



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

North East Region eNews Issue 14 – February 2018

Dear Friends

My first “Chairman’s Letter” of 2018 starts by reporting the passing of two members of the North East Region.

Derek Gordon, a founder member of Beverley Town Handbell Ringers and partner of the late Joan Engler and Rosemary Burnip, correspondent and ringer with the Sedgefield Handbell Ringers. Both members were much respected and will be greatly missed

I hope to bring a fuller reflection on the lives of Derek and Rosemary in the next edition of e-News.

I do hope that many of you will have had the opportunity to dust off your Christmas season repertoire and share your ringing by undertaking public performances. I say this because there has been very little in the way of articles from teams for this edition of e-News. Beverley Town were busy performing at 12 gigs in a 5 week period.

Looking forward to 2018, your committee met, mid February, to tie up a few loose ends from the 50th anniversary celebrations and formulate plans for 2018.

Christine provides a “newsy” report on new teams joining HRGB and events aimed at promoting handbell ringing in the wider public arena.

I am wondering how the Messingham band, from North Lincolnshire, has any time for leisure reading about their active programme of ringing.

A great reflection on a ‘Year in the life of the Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers’ - one of our most northerly teams. We are hoping to arrange another mini-rally this year to keep that very important connection with our northerly friends.

It will soon be time again for the HRGB National Rally and I hope to see some North East friends there. If you’re not attending the “national” I hope you are polishing up your repertoire for our annual spring gathering, and AGM, in Grassington! See you there!!

You can pick up dates for your diary in the “Forthcoming Events” section including concert dates for the Northern bell Orchestra who are also “guesting” as the opening concert performance (Friday evening) at the 2018 National Rally

With my very best wishes to you all!

John Atkinson
North East Region Chairman

Notes from the Regional Secretary



Welcome

We would like to welcome three new teams to the North East Region.

They are:

Kildwick MiniRingers

All Saints School Handbell Ringers

Haxey St. Nicholas' Handbell Ringers

We are also pleased to welcome new members into existing teams.

We hope that you enjoy your ringing and hope to meet you at an event sometime soon.

Goodbye

We are sad to say 'Goodbye' to the ringers from Lynesack, who have been members for many years and were regular attenders at Rallies.

Team News

Several teams in the Region are taking part in the 'Get Creative' scheme by ringing in their local library. So far I have heard that Sedgefield, Northallerton, Messingham, Dronfield, Bingley and Beverley are taking part. It would be good hear of your experiences in the next eNEws.

All Saints' School and Kildwick MiniRingers are taking part in Skipton Music Festival on 12th March. We wish them well with that.

Wharfedale Juniors have taken delivery of their new set of Malmark Bells.

Bells and Chimes available for loan

The Regional set of Handchimes (2 octaves) is now available for teams to borrow.

Anne Singleton from Amber Bells has donated some bells to HRGB. These have been allocated to Regions so that there are bells available so that a prospective new member can 'double up' without disrupting the rest of the team. The bells that we have been allocated are G11, F12 and F#12 (G, F and F# 5).

If you are interested in borrowing the chimes please John Atkinson (Chairman) or Christine Lazenby (Secretary).

National Rally 2020

Yes, 2020! That is when it is the North East Region's turn to host the National Rally. The committee has already discussed various possible venues and Solna Burnham from Bingley has offered to produce a spreadsheet containing information about these so that we can narrow down our choices and make visits to the most likely options.

Golden Jubilee Year

After a very successful and enjoyable Golden Jubilee year we intend to produce a display at Grassington, a booklet for teams of photographs taken during the year and a photo album for the Regional and National Archives.

Thank you to all of you who looked after Ted during his travels!

National Executive Committee

One of the items discussed at NEC has been the imminent introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will affect HRGB and the Region, along with all other such organisations.

Dates for your Diary

Our Spring Rally and AGM are at Grassington on 12th May. We look forward to seeing many of you there – and possibly having some nominations for the Committee at the AGM.

The Summer Ring takes place in Leeds on Tuesday 12th June. As usual, this will be an informal evening of massed ringing for individuals as well as teams.

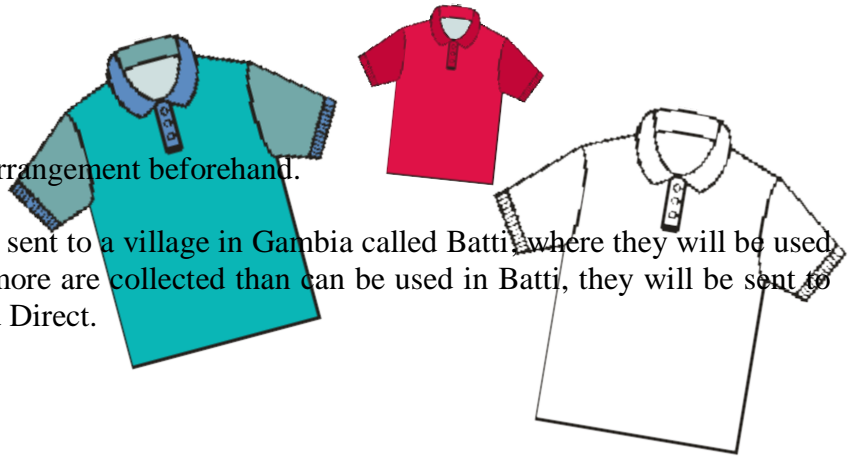
The Autumn Rally will be at Ecclesfield on 13th October.
More details of these events will follow.

Christine Lazenby
North East Region Secretary

Have you any unwanted polo shirts? Any size, any colour, any design.

I will collect them at the National Rally or by arrangement beforehand.

Through the charity Loving Hands they will be sent to a village in Gambia called Batti where they will be used for school sport, especially football teams. If more are collected than can be used in Batti, they will be sent to refugee centers in Greece through Hope and Aid Direct.



Many thanks

Helen Wetherfield

Helen.wetherfield@btinternet.com

02085 020091



2 Octaves Whitechapel Handbells including foam cushions, table cloths, plastic music stands and music £4,000.00 or nearest offer.

Contact Mrs. P. J. Smith Tel. 01625860354 or email gordon8pam8@btinternet.com

Beverley's 'Twelve Gigs' of Christmas

On the 'first gig' of Christmas (25 November) some members of the band put on their Victorian outfits and went back in time to the 'Magic of Hull' Christmas Event. Each year this event attracts thousands of visitors to the Hull Museums Quarter.

On the 'second gig' of Christmas (28 November) our ensemble entertained the Beverley Methodist Luncheon Club at the Kingston Theatre Hotel in Hull.

On the 'third gig' of Christmas (2 December) some members of the team 'put up' with dry but cold temperatures at the 'Aldbrough Christmas Street'. This is a village on the coast that shuts itself off to traffic and fills the streets with stalls and 'Christmas Merriment'.



On the 'fourth gig' of Christmas (6 December) the ensemble went to 'The Lawns', Hull University not to study but entertain the local Alpha Probus Group.

On the 'fifth gig' of Christmas (7 December) we had our own 'five gold rings' with the five octave full team entertaining the North Ferriby WI.



Luda group. As we are at the University - **What's in a Name?**

On the 'sixth gig' of Christmas (9 December) the team travelled to Withernsea to join the Withernsea Ladies Choir entertaining a full house at the Withernsea Methodist Church.

On the 'seventh gig' of Christmas (13 December) the team went back for a refresher at 'The Lawns', Hull University this time to entertain the Cottingham Men's de

At its founding in 1975 when the present rules were laid down, the founder, Mr Harry Wright, was looking for a distinctive name for the organisation. As they met in the Church Hall it was suggested that a certain Nicholas de Luda who was sent from Louth (Luda) in Lincolnshire, by the then King in 1364, to rescue the church from its rather dilapidated state, and who is now much revered in the church, was just the name for the organisation.

After the intensity of learning at Hull University it was straight on to the 'eighth gig' of Christmas (just a few hour later) to entertain the shoppers at Beverley's Tesco.

On the 'ninth gig' of Christmas (14 December) we took a more relaxed time to entertain the residents of the newly opened 'Laureates - McCarthy & Stone' Retirement Living in Cottingham.

On 16 December 19 members of Beverley Town and Guests were waited on at the 'Altisidora' Bishop Burton for our well earned annual Christmas Dinner.



Where did we get to... On the 'tenth gig' of Christmas (20 December) our ensemble travelled to Hornsea to entertain the 'Hornsea Freemasons Lodge' at their Christmas Luncheon.

On the 'eleventh gig' of Christmas (21 December) we made a return visit to the Willersley House Retirement complex in Willerby to entertain the group with our Christmas programme.

On the 'twelfth gig' of Christmas (24 December) we entertained the guests at the Mercure Hull Grange Park Hotel before going home and waiting for 'Father Christmas' to bring us a well earned break.

Andrew Ford
Beverley Town Handbell Ringers

Holy Trinity Handbell Ringers, Messingham

The group had a busy programme of performances during November and December 2017.

It began on 1st November with invitation to Scotter WI playing a selection of non-Christmas tunes. It was also our opportunity to have our team photograph with the HRGB 50th anniversary Teddy Bear.



In the past year 2 Farm Shops have opened for business in our locality. We made tentative enquiries as to whether they would like some seasonal music to entertain their customers. Both came back with positive responses. So on the evening of Thursday 16th November we set up our stands to play at a special Christmas shopping event at Melcot Garden Centre. We played a variety of Christmas music for about one hour and received many complimentary remarks. One couple sat and listened to us throughout and came to thank us especially at the end. Unknown to us at the time, one of the customers was from a local Comprehensive School. She subsequently contacted us and we went to the School, in December, to provide entertainment prior to their Charity Fund-raising Concert.

The other Farm Shop is located in the old Primary School building in the village. We went there, instead of our usual practice on a Monday afternoon, and played in their Café. The proprietor filmed us and uploaded it to their Facebook account within 30 minutes of us arriving.



We have supported a Festival of Christmas Trees event, organised by the Rotary Club which raises funds for the local Hospice, in Scunthorpe, since it began in 2005. As well as playing during the viewing hours, we have also displayed a Christmas Tree. This year we chose the 50th anniversary of HRGB as our theme for decoration of the tree using gold bells and bell shaped lights. Alongside there was an explanation about the history of HRGB based on the publicity release supplied by HRGB. This Festival is also an opportunity for promoting our existence by placing small information cards around the tree. Over the years, we have had several enquiries as a result of this publicity.

For many years we have played Christmas music at local Supermarkets and in the process raised funds for different Charities. This year we went to Morrisons, Scunthorpe, and with the help of 3 tower bell ringers holding buckets, collected money for our own funds to purchase music and equipment.

During 2017, three of our members have continued running a weekly 'After School Handbell Club', at the local primary school. The children use our set of handbells and Belleplates to play simple tunes and, as we are also tower bell ringers, simple change-ringing related activities. The children were, once again, invited to demonstrate their skills in a special bell-related Christmas Assembly in School. Seven of the children, together with the three adults, performed at the local 'Village Carol Praise', where performances of 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'Jingle Bells' were well received.

Among other events, we played at the local Church Advent service, gave a demonstration of change ringing and tune ringing to a 'Manshed' group and joined in the rally at Ganton. Although very busy, it was most enjoyable and provided a new experience for our 3 recent recruits, who all performed very well.

Barbara Rand
Messingham Handbell Ringers

Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers – 'Our Year 2017'

February: - Phone call from Christine Lazenby - would we host one of the mini rallies? Gulp!....Bombshell!.....OK if we are quite clear who would be doing what. Saturday 2 September was chosen so we started discussing sustained by Jean's coffee and biscuits and visited possible venues.

March: - Booked Wylam Methodist Church Centre hoping it would accommodate everyone.

April:- Great joy to see the lovely handbells from Newburn Parish Church eagerly received and played by members of St Mary's in Throckley; they played during the celebrations of their 130th anniversary in May and are continuing under their own leadership.

May: - In Heddon it felt like a long time before the application forms could be sent out and we hoped that teams would respond quickly!

June: - Sue took on the job of team correspondent and got her head around sundry planning details and Jennifer was able to meet the team in Whickham and join in the Teddy handover in Wooler.

July: - Much talk about plans for cake, things Northumbrian, researching music and hoping teams would reply quickly! And suddenly it was –



August: - We contacted folk we had been in contact with over the years, distributed fliers and invitations to friends and other likely people in the area and a kind friend Sibelius-ed the Keel Row arrangement.

September: - It happened! Even after all these months it was a bit of a scramble at the end, but everyone was there to enjoy the day and do their best, so it was a good day from all reports. We were especially glad for all the support from John, Christine, Roger, Tom, Claire and Andrew - and their bells and to the splendid pair of ladies recruited for kitchen duties. We were given the privilege of hosting and are hoping that teams in our part of the Region won't wait for the next rally but will continue to network for fun, encouragement and sharing.

7th October! Teddy had a busy birthday. Parish coffee morning in Newburn; one of the St Mary's ringers introduced him to everyone and he showed them the group photo from the rally. Lots of opportunities to see what other clever people in Heddon can do; he didn't insist on having his photo taken by the Photography Group and he liked a watercolour of 'Tousled Ted' at the Art Group's exhibition. An evening concert by Voices of Hope (Choir of the Year) in a church in Newcastle tingled his spine; he met the director and wished him well for the European final. Later in the month he welcomed Margaret to our team and was bowled over by her enthusiasm.



November: - He visited a 95year- old in a care home and reluctantly (on consulting his diary) declined an invitation to have his photo taken on Sydney Bridge. He has supervised a game of Scrabble in the local Deli, guarded the Roman Wall in his helmet (a busload of tourists bemused by four ladies being photographed with a teddy bear), contemplated the statue of the Tyne God at the Civic Centre and thought sadly of the fine carillon in the tower above which is not played these days and had a go on the church bell in Heddou.



December: - Teddy left us courtesy of Royal Mail to spend Christmas with the Sedgfield HR. He was a brilliant and indispensable contributor to the celebrations.

2018:- We have begun the year with enthusiasm and (Whoopee!) are expecting another ringer to join us, so we look forward to fun as we adapt and think creatively as to what we can get up to next.

Jennifer King
Tyne Valley Handbell Ringers

Forthcoming Events

2018

Saturday 14 April - Northern Bell Orchestra - Rehearsal - Ashover Parish Hall.

Further details contact Judy Gees - hsocello@btinternet.com

Saturday 12 May – Spring Rally & AGM – Grassington, further details will be released or contact Christine – christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk

Saturday 19 May - Northern Bell Orchestra - Rehearsal - Ashover Parish Hall.

Further details contact Judy Gees - hsocello@btinternet.com

Saturday 9 June - Northern Bell Orchestra - Concert in Ruskington

Further details contact Judy Gees - hsocello@btinternet.com

Tuesday 12 June – ‘Summer Ring’ – St. Chads, Far Headingley, Leeds – further details will be released or contact Christine – christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk

Saturday 30 June - Northern Bell Orchestra - Concert in Southport

Further details contact Judy Gees - hsocello@btinternet.com

Saturday 7 July - Northern Bell Orchestra - Rehearsal - Ashover Parish Hall.

Further details contact Judy Gees - hsocello@btinternet.com

Saturday 13 October – Autumn Rally - Ecclesfield - further details will be released or contact Christine – christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk

**All items for the next issue of eNEws should be sent to - aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk.
by 31 May 2018**

Don't forget, if you are sending pictures or articles 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.

The views and opinions in letters, reports and articles in this eNEws are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared by the HRGB Executive Committee, North East Region Committee or the Editor.