

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

North East Region eNews Issue 1 – February 2014

Holy Trinity Handbells, Messingham – played Christmas Carols at 2 events, in aid of our local hospice, Lindsey Lodge, Scunthorpe.



In 2005 Scunthorpe Rotary Club organised the first Festival of Christmas Trees held in Old Brumby United Church and it is now an established event in the first 2 weeks of December. Every year, as part of the musical entertainment, we have rung handbells whilst the visitors are admiring the trees. Proceeds from the 2013 event raised over £5,000. We also support the event by decorating a tree, or wreath, with a bell theme.

Nearer to Christmas we spent a couple of hours playing carols in the foyer of TESCO Extra store in Scunthorpe. This was our 11th successive year and the collecting buckets raised over £280 for the Hospice.

Barbara Rand
Holy Trinity Handbells, Messingham

Bingley Handbell Ringers - Our Christmas season was particularly busy. We were still getting requests to ring, which sadly we had to turn down, as late as the beginning of December.

We began with a fundraising concert at a church attended by one of our members on 29th November and went right on to our own church carol service on 22nd December.

In between we rang at a care home, a local masons' dinner, a church social, the Western Branch tower bell ringers carol service and at Cliffe Castle in Keighley.

Bells and Jingles

The newly restored Bracewell Smith Hall of Cliffe Castle Museum rang to the sounds of seasonal music performed by the Bingley Handbell Ringers last Sunday, 15 December, in a free Concert organised by Cliffe Castle Park Conservation Group. Members of the audience added their voices to a selection of music old and modern and enjoyed seasonal treats cooked by a member of the Conservation Group.

The Handbell Ringers are becoming firm favourites in Cliffe Castle since they were first invited to perform in the Conservatory by the Conservation Group in 2011. This year however the audience was much warmer as the Museum kindly offered the use of the Bracewell Smith Hall to the Conservation Group for the Concert.

An elegant Christmas Tree was the centrepiece in the Hall, just under the original wooden lantern, now restored and reinstalled to complete the recreation of Sir Albert Richardson's original vision for the Bracewell Smith Hall.

The sound of the Handbell Ringers rang out around the Museum, attracting additional interest from families enjoying the nature and geological displays.

“Even though I have visited the Museum probably every year of my life, I don't remember seeing this Hall before.”

“The music is magical and really sounds good from the Gallery. There is also a spectacular view of the red and gold decorations of the Hall and the Christmas tree from up there too.”

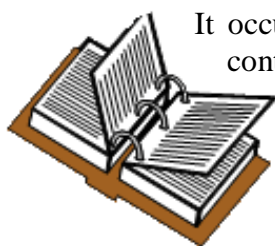


Although no reindeer were spotted in the Park that day, Santa Claus put in an appearance at the Café, along with local musicians taking part in an open mic event.

Solna Burnham Bingley Handbell Ringers

From the Secretary

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the 'Urgent Appeal' that was sent out in January regarding 'Bikes and Bells'. Whilst it was good to have enough ringers volunteering it was disappointing that other aspects of the event ultimately meant we were unable to participate.



It occurred to me that it would be a good idea to have a list of people who are happy to be contacted at fairly short notice to respond to such requests. This could be teams or individuals prepared to join together to make an ad-hoc team.

I realise that not everyone will be available every time, but to cut down the contact list would mean that we are just getting in touch with people who would be interested.

Please drop me an e-mail if you are happy to be on such a list – Christine (christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk)

HRGB List Server - The 'List Server' is a way of informing HRGB members of forthcoming events. When the organiser is notified of events, an e-mail is sent to those who have opted in. Don't worry about your 'in-box' being swamped – there are relatively few e-mails sent out!

You can choose which region or regions that you want to receive information from – so as well as the North East Region if you regularly visit other regions then you can be alerted to events that are happening there. It's very useful to either advertise or find out about the 'last minute' type of events that you might otherwise miss.



You have to register to access the service at <http://lists.hrgb.org.uk>
(This is a new system, so if you have previously registered you will need to re-register.)

Wendy Swain

Wendy Swain, who was made an Honorary Life Member of HRGB in 2000, died in December 2013.

Wendy had been a good friend to the North East Region and had organised several events that were attended and enjoyed by NE ringers.

She started her handbell ringing in the South West Region, with the Seend team which was founded by herself and her husband John. As well as serving on the SW committee, where for a number of years she served as chairman, she became involved with HRGB on a National level being a member of the NEC for many years. She also instigated and operated the HRGB Music scheme for many years as well as supplying some of her own arrangements to the scheme.

Wendy was born in the NE Region, in Grimsby, and she and John retired to Blackshawhead on the borders of the NE & NW region. They formed a team there and were instrumental in organising some joint North East/ North West rallies at Hebden Bridge. For many years they hosted the annual Blackshawhead summer ringing evenings which were enjoyed by ringers from both regions.

Wendy was enthusiastic about handbell ringing and that enthusiasm was infectious. If I had to choose one word to describe her it would be 'fun' – she had a fantastic sense of humour and there was always a twinkle in her eye.

The handbell world has lost one of its treasures - a very special person who will be much missed.

Mid-Summer Ring - The first Mid-Summer ring was held last year at the end of June. The idea was to have an informal ringing event, based on the Blackshawhead events which Wendy and John Swain had organised some years previously.

The feedback from the event was very positive and we are planning to hold another event this summer, on Tuesday 10th June at the same venue, St. Chad's Parish Hall in Leeds. Further details will be available later.

We were very grateful to those who loaned and helped to transport bells and equipment last year, to those who volunteered (or had their arms twisted) to conduct some of the pieces and to those who helped to provide the refreshments. All of this helped the evening to go well and I hope that you won't mind being asked for help again.

Christine Lazenby

Handbells for Sale

**14 Schulmerich Bells in
two custom cases.**

**Diatonic C5 - G6
plus
F#5 and A#5**

**Further details go to
www.ne.hrgb.org.uk/bells4sale.html**



Ringling for Gold

Ringling for Gold is a hardback book about the Annals and development of hand-bell tune ringling From it's birth in the mid 1500's - click the book for more information
www.ne.hrgb.org.uk/ring4gold.html



‘Is there a bellringer in the house?’

Each year, for three Saturdays before Christmas, Grassington Handbell Ringers participate in the village’s Dickensian Festival. This is claimed to be the original and oldest Christmas festival and market in the UK and 2013 was its 32nd year. Our Handbell Team, dressed in Victorian costume, performs a programme of Christmas Carols and Songs. In the early years of the Festival, the Team played in the village square but cold, rainy days and competition from street musicians and crowd noise eventually drove us indoors. We now have a warm, welcoming venue in the Methodist Chapel which is appreciated by players and audience alike. Many visitors arrive well before the performance to see the bells, chat and share stories of their past visits.

(Photo Credit: <http://www.mark-davis-photography.co.uk/>)



As well as strong support from local villages and nearby towns, visitors frequently come from much further afield: this year there were visitors from the North-east, Cumbria, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Scotland. We have a regular following who attend our concert and, by some, it is described as the highlight of the Festival. Our players make every effort to be available on Dickensian days and, with past players to call on to cover absences, we manage to field a full team. Until the last Saturday of the 2013 Festival!!!

On that afternoon, as the time drew near for playing to begin, we were still missing one player. No message had been received ... was she on her way? How might we cover for her absence? Fortune smiled on us ... whilst setting out our bells, a visitor showed interest and mentioned he himself was a handbell ringer. He played with a team on the Wirral and he shared his enthusiasm for the activity with us. Was he the answer to our dilemma?

A call went out ... ‘Is there a handbell ringer in the house?’ Sure enough, our Wirral visitor was our salvation.

He kindly agreed to join us and was warmly welcomed by players and audience. He might have been less enthusiastic had he known that, unlike his own team which plays from numerical notation, we ring from staff notation. But un-fazed, he revealed that he could read music and so all was well. We were very grateful for our new player’s willingness to come to our assistance and the applause from our audience was further appreciation of his friendly gesture.

Pamela Wilkinson

Grassington Handbell Ringers

NB. For those not familiar with Yorkshire / Lancashire expressions: un-fazed: is used in the sense of not disconcerted; not troubled.

Spring Rally and AGM – Grassington 17 May



As the Tour de France ‘Grand Depart’ is to be held in Yorkshire this year and will pass very close to Grassington and by the ‘homes’ of several of our regional teams, it has been suggested that we have a ‘Tour de France’ theme to the Rally. So you may want to choose a piece of music for your individual team piece which has some connection – France, Yorkshire, bikes, yellow..... and of course, you can always decorate your ringing table appropriately.

Further information will be sent out later.

Northern Bell Orchestra –

Our new season got off to a good start in September when our two Musical Directors, Catherine O'Rourke and Tim Willets, announced our new programme for 2013/2014. After consultation with members, they selected twelve pieces to include El Cóndor Pasa, Misty, Les Misérables Medley, Salut d'Amour and The Nutcracker (selection).



The NBO had a very successful Open Day in July 2013 and we are very fortunate to have recruited four new members as well as the return of some excellent former members. The NBO has grown both in size as well as in musical expertise over the last few months.

Rehearsals have been well attended and the NBO is practicing hard for a concert on 14th June 2014 at Newbold Community School in Chesterfield. There are plans for a concert in the cathedral in Sheffield but the details need to be finalised as yet.

The rehearsal dates for the remainder of the season are as follows:

22nd February 2014 (AGM)

29th March 2014

10th May 2014

14th June 2014 concert in Chesterfield

If you would be interested in coming to a rehearsal with a view to joining the NBO please contact Roger Lazenby, our Leader on 0113 2677711 or Judy Gees, our Correspondent on 01623 883705.

The NBO hope to have another Open Day in the summer in order to try out new music and to recruit new members, so watch this space!

Judy Gees

Correspondent and Publicity Officer

Northern Bell Orchestra.

Beverley Town Handbell Ringers – 2013 Round-up



The year started slowly with the first outing of the year being to the Regional Spring Rally and AGM in Grassington on Saturday 11 May. This didn't quite go to plan as Andrew was ill and couldn't attend but it meant our new members were given a chance to ring and they did very well. As usual, several team members stayed in the village for the weekend.

On Tuesday 25 June three members of the team went to St Chad's Church in Leeds to take part in the Summer Ring. Several teams were represented and the evening consisted of massed ringing, the music for which was handed out on the night, and a concert-style performance at the end of the night.

On Sunday 30 June most of the team went to see Cast in Bronze Youth Handbell Ensemble from Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, play a concert at St Mary's Church in Beverley. The team wasn't ringing at this event but it was interesting to see the many different techniques that the Ensemble used in their ringing. The team had originally been asked to do a workshop for them but time restraints meant this couldn't happen.



On Friday 2 August four members of the team went to see the closing concert of the Ringing Week in Sheffield. This was the culmination of a week's ringing where everyone attending had started the pieces from scratch on Monday morning, practiced hard all week and then gave a performance on Friday.



Saturday 3 August saw the first ever 'Bells of Beverley and Beyond' (BOBAB) event take place in Beverley. The day started with a speech from the Beverley Town Crier. Quasimodo and Esmeralda then pulled the Beverley Bell through the streets followed by other people with a variety of bells. At 12.00 noon there was a 'two-minute noise' with anyone who had a bell of any description invited to come along and take part – similar to the two-minute ring which took place last year around the country to herald the start of the Olympic Games. During the afternoon the Beverley Town Handbell Ringers rang in St Mary's Church. It is hoped that this event will become an annual one with more bell-themed items planned for next year.

Saturday 5 October was the first event of the winter season and saw the team travelling to Park Avenue Hall in Withernsea for a concert for the Friends of Withernsea Lighthouse. Upon arrival we were told that only seven tickets had been sold which caused us (and the organiser) some concern. However, we needn't have worried because, by the time we started, it was standing room only and extra chairs had to be found. This was the first concert for our new members – Lucy, Willow and Carolyn.

The Autumn Rally was held in Coal Aston in Derbyshire on 19 October. The team didn't attend but three members went along for the day. The event followed a different format from most rallies with more emphasis on massed ringing rather than team performances. However, there were some team performances, all of which were greatly enjoyed, as was the massed ringing.

The Team's next performance was on 1 November at Burstwick Village Hall to help the Burstwick WI celebrate its 90th birthday. We provided the entertainment whilst they ate their buffet supper (which possibly wasn't the best idea as it was a bit distracting when some of the audience got up in the middle of a piece to refill their plates).

Tuesday 26 November saw six members of the team entertaining the residents of Keldgate Close in Beverley. This was one of those events where the ringers nearly outnumbered the audience – there were only ten people. However, those that did see us enjoyed the ringing and some took part in the audience participation.

On Saturday 30 November the Museums Quarter in Hull organised a Victorian Christmas and Beverley Town Handbell Ringers were invited to take part. Again, six members of the team attended but we had to dress in Victorian outfits which were something we hadn't done for a long time. We rang a peal for the arrival of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and then rang Christmas carols on the Street Scene in the Street Life Museum. This was a really enjoyable event which is likely to become an annual occurrence.



The last week before Christmas saw quite a flurry of activity with four performances in seven days.

The first was on Saturday 14 December at St Augustine Church in Hedon. This event was to help raise funds for the refurbishment of the Hedon handbells. There isn't currently a team in Hedon but it is hoped that one will start as soon as the bells are refurbished. The event was a success with over £400 being raised on the night.

The next event was on Monday 16 December when we entertained the Swanland 100 Club at Swanland Village Hall. This is an event we've been to before but normally it's been on the same night as Father Christmas visited the village and the village would be closed to traffic, making it difficult to get to. However, this year Father Christmas wasn't due in the village till the following week though he did make a special guest appearance at our concert.

On Wednesday 18 December we took our smaller set to ring in TESCO's in Beverley. Again, this is becoming a regular event but is usually quite successful and the shoppers and staff seem to enjoy it.



Friday 20 December saw our last performance of the year when we rang at North Cave Village Hall to help raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. There had been some concern that it was too near Christmas and no one would want to turn out but in the end it was a full house with over £390 being raised for Marie Curie. Father Christmas made an appearance at this concert as well.

We're now looking forward to 2014 and the two rallies at Grassington and Sedgefield and Bells of Beverley and Beyond. We also have concert bookings for June in Withernsea for the Friends of Withernsea Lighthouse, July in Hedon for our second visit to support the Hedon Handbell Ringers Appeal and November at St Catherine's Church in Leconfield for Leconfield WI.

Claire Ford
Beverley Town Handbell Ringers

Clifton Handbell Ringers TV Appearance.

Thursday 9th January was just a normal day for the team members of Clifton (Village) Hand-Bell Ringers, until mid-morning, when the members of the team received a text message from Peter Fawcett, asking if would be possible for members to attend that evening's practise in uniform, as he had a local reporter attending to take some photos.

Lunchtime came and another text again from Peter saying the reporter was coming from Look North and actually they were going to do some filming, not take some still photos and the reporter would hopefully be TV presenter Harry Gration from BBC's Look North



We all arrived in uniform at the Bell Room, and proceeded to set the Bells up in the Church itself rather than down in the choir vestry as it would look much better if we were going to be on TV! The bells were set up and talk came of if it would really be Harry or just a junior reporter. Peter assured us that he was told it would be Harry and so we warmed the Bells up and started a bit of a practise to try and work out which bits we were going to play. One of the members originally wasn't coming to the practise as they had a family party but they turned up.

Whilst we were working out what we were going to play, the camera man turned up and started unpacking his gear ready, and another comment came out across the table "If Harry Gration turns up I will eat that piano".

We all chuckled and the comment helped everyone get focused for the task ahead. Whilst having a final run through you would never believe it, but Harry Gration walked in, and we all had a little chuckle based on the previous comment.

He introduced himself and the team were ready for the filming to take place. We quickly went through the pieces we had prepared and we made our choice. Harry wanted to be part of the ringing, so we filmed the last part of Teddy Bear's Picnic with Harry joining in on the last note! It went down very well, and then Harry

proceeded to perform a couple of interviews with team members and then he left as he had to be back in Leeds to present again later that evening.



The cameraman took some arty shots, of close-ups of the bells, and team members whilst we played through the last few bars of Pirates of the Caribbean. After about 30 minutes and about ten times he had all the footage he needed, and he explained that the piece should be run on tomorrow (Friday's) evening edition of Look North.

Friday came, and the piece was actually ready and it ran on the Lunch Time edition first which aired on the BBC at approximately 13:00, followed by a second airing on the evening edition at 19:30.

I must say a big thanks to everyone involved, from Peter for getting the BBC involved, to the Church for use of the Church at such short notice and to the team for coming along and giving the BBC what they needed.

For those who haven't seen the final video a copy is available on the CHBR website <http://www.chbr.co.uk>

Michael Holroyd
Clifton Handbell Ringers

Forthcoming Events –

Saturday 17 May – Grassington
Spring Rally and Annual General Meeting - Grassington
Further details to be issued Feb - March 2014

Tuesday 10 June – Leeds
Mid-Summer Ring - St Chad's Parish Hall Leeds
Further details to follow

Saturday 14 June – Chesterfield
See poster opposite

Saturday 21 June - Ecclesfield
Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers Summer Concert -
For tickets please ring Hazel - 0114 234 2608
Further details to follow

Friday 26 – Sunday 28 September
Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering
Visit Website for further information or
Contact Don Bedford 07522 227343

Saturday 11 October – Sedgefield
Autumn Rally - Sedgefield, County Durham
Further details to follow

Saturday 13 December – Ecclesfield
Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers Annual Christmas Concert -
Gatty Hall, Priory Road, Ecclesfield. Guests, Deepcar Brass
Band and the Phoenix Singers - 19.00
For tickets please ring Hazel - 0114 234 2608
Further details to follow

NORTHERN BELL ORCHESTRA

IN CONCERT WITH
RACHEL ABBOTT - Vocalist
Accompanied by
ANDREW MARLPES - Piano
at
Newbold Community School
Highfield Lane
Chesterfield
S41 8BA
Saturday 14 June 2014 7.00p.m.

Tickets: Children £5, Adults £8.
Family ticket £20 (2 adults, 2 children)

available from
Malcolm Phipps - 01246 498952
the school and on the door

