

Derbyshire Scouts - Bellringing Badges - Outline

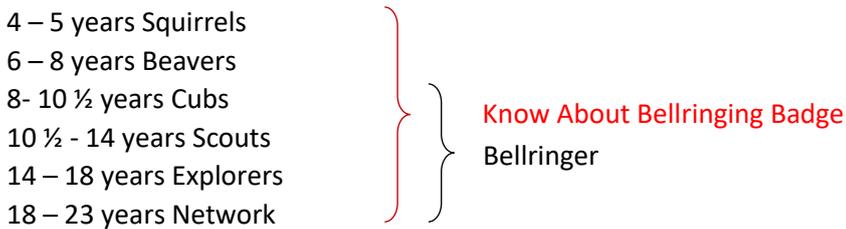
There are two aims:

- To provide another worthwhile activity of interest that Scouts (all ages) may not otherwise encounter.
- For those who are interested, to get them to the point where they are a useful part of a band and able to ring for services, weddings, civic and national events... and a pathway for further development through staged badge requirements.

Bellringing technology dates from before the 1600s and bells weigh anything from a few kilograms to a few tons! They are rung "full circle" - mouth uppermost to mouth uppermost - ringing once on the way which gives excellent control over timing – it's all a matter of learning the technique.

Only the older sections and older Cubs will be able to ring full circle so the Bellringer Badge applies to them.

Younger Scouts can still earn a badge for knowing about bellringing. This would also be available to older youngsters who do not go on to learn to ring full circle.



The Know About Bellringing badge is based on the introductory sessions, a tower visit and a bit of personal finding out. Some Squirrel Dreys and some less able scouts may not feel a tower visit is appropriate and so some allowance will be needed. Sometimes, it is appropriate for the tower visit to come first, in which there will be a follow on session to cover outstanding requirements.

The Know About Bellringing badge could be gained by someone in any age group but we will expect more from the Finding Out from older age groups. The introductory sessions will be different for the different age groups, but cover the same ground.

The aim is to introduce as many youngsters as possible to tower bell ringing even if they can't or choose not to go on to learn to handle a bell at that stage.

Older Cubs could gain the Bellringer Badge – physical stature being the key. It's difficult to learn to ring if you are not heavy enough to "pull the bell up to balance" – but plenty of 8 – 10 year olds have learned to handle a bell. In principle, the Bellringers Badge could be gained on a mini ring, but maybe someone with a Bellringers Badge should have the ability to ring tower bells as that might be the expectation in later years. Similarly, physical disabilities do not necessarily preclude full circle ringing, but it would be a mistake (dangerous) to award a badge implying an ability to ring full circle if it is not valid.

So four stages: *Knowing about Bellringing*, *Bellringer 1*, *Bellringer 2* and *Bellringer 3*.

Badges are paid for by the Scouting sections – coming out of the subscriptions.

Derbyshire Scouts - Bellringing Badges – Requirements.

Know About Bellringing :

To have taken part in an introductory session. This will have made them aware of bells, church bells, their sound, how they work and mechanisms, chiming and full circle ringing, their structure, size, sounds, naming of parts and ringing terms, trying rounds and call changes on hand bells or tuned wine glasses..., basic safety, their place in our lives, a bit of history, the idea of methods and, if possible, have tried a mini ring or rung backstrokes.

To have visited a local tower and:

- Have seen bells being rung,
- Have chimed a bell,
- Understood about getting bells up and down and handstrokes and backstrokes,
- Seen the bells and mechanisms – if belfry access is not possible, then with photographs,
- Watched a muffled bell ringing (ideally) or by video link or recording on phone...
- Know about the technical terms - slider, stay, headstock, sally, tail end....
- Completed some individual finding out from the lists below.

Squirrels : (4 and 5 years old - a tower visit might be felt unsuitable)

Find out :

- How many bells there are in your local tower
- When are the bells rung?
- Why are bells high up in the tower?

Beavers:

Do item one and pick two of the others

- Name three things you must never do when in a bell tower.
- What colour are the sallies in the tower you visited?
- How old is the oldest bell in your local tower?
- Think of three reasons why people ring bells.

Cubs:

Do item 1 and pick two of the others.

1. Name three things you must never do when in a bell tower.
2. How heavy is the biggest bell in the tower you visited.
3. Which is the oldest bell in the tower you visited.
4. Apart from Sunday services, when are bells rung?
5. What does it mean when a bell is “up” or “stood”?

Scouts/Explorers:

Do item 1 and pick 4 of the others.

1. Name three things you must never do when in a bell tower.
2. What is meant by “full circle ringing” and “change ringing”
3. Suggest 2 things that need to be checked often to keep bells safe to ring.
4. What is the pitch (note) of the heaviest bell in the tower you visited?
5. What and who is the Tower Captain or tower contact in the tower you visited?
6. What night is practice night in your local tower?
7. Find out from two ringers why they enjoy bellringing.

Derbyshire Scouts – Bellringing Badges – Requirements.

Bellringer Badge

Bellringer 1:

To have completed the Know About Bellringing badge or be eligible for it. Youngsters who have already started to ring might start with the Bellringer 1, Bellringer 2 or Bellringer 3 badge.

To be able to:

- Ring a full circle bell safely and under control.
- Raise and lower a bell.
- To stand a bell reliably – 5 times consecutively at Handstroke and at Backstroke.
- Ring Rounds with a band and keep their place.
- Ring Call Changes.
- To Lead.
- To cover to Plain Hunt (if in the tower's repertoire).
- To know and understand risks in the ringing room and the belfry.
- To have rung for a formal occasion e.g. a service, a wedding, a civic, a national or similar event.
- To tie the Bellringer's Knot.
- To have completed some finding out – from a list of possibilities.

Bellringer 2:

To hold, or be eligible for, the Bellringer 1 Badge.

- To ring Plain Hunt from any position.
- To call to start and stop Plain Hunt.
- To call changes – perhaps through Queens and Titums.
- To ring a plain course of a basic Method such as Plain Bob or Grandsire.
- To have rung at two other towers.
- To have helped with some aspects of belfry management – examples might be maintaining the safeguarding register, fitting muffles, shorten a tail end, routine checking of ropes, pulleys, stays.
- To have completed some finding out – from a list of possibilities.

Bellringer 3

- To hold, or be eligible for, the Bellringer 2 badge.
- To be able to ring up and down in peal.
- To ring plain courses of 3 methods.
- To ring touches of 2 methods.
- To call a touch – perhaps as observation bell.
- To help organise an outing to other towers.
- To have played an active part in steeple keeping – perhaps greasing clappers, replacing a rope, replacing a stay, routine checking of ropes, pulleys, stays.
- To create a risk assessment.
- To be able to splice a rope.