

Ringling for Public Events – 2017 update

It is six 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. Its aim is to help ringers plan ahead – both their ringing and the associated local publicity to generate interest in it. The list is eclectic and should provide something for everyone. So what does 2017 have to offer?

Compared to the high profile events of 2015 & 2016, the historic anniversaries in 2017 are much more modest, so the main opportunity for a programme of national ringing will be St George’s Day, which falls on the Sunday after Easter.

2017 is still within the centenary of the First World War and many bands will wish to mark the centenary of the deaths of local ringers with appropriate ringing. One anniversary of possible national interest is 29 November, which was the only time that ringing was allowed during the war. This was to mark a successful advance, using tanks, on the first day of the Battle of Cambrai (20 November – 7 December) though by the end of the battle much of that gain had been lost.

What else is coming up? It’s 60 years since the launch of Sputnik (4 Oct). It’s 150 years since the first ship passed through the Suez Canal (17 Feb) and Alfred Nobel patented dynamite (25 Nov). And it’s 500 years since Martin Luther’s ‘Ninety Five Themes’ began the Protestant Reformation. Notable births include: in 1867 Wilbur Wright (8 Jun), Stanley Baldwin (3 Aug), Michael Faraday (25 Aug) and in 1817 Hiram R Revels (27 Sep) who was the first African American US senator. 1817 also saw the death of Jane Austen (18 Jul).

Looking beyond next year to 2018 there are more notable anniversaries, including Armistice Day (11 Nov) at the end of the First World War, which will clearly attract a lot of special ringing. Other anniversaries during 2018 include:

- ‘Equality’ anniversaries: First women to get the vote (100th), Equal voting rights for women & men (90th), First female peers in the House of Lords (60th).
- Science & technology anniversaries: First human blood transfusion (200th), First traffic signals in Britain (150th).
- Ringing anniversaries: First peal of Grandsire Triples (300th), Death of James Barham, conductor of the 1761 extent of Major rung in relays (200th), Death of Paul Revere, the American bell founder (200th).

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 – see website at: cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/

John Harrison (on behalf of Central Council PR Committee)

Post Script

1000th anniversary – if you are quick

When I came across the latest issue of Ringing Around Devon, I was delighted to see an article headed: ‘Things to Ring For’. At least one satisfied customer I thought, but the opening paragraph deflated me slightly by pointing out the ‘glaring omission’ of the 1000th anniversary on 30 November of Canute (aka Cnut / Cnud) becoming King of England. (Had the author told me earlier it would have been rapidly added!)

However all isn’t lost – the article went on to mention that Canute was crowned in London on 6 January 1017. So if you are quick there’s time to ring for that. It’s the first 1000th anniversary we’ve listed in Things To Ring For, and apart from the Millennium back in 2000 it’s unlikely that many ringers have rung for a 1000th anniversary. So if you are free on Friday 6th January, why not try ring something – and publicise it locally of course.

Please note we are keen to include as many important dates as possible, so if please get in touch if anyone spots a noteworthy anniversary that we have missed.

John Harrison