

Ringin' endorsement for Inveraray's historic bells



Inveraray Bell Tower in The Avenue.

A historic festival recently welcomed participants to Mid Argyll from as far away as Australia, thanks to the unique nature of its setting.

From Friday July 25 to Sunday July 27 the Inveraray Bellringing Festival serenaded the town with the inimitable sound of its tower's 10 bells being rung by enthusiasts from across the world.

Inveraray Bell Tower is internationally acclaimed for its 100-year-old set of bells which provide the heaviest ring of bells in Scotland.

"It is a beautiful town, a tower with a fascinating history, and a delightful ring of 10," bellringer David Smith from Brisbane said. "The event absolutely lived up to expectations; everyone was both welcoming and helpful, and there was plenty of ringing at all levels."

David was one of three participants from Brisbane at this year's festival.



He explained what attracted them to travel so far: "There were three representatives from my home tower, St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, at this year's gathering in Inveraray.

"This may seem rather a long journey to make, Australia to Scotland, but Rachel has attended many times before and has always enthused about the weekend, and this year she persuaded Matt and me to attend too."

The Inveraray festival has been

running for more than 50 years and has gained a prestigious place on the international bellringing calendar due to the tower's impressive bells, but also its striking location.

From the top of the tower ringers and spectators alike took the opportunity to admire the view from the ramparts over the town, Loch Fyne and the hills beyond.

"The bells were majestic and sounding wonderful; the tower and bells are a local asset for sure,"

Bell ringers from all over converged on Inveraray for the bellringing festival.

said Viv Nobbs, who travelled to Inveraray from the Isle of Wight with her husband Graham.

"We had a wonderful week in Inveraray, arranged around the Inveraray Bellringing Festival.

"It was a long trip for us, but we were pleased that it gave us the opportunity to visit the area, to enjoy the amazing scenery, visit Inveraray Castle and other local attractions, to eat and drink in the variety of restaurants, and to get well underway with Christmas shopping in the great selection of shops.

"The festival was great, well organised and, as ever, the bellringing 'family' was great in its welcome and camaraderie."

Throughout the summer visitors have the opportunity to explore the bell tower and see the permanent exhibition with its information boards and artefacts. The tower is open every day apart from Sundays until August 25.