



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

## **North East Region eNEws Issue 3 – February 2015**

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### **Dear Friends**

Welcome to our February edition of eNEws.

The New Year can be a quiet time for handbell ringers, particularly when contrasted against the busy Christmas season some of our bands have had. Following a difficult two years Beverley Town Handbell Ringers are making a comeback and have had a significant number of engagements during the latter half of 2014. Claire Ford writes about the engagements undertaken. Treble Eight Ringers, Holy Trinity Sheffield, Ecclesfield and Bingley Handbell Ringers have been busy and they also feature in this edition of eNEws with very welcome contributions from band members.

The development of social networking within the handbell world enables us all share news of concert work undertaken by fellow ringers locally, regionally and nationally so we are aware of other bands that have been active during the Christmas period. What a pity that articles were not received from some bands for inclusion in our regional eNEws. The Committee really would like to hear news of your ringing engagements and so would your fellow members of HRGB NE Region. Don't forget us!!

Despite the post Christmas lull in concert bookings, plans are in hand for a number of ringing events for 2015 / 16 and information is available in this edition of eNEws and on the regional website under "Forthcoming Events". Starting our year off will be the traditional visit to the Yorkshire Dales and the Spring Rally and AGM in Grassington.

Make a note of the date NOW and be ready to complete your application form when it is sent to you very soon! I look forward to seeing many of you at Grassington and send my best wishes to you all, as always!

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

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**All items for the next issue of eNEws should be sent to [aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk](mailto:aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk) by 31 May 2015**

**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



### National Residential Ringing Week

The NRRW is again going to be held in our Region, at the same venue as last year, Sheffield University's 'The Edge' on 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

This event was advertised in the Autumn/Winter 2014 edition of 'Reverberations'. Some of you may be interested in joining in for the full week, learning new pieces with expert conductors – Michael Glasgow from the U.S.A., Emily Li from Hong Kong and our National Chairman Tim Willets.

It is a great way to increase your handbell expertise and to play alongside ringers from other areas of the country whilst having fun along the way.

Even if you think the idea is not for you, you can still come along to the Final Concert and hear what has been achieved during the week. NRRW is held every two years and has previously been held in Scotland and in London. We are lucky to have the opportunity to attend an excellent and varied concert of handbell music in our Region.

Look out for the concert adverts and come along with your team for an enjoyable evening of handbell music!

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### Northern Bell Orchestra Concerts

The Northern Bell Orchestra, which has ringers from the North East, North West, East Midlands and West Midlands regions, will be performing two concerts this year.

Newbold School in Chesterfield on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May (contact Malcolm Phipps [pedelweiss@talktalk.net](mailto:pedelweiss@talktalk.net))  
Alford, Lincolnshire on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July (contact Judy Gees [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com))

We would welcome any regional members and friends to come along to either concert.

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### Regional Questionnaire

Many thanks to all of you, teams and individuals, who made the effort to complete and return the Regional Questionnaire which was sent out in early January.

The responses have been interesting and enlightening – but what shines through is how much you all enjoy your ringing, even if you haven't got the time to commit to attend lots of events.

The contents of the questionnaires will provide the Committee with much food for thought in the weeks and months to come.

If you still haven't sent back your questionnaire then it's not too late. If you can't locate it or would like another copy sending or if you didn't receive one and would like one, then please contact me to request one. ([Christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk](mailto:Christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk) or 2 Holt Park Approach, Leeds, LS16 7PW).

## Keeping in touch

If you are on e-mail and didn't receive a questionnaire, that means that we haven't got a correct e-mail address for you on the system. If you would like your e-mail address to be added or amended, then please contact Andrew Ford - [aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk](mailto:aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk) who will do this.

Please note that if you amend details on your HRGB membership form it takes quite some time to filter down to Regional Secretaries and Web-managers, so if you have a change to make (at any time of year) please let me know directly so that we can update our records.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**North East Region Secretary**

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## Wilsden Thursday Club

Our last performance of non- Christmas pieces in 2014 was for the Wilsden Thursday Afternoon Group. Not surprisingly they meet in Wilsden, which is a large village close to our base in Bingley, on a Thursday afternoon. We managed a turnout of eleven ringers – which is the number we really need to perform on the full three octaves.



The group gave us a nice warm welcome. It was wonderful to ring in a room with more than adequate space for everyone even though there was a bit of a background noise from the playgroup session in the next room!

Audience numbers and performer numbers were about equal due to at least 3 people (of the audience!) being absent because of falls and broken limbs.

We played pieces out of our repertoire that we felt confident with and Roger Pollard did his usual charming of the audience. He told them about each piece before we performed it - which gave us time to make sure we had the right bells and music at the ready.



After our performance the group enjoyed the opportunity to have a go at LARGO themselves to varying degrees of success. Tea and biscuits followed and we were given a generous donation to our funds.

We are pleased that even though this performance was in what we might term 'working hours' we were able to perform on all three octaves. This may be a reflection on the age profile of our band as well as the flexibility of a number of employers. However it is becoming increasingly difficult and a number of accidents or illnesses might mean that this would not be possible. We are therefore embarking on a recruitment drive in an effort to solve this issue before it becomes a major problem.

**Solna Burnham**  
**Bingley Handbell Ringers**

## Carols, cakes and coffee – a Treble Eight Christmas

Going on holiday from the end of October to the beginning of December is not ideal if your handbell team has got Christmas engagements in the offing! However, this was when we had to go to fit in with our daughter's work pattern.

So that left the rest of Treble Eight Ringers to their own devices as far as practising for the planned events. Fortunately we have a 12 bell set which we intended to use for these, so the bell box, music stands and music books were easily portable and were taken to the house of whoever was hosting the practice that particular week.



The first e-mail I received was ominous – ‘there weren’t enough of us to practise’ –accompanied by the photo of a large slice of carrot cake to show what really had happened at practice – coffee & cake! However, the coffee and cake was accompanied by chat (surprise!) – which included planning the programme for the forthcoming events.

There had obviously been plenty of practice at the subsequent rehearsals if the performance at our first event was anything to go by; we entertained the Horsforth WI at their Christmas party and then some of them were very keen to have a go at ringing carols themselves. There was a good spread of food and plenty to drink (not just coffee and cakes!).

Our next engagement was ringing in one of the main shopping streets in Leeds to accompany a charity collection for Wheatfields Hospice. Two of the ringers couldn't be there, so Roger stepped in to ring the top two parts four-in-hand. Fortunately the weather was kind to us – fine, if chilly. We now know what it's like to be a busker on the streets of Leeds – an interesting experience, including being ‘moved on’ by the street warden (he thought we were too close to the shop windows)! To warm ourselves up afterwards we retired to the nearby coffee shop – for coffee, cake and chat! We all agreed that it was a very worthwhile thing to do and would like to do something similar next year – but maybe at an indoor shopping centre!



I took the bells and Belleplates to our local Beaver group, who were very enthusiastic and full of questions about the bells. At the end of the meeting they very proudly played the three Christmas tunes that we'd practised to an audience of very impressed parents. No coffee and cake here – just a very welcome mug of tea!

Our final Christmas performance was at a Sheltered Housing Complex that we visit every year; we really struggled to get anyone to ‘have a go’ at ringing some carols – a complete contrast to previous years when there has been no shortage of volunteers. In chatting to some of the residents over coffee and mince pies afterwards it was obvious that failing eyesight and arthritic hands were taking their toll – as one lady said “I'd love to have had a go like I did last year, but my hands aren't strong enough to hold the bell now”. A very sobering thought - it will be a sad day when we are too infirm to ring bells, but we'll just have to hope that someone else entertains us by ringing bells whilst we sit back and enjoy our coffee and cake!

**Christine Lazenby**  
(Treble Eight Ringers aka the Coffee, Cake & Chat Ringers)



## Feast in the Forest



Further to Kathy's piece about Feast in the Forest, this event spans several weekends leading up to Christmas and Holy Trinity were recruited for one session. We had a very enjoyable session and then were asked for a photo session. The result was a write up in the Sheffield Telegraph on 18th December and the accompanying picture took up half the front page on that issue. We are quite pleased with this picture since all eight members were present for once and it's a bit different to having a strung out line out of ringers.

The picture was taken by and is the copyright of David Bocking who should be acknowledged and we have received his permission to use it and for HRGB to use it as well for non-commercial purposes if they wish.

**Stan Nuttall**  
**Holy Trinity (Sheffield)**

## Forthcoming Events

### 2015

**Saturday 9 May - Grassington Spring Rally and AGM**

Further details to follow -

**Saturday 16 May - Northern Bell Orchestra - Concert, Outwood Academy (formally Newbold Community School) - Chesterfield** Further details contact - Malcolm Phipps - [pedeweiss@talktalk.net](mailto:pedeweiss@talktalk.net)

**Tuesday 9 June - Summer Ring - St Chads Parish Centre, Leeds**

Further details contact Christine Lazenby - [christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk](mailto:christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk)

**Saturday 4 July - Northern Bell Orchestra - Alford, Lincolnshire**

Further details contact Judy Gees [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 17 October - Beverley Autumn rally**

Further details to follow -

### 2016

**Saturday 27 February - Joint Tower Bell and Handbell event - St Matthias Church Hall, Burley, Leeds, LS4 2DZ**

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

## Ecclesfield 'Round-up'



Judith Baker (bottom tenor) retired after ringing with us for about 40 years. She was aptly named as she was famous for baking and decorating fantastic cakes for us whenever the occasion occurred.

the team presented her with her own 'History of the Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers', chocolates and Christmas plants, at the end of our Christmas Concert.

Christmas Carol Concert.  
Saturday 13th December  
at The Gatty Hall  
Ecclesfield. Our usual  
mix of Bells Brass and  
voices, plus community  
carol singing.



Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers, Ecclesfield U3A Ringers, Deepcar Brass Band and Phoenix Singers. Everyone enjoyed themselves, with audience participation - the Brass Band giving a very energetic Schneewalzer.

The choir joining in 'Christmas Bells are Ringing'. Joint Jingle Bells with the band at the end, though the band always win.



Wesley Hall Crookes, Sheffield – Friday 19th December concert for Worrall Male Voice Choir, compered by Gerry Kersey presenter on Radio Sheffield.

The concert opened with the Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers playing an accompanying descant for O Come O Come Emmanuel with the male voice choir.

The ringers performed a range of Christmas music in the middle of each half.

The concert concluded with community carol singing, led by the choir, the last 5 carols also being accompanied by the handbells once more.

Excellent comments and response from the audience.

Due to various accidents and ill-health, the ringers had needed to re-arrange both ringers and repertoire to fulfil these engagements, so it was full marks to all of them for their achievements.

**Hazel Brady**  
**Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers**

## Beverley Town Handbell Ringers 2014



This year started slowly like last year with the first outing of the year being to the Regional Spring Rally and AGM in Grassington on Saturday 17 May. This was the first Rally for Tom and Carolyn. The Team rang four pieces with the Friday night team ringing two and the Sunday night team ringing two - this was the first time Beverley Town had fielded two teams at a Rally. There was a theme for the day which was the Tour de France which would be taking place in the surrounding area in the near future and to keep in with this theme Tom made some bunting for the table and the Friday night team rang 'Gymnopedie' by Satie. As usual, several team members stayed in the village for the weekend.

June saw several members of the team visiting events round the Region - four members went to the Mid-Summer Ring in Leeds, seven members went to the Northern Bell Orchestra Concert in Chesterfield and two members went to the Junior Event, 'Jabberwocky', in Sheffield.

Thursday 26 June saw a return visit to the Friends of Withernsea Lighthouse with a concert at the Northfield Club in Withernsea. It was really pleasant ringing in the conservatory on a sunny, summer's evening with the doors open. This was the first concert for Tom and Graham. This is our second concert for this organisation and they are already considering asking us back in November/December 2015.



Saturday 12 July was the annual Bell Festival in Beverley. The Team weren't all available to take part as a late change to the date of the event meant that too many people were away. However, the Beverley Bell was there celebrating its 100th birthday with a bell-shaped cake. Quasimodo pulled the bell through the town centre followed by several other people ringing whatever bells they could find. It was also the Puppet Festival in town on that day and a fire-eating dragon attended the opening ceremony and the procession was followed by a giant wooden hippopotamus.

The Team had a return visit to St Augustine's Church in Hedon on 10 August. This was the day there was a mini typhoon in Hull, just up the road, and, during 'The Waltz' from 'The Jazz Suite' all the lights in the Church went out. Whilst the team were trying to focus on the music in the gloom all that could be heard from the Conductor was 'keep going!' Fortunately, the lights were only out for a short period and we were able to continue with the concert.

Saturday 27 September saw one of the team's longer journeys to do a concert with a visit to the Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering and Country Wakes held at Hardraw near Hawes. The team were part of the evening entertainment together with the Bedford Handbell Ensemble. Rather than do a full concert the team rang a few pieces and held a question and answer session with the audience which went down quite well.



There was another long journey a couple of weeks later when the Autumn Rally was held at Sedgfield on 11 October. There were only a small number of teams with a lot of massed ringing during the day rather than team ringing which met with a mixed reaction from the members of Beverley Town as one or two enjoyed this format but others were not so keen on all the massed ringing.

Thursday 15 October saw the small set of bells being rung at the Communal Lounge in Keldgate Close in Beverley. This was a return visit after a similar performance last year though the team couldn't play Christmas Carols this year as it was a bit too early.



Our only full-set concert during the winter season was on 12 November at Molescroft Pavilion for the Leconfield WI. The concert had originally been arranged to take place in St Catherine's Church, Leconfield, but, only a few weeks before the concert, we visited the Church to discover there was no way our tables would fit. Fortunately, an alternative venue was found and we had a successful concert.

The small set was out quite a few times over the Christmas period - 13 November at Cedar Grange, Cherry Burton; 22 November at Gilberdyke Garden Centre; 25 November at



Churchfields, Hessle; 29 November at the Victorian Christmas event in Hull; 30 November



at a return visit to Gilberdyke Garden Centre; 11 December for Kirkella Inner Wheel at the Beverley Arms Hotel in Beverley and 17 December at Tesco's in Beverley.

There are already one or two engagements arranged for 2015 with six of the team going to the National Rally in Wymondham, the full team going to the Spring Rally in Grassington and a concert in Withernsea. There are also several other enquiries from various organisations which are waiting to be confirmed.

**Claire Ford**  
**Beverley Town Handbell Ringers**

## Notice

### **HRGB North East Region AGM 2015**

The AGM of the North East Region of HRGB will take place on  
Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 11.30 a.m.  
in the Town Hall, Grassington.

Nominations for Officers of the Region, NEC Representatives and Committee members and any proposals for resolutions to be included in the Agenda must reach the Secretary no later than 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

#### HRGB North East Region

Nomination for .....

Name .....

Team .....

Proposed by ..... (name).....(signature)

Seconded by ..... (name).....(signature)

Signature of Nominee .....



## **Spring Rally and AGM Grassington**

Our Spring Rally and AGM will be held In Grassington on Saturday, 9th May.

We are planning to have a film music theme and hope that teams might find something suitable in their repertoire to fit in with this. (You could dig out those copies of Edelweiss which was probably heard at every Rally in the early days of HRGB!)

We will be welcoming the new HRGB Chairman, Tim Willetts, to our Rally and he will conduct a piece of Massed Ringing Music to fit in with the theme.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**North East Region Secretary**

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## **Northern Bell Orchestra Concert**

I am the organiser of this year's concert by the Northern Bell Orchestra using some 130 handbells and several bass chimes each approx 3- 4ft long.

I would be grateful if you could publicise the Concert which is to be held at the Outwood Academy, Newbold at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Academy is situated at the bottom of Highfield Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire and tickets £ 8-00 can be purchased from myself, with my contact details below.

Early application for tickets is advisable as well over 150 attended last year's concert !

Further details contact Malcolm Phipps -

Home: 01246-498952  
Mobile: 078676-527638  
email: [pedelweiss@talktalk.net](mailto:pedelweiss@talktalk.net)



**Malcolm Phipps**  
**Northern Bell Orchestra**

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## **Joint Handbell and Tower bell event**

People who play handbells have often expressed an interest in learning to ring tower bells and vice versa. There are many towers in our region where an old set of handbells lies neglected because no one knows what to do with them.

Next year we are arranging an event based around St Matthias Church, Burley, Leeds to give both types of ringers a taste of the other type or ringing and the opportunity to show off their respective skills.

**The event will be held on Saturday 27th February 2016 and may include:**



*General massed ringing for handbell ringers*

*Three open towers for tower bell ringing (one with Yorkshire tail ends!)*

*Opportunities for tower bell ringers to try handbells  
and for handbell ringers to try the Wombel (model bell) and tower bells (under strict supervision)*



*HRGB and YACR sales stalls*

*Advice on restoring and fundraising for dilapidated sets of handbells*

*Catering by the infamous Bingley Belles*

Please put this date in your diary and watch this space for further news.

**Solna Burnham  
Bingley Handbell Ringers**

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