



Radio Interview Guide

Talking About Bellringing During Heritage Open Days

Local radio is a fantastic way to reach people who may have never considered visiting a church tower or learning to ring. Interviews are usually informal and conversational, so don't worry about having all the answers. Speak naturally, be enthusiastic, and enjoy sharing your passion for bellringing.

Before Your Interview

Remember three simple messages:

1. We're welcoming everyone.

Heritage Open Days are an opportunity for people to explore places that are not usually open to the public and discover what happens behind the scenes.

2. Bellringing is a living tradition.

Church bellringing is an active skill that continues to be taught, practised, and enjoyed by volunteers across the country.

3. Anyone can get involved.

You don't need musical experience or previous knowledge. Bellringing welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds, and many towers are always pleased to welcome new learners.

Interview Tips

- Speak naturally and imagine you're chatting with a friend.
- Share your own experiences and why you enjoy ringing.
- Keep your answers clear and concise.
- Smile while you're talking—it often comes across in your voice.
- If you don't know an answer, it's perfectly fine to say so.
- Avoid technical jargon where possible, or explain it in simple terms.
- Remember that you're representing your local tower and community—enthusiasm is infectious!

Common Questions

What is Heritage Open Days?

"Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture. It's an opportunity for people to explore places that aren't always open to the public, and we're delighted to welcome visitors into our church tower to discover the fascinating world of bellringing."

Why should people visit your tower?

"Most people hear church bells regularly but never get the chance to see how they're rung. Visitors can climb the tower, meet the bellringers, learn how the bells work, hear about the history of the church, and discover the teamwork involved in change ringing."

What exactly is change ringing?

"Unlike playing a tune, change ringing is about ringing bells in continuously changing sequences, with each ringer controlling one bell. It requires concentration, teamwork, and practice, but it's incredibly rewarding and enjoyable."

Do you have to be musical?

"Not at all! That's probably the biggest misconception. Bellringing is much more about rhythm, teamwork, and learning a practical skill than having musical ability. Anyone can learn with patient teaching."

Who can become a bellringer?

"Almost anyone! Bellringers come from all walks of life and all age groups. We have students, teachers, engineers, retirees, healthcare workers, and families ringing together. Everyone is welcome."

Why are church bells still important today?

"Church bells continue to mark important moments in our communities, from weekly worship to weddings, remembrance services, national celebrations, and local events. They're a familiar and much-loved sound that connects people with their church and community."

What do you enjoy most about bellringing?

For example:

"For me, it's the friendships and sense of achievement. Every time you ring, you're working together as a team, learning something new, and helping continue a tradition that's been part of our community for centuries."

How can someone get involved?

"We're always delighted to welcome new people. Visitors can come along during Heritage Open Days to find out more, or contact us afterwards if they'd like to have a go. Most people are surprised by just how welcoming and supportive the bellringing community is."

Key Messages to Remember

- Bellringing is a **living tradition** kept alive by volunteers.
- Heritage Open Days offer a rare chance to go **Behind the Bells**.
- Bellringing is welcoming, social, and open to beginners.
- You don't need musical experience to learn.
- Church bells continue to play an important role in worship and community life.
- Today's visitors could become tomorrow's bellringers.