

RINGING REMEMBERS



1,400 bell ringers died during the First World War. You can honour their memory 100 years after the end of the war by becoming one of 1,400 new bell ringers and joining others across the nation in ringing on the centenary of the Armistice in

Just after the war ended, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) wrote to all ringing associations across the country to compile the Rolls of Honour. At the time 1,077 men were reported as lost. During the First World War Centenary the CCCBR has been reviewing this list and has discovered a further 323 bell ringers who died in service. In total 1,400 bell ringers lost their lives.

Bell ringing is a British tradition and the British Isles are home to a distinctive style of bell ringing called 'change ringing' which produces a peal of bells, part of our national 'soundscape'. Most people don't realise that outside the British Isles change ringing towers are few and far between. While the British Isles has some 5,500 change ringing towers, the rest of the world put together has less than 150.

Bell ringing is woven into the fabric of our society, marking rites of passage in our lives including christenings, weddings and funerals. It often marks and forms part of important local occasions and national celebrations – recently this has included the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics and Paralympics and the Lumiere light festival in Durham. Bell ringers have regular competitions, and often come together to ring just for the joy of it. Although bell towers are commonly in churches, you don't have to go to church to be a bell ringer. Bell ringers are a friendly, inclusive community with people of all faiths and none. With 5,500 bell towers in Britain, there's at least one near you!

WHY JOIN RINGING REMEMBERS?

By joining the project you will – Be part of a unique nationwide project to honour the 1,400 bell ringers lost during the First World War – Learn a new skill that is both a sport and an art, social, a mental exercise and good for focus and fitness – Be part of a local community and connect with an ancient British tradition – Have the opportunity to ring with others across the country on 11 November, marking the centenary of the Armistice.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

It's simple to get involved in Ringing Remembers:

Step 1: Contact your local Tower Captain Linda Goodban,
e.mail: linda@rodbridge.com or mobile: 07786 151650

Step 2: Learn to ring! Training usually takes place once a week for one to two hours but some fast track courses are also available. It takes an average of three months to learn to ring, although some people pick it up faster than others.

RING FOR THE ARMISTICE 100

By joining Ringing Remembers you will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to ring a bell on the Armistice Centenary. When the bells rang out on 11 November 1918 they announced the end of the most catastrophic war the world had yet seen. At that time, bells were at the heart of the community, marking events of great significance and as a means of communication long before modern technology connected us. At the end of the war, many people heard about the Armistice through bell ringing. Mark the centenary of the end of the war by ringing with your community and others across the nation in November 2018.

