

Derbyshire Scouts County Bellringing Badge Update and NEW 'How To Guide'

Just over 1 year in and the new Derbyshire Scouts Bellringing Activity Team is delighted to let you know that over 250 Scouts from Beavers and upwards have gained their Know About Bellringing badges!

Scouts' groups and their Leaders visiting a tower have had a go at backstrokes and chiming (chiming only for Beavers) and got stuck into a carousel of varied bellringing-related activities in the church followed by a recap. at their HQ and more bellringing activities. So, typically 2 sessions to cover badge requirements.

Interest is continuing to be received from Scouts groups with an autumn calendar filling up quickly! Generally, Scouts groups tend to find the bellringing sessions fit into their autumn and spring programmes, possibly to end of May. Come early summer there are summer camps, and other seasonal activities competing for time in their busy programmes. Yet it is the case that mini rings have a place at the larger Jamborees for an alternative summer bellringing experience at the larger regional Scouts gatherings.

The feedback from Leaders from the sessions has been encouraging, with Leaders positive about how engaged the youngsters have been at the bellringing sessions. We're exploring opportunities to continue to strengthen and sustain grass roots links between participating towers and local Scouting groups, encouraging local groups to consider bellringing as a regular activity in their programme every couple of years, as youngsters move through Scouting sections. We're also organising Scouting bellringing events!

On Sat 18th July 2026 Scouting bellringers of all ages from across Derbyshire were invited to open ringing, light refreshments and a quarter peal at All Saints church, Brailsford to celebrate 3 Scouting anniversaries in 2026: Cubs 110 years; Beavers 40 years and Squirrels 5 years. Ringing catered for all abilities. It was a relaxed, enjoyable afternoon bellringing together. The youngsters said they'd like to get together again to ring, so that's positive!

We're delighted 2 Derbyshire Scouts gained the first Stage 1 Bellringer Badge and Stage 3 Bellringer Badge too, presented by Andy Austen, Team Lead on the day.

Setting Up Your Own County Bellringing Badge

Since starting the new bellringing badge, we've received a number of enquiries about how to roll out more widely. There are a number of possibilities and we're linked in with the Central Council Young Ringers Workgroup to facilitate. One option is for Scouts Counties to set up their own Scouts County Bellringing Badge using the Derbyshire footprint.

In order to support this, we've put together a new How To Guide, Play Book and 10-Step Plan.

The document is based on the experience in Derbyshire and explains what to do. You'll find an introduction to the scheme, governance, the framework for operation, a 10-step plan to get started, how sessions are run with sample visit plan, examples at towers, resources for

activities and progression. It can be found on the Derby Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers website, and soon at the Central Council Young Ringers Hub.

Derbyshire Scouts County Bellringing Badge: 'How To Guide' to Setting Up Your Scouts County Bellringing Badge. Play Book with 10-Step Plan is available.

<https://derbyda.org.uk/scout-badges/>

<https://yrhub.cccbr.org.uk/>

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