



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain - Registered Charity No. 298945 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland)

## North East Region eNews Issue 9 – August 2016

Dear Friends

Welcome to our autumn edition of e-NEws.

As I write my letter to you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September it is dull and grey with more than just the first hint that summer is coming to a close and we will soon need to start rehearsing to prepare for our winter “season”. Not that the summer has been quiet for some teams as the articles in this edition of e-News tell us.

**Clifton Handbell Ringers** hosted an open evening for 31 cub scouts in April! The future of handbell ringing must depend on our ability to inspire young people. As Karen states in her article let us hope some of the youngsters will remember their visit and be inspired to take up ringing in the future.

**Northallerton Handbell Ringers** hosted a very successful mini-rally for our more northern teams and it is so pleasing to know ringing continues to flourish “up north”.

My thanks to Christine and Roger Lazenby, assisted by members of Treble Eight HBR for a very enjoyable **Summer Ring**. A slight reduction in attendance meant your regional chairman had to ring too! Not something to be encouraged as members of Beverley Town will tell you!

The **International Symposium** in Vancouver was well attended by HRGB UK members and Christine provides articles and photographs of this very successful “international event”

Our next regional event is the **Autumn Rally** hosted by Clifton Handbell Ringers and provisional information is provided by Caroline. I hope for a good turnout of teams!!

As we move in to our winter season please remember to send articles on your team ringing events for inclusion in e-News.

I send my best wishes to you, as always, and look forward to seeing many of you on 29<sup>th</sup> October in Brighouse/

**John Atkinson**  
**North East Region Chairman**

All items for the next issue of eNews should be sent to - [aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk](mailto:aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk).  
by **30 November 2016**

**Don't forget, if you are sending pictures out of a newspaper or magazine, you will need to know the name and address of the newspaper or magazine as well as the date of publication.**

## Notes from the Regional Secretary



### Team News

We are really pleased to welcome as a member team the St. Matthew's Handbell Choir from Chapel Allerton in Leeds. Members from the team attended our Joint Ringing Day back in February and we hope to see them again at future events.

### Chimes

The Region owns a 2 octave set of Schulmerich chimes which are available for teams to borrow. If your team is interested, please contact the Secretary.

### Away Day

The committee reluctantly made the decision at their meeting in June to cancel the Away Day scheduled for the beginning of July. Only a handful of people had indicated that they would attend – thank you if you were one of them - and also to Solna who had put a lot of work in organising the venue.

In hindsight, perhaps a summer Saturday when various important sporting events were taking place was not the best time to choose, and maybe the invitations should have been circulated sooner, giving more time for responses before we had to make the decision.

We are 'back to the drawing board' with this idea – suggestions and ideas from members would be welcome!

### What does Handbell Ringing mean to you?

At the Grassington Rally in May ringers were asked to write a few words on a post-it describing what handbell ringing meant to them or what they got from handbell ringing.

Here is a summary of the comments – if you would like to add to the list please let one of the committee have your ideas and we'll summarise them for the next e-News.

*The opportunity to make music*

*The chance to play music for the first time in my life*

*Opportunity for non-musicians to make music and work as part of a team*

*The fun/joy of making music with other people (never done it before bells)*

*The chance to ring music without having a lot of musical experience*

*Good to make a musical sound. Enjoy meeting other people and getting feedback from the audience*

*Chance to arrange new music*

*Unique method of music making just playing certain notes – really good for concentration*

*Great opportunity for young performers to get together, particularly those who play a non orchestral instrument.*

*Fun*

*Fun and Friendship (2)*

*Escapism (like a good book)*

*Good fellowship*

*Peace*

*Shuts off everything else*

*Sense of achievement*

*Brain training*

*It keeps the elderly brain active*

*A social where I can talk to others about something other than the kids!*

*It is really quite spiritual when you all get it right at the same time*

*Enjoyment and calm – when I get it right....*

*Team effort*

*Being part of a team*

*Ringin in a team (especially challenging pieces)*

*Cheese and coffee*

**Christine Lazenby**

**North East Region Secretary**



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## **Clifton with cubs!**

Wow! What a hectic couple of Handbell practices we've had recently. We're normally quite laid back, ring, chat, ring, chat you know the format. But oh no, not on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. This was because on the 21<sup>st</sup> we were joined by eighteen cubs then the following week thirteen cubs!! They were all very enthusiastically working towards their music badges. Their usual meeting times were 7 - 8:30pm which gave us one and a half hours to fill.

So, how did we tackle these two challenging evenings? Our first problem was how do we fit all those bodies into our rather snug bellroom. We realised we would need to split them into two groups so asked the Vicar if we could use the church as well as the vestry on those nights. We all began the night together learning a little bit about the history of handbell ringing, what the bells are made from, their cost and the rules for handling them. (No fingers on metal or they would be given a duster!) After that we split into two groups. One group went upstairs into church and had a go at change ringing whilst the others stayed with me, Jo and David in the vestry and tried learning some tunes. Then after about twenty minutes they swopped over.

The first obstacle for some of the boys was reaching the table! So out came the old wooden boxes to stand on. Like the rest of us when we first started ringing, the technique learned in the first ten minutes or so went right out of the window when we introduced music!! To conquer this we took the pieces really steady – you've never heard Twinkle Twinkle played so slowly, but it did the trick. They all remembered how to ring a bell correctly. (Some more successfully than others!) We then went on to "Love me tender" and some of the children had actually heard of Elvis. We then finished with Rock a bye baby. There was a group of slightly older cubs who showed some real promise, in fact we even sped the tunes up a bit. David then set the challenge to the children of ringing without me and Jo singing the tune at the same time (actually I think he'd just had enough of our singing!) which made the tune sound even better.

Darren and Caroline took on the task of "change ringing" (brave souls!) with the help of John and Mike. Now, when the children were tune ringing they only had one bell each, to try and involve as many people as possible. But when they went upstairs they were given a bell in each hand. They were then told they had to cross their hands, then change bells with their neighbour. Although you don't need to be able to read music to change ring you do need a really good sense of coordination and concentration. I think the boys found it pretty tricky to start with but gradually got the hang of it and finished the session without any broken bones or bells!

The children then went outside for a quick game of football to give us chance to set the tables and bells up properly so we could ring a few tunes for them. We chose to ring Walking in the Air and Teddy Bears Picnic as we thought the children would all know these. Then we also rang Duelling Banjos, just for the fun of it. The leaders listened too and we even had a few parents, (who'd come early to pick up their children), squeeze in at

the back. They all listened well and clapped enthusiastically but of course the main comment was “Can I have a go at picking up that bell?” So with David on one side and Darren on the other to keep both the bell and the child safe (we hadn’t filled out a risk assessment form!) they all had a go at picking up David’s C29.

It was then 8:30 and time for them all to go home. A very enjoyable evening had been had by all. Hopefully, we had shown the children that handbell ringing is fun but is not always as easy as people think and maybe we inspired some young person to take up our unique style of music making in the future. I certainly think that at the very least, they should all have gained their music badges!

**Karen Kent**  
**Clifton Handbell Ringers**

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### **Northallerton ‘Mini-Rally’**

I was delighted to receive a phone call from the Northallerton Handbell Ringers inviting me to go along to a gathering of local teams in early July. Unfortunately due to another commitment I was only able to be there for the final part of the day, but it was a pleasure to listen to the culmination of the day’s ringing.



The teams, Trinity Ripon, Darlington U3A, Lynesack and the hosts Northallerton, had spend the day ringing 12 tunes arranged for them by Margaret Cunnington of the Northallerton team. I arrived as they were finishing off this selection, with ‘Westering Home’.



The final part of the day involved each team choosing one of the pieces for a final ‘concert performance’. This was a very varied selection - ‘Three Welsh favourites’, ‘Morning’, ‘La Paloma’ and ‘The Strength of the Lord’, all conducted by Margaret and all rung beautifully.

It was a lovely friendly atmosphere and I really enjoyed meeting ringers from some of the teams that we don’t often see at our Regional Rallies.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**Treble Eight Handbell Ringers**

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### **International Handbell Symposium 2018**

The next International Symposium is in Cairns, Queensland , Australia from 6<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.





## Summer Ring



Although we had slightly fewer ringers than in the last few years, an enjoyable time was had by all, ringing and socialising.

The same venue has been booked for next year, so please put Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June in your diaries!



**Christine Lazenby**  
**Treble Eight Handbell Ringers**

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## **East Midlands Summer Rally**

Saturday 25 June saw six members of Beverley Town travel to Greetham in the East Midlands Region to join in the Summer Rally organised by the Cottesmore Handbell Ringers.

It was a pleasure to turn up to and be part of another region's day. John was the guest conductor for the day and with Brian's (Buttery) light hearted and humorous compering they seemed to 'spar' with each other.



The day saw Samuel Davies (Stanwick Handbell Ringers) receive his Crescendo Awards – pp, mp and mf which to the best of my knowledge, no one from the North East region has done, well done Samuel.

A good day and one that was enjoyed by all that attended.

**Andrew Ford**  
**Beverley Town Handbell Ringers**

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## International Concerts



We were in Vancouver for a couple of days before the Symposium began and found out (from Facebook) about a concert that was being performed by the Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble as part of their pre-Symposium tour.

What an amazing group of performers they were! Not only did they ring without music – everything was memorised – but they moved from place to place with each tune. The interaction between team members was fantastic and their enjoyment of ringing was obvious. Their conductor was Emily Li (whom some of you will remember from Ringing Week last year).

They gave a really stunning performance and we were pleased to hear more of them at the Symposium.

Following the Symposium we had the opportunity to attend another concert, this time given by three Japanese teams. The venue for this was a beautiful church in Vancouver, built as a War Memorial for the First World War and containing stained glass memorial windows for each Province of Canada.

As well as two teams from the Shoei Girls' School there was a Tokyo based quintet called the 'Handbell Berries', which had been established since 2000 and a team put together just for the Symposium consisting of Handbell directors from teams throughout Japan. The programme was very varied –traditional Japanese tunes, Bach, Tchaikovsky and the Beatles.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**Treble Eight Handbell Ringers**

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## **17<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium**

The International Symposium was held in Vancouver, Canada from 26th to 30th July, 2017. I posted pictures and videos on the North East Region Facebook page in order to give those of you who have access to this a flavour of what was happening. It was great to get positive feedback from some of you about this.



A group of eight of us who ring with NBO - Alan and Wendy Walters from the West Midlands, Judith Kirk and Cathy Nettle from the East Midlands, Jeff and Anne Singleton and Christine and Roger Lazenby from the North East Region were attending and registered as a team called 'Northern Bells'.

We had several practices of the 8 pieces of Massed Ringing music before meeting in Vancouver for the start of the Symposium. As we weren't ringing an individual item it didn't matter that our bells weren't all from the same set, so we each took our own bells and rang with a mixture of Malmark and Whitechapel bells from 4 different sets, 2 octaves in all.

It was interesting that amongst the 700 or so ringers ( over 70 from the UK) it was two of our small team, Jeff and Cathy, who evoked a lot of interest as they had their music electronically on a tablet device – we didn't see any other ringers using anything similar – I wonder if they will start a trend?

The Massed Ringing pieces were of varying complexity; the most satisfying to ring and ultimately those that the conductors were able to get most expression into were the simplest and shortest – three of the pieces were so long and complex that there was insufficient rehearsal time to perfect them. A piece was chosen by each member country - the HRGB piece being 'Spirit of Freedom' composed and conducted by Malcolm Wilson, which we were familiar with as we had rung it previously with NBO. It was a very lively piece and had the added interest of a trumpet part.

The East Anglian team represented HRGB in the International Showcase Concert. Their pieces had three links to the North East Region – one a place - 'Scarborough Fair', another the arranger - Elgar's 'Salut d'Amour', which was arranged for handbells by Jeff Singleton from Amber Bells and and finally a ringer - Helen Foley from the North East Region was ringing in the team.

As well as the Massed Ringing Rehearsals and individual team performances there were workshop sessions. These were both cultural and musical – Christmas in July from an Australian team, Latin dances from Puerto Rica, Read and Ring sessions with Canadian, Japanese and Korean Music, to name but a few. Two of our group, Alan and Wendy, ran a workshop on English Style Church Bell Ringing, whilst Cathy chose the Symposium Festival Handbell Choir which used their workshop sessions to perfect two pieces for the Final Concert.



The Final Concert featured all of the Massed Ringing pieces, the two pieces from the Symposium Festival Choir and two pieces from the ‘Youth Track’ which had been running alongside the Symposium.

Following the concert and the packing up (we were very glad that we just had a few bells each at this point and not several 5 octave sets to pack for shipping back to the UK as the East Anglian team had!)) were the Banquet and Closing Ceremony. This was held in another part of the Convention Centre which had glorious views out over the sea. During this, Mrs. Shin, chairman of the IHS presented Handbell Laureate Awards ( equivalent of our Honoured Member awards) to Alison Wood of Canada and Bill Griffin of the USA. The Handbell Association of Singapore was formally admitted as a member of the IHS and Carmel Davison of Australia invited us all to Cairns in 2018.

Following the official closing of the Symposium with a ‘final chord’ being struck by the officials from each country, it was time to say goodbye to our handbell friends from around the world with the hope that we will meet them again in two years time.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**Treble Eight Handbell Ringers**

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**North East Region - Autumn Rally 2016**  
**Central Methodist Church**  
**Brighouse**  
**Saturday 29 October 2016**

You are cordially invited by the Clifton Handbell Ringers to The North East Region Autumn Rally which will be held at Central Methodist Church, Brighouse. The Church is renowned for its acoustics and has an upstairs viewing area which is excellent for spectators.

It is a large church and there should be enough room for the average size rally

The doors will open at 09.30 am and ringing will commence at 10.30 am. The Rally will end at 16.30 pm.

Refreshments will be available during the morning and afternoon sessions. The Clifton Team have taken the decision not to provide lunch. This is due to the large number and range of options for lunch within the town of Brighouse.

Further details will be available when massed ringing tunes and rally format have been decided.

**Caroline Sunderland**  
**Clifton Handbell Ringers**

# Forthcoming Events

## 2016

### **Wednesday 7 September - Discover Bell Ringing - Handbell Taster Session 7 - 9pm**

All Saints Parish Church, Main Street, Bingley.

Further details see 'Discover Bell Ringing' Tel: 07807 159086

### **Friday 9 - Sunday 11 September - Discover Bell Ringing - Tower & Handbells 2 - 4 pm**

All Saints Parish Church, Main Street, Bingley.

Further details see 'Discover Bell Ringing' Tel: 07807 159086

**Saturday 24 September - 'Music of the Night'** with Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers and guests the Worall Male Voice Choir. - 19.30 at St Mary's Church, Ecclesfield. Tickets £7.00 (Accompanied under 16's free) for further/additional information contact [hazel.bradey@outlook.com](mailto:hazel.bradey@outlook.com)

### **Friday 30 September - 2 October - Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering**

For further details email Don Bedford [dondingdong@boompa.plus.com](mailto:dondingdong@boompa.plus.com) or telephone 01834 869061

**Sunday 16 October - Handbell Concert** with Market Weighton Handbell Ringers, St John's Methodist Church, Market Weighton. For further details contact Janet - [janmpeacock@hotmail.com](mailto:janmpeacock@hotmail.com)

### **Saturday 29 October - NE Autumn Rally** - Hosted by the Clifton Handbell Ringers

Further details to follow

## 2017

### **Saturday 28 January - Joint Ringing Day** - Christ Church, South Ossett, WF5 0BE

Further details to follow - or contact Solna, [rnsburnham@talktalk.net](mailto:rnsburnham@talktalk.net)

### **Saturday 20 May - NE Spring Rally & AGM** - Grassington

Further details to follow -

### **Tuesday 20 June - Summer Ring** - St. Chad's Parish Centre, Leeds

Further details to follow or contact [christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk](mailto:christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk)



## **Last Bedford-Style Hardraw Gathering**

**Friday Eve 30<sup>th</sup> September - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016,  
The Green Dragon Inn and Heritage Centre  
Hardraw, Hawes, N. Yorkshire, DL8 3LZ**

- **Practise up your party pieces to ring solo**
- **Massed ringing from numbers or staff notation music which will be sent out beforehand**
- **Workshops**
- **Soiree-style concert**
- **Individual ringers welcome. Some spare bells & chimes will be available.**

Registration: adults (HRGB) £8, (non-HRGB) £12, juniors £3. Please bring a raffle prize for the charity raffle. Massed ringing music, tea, coffee, cordials and water are included in the registration fee, lunches & dinners, at an additional cost, are being made available by the Green Dragon.

Please bring your own foam and other equipment. Some tables are available but if you have your own that would be helpful too.

Accommodation is available at the Green Dragon Inn on a first booked first served basis from £14 to £50 per person per night, bunk beds to luxury en-suite doubles with sitting room. Also camping available at £10 pppn.

See Green Dragon website for description of accommodation:

[www.greendragonhardraw.com/contact.html](http://www.greendragonhardraw.com/contact.html), and book your accommodation by phoning Martin on 01969 667392 and say you are part of the Handbell Gathering - or make your own accommodation arrangements either in Hardraw or in nearby Hawes.

There is limited ringing space available so regrettably only applications for the first 70 ringing spaces can be accepted.

For further information please email Don Bedford [dondingdong@boompa.plus.com](mailto:dondingdong@boompa.plus.com) or telephone 01834 869061