

Bells ready to ring in honour of Her Majesty

BELLRINGERS are hoping that their appeal for 90 peelers to ring the chimes for the Queen's birthday on Saturday at Halesowen Parish Church will strike a chord with volunteers.

And while the bells are ringing from 10am at St John the Baptist Church, former ringing master Frank Sluter and his family will be ringing the bells at their local church in New Zealand.

Halesowen bellringer Andrew Crumpton said Mr Sluter, who emigrated several years ago, had heard about the challenge through the Halesowen News website and Facebook.

"It's fantastic that they will be ringing as well," said Mr Crumpton.

Details of the appeal for 90 ringers – aged 10 and over, who need no experience – have gone out to schools, Halesowen College, pubs and on social media.

Mr Crumpton said members of Startime Variety had volunteered and regulars of the Widdows pub, Colley Gate.

"I don't know how many people we will have as they are just being asked to turn up on the day, but we hope we make the 90," he added.

Katie leads the pack in badge competition



Katie Lee with the badge she designed to mark the group's 50th anniversary

A HALESOWEN cub scout has won the competition to design a badge to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Romsley St Kenelm's Scout Group.

The competition, which was open to all 70 members of the group, was won by 10 year-old Katie Lee.

Her colourful design has been made into the badge which is being worn by all the beavers, cubs, scouts and adult volunteers during the Group's Golden Jubilee year.

The children and young people in the scout group are enjoying a number of special events that have been organised to celebrate the year.

Earlier this month, they attended a special weekend camp at Blackwell Adventure near Bromsgrove, taking part in a range of adventurous activities, such as zip wire, canoeing, climbing, tree trek and go-karting.

On Saturday, June 18 the beavers, cubs and scouts will be joined by Romsley Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for the Big Birthday Bash, which is being held at Romsley Scout Centre. The young-

By Adam Smith

01384 358 258

adam.smith@halesowennews.co.uk

Twitter @halesowennews

sters will enjoy a magical afternoon of party fun which includes a performance from the award-winning Slightly Unusual illusion act.

Then the whole community is being invited to a Jubilee Celebration Day on September 24 at the scout centre, which will include an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from the Scout Group's 50-year history.

Romsley St. Kenelm's Scout Group was founded in 1966 with a group of 20 young people, since then over 2,000 youngsters have passed through its doors.

In 1999, the group opened its current state-of-the-art meeting place Romsley Scout Centre which is used every week by beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows and Guides, as well as a number of village organisations and clubs for community events.

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