Edition:
September 2026

RINGING CHANGES

The Dorset County Association's Monthly Newsletter

Encouraging the Next Generation

Every tower has a role to play in encouraging young people to discover the enjoyment, challenge and friendship that bell ringing offers. For local towers looking to motivate young learners, the Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) provides an inspiring goal. It helps overcome the isolation that some young ringers can experience in small rural towers by showing them they are part of a vibrant, youthful and nationwide ringing community.

More Than Just a Competition

Although the prestigious Whitechapel Trophy is the focus of the striking competition, the RWNYC is much more than a contest. It is a celebration of young ringers and an opportunity to learn, explore and have fun together.

This year's event was based at the magnificent St Mary's Church in Nottingham's Lace Market, where the final results were announced. Throughout the day, teams travelled by tram and shuttle bus to towers across the city, ringing at a variety of churches, taking part in handbell workshops and trying their skills on portable mini-rings.

The competition is designed to encourage ringers at every stage of their development, with classes ranging from beginner call changes through to advanced call changes and method ringing on both six and eight bells. Every team has something to aim for, whether they are just starting out or already tackling challenging methods

The Ringing World National Youth Contest

The Ringing World National Youth Contest took place in Nottingham on Saturday 4 July 2026, bringing together more than 40 youth teams and hundreds of young bell ringers from across the UK.

First established in 2011 to mark the Ringing World's centenary, the annual festival has grown into the most eagerly anticipated event in the youth ringing calendar. Open to ringers under the age of 19, it provides a unique opportunity to develop ringing skills, make new friends, work together as a team and experience the excitement of being part of a national event

Teamwork, Determination and Success

Reports from around the country highlighted not only the standard of ringing but also the enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork shown by the young competitors.

The Essex Eagles enjoyed an outstanding day, winning the fiercely contested six-bell method ringing competition and also achieving top-five finishes in the call change section.

Gloucester and Bristol Guild entered two teams. Their younger ringers achieved an impressive second place in the six-bell beginner call change competition, while their eight-bell method team finished joint fourth, earning praise from the judges for their rhythm, composure and recovery.

Whatever their final placings, every team demonstrated the commitment and friendship that make youth ringing such a success.

For young ringers, the RWNYC is an unforgettable experience. For local towers, it is a reminder of what can be achieved when we invest time in teaching, encouraging and supporting the next generation. Today's learner could become tomorrow's tower captain, teacher or competition winner—and every encouraging word or extra practice can help make that journey possible.

Next Newsletter: We welcome contributions from all DCA members. Please submit articles, news, photographs and other items for inclusion by 26th September 2026 to the new newsletter inbox via

dca-newsletter@googlegroups.com