



Ringing World National Youth Contest

Young ringers to make big noise in York

The 3rd annual Ringing World National Youth Contest will take place in York on Saturday July 6 2013. Sixteen teams of young bellringers from across England will compete for the Whitechapel Trophy. The contest itself will be held on the eight bells at St Lawrence's church, Lawrence Street, whilst the competitors and their supporters will also be able to ring the bells at other churches across the city centre.

The headquarters for the day will be St Helen's church, on the corner of Stonegate and Davygate, where a miniature ring of bells will be erected especially for the event. Ringing will also take place at St Martin-le-Grand, Coney Street, All Saints', North Street, St Olave's, Marygate and St Wilfrid's, Duncombe Place, whilst a series of Treasure Hunt-style clues will lead participants around the city sights.

All 128 competitors are aged 18 or under. Two of the sixteen teams are representing areas of Yorkshire, and other entrants are travelling from as far afield as the Isle of Wight and Gloucestershire. The contest is being judged by Simon Linford, a well-known expert bellringer from Birmingham, along with three accomplished young York-based ringers, Helen Beaumont, David Leese and Ryan Mills. The results and presentation ceremony will take place at 5.15pm in St Michael-le-Belfrey, Deangate.

The Ringing World (www.ringingworld.co.uk) has been the international weekly journal for Church Bell Ringers since 1911, and the National Youth Contest was started as part of its centenary celebrations to promote the art among youngsters. The magazine's Editor, Robert Lewis, says: *"Although people can learn to ring at almost any stage of life, those who start early, between the ages of around 10 to 18, tend to go on to become the most effective Tower Captains, Conductors and Ringing Teachers in adult life - so we think it is vital to give those young ringers some real goals to aim for early on. The contest also gives young ringers an excellent incentive to meet up, socialise and practise together within their own local regions."*

The Whitechapel Trophy has been generously donated by The Whitechapel Bellfoundry (www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk), the oldest manufacturing company in the UK, dating back to 1570, and the founders of Big Ben, the Royal Jubilee Bells and the famous Bow Bells. It will be presented to the winning team by Alan Hughes, Whitechapel's Managing Director and co-owner.

For more information, including high-quality photographs, contact David Hull, 07884 188965, davidghull@gmail.com, or go to rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk



The Whitechapel Trophy