



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

North East Region eNews Issue 8 – May 2016

Dear Friends

Welcome to our summer edition of e-News. Following a discussion with your Regional Secretary there will be members of your team who have not received their copy! A recent information circular notifying the cancellation of the 'Away Day', sent to all members, resulted in about 20 e-mail addresses “bouncing back”. In other words not delivered! If an e-mail address is changed *please* remember to notify your Secretary, Christine Lazenby christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk It is essential for our e-mail listing to be up to date to ensure communication with the membership is effective.

2017 heralds the Golden Jubilee of HRGB and 40 years since the NE Region came into existence, so there is a double cause for celebration. Your committee is considering how we, as a region, can celebrate both these important landmarks in our history but would welcome any suggestions from you, our members. Thoughts to the Secretary, please?

Christine has provided a comprehensive report on past and future regional events in this edition. A successful recruiting campaign by the Bridlington Priory Ringers has resulted in new members so the future looks bright! Solna Burnham reflects on the “Joint Ringing Day” and Dronfield Handbell Ringers enjoy being “On Air” at BBC Radio Sheffield with a report from Ann Penniall. Our other regular contributor, Rachel Schoon, again from Dronfield provides answers to her last Anagram quiz and provides a riddle for us to solve.

I am looking forward to attending our next event the 2016 'Summer Ring', hosted by Christine and Roger Lazenby and members of Treble Eight on Tuesday 28th June at St Chad's Parish Centre Leeds. This is a lovely evening of “sight readable” music and I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Do remember to send articles on your team ringing events for inclusion in e-News so we can all share in your successes!!

I send my best wishes to you, as always!

John Atkinson
North East Region Chairman

All items for the next issue of eNews should be sent to aford11@aford11.karoo.co.uk by 31 August 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

Since the last edition of 'e-News' we have welcomed a new team, the Tyne Valley Ringers from Heddon-on-the Wall in Newcastle. They may be a new team, but they are old friends – Jennifer and Jean were independent members and Sue was formerly a member of Broomhill Bells. We have also welcomed Ruth Milne who is the leader of the 'Silver Chimes', a belleplate group based at The Sage, Gateshead.

We have said goodbye to the Embleton Ringers who have decided not to renew their membership after many years, and the St. Edmunds Ringers from Castleton, who have decided that as they've not been actively ringing for some years to relinquish their membership. They have been a very active team in the past, hosting regional events and raising a lot of money for charity.

Regional events

The Region has held three events so far this year – the Joint Handbell and Tower Bell Event in Leeds, a large team event in Ecclesfield and the Spring Rally at Grassington. Still to come are the Summer Ring in Leeds and the Autumn Rally in Brighouse. If you would like to organise an event please let us know then we can offer help and support (if you want it) but more importantly, if it is on the Region's list of events then you will be covered by HRGB insurance. Being on the list of events does not mean that you have to open the doors to all and sundry – it is quite possible to do this and be a local or by invitation only event.

AGM

At our AGM in May we accepted the resignation of Helen Foley from the committee. Helen joined the committee many years ago and we thank her for all her hard work and support. It was Helen that took the initiative to start the Northern Bell Orchestra and she also took on the organisation of the Hardraw event last year.



this event round the Region – if you would like to consider hosting it (or a similar event at another time of year) then please let me know and I can explain what is involved.

Golden Jubilee

At the Grassington Rally I asked for ideas to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HRGB and the 40th Anniversary of the forming of the North East Region. I'm happy to accept any further ideas for the committee to consider.

Christine Lazenby
North East Region Secretary

National Rally

The North East Region was well represented at the National Rally. A number of members of the Region are part of the Northern Bell Orchestra, which opened the Rally with a concert on the Friday evening. Beverley Town ran a workshop session and rang in the Saturday evening concert and the Dronfield Handbell Ringers played in the Rally session on the Sunday morning.

Summer Ring

The Summer Ring is taking place at the end of June and it would be nice to move

News from Bridlington Priory Handbell Ringers

When we returned to bell practice after our summer break it was suggested that, unless we recruited more ringers, we should consider abandoning the group. It was agreed that we didn't want this to happen so a recruitment campaign was embarked upon.



A letter explaining the situation and mentioning that it would be a shame if a group, who had been in



existence for more than thirty years, were to fold was printed in the Yorkshire Post and the Bridlington Free Press. Anyone who was interested was invited to an open evening in October, which was also announced in Church.

Everyone who came enjoyed themselves but some realised it wasn't for them. Happily three very enthusiastic people (one of whom later brought a friend along) joined us. Not everyone could read music but were given duplicate bells until they got used to the technique of ringing.

Their first public performance was at our annual coffee morning in December. The pressure was on, but everyone did remarkable well. Only one person who joined then has had to leave.

Since then all have been given their "own" bells and have duly marked their notes to help. Practice night with our new ringers is now a lot of fun with those people not music readers ringing a pink note or a blue note not an A or G or plink plonking with mallets.

We are now able to ringing 3 octaves again and had a successful and happy day at a recent rally held at Ganton in April.

Long may the Priory Handbell Ringers continue to make music, enjoy themselves and entertain other people.

Tricia Fozard

Bridlington Priory Handbell Ringers

Bingley Handbell Ringers

When I first joined the regional handbell committee I came up with the idea of a joint handbell and tower bell event as an opportunity for both types of ringers to find out what the others do. In our handbell team there are 6 of us who do both but I feel our group is the exception rather than the rule. So I advertised an event to tower and handbell ringers throughout Yorkshire as below.

Joint Handbell and Tower bell event

The event will be held on Saturday 27th February 2016 at 10am based around St Matthias Church, Burley, Leeds and should include:

General massed ringing for handbell ringers

Three open towers for tower bell ringing (at St Matthias, Burley and the two Headingley towers) during the morning

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

Demonstration of change ringing on handbells

HRGB and YACR sales stalls

Advice on restoring and fundraising for dilapidated sets of handbells

Catering (soup, sandwiches and cakes) by the infamous Bingley Belles



The event was based around Burley north Leeds where there are three towers in close proximity, a church hall with plenty of room for handbells and a well equipped kitchen. It is also a very central location for those whom we expected to attend.

The great success of the event was that it seemed to attract handbell ringers from groups who have rarely or never attended HRGB events before.



I am not sure if this is because it was a different event or at a good central location.

The original plan was for both groups to do their own thing in the morning and then to meet for a sociable lunch before trying the other. From that point of view it was a great success although there were more handbell ringers than tower bell ringers so the queue in the afternoon to try tower bells was down the stairs. We have had to offer our own group another opportunity to try the Bingley bells! Still Jane our tower captain says she has found some naturals.



Similarly the handbell masterclass provided at least two Bingley tower bell ringers a first try and we know where to look next time we are short for a handbell performance!

Maybe there were a few disappointments in that there were not as many tower bell ringers as we had hoped and only a few old distressed bells were brought to the surgery for advice. Also we had hoped to include a lesson in change ringing on handbells but that did not materialise.

However I have learnt valuable lessons about publicity and organisation and hope to arrange a similar event in a different location in the future.

My thanks to everyone who looked after towers, arranged massed ringing, taught at master classes and particularly to all from both Bingley teams who helped with the organization and catering - as always the Bingley Belles could not be accused of letting people go hungry!

What made it all seem worthwhile were the messages of appreciation we received afterwards such as:

I just wanted to thank everybody for a lovely day on Saturday. We had a fantastic day and everybody was so kind & welcoming.

We are really excited to tell all our other members who couldn't come on Saturday what a great day we had and how much we learned.

I will definitely be joining HRGB and will sort out the paperwork this week.

Solna Burnham – All Saint, Bingley
Bingley Handbell Ringers

We're on live????!!...



Every now and then Dronfield HR find themselves being dragged into “little adventures”. Usually we can blame Vic, but not this time: it was Helen’s fault! You see, several people have commented that our much beloved and cherished, but ancient, Shaw bells are not in the best of tune. So we’ve decided that we have to fundraise to replace them - no small enterprise as we want Whitechapel bells and they will cost us £15,000 (gulp). We’re now busy producing publicity flyers and posters and seeking

out possible sources of bookings and funding and anything else we can think of to promote ourselves and get some money. (Ideas welcome)!

Helen knows a man at BBC Radio Sheffield who some years ago compered a concert we took part in at Sheffield Cathedral, so he knows us too. She suggested that we should go on his show to play and talk about handbells, which everyone thought was a great idea even if we were rather nervous about it as we were told we’d be going out live. (In the event they recorded our playing, which was a relief. However, even that was not totally without mild panic as we were given about five minutes’ notice that we were to be recorded, and Liz had not yet arrived! A bit more warning would have been welcome!).

So Vic, Helen, Rachel, Liz and Ann crammed themselves into a tiny studio with three boxes of bells, practised a bit while the sound man sorted out the technical details to his satisfaction, and recorded reduced versions of our chosen pieces, as we did not have a full team available. Rachel, Liz and Ann had no intention of doing any of the talking, and, as you probably know, Vic and Helen love talking, so they went to the next door studio to be interviewed (live) on Rony Robinson’s morning programme. Rony is a good interviewer and was very interested in the bells, so Vic and Helen were encouraged to tell all Sheffield about us, our bells, and how they each came to be involved in this minority “sport”. The rest of us learnt quite a lot too! Much to our delight the whole thing went very well and hopefully we’ll be on again at Christmas. We’ve never done this before so we left on a high, feeling pleased that we hadn’t done anything catastrophic!



Even better, before the broadcast had finished someone had contacted the station wanting us to take part in a local village carnival for the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations in June and also their Christmas lights switch-on in December!! A quick phone call got us booked for both. All very exciting.

It’s a good start but we’ve a long way to go....

Ann Penniall
Dronfield Handbell Ringers

Answers to the Anagrams of Composers (Issue 7)

SURNAME

1. IINUPCC
2. FACEOHBNF
3. BLEEPCHA
4. HAMREL
5. STEAMNES

PUCCINI
OFFENBACH
PACHEBEL
MAHLER
MASSENET

FIRST NAME AND SURNAME

6. LGREEETNB CPUKENDHIMR
7. JEANNBIM TNEBTIR
8. ITNOONA RAISEIL
9. LLMMOAC DRLOAN
10. UALICOD ENEDTROMIV

ENGLEBERT HUMPERDINCK
BENJAMIN BRITTEN
ANTONIO SALIERI
MALCOLM ARNOLD
CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

FIRST NAME(S) AND SURNAME JUMBLED UP

11. XHNOLLESEEDSNIMF
12. LOGGGAOLIIRREE
13. BASDUDEEYSLUC
14. TTHUGSSVOAL
15. REEDDRAAWLG
16. NYEASHOHPJD
17. LIVERAACRUME
18. AAAAGUDGZONFLOWERSTMM
19. HOTWEVILEBUVNGDENA
20. VAMPIREXLAWLESTEED

FELIX MENDELSSOHN
GREGORIO ALLEGRI
CLAUDE DEBUSSY
GUSTAV HOLST
EDWARD ELGAR
JOSEPH HAYDN
MAURICE RAVEL
WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

And now a Riddle - What musical term am I?

My first is in **crescendo** but not in **andante**

My Second is in **tranquillo** but not in **maestoso**

My third is in **vibrato** but not in **fortissimo**

My fourth is in **cantabile** but not in **espressivo**

My fifth is in **staccato** but not in **vivace**

My sixth is in **dolce** but not in **allegri**

What musical term am I ?

On Air!

Back in February, bell ringing hit the headlines when some tower bell ringers suggested that bell ringing should be classed as a sport- and an Olympic one at that!



Late on Thursday evening I received an e-mail from Radio Leeds asking if I could contact the production team of the 'Georgey Spanswick Show' with a view to a feature on the show the following evening. This is a live show produced in Leeds but broadcast country-wide on BBC local radio stations.

I duly contacted the studio the following morning to see what exactly they wanted. The suggestion was that perhaps we could take some bells down to the studio and talk to Georgey about them, then teach her to take part in ringing a simple tune. Oh, and answer some questions! I asked if we could be given an idea of what the questions would be and was told that someone would phone me back later in the afternoon.

Because of the short notice it wasn't practical to get the whole team together, so Roger and I agreed to go and whilst I waited for the phone call I looked at various pieces of music that could be rung by three people. I finally settled on Sandra Winter's arrangement of 'Ode to Joy' from the Aardvark '16 for 6 Collection' which I wrote out in letter notation, large enough to be seen by three of us to ring from. I took the music in staff notation with me (fortunately, as it turned out) so that I could show the different types of notation that could be used to ring tunes. I also gathered together a number of facts about the size, weight & cost of the bells.

The promised phone call came, giving us final details as to when and where to be that evening and telling us the questions that were likely to be asked. Of course, 'Do you think bell ringing should be classified as a sport?' was one of them.



We duly arrived at a seemingly deserted Radio Leeds studio building on Friday evening and after phoning the contact we'd been given were admitted to the building and taken up to the studio. Georgey was 'On Air' but when there was music on we were introduced to her and had an initial chat. Much to my consternation I realised that due to the set-up of the studio there would be a very large desk separating Georgey and ourselves – not ideal for ringing from my carefully prepared music!

Thank goodness I'd brought along the staff notation copy too! So with the presenter ringing from letter notation on one side of the desk and Roger and myself ringing the other bells from staff notation on the other, we managed a very tuneful rendering of 'Ode to Joy'.

The questions were not quite as we'd been told so there was a bit of thinking on our feet needed, but Roger managed to get a 'plug' in for the joint handbell and tower bell event the following weekend. Our answer to 'Is bell ringing a sport'? Well, it involves team work and physical exercise – and in some instances, particularly in the tower bell ringing world, competition, but a sport? Not really – but then again fishing is considered to be a sport!

When the recording had finished and we were back in the foyer outside the studio, the producer casually said, 'We were filming the interview - do you mind if we put it on the website?' Thank goodness I wasn't aware of that – I'd have been even more nervous!

Christine Lazenby
Treble Eight Handbell Ringers

Forthcoming Events

2016

Tuesday 28 June - Summer Ring - St. Chad's, Far Headingley, Leeds

Further details contact Christine Lazenby christine.lazenby@hrgb.org.uk

Friday 30 September - 2 October - Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering

For further details email Don Bedford dondingdong@boompa.plus.com or telephone 01834 869061

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

Further details to follow -

2017

Saturday 20 May - NE Spring Rally & AGM - Grassington

Further details to follow -

Last Bedford-Style Hardraw Gathering

Friday Eve 30th September - Sunday 2nd 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, 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.

A preliminary email expressing interest in attending the Gathering by 1st May would be super. Email Don Bedford for a registration form dondingdong@boompa.plus.com or telephone 01834 869061