Hello

We are welcoming 38 helpers and tutors from the UK; 9 students from across Ireland, UK and of course our local ringers. So nearly 60 ringers for the weekend which is absolutely amazing and thank you all so much for coming. Hopefully this email will give you all the information you need for the weekend and also I have some questions as well. So, maybe a cup of tea before you go any further!

Attached are a timetable of the ringing opportunities for the weekend and details of each tower giving the Eircode (postcode), local info about parking, loos, café's plus a contact number for that Tower.

You will see the from the itinerary the times in each tower that the bells are available for use. The helpers and students can move around the towers as they choose. At each session the helpers can expect to find an eager group of students, champing at the bit to learn new and exciting things and the students can expect to see a group of lovely, kind, knowledgeable, helpful ringers who can get you up a few more rungs on the bell-ringing ladder. Each session will have a conductor and several helpers. Students must ask for what they want to do, the conductor is not a mind-reader! The conductor will, with the assistance of his band of helpers, organise the ringing so everyone gets a fair crack at the whip and comes away happy. Each tower will have tea/coffee/biscuits for breaktimes.

On Friday evening at the Opening (6.30pm in Rosscarbery) there will be general ringing, light refreshments and most importantly, sign-up sheets. Each session will have a sign-up sheet for helpers and non-local students. These are not cast in stone but a check to make sure that every session has a fair number of helpers and students and none are overloaded.

For those who arrive on Wednesday and wish to ring on Thursday please let me know and I'll see what can be arranged. The session times on Friday are on the itinerary and again, please let me know which sessions take your fancy. First come, first served.

Some of the helpers have offered to conduct sessions, and thank you. If you have a particular tower at which you would or would not like to conduct a session please let me know.

Doneraile. Although Doneraile isn't really in West Cork they would love, and dare I say need, to have some help. It's a fair old way – 90 minutes from Rosscarbery but the newly-rehung bells are lovely to ring. The location of the Tower is such that you can ring there morning, noon or night. It would be great if a couple of carloads would make the journey. If you are willing, please let me know. One option maybe if people are heading to Cork on Monday a detour via Doneraile could work?

Quarter peals. I will be letting Vicky Rowse know when slots will be available for QPs and she will be getting in touch with those who have shown an interest.

ART Courses. Over the weekend ART course Tutors are running a shortened version of their Module 2 Foundation course for all the students, locals and visiting ones. The times and

locations are listed on the itinerary. The Tutors have asked for 3 or 4 helpers on each running. Visiting students – if you would like to attend one of these sessions please let me know and at which location. First come, first served. Likewise Helpers – if you can help please let me know.

Striking Competition. This takes place in Skibbereen at 6.30pm on Saturday. It will comprise a short, maximum 5-minute, set piece, details of which will not be given out in advance. It will not be difficult. There will be a 'Teams' desk on Friday night – sign-up if you want to play!

Saturday-night Social – in Skibbereen after the striking competition. Most of you have signed-up and thank you. €20, payable on the door and cash only. Soft drinks are free - bring your own booze.

I think that's about it for now.