

(Suggested email subject line: PRESS RELEASE: Local bellringers mark Magna Carta anniversary)

PRESS RELEASE

Washpath bellringers mark Magna Carta in 800 ways

There will be some special ringing heard on the bells of St Petrock's church on Sunday 14th June, when the bells are rung in 800 combinations. For about half an hour starting at midday, all the local bellringers are to take part. They will ring 'methods' or called changes, to build up a total of 800 different changes. From Octogenarian Albert Hardy, who remembers ringing for the Queen's coronation, through to the recently recruited Fidler family, all will be proud to add their bit.

"We will be ringing as part of a nationwide 'Great Ringing Day' to mark the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta" said Tower Captain Olivia Baker. "We liked the idea of doing something connected with the number 800, and of involving all our ringers."

800 years ago the sealing of Magna Carta by King John for the barons marked the beginning of modern times, where a monarch does not wield absolute power. Bell ringers throughout Britain and beyond are joining in celebrations of the anniversary. Visitors are encouraged to come and watch the ringers and listen to the performance at 3 pm on Sunday, to coincide with many people around the country and beyond holding *LiberTeas* tea parties to celebrate, debate and reflect on those rights which we can very often take for granted. A special book will be available for signing, as a historic record of all who came to listen on the day.

St Petrock's bellringers practise at the church every Wednesday evening at 7 pm and anyone interested in coming along to see what is going on is always very welcome. For more information contact Olivia Baker on 01234 56789. Alternatively, those wishing to find out more about the art of bellringing can visit the Discover Bell Ringing website (bellringing.org).

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