

Ringling for Public Events – 2016 update

It is five years since the Central Council introduced the ‘Things to Ring For’ service on the Council website. It lists both major events for which the public will expect there to be ringing and lesser events that ringers may wish to mark with ringing. It should help ringers plan ahead – both their ringing and associated local coverage to publicise and generate interest in it. The list aims to be eclectic so it should provide something for everyone. 2015 was a busy year with lots of high profile events, so what does 2016 have to offer?

The most notable event of 2016 (in UK and the Commonwealth) will be the Queen’s 90th birthday. As so often with royal events there will be two opportunities to mark it. The birthday itself is on Thursday 21st April but the official celebrations will be over the weekend of 10th - 12th June (the weekend of her ‘official birthday’ and Trooping the Colour). Widespread ringing has been requested by The Palace, particularly during the ‘Patron’s Lunch’ between noon and 2pm on the Sunday. For more information and links to national publicity keep an eye on: cccbr.org.uk/pr/queens90th

What else is coming up? January 6th sees the 950th anniversary Harold being crowned King of England – and his untimely end at the Battle of Hastings on October 14th, followed by the coronation of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day. February 18th is the 500th anniversary of Mary Tudor’s birth and April 23rd is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. It is often assumed to be his birthday as well but there is no hard evidence to support that. Finally (if you want to celebrate science rather than royalty, battles or literature) Newton discovered gravity some time in 1666. No one knows exactly when so if you want to mark the 350th anniversary just pick your own date.

With a more ringing flavour, you ring something during the special weekend of 23-24 April that is being arranged to mark the 125th anniversary of the Council’s first meeting (31 Mar) and the centenary of the death of its founder Sir A P Heywood (20 Apr).

Looking further ahead, 2017 looks quieter than recent years but there is the 60th anniversary of the start of the space age with the launch of Sputnik, and the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 'Ninety Five Themes', which began the Protestant Reformation.

For details of these and much more, see: 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/

John Harrison (on behalf of CC PR Committee)