

St Georges Day Ringing 2010 and beyond

Dear Bell Captains, PROs, Secretaries, and all WONDERFUL BELL RINGERS, and any others involved in the 2010 Ringing for England campaign.

The response to the Campaign was beyond expectation. You all came forward with tremendous enthusiasm and rang your hearts out for the celebration of our Patron Saint. I have been deeply impressed and much humbled by your many e mails of support for which may I offer my sincerest gratitude.

The conclusion drawn from all your hard work is that we should continue and try and make the event into a permanent fixture for 23rd April and thus create a 'tradition' so that when the public think of St.George's Day they will automatically link it with Bell Ringing and thus the sound of England.

There is, however, a slight quandry over next year. April 23rd falls into Holy Week as Easter will be the latest it has ever been since 1859, and thus no bells, by tradition, are ever rung. The mechanism for such a problem is to delay the ringing to the first Monday in May - Bank Holiday. Whilst it skips the actual day, it would allow more ringers to reach their towers, and it would also draw the public's attention to the fact that May 1st used to be an English celebration before it was hi jacked by politicians.

I wondered whether I could call upon your assistance in requesting feed back so that I may iron out any faults or difficulties in time for next year. First of all may I ask you to sound out your Associations, Branches, Towers whether carrying on with the Campaign is in general agreement. Whether there were any specific communications problems and if so what were they. Whether there are local radio stations, local newspapers specific to individual areas and if so could I please have as much contact information as possible. I tried my very best to get as much publicity nationwide as possible but so often in order to get a 'hit' a named individual is so often more successful so if I could have their details then I can concentrate more specifically. This also goes for radio stations. Obviously some are more popular than others and it would be a great help so these could be targeted.

For your information we were on 25 BBC Regional Radio breakfast shows. With regard to television I am afraid the Election took precedence so too some of the local newspapers as a result only a few took it up. I am hoping equipped with better information this will change. With regard to the future and for next year I am about to have meetings with the BBC who are very keen to develop the idea., I also have other ideas in the pipeline. However, before progressing too far down the line I would be far happier if I had the reassurance of your Ringers that this was the right way to go. I would be most most grateful for any feedback.

With all my Very Best Wishes - Libby