The West Cork Ringing Festival has been running for over 20 years and in 2025 is taking place over the St Brigid's Weekend.

Nearly 50 ringers from the UK are coming at their own expense purely to help us with our ringing as well as to have a great weekend. Many of the visitors have been before, so it's a good sign they are keen to come again.

The visitors want to be used so it's up to us to use them. Yes, we can turn up for our practice nights and service ringing and keep doing the same things over and over and there is nothing wrong with that but there is a whole world of excitement and extreme satisfaction to be had by being pushed and helped to get to your next level. The visitors are here to do just that. They are patient, kind, un-judgemental, and happy to repeat the same ringing over and over until the penny drops and you can do it too. Believe me, when you actually achieve something that you never thought you could aspire too it's just brilliant! Remember how you felt when you finally managed to ring unaided.

The plan for the weekend is to have 2-hour sessions am and pm in the towers in Bandon, Dunmanway, Rosscarbery and Skibbereen on Saturday 1 February and Monday 3 February. A group of visitors will be there to run the session like a practice night with something for everyone. It is up to the local ringers to ask for what they want to do – be it plain hunt or doubles methods or whatever. There will be enough helpers to stand with ringers and also ring around them. As you know, a competent band around a learner makes all the difference.

We invite anyone, from any tower, to come down to West Cork and join us, either for a day or the whole weekend. There is no charge. I realise it is a long way to come, so may be come and stop overnight.

If you are even vaguely interested, please do get in touch with me I can give you loads more information.

Diana@DianaPitcher.com