



PRESS RELEASE

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Bell ringers are a-pealing to new students

Student bell ringers are offering new students the chance to take part in a long standing student tradition through a new website at universityringing.org.

University bell ringing societies are among the longest-standing student groups (the Oxford University Society of Change Ringers was founded in 1872, and its Cambridge equivalent in 1879: the University of Bristol Society started in 1944, and the University of London ringers are celebrating their 70th anniversary this year), and now student societies across the country are working together to invite new ringers to join them in over 50 towns and cities. Details are given at universityringing.org.

Jacqui Brown of the University of London ringers created the website on behalf of bellringing's Central Council. 'Ringing is great fun!' she said.

'There are about 40,000 bellringers in the UK, and 40,000 people can't be wrong! With that many ringers, it's a great hobby socially too. No matter where you go in the UK, you're never far from a tower with bells and a band of ringers who will welcome you – including at the pub afterwards!'

Lillian Halewood, a student midwife, is secretary of the Liverpool Universities ringers. 'Our ringers come from across Liverpool's student population. Some have learnt to ring before coming to university: others – such as Suzie, who is from Changsha in South-Central China – have learnt with us.'

Robert Beavis, the Master of the University of Bristol ringers explained a typical week: 'We ring every Tuesday evening during term-time at a city church, then we go for a friendly drink at a near-by pub. We also join other ringers for Sunday ringing, which is followed by another friendly drink!'

Student ringing can be more than just a passing social activity: Jacqui Brown recently celebrated her first wedding anniversary with Chris, a fellow member of the University of London ringers.

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