

## Ringling for Public Events – 2018 update

The ‘Things to Ring For’ service on the Council website is now seven years old. It lists many events that ringers might wish to mark with ringing, as well as the few major events for which the public will expect there to be ringing. Its aim is to help ringers plan ahead – not just the ringing but also associated local publicity to help generate interest in ringing. The list is eclectic and should provide something for everyone. So what does 2018 have to offer?

November will see the centenary of the end of hostilities in the First World War. In 2018 Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday coincide to provide a focus for commemoration. This will be an event of national significance, with special ringing on the day, as the culmination of the many performances that have been rung during the last four years in memory of individuals who were killed in the war. Plans for nationwide ringing are being co-ordinated with government and other bodies, as described in *Ringling for Peace – Armistice 100* (p1103)

Other military related anniversaries include: 100th of the formation of the Royal Air Force (1 Apr), 75th of the wartime ringing ban being lifted for service ringing (25 Apr).

What else is coming up? There are three ‘equality’ anniversaries: 100th of the first women to get the vote (6 Feb), 90th of equal voting rights for women & men (2 Jul) and 60th of the first female peers in the House of Lords (21 Oct). There are two science & technology anniversaries: 200th of the first human blood transfusion (25 Sep) and 150th of the first traffic signals in Britain (10 Dec). There are three literary anniversaries: the 200th of the publication of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1 Jan), the 200th of Emily Bronte’s birth (20 Jul) and the 175th of the publication of Dickens’ *Christmas Carol* (19 Dec).

For those who want to publicise events connected directly with ringing there are three anniversaries: 300th of the first peal of Grandsire Triples (26 Aug), 200th of the death of James Barham, who conducted the 1761 extent of Major rung in relays (14 Jan) and the 200th of the death of Paul Revere, the American bell founder made famous by Longfellow’s poem *Paul Revere’s Ride* (8 May).

Looking beyond next year, 2019 sees the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci’s death and a lot of birth anniversaries: Arthur Wellesley (Duke of Wellington) – 250, Queen Victoria – 200, Charles Kingsley (Water Babes) – 200 and Sir Henry Wood (Proms) – 150. Add in the first appearance of Noddy – 70 and Concorde’s first flight – 50, so there should be something for everyone.

For details of these and much more, see: [cccbr.org.uk/things-to-ring-for](http://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/](http://cccbr.org.uk/pr/advice/)

*John Harrison (Central Council PR Committee)*