

## Ringling for Public Events – 2015 update

The first article on ringing for public events two years ago (RW 2011 p935) described the long history of ringing for the community as well as for the Church, and introduced the ‘Things to Ring For’ service on the Central Council website. As well as lists of church festivals, saint’s days and annual secular celebrations it lists many notable anniversaries of historic events coming up during the next few years.

Seeing future events that may generate public interest, either (inter)nationally or locally, lets you plan ahead if you want to link ringing to them, and especially if you can use the occasion to generate local coverage and interest in your ringing. Obviously some of the events are more significant than others, and by providing an eclectic list, we hope there will be something for everyone.

As well as this trickle of minor events, there are two major anniversaries in 2015 for which we want to encourage widespread ringing: the 300th anniversary of the first recorded peal in 1715 and the 800th anniversary of sealing Magna Carta in June 1215. Magna Carta will receive a lot of publicity in the media and the Great Ringing Day (Sunday 14th) enables ringers to take a share of the publicity, albeit in a supporting role. The anniversary of the first peal presents quite a different opportunity and challenge because we ringers need to create the publicity. If we can do that then it will place ringing centre stage, not just as part of the supporting cast.

Both events require co-ordinated action by the ringing community, and will be the subject of separate articles. The Central Council will create publicity at national level and we will supply material that ringing societies and tower bands can use to generate their own local publicity.

What else is coming up? January sees the 750th anniversary of the first English parliament (Tuesday 20th), which may be a useful warm up for Magna Carta. March sees the 125th anniversary of that Scottish rail icon and product of British engineering – the Forth Rail Bridge (Wednesday 4th). It is the 70th anniversary of the end of the second World War (VE Day Friday 8th May & VJ Day Saturday 15th August). July sees the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice in Wonderland* (Saturday 4th) which might appeal to those who don’t fancy ringing for the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo (Thursday 18th June) or the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt (Sunday 25th October).

Looking further ahead in 2016 we can celebrate the 40th anniversary of Concorde's first commercial flight (January) and we can mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death (April). We may also wish to support our fellow church musicians on the 60th anniversary of the Friends of Cathedral Music (June). We also hope to have major ringing to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday (April).

For details of these and much more, see: [cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for](http://cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for). If you haven’t already done so you might also like to look at the pages of advice and information about getting the public engaged with and informed about ringing, at: [cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/](http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/)

John Harrison (on behalf of CC PR Committee)