



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

## North East Region eNews Issue 11 – February 2017

Dear Friends

**Welcome to our first edition of e-News for 2017. And what a year it promises to be!**

50 years ago on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1967 a group of enthusiastic handbell teams met for a rally in Ashton-under Lyne and formally agreed to form a Society dedicated to promoting the art of tune ringing on handbells – Handbell Ringers of Great Britain.

I cannot claim to be a “founder member” but I did join in 1969 and so have witnessed the development of handbell tune ringing and of HRGB through the formative 1970’s onwards. It is, perhaps, difficult for those not ringing handbells in the early years, to appreciate the huge progress that has been made over the last 50 years and, in particular, the standard of music making achieved today.

A mere 40 years ago saw the formation of the North East Region of HRGB so 2017 gives us an opportunity for a double celebration!

At our recent committee meeting we were able to begin the process of organising our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday rally in Grassington on **20<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. We were also able to start planning our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday event on **7<sup>th</sup> October 2017** in Sheffield and a number of mini rallies throughout the region at other times of the year. . You will receive further information very soon. A huge “thank you” for submitting your expressions of interest forms promptly.

During the past twelve months it has been pleasing to see several new teams being formed and joining HRGB. In this edition of e-News we have an update on the activities of the Tyne Handbell Ringers, a note from our Secretary telling us of the renewing of interest in the Cleveland Ringers.

Our Joint Ringing day organised with great flair by Solna Burnham and the Bingley Handbell Ringers resulted in two potential teams in Dewsbury and Pontefract. This day was a great event with opportunities to share ringing experience and encourage those wishing to start out on their own “handbell journey”. Thanks to all involved.

Finally, a question! Did you know that HRGB has a Facebook page both nationally and in our own NE Region? Communication within HRGB has been the subject of discussion at national level and social media (Facebook and Twitter) are becoming popular as a means of communication within the Society. It is recognised, of course, that social media sites are not popular with everyone. However, do take a look and if you are able to contribute to discussion or even post a “pic” of your team I’m sure your friends in HRGB would be interested.



Do enjoy this edition of e-News and keep your articles coming in. As I stated at the beginning of this letter “what a year this promises to be”.

I look forward to meet you during the year and send my best wishes to you all!

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

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## **Notes from the Regional Secretary**



We are pleased to welcome four new teams to the Region, the Dewsbury Handbell Ringers, St. Mary's, Oxenhope, Wharfedale Juniors (who are going to borrow the regions handchimes) and Bells Up from Whickham, near Gateshead. We look forward to meeting them at an event in due course.

The team at Eastbrook Mission in Bradford, who have been members for many years, have decided not to renew their membership as a team but one of their members, Janie Grabham, is retaining contacts with HRGB by becoming an independent member.

I received a surprise email from the Cleveland Ringers who were very active in the Region in the 1970s and 80s. We look forward to hearing more from them during the year.

It is 40 years since the North East Region was formed, at a Rally in Selby in 1977. Looking back at the report in Reverberations it is interesting to note that only one of the teams that rang at the first Rally is still a member of HRGB today – Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers. Three members of the original committee, Hazel Bradey, Rosalind Rogerson and Peter Fawcett are still very active in the Region. Plans for our Regional 40<sup>th</sup> ‘Ruby’ Anniversary Rally at Grassington are underway. Thank you to all those who responded to our request for ‘expressions of interest’ in the events in 2017, which has helped us with our planning. We hope to be able to send you details of the Mini-Rally dates and venues soon.

I have been privileged to take part in the practices of two North East Region teams recently. The Glendale Ringers in Northumberland welcomed Roger and I to their practice in mid-January and it was good to see the Liversedge bells put to use. Much nearer home, the Chevin Ringers in Otley gave us a warm welcome in February. We often see other teams at Rallies, but rarely at their practices - it was good to share ideas and to discuss problems (recruitment, ringers not always being available, what to do when you’ve not got the same group of people each week, bell maintenance etc) and how it might be possible to solve them.

I hope that our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year might give us all the chance to visit (and be visited by) other teams as the Golden Jubilee Bear makes its way round the Region.

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

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## **Regional Music Library**

Many groups must have music they longer use. This may be because they have played the piece so often that they are bored with it or it may be a piece that they never really got to grips with.

How often does a piece which looked so good on paper (often when they are only partially visible) turn out to be a disaster?



On the other hand there are groups who want to try another piece either on a whim or because it is a special request for a performance.

My suggestion is that every group submits a list of their 'rejects' to form a central data base which can be held on a page of the website. If you want a piece from the list you can contact the owner direct.

This is not intended to be a way of breaching copy right so you cannot add to the list pieces you have purchased only for use by your group. They cannot of course also be pieces that have been specially arranged for your group by one of your talented members.

It is intended as a way of finding good homes for unwanted music and hopefully saving groups, particularly those which are newly formed some money.

At the recent joint event a number of people who have set up or are setting up new groups were trying to find suitable music. This library might give them the opportunity.

We at Bingley are happy to co-ordinate the data base in alphabetical order so please send your lists direct to me at [rnsburnham@talktalk.net](mailto:rnsburnham@talktalk.net). Please remember to include a contact number.

**Solna Burnham**  
**Bingley Handbell Ringers**  
**01535 273120 or 07884 233382**

## **HRGB North East Region AGM**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the North East Region of HRGB will be held at  
 The Town Hall, Grassington  
 On Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at 11.30 am.

## **Dronfield in the limelight**

In October I received a telephone call from Anne, our church administrator at St Mark's Broomhill, asking about handbell teams in the Sheffield area. She was about to move to employment with Chorus UK, an ever-growing organisation aiming to get people singing, under the leadership of Andy Booth. It is worth seeing what this choir does and how they do it [www.chorusuk.com](http://www.chorusuk.com)

Andy Booth was planning a Christmas Bonanza and he felt that he simply had to have handbells in the programme. I gave Anne some suggestions of local teams, referred her to the HRGB website and mentioned the NE region. As a regular supporter of Chorus UK, I went to the show in mid-December, not knowing how the search for ringers had been resolved. There was no printed programme, so I still had no idea what to expect, though I did see some black draped tables on the right of the stage near the front of the orchestra.

Then they were announced - Dronfield Handbell Ringers - oh, how bold - ringing to an audience filling the stalls and the circle of the City Hall. They entered looking as I've never seen them before, in "thin black patterned jackets over black tops and bottoms", as Helen described their uniform to me afterwards. "Rather

floaty and very versatile", she continued. (Might we see them in their new attire at Grassington, I wonder?) The famous Dronfield boxes were transformed by black drapes, please don't call them curtains.

Vic, conducting, appeared to be down a hole, at a lower level than the ringers. They rang 'Twas in the moon of wintertime', a traditional Canadian carol by Cathy Mocklebust, arranged by Vic, in the first half of the show, and 'Troika' from Lieutenant Kije by Prokofiev, also arranged by Vic, in the second half. They came across as assured, expressive, and stylish as ever, and their reception was justifiably enthusiastic. I could not quite work how they were amplified, but realised that they must have been: it was just the right amount. But, I understand that the problem of hearing themselves was considerable for the ringers.

So, well done, Dronfield. It was a pleasure to see you performing to such an audience on such a special occasion. The show happened in the afternoon and in the evening, so many hundreds of people overall must have become aware of handbell ringing, perhaps for the first time.

**Rosalind Rogerson**  
**Broomhill Handbell Ringers**

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## **Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers**

In an article in eNews in February 2016, the handbell ringers in Heddon on the Wall outlined their activities during the past year and their hopes for 2016. How did they get on? Here is an update from Jennifer King:

Our new name, 'The Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers' tells you where we are and what we have been gradually adding to our repertoire of local folk songs /tunes. A potential new member did not materialise so we continue to enjoy what the three of us can do – exploring and arranging music for Spring and of course the Queen's Birthday – (Long Live Elizabeth from Merrie England was a success). The get-together with the Silver Chimes (a Belleplate group based at 'The Sage' in Gateshead) was again a happy event both teams having prepared 'Trinity Carillon' by Iris Kippax.

I helped out at the with the tower ringers and am delighted to report that the tower captain with his wife and two young sons were out in the street playing carols during Wylam Village Christmas event.

2017 has begun with one of our ringers recovering from a spell in hospital and we are having a break for a few weeks. We don't know what Plan B might emerge but will hope to find ways and means of celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and of encouraging handbell tune ringing in the Tyne Valley.

**Jennifer King**  
**Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers**

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## **Joint event January 28th 2017**

Last year I organised a joint event for Hand and Tower Bell ringers in the region. The event was a success and I was asked to arrange another. I had thought it was going to be a one off!

This time we held the event in the hall adjacent Christ Church, Ossett which although it does to have ringable bells is conveniently situated close to a number of towers and the region's motorway network.

The advantage of doing an event for the second time is that you can learn from your mistakes and successes. The morning gave people the opportunity to learn new skills either tunes or changes (such as we normally ring on tower bells) on handbells. In the afternoon the tower bell ringers visited other towers and handbell ringers



tried sight reading together under our own musical director Clair. This was her first experience of conducting a wider group.

However the whole idea of the event was to give everyone to get together, swap experiences and pick each others' brains for advice. It was pleasing to meet so many tower bell ringers who are preparing to set up handbell groups often with young children.

The whole day was a great success and, although I did most of the organisation, it would not have worked without the assistance of the Bingley Hand and Tower Bell Ringers including those who helped with preparing food, serving and clearing up, advertising, transporting the model bell and generally setting up, particularly over the last couple of days. They will be relieved to know however that it will be a few years before we organise such an event again!

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

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## **Beverley Town Handbell Ringers Roundup – 2016**

The first event of the year involved six members of the team travelling to Leeds on 27 February to assist in a joint tower bell and handbell ringing event which was aimed at encouraging handbell ringers to ring tower bells and tower bell ringers to ring handbells. The event was quite successful and a similar event is to be held in January 2017.

The first concert of the year was on 9 March for the WI in Newbald closely followed on 13 March with a concert at St Nicholas' Church in Beverley. We practice in the Community Centre that is part of St Nicholas' Church so we didn't have far to travel for the concert.

The next event saw our 12-bell ensemble travel to Swanland on 17 March for a workshop for the U3A.

The full team travelled to the National Rally in Penrith from 1-3 April. The team attended various workshops and gave one themselves. They also performed in the evening concert. Those members who were residents at the Rally enjoyed the socialising after the concert and it was a great weekend with good food and good company.



The next event was an off-table rally in Ecclesfield on 16 April. Beverley Town, Ecclesfield and Clifton all attended the event and Ecclesfield had taken some of their archive photos which brought back many memories for some of those there.

The next concert was at Howden on 27 April. We had to find an alternative route to get to the venue as one of the main routes into the town had been closed after a railway bridge had collapsed.



The next event was the Regional Spring Rally and AGM in Grassington on 7 May. The Rally followed the usual format of team and massed ringing and, as usual, several team members stayed in the village for the weekend.

On 28 May the 12-bell ensemble travelled to Slingsby near Malton to ring for a wedding. We were due to ring after the wedding and couldn't set up (outside) until the bride was in Church. She was half an hour late - though this was probably expected as, at the time the wedding was due to start, several members of the congregation were still in the local pub. We haven't rung for many weddings before but it is something we hope to do more of in the future.

Several members of the team visited the Mid-Summer Ring in Leeds and the Northern Bell Orchestra Concert.



The Autumn Rally took place on 29 October at the Central Methodist Church in Brighouse and was organised by the Clifton Handbell Ringers. Beverley Town couldn't attend as a team as too many people seemed to have other things on that day but several other teams attended from around the Region and took part in the usual team ringing and massed ringing. The Clifton Ringers had also set a 'fun' quiz based on places in Yorkshire - there was one about a building in

Hornsea which is only 13 miles away from us

but we'd never heard of it. The use of the dining room proved interesting as the Church had also arranged a Halloween treasure hunt for that morning so we had to drink our tea whilst being visited by witches and ghosts dropping off their answer sheets.

Saturday 26 November saw the start of a busy Christmas season with the 12-bell ensemble ringing in Victorian costumes for the 'Magic of Christmas' event in Hull. The small set also rang for Aldbrough WI on 5 December; at Hornsea Floral Hall for the U3A on 6 December; Tesco's on 21 December and the Mercure Hotel Willerby Grange on Christmas Eve whilst the guests waited for their evening meal.

The full team did four concerts in December - on 2 December in the Masonic Lodge at Sutton; on 10 December at St Nicholas Church in Beverley; on 13 December for the WI at Kilham (it was so foggy that night we didn't know whether we would make it or not) and on 19 December at Swanland Village Hall.



There are already several events planned for 2017 including that Regional Rally in Grassington and some tentative enquiries about concerts so we have a full year of ringing to look forward to.

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

**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 2017**

**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.**

## **Northern Bell Orchestra – Lunchtime Recital**

The Northern Bell Orchestra will be providing a lunchtime recital (1.10pm - 2pm) in The Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday, 13th May, conducted by Tim Willetts and Kate Sawallisch. The programme will include:-

Waltz from Suite No. 2 by Dmitri Shostakovich, arranged by John Atkinson  
Largo from the New World Symphony by Antonin Dvorak, arranged by Vic Cox  
Change Ring Prelude by Fred Gramann

Spirit of Freedom - a traditional Scottish melody arranged by Malcolm C Wilson  
Polaris and the Northern Lights by Brendan Bevan - one of the winners of the HRGB Golden Anniversary Composition Competition

**Please go and support the NBO.**

**Entry to the recital is free after payment of entrance to the Cathedral.**

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## **Golden Jubilee Bear**

At the National Rally in Exeter each Region of HRGB will be presented with a Golden Jubilee Bear. The Bear will travel to events in the Region and hopefully each team will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Bear.

We would like suggestions for a name for our Bear. Please send your ideas to the Secretary by 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**Christine Lazenby  
2 Holt Park Approach,  
Leeds  
LS16 7PW**



# Forthcoming Events

## 2017

**Saturday 11 March - Northern Bell Orchestra** - Rehearsal, Ashover Parish Hall, Ashover, S45 0BE further details Contact Judy Gees 01623 883705 - [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 25 March - Northern Bell Orchestra** - Rehearsal, Ashover Parish Hall, Ashover, S45 0BE further details Contact Judy Gees 01623 883705 - [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 13 May - Lunchtime Spring Concert** - Northern Bell Orchestra Lincoln Cathedral [further details follow link](#) or Contact Judy Gees 01623 883705 - [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 20 May - NER 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)

**Saturday 1 July - Northern Bell Orchestra** - Open Day, Ashover - further details  
Contact Judy Gees 01623 883705 - [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 8 July - Northern Bell Orchestra** - Evening Concert, Lord Street West United Church, Southport.  
Further details Contact Judy Gees 01623 883705 - [hsocello@btinternet.com](mailto:hsocello@btinternet.com)

**Saturday 7 October - Autumn Rally and 50th Anniversary Celebrations** -  
Further details to be confirmed

## HRGB Sales – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Items – available to order



Tea Towel £3.00

Pen 60p



Coaster £1.80



Pencil 30p

Pin Badge £1.50



Tote Bag £3.80

These items are available to order via email from the Regional Sales Manager (aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk). Postage will be charged at cost and will be advised once you place an order. Payment can be made either by cheque or BACS. Further details re payment will be advised when the order is received.



# The Northern Bell Orchestra at Lincoln Cathedral



Lunchtime Concert  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
1.10pm-2.00pm

Music will include:

"What a Wonderful World" made famous by Louis Armstrong,

"Largo" from Dvořák's New World Symphony,

"And All That Jazz" from "Chicago!"

"Waltz No 2" by Shostakovich,

Plus music written especially for handbells.

