for a return to normality. The roadmap provides us with an opportunity for ringing to return over the coming months.

While there is still detail to be studied, and every chance of change, all indications are that ringing in England at least will come out of lockdown as follows:

Stage 1 – 29 March

Rule of six outdoors will benefit handbell ringing (up to 15 for young people)

Stage 2 – no earlier than 12 April

Young ringers groups possible following the 'out of school settings' guidance (expect social distancing restrictions)

Stage 3 – no earlier than 17 May

Rule of six indoors enables ringing subject to social distancing rules to be confirmed (could still be 2m)

Stage 4 – no earlier than 21 June

All legal limits removed

(it remains to be seen whether facemasks will still be suggested or mandated – that is not absolutely clear yet)

During any of these stages, ringers may still be cautious as not all ringers will be vaccinated, particularly young people. There is still risk of transmission and infection for us to be aware of; vaccination is not a passport. An article will be published in next week's Ringing World with updated analysis of transmission in ringing chambers and the benefits of ventilation. This will just be for guidance though to be interpreted in accordance with local circumstances – the law will be the primary driver for what ringing is possible.

Yesterday's announcement applies to England only, and so we continue to work closely with our contacts in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales to understand the situation here over the coming weeks. Scotland for instance has rule of six outdoors from 5 April and churches reopening for limited numbers from that date also. Then from 26 April at the earliest Scotland intends to go back to a "tiers" system of local restrictions.

This is the clearest we can be at the moment based on the information available, and after discussion with the Church of England Recovery Group this afternoon. It is a roadmap, with more detail to be considered as we move forward. We appreciate ringers are all now starting to plan ringing events from late June onwards, and being asked whether bells will be available for weddings, etc. The main word of caution is that the Government is at pains to stress that these dates are the earliest possible, so commitments made for shortly after those deadlines should be made with that in mind.

It does now feel like the end of an incredibly difficult year for ringing is in sight. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Simon Linford

President, CCCBR

PDGCBR

From the Guild Secretary

That's interesting...

Another television visit to Inverary to see the bells. This time Paul Murton is visiting different Scottish Lochs and drops in to the bell tower. Starts at ~ 23 minutes in. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000spt7>
Plain bob to place bells. A different way of learning. <https://youtu.be/unrDlwf6oKk>

Another video showing the links between bellringing and maths. You may not have been an A* student, but you are using maths and group theory every time you ring. You can feel very smug about that. <https://youtu.be/EHRZswpnnxU>

The smallest people can ring the biggest bells. Even if that's not your aim, this lets you in to some of the tips to ring more efficiently. https://youtu.be/ik4KuWgM_g8

Let's Get Outside

The church is running a "Let's get out in Lent" campaign to connect with nature. That's good for the soul regardless of your religious inclination. So get yourself outside, hug a tree, smell the flowers and connect to nature in all its glory. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S3J_IJETNPPZC5LGiKcC4372G5q2GP5D/view

Central Council updates.

The President is clearly feeling his age. The 80s are olden times, discuss? The 80s were my formative years so perhaps we'd better not... <https://cccbr.org.uk/2021/02/23/presidents-blog-28/>

For those looking to arrange work or fund raising, the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme is to continue.

What's next on the reading list?

I'm a bit of a bookworm. I'm sure most ringers have heard of Dorothy L Sayers' book "The Nine Tailors", which has a ringing theme. But what other books are there that mention ringing?

Bats in the Belfry by ECR Lorac maybe??

I bought it based on the title, but that misleads slightly. The Belfry in question is the name of a tower, and there are no bells beyond doorbells. Good mystery though.

Available from British Library Crime Classics series.

<https://shop.bl.uk/products/bats-in-the-belfry-a-london-mystery>

Next week is the Guild Management Committee. Your branch Chair and GMC rep should be attending. Get any thoughts and comments to them, so that your views are heard.

Thanks

Helen

Helen Allton

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Dear fellow Rutland branch bellringer,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

Following a terrible 2020 and hardships for many people, it is really important that we keep our bell ringing community together and are ready to spring back into life when we can. The Rutland branch committee understand how important ringing is for many people as a healthy pastime, a social event and for intellectual stimulation. We will continue to work hard to keep the wonderful tradition alive in whatever way possible. As an example the Chairman, Alan Wordie, is working on some focussed theory "discussion sessions" via Zoom.

As membership secretary my role is to try and keep the number of ringers at the level needed to sustain bands in all towers. The committee we will make sure that people feel safe to ring and are informed and supported in their experience. In this the tower captains also play a vital role. I would like to focus on recruitment this year and any suggestions you may have will be very welcome.

We have to register all ringers with the Guild and the small subscription we all pay is divided between the Guild and Rutland Branch. The Guild has been incredibly active during the Covid-19 crisis. It has made sure that bell ringing is not overlooked and produced guidance for ringing, following discussions with the various church and bell ringing governing bodies.

Subscriptions for 2021 are due on the First of January and I urge you to make your payment as soon as possible. Please also consider rounding up your payment by including a donation. Despite not currently being able to ring there is much work going on in the background and we need to be prepared to restart as soon as we get the green light.

Please make sure your contact details are up to date. If your details have changed please submit a new form (attached) by e-mail to susanbaker144@gmail.com or by post to 14 Forth Close, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JW and indicate whether you are happy to receive information such as the monthly newsletter by email (or post).

Payment details are as follows

Membership type :-

1. Adult under state retirement age Subscription £7.00 + Donation
2. Full time education Subscription £3.50 + Donation
3. Adult over state retirement age Donation (Suggest £7.00 as per normal subscription)

PLEASE pay by BACS transfer wherever possible in order to reduce human contact with cheques etc.

Sort code 40-43-05 Account Number 31507540

Please use your surname and tower as the reference, and inform Simon Forster that you have paid online. (forster.ketton@talktalk.net tel: 01780 720802).

Cheques should be made payable to PDGCBR-Rutland Branch.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Kind regards

Sue

Sue Baker, Membership Secretary