

Not since World War 2 has bellringing been stopped by the government, right across the country. With Churches closed and the difficulty of the confined spaces that bellringers usually must ring the bells in, bellringing could be one of the very last activities to be allowed to take place again, once this Corona virus is under control. Attached is a paper from some leading bellringers, who are also eminent doctors, detailing the difficulties and considerations.

In the Benefice of Walgrave, with Hannington, Old and Scaldwell we have been chiming one bell on Thursday evenings in support of the NHS and we also chimed a bell for VE day, but one person ringing one bell is not quite what the band of bellringers locally would have liked to have done. Sanctioned by the local churchwardens and David Bent, this limited chiming seems to have been appreciated in the villages.

Nationally bellringers have been finding other ways to keep themselves busy and following on from a project over the period marking 100 years of WW1 when they traced all the bellringers killed in action, leading members of the exercise have made another pod cast, attached, where they have read excerpts from various records of the time. If you are interested other pod casts in this series, presented by Cathy Booth, a non-ringer, asks the sort of questions someone who knows nothing about bells might ask.

If you have missed the bells ringing, once this is all over, maybe you would like to find out how you could learn to ring and join our band of bellringers. Come and join the band that rings the heaviest sets of musical instruments in the world! Strength, rhythm and mathematical skills not required!

Elaine Greatrex