

## December 2011 | Issue 001

Welcome to our first and festive newsletter for the Work No. 1197 project.

We're very pleased to welcome you into our bell ringing community, and we hope you're are inspired by the project.

On the opening day of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, Turner Prize-winning artist and musician Martin Creed will create Work No. 1197: All the bells in a country rung as quickly and as loudly as possible for three minutes throughout the country as the UK welcomes 205 nations from around the world.

In this once-in-a-lifetime event, we are encouraging people across the UK to ring different kinds of bells – alarm clock bells, bicycle bells, boat bells, mobile phone bells, church bells, cowbells, handbells, school bells, town hall bells, and of course jingle bells – to usher in the most hotly anticipated sports event of the decade.

"It's by the people and for the people. On the morning of the opening of the games, it's a massive signal that something is happening."

Martin Creed

Martin Creed with members of the Big Noise Orchestra.

### Work No. 1197 Project Launch

Work No. 1197 launched across the UK on 4 November 2011. To ring out the message of Work No. 1197 to the nation we assembled schoolchildren, artists, firemen, town criers, handbell and tower bell ringers!

We joined up with the London 2012 Festival launch. Following a press event and a tight squeeze in the ringing tower at Christ Church Spitalfields, there followed some furious clanging over at Drury Lane Theatre. For good measure we hoisted in a 250kg bell to sit in the foyer of the theatre, and it proved to be a very popular activity for the great and good of the Olympic launch day.

Plymouth Youths, Devonshire's youngest tower bell ringers celebrated the launch of Work No. 1197 in their own way with some great ringing at Emmanuel Plymouth. You can see the BBC's coverage here: <http://youtu.be/L2NbWGCPT-U>

### More Bells On Board With Project

We are very happy to announce the support of two organisations bringing their distinctive experience and colour to Work No. 1197. Welcome to Open Morris, the umbrella organisation for Morris activities in the UK. We are in discussions for some special activities on the 27 July 2012.

Welcome also to the Churches Conservation Trust, who are lending their support to Work No. 1197. The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. They have saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract almost 2 million visitors a year.

We will be engaging in discussions with both groups through the festive period, and we very much look forward to working with them. Please keep an eye on the news pages on the All The Bells website for latest updates.

### Did You Know?

From the New Year, you'll be able to add any kind of bell ringing event to our interactive map. Register now and you'll get some important information about how to organise your activity:

<http://www.allthebells.com/how-to-take-part/join-our-ringing-community/>

Don't forget, Work No. 1197 is open to everyone, this is a mass participation event. It is potentially the UK's largest ever cultural mass participation event!

### Update: How Should I Ring In A Bell Tower?

Work No. 1197 is a piece for all kinds of bells. Our desire is to get everyone ringing together. We recognise that every bell is different and tower bells have to be rung in their own way. They'll ring for longer than 3 minutes and at a constant volume – thus for change ringers we're requesting your choice of pieces to ring in towers.

Change bell ringing holds a special place in the UK's musical heritage, and we are actively encouraging bell towers to choose pieces that reflect their locality, or an Olympic theme! For example, at our press launch, Christchurch Spitalfields rang out Stratford Surprise Major. An excellent choice we thought!

### Olympic Rings

Don't forget, by registering on the [www.allthebells.com](http://www.allthebells.com) website, you're signing up for exclusive access to the Martin Creed ringtone when it's released next year (hold onto it, it'll be worth something one day).

Until then, to help put you in the Christmas Spirit we've put together a light-hearted Work No. 1197 Spotify playlist.

It's got some Christmas numbers in there. But a bell isn't just for Christmas – we've stuck some other tunes on there too! Let us know what you think. Please come back to us with other ideas to add to our playlist!

## Town Criers

O Yea, O Yea!

Town criers of the UK have signed up for Work No. 1197, thanks to the Ancient Guild of Town Criers and Loyal Company of Town Criers. We met with Mr Robert Needham, head of the Ancient Guild of Town Criers. He had some ripe old tales to tell – we can't pass them on as he'd arrest us (his town crying alter ego is a Victorian Peeler)! We'll be adding hundreds of markers to our interactive bell map to pinpoint their locations in the streets of the UK on the big day next year. Let the proclamations begin!

## Torch Songs

Bell ringing seems to be becoming a theme of the 2012 Olympics – there is the exceptional Howard Skempton Five Rings Triple 20x12 commission; bell ringing on the cycling route; and there will be tower bells ringing to encourage the torch on its route around the UK, culminating in Work No. 1197 on 27 July at 8.00am.

Work No. 1197 is timed to accompany the proposed Torch Relay at 8.00am as it travels from Hampton Court Palace by sailing up the River Thames towards the Olympic Stadium.

If you've got a bell ringing event that you are planning, get onto the website and register so you can serenade the Torch on its final journey!

## Young Bell Ringers Get Into The Swing Of Things

In Brent, the Village Music School has been playing with bells for their Arts Award. This fantastic special needs class has been exploring the themes of bells for the past several weeks and will be building up to record their work in advance of 27 July 2012 for Work No. 1197, as they can't ring together on the morning. We'll be following the work of the group over the next few months.

Throughout the year the Work No. 1197 project will be developing more initiatives to reach out to all corners of the UK and unite them under one happy three-minute ringing session. Watch out for some exciting digital initiatives we hope to announce soon.

We hope you've enjoyed your first All The Bells Newsletter. If you've got any feedback for us

please contact us at [info@allthebells.com](mailto:info@allthebells.com)