



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

## North East Region eNews Issue 2 – November 2014

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### Dear Friends

Welcome to our November edition of eNews.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer months and are now beginning to plan your winter “season” of handbell engagements.

In this edition of eNews you will read of many differing ringing related events which have taken place this year. There are also contributions from our new committee members Solna Burnham and Rachel Schoon. The committee held an “away day” in September at which a range of regional issues were discussed in detail. Rally formats and frequency were high on the agenda as were the provision of workshops and more specialised ringing events. The constitution and management of the region were also reviewed and the results of our deliberations will be presented to you, our members, in future editions of eNews.

Of specific concern was the engagement of teams throughout the north east region in developing our future strategy. Communication was foremost in our thinking and we are considering having specific areas within the region and inviting members to become “area representatives” who will have a direct input in to the development of our regional strategy. Further information on this important development will be available soon.

In the meantime, the committee are putting finishing touches to a membership questionnaire you will all receive early in the New Year. Please take the time to complete this survey for, without your input, the committee will not be able to develop programmes of events to meet YOUR needs and aspirations.

I do hope you enjoy reading news of team activities in the region. Please do let us know what your teams are doing as we move in to the autumn and winter; the handbell ringing season.

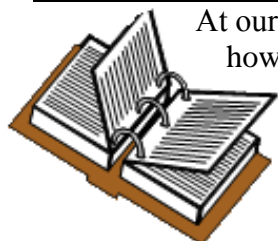
My warmest best wishes to you all.

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

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### Notes from the Regional Secretary

#### Team Views Requested!



At our recent Committee meetings we’ve been discussing the events that are held in the Region and how we can best meet the needs of ringers of all ages and abilities in all areas of the region. We are proposing to send out a Questionnaire to ask for the views of members as there is little point in us organising events if they do not meet the needs and interests of ringers. So please look out for the e-mail and let us know your views – either as an individual or as a team.

## **Team News**

We are pleased to welcome three new teams to the Region, the Askrigg Handbell Ringers, Hedon Handbell Ringers and Double Treble. Unfortunately the Abe Hill Ringers are no longer ringing and have ceased to be members and Doreen Addyman of the Rural Ringers has advised me that due to health problems she will not be renewing her membership. We thank them for the support that they have given the Region over the past few years.

## **Regional Honoured Members**

In order to make the Honoured Member process a little easier we are asking for applications to be sent in by 31<sup>st</sup> December so that they can be discussed in advance of our February committee meeting, so if you have a nomination to make then please fill in the form on the website (or write to the Secretary requesting a form).

## **Liversedge Bells**

The Region has a set of bells (The Liversedge bells are 4 1/2 octave set with a bass bell of 25G (English)) which are currently with the newly formed Hedon (East Yorkshire) team whilst their bells are being refurbished. They hope to receive their bells back from the foundry soon, so the Liversedge bells will be available as a loan set. Please contact John Atkinson if you are interested in borrowing the bells, or if you would like more information.

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

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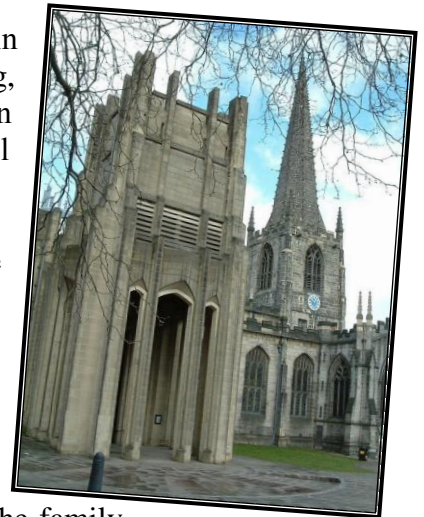
## **Sheffield Cathedral Heritage Day**

Double Treble were invited to ring at Sheffield Cathedral's Heritage Day in September and, without knowing much about the event apart from the timing, we said 'yes', having rung there already in July. It was interesting to note on the day's programme of events that we were described as "their" handbell ringers - have they adopted us or was it just a typo?

We arrived on the day to find displays being set up both outside and inside the building, so we duly carried in all our equipment to find where we were to be ringing - next to the chancel steps and alternating timeslots with a group of Tudor musicians. Excellent.

Looking around, there were many living-history re-enactments and demonstrations, characters such as George Talbot the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, Queen Victoria, WAAF members, and lots of activities for all the family.

We understand that the footfall was well in excess of 1,000 people during the day. It was certainly very busy and the cafe did a roaring trade!!



We spent the day fully-occupied, only leaving our spot to fetch the essential refreshments. Each hour was split three ways - twenty minutes for the Tudor minstrels who were brilliant (the shawm sounded fantastic in the cathedral acoustics), twenty minutes for us to ring, followed by hands-on sessions on a set of bellplates which we had brought with us. These were very well received by adults and children alike. We ran out of time for all those who wanted to have a go. Some people just asked questions but many tried ringing rounds and a few simple tunes from music notation, with coloured notes for ease and to ensure success in a very short time. Inevitably one or two

little ones wanted to take a bellplate away with them and had to be persuaded to return it in exchange for a sticker. Wonderful things stickers!!

The Tudor musicians were on the chancel steps and had chairs for those listening to sit on, so they had an audience. We didn't! People came and stood for a while then wandered off but we discovered later in the day that many had gone to sit in the chancel to listen and that the sound was great back there! Not that it worried us - we were just enjoying our ringing.

What the long-term outcomes will be we don't know as yet, but at least one parent was going to twist arms in her child's school to get handbells introduced and several people asked whether we would ring as entertainment for various groups, so we'll have to wait and see.....

**Rachel Schoon and Kathy Smith**  
**Double Treble**

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## Grassington Spring Rally

As autumn leaves fall and winter approaches it is pleasant to remember the Saturday in May when, as always, the AGM and Spring Rally were held together in Grassington. We were blessed once again with a lovely day which provided the opportunity to eat lunch outside and potter around this lovely Dales village in the sun.



This year early July was to see the Tour de France passing through Grassington, so this theme was taken for the rally. Handbell teams joined in with enthusiasm not only in terms of performing appropriate pieces of music, but in the outfits worn, tables decorated and relevant artefacts displayed, including a large red spotted 'King of the Mountains' bike, hand knitted yellow shirts, a variety of bunting and bicycle bells!



Getting into the theme, an impromptu competition ran throughout the day suggesting songs and musical pieces which could, with some tweaking of the titles, be music for "La Tour"! The AGM provided a more serious focus to part of the day and was held in the main hall as part of the general proceedings. This ensured an almost full turn out and so much better communication on the topics which affect handbell ringers on an annual basis.

Newcomers Askrigg, only formed last May, were welcomed to their first spring rally and we hope to see them at many more rallies to come. Beverley Town 'Friday nighters' are regular attendees, and this year came with four new members, also providing a first rally for Tom playing their tenor bells.

The pieces of massed ringing were varied and did stretch less experienced bands. The arrangement of "Ilkley Moor B'ah 'Tat" proved very demanding for some bands. However, with patient support and careful conducting the "Hebridean Suite", an appropriate tribute to Wendy Swain, was performed well by most of the bands.



The feedback from 2013 was positive although there was a suggestion that massed ringing is not suited to small teams (8 bells or less), others offered the view that this provides opportunities to ring pieces needing more bells

with other people. The committee are now reflecting on the 2014 feedback, so that Grassington 2015 has the correct balance of what the members want, to create yet another enjoyable spring day in Grassington.

**Ann Cossavella & Solna Burnham**  
**Bingley Handbell Ringers**



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**Ringing for Gold**

Ringing for Gold is a hardback book about the Annals and development of hand-bell tune ringing From it's birth in the mid 1500's - click the book for more information

[www.ne.hrgb.org.uk/ring4gold.html](http://www.ne.hrgb.org.uk/ring4gold.html)

## Early Days – The Experiences of a New NER Committee Member

How many times have you sat in an event, and not necessarily a handbell one, and thought “If I was organising this I would.....”?

It’s all very well thinking that but what about doing something about it?

For Rachel Schoon of Double Treble and Dronfield HR and I the opportunity presented itself earlier this year.

Andrew Ford, the regional treasurer, circulated an email asking for volunteers to fill some of the spaces on the committee. The constitution allows for three officers and up to nine other members of the committee but then there were only seven in total!

In the past people have had to stand up at an AGM and thrust themselves forward as a potential committee member – talk about looking a bit forward! However the committee being a compassionate group changed the system so you could submit a nomination form signed by a proposer and seconder. At the AGM Rachel and I were elected onto the committee and on 8<sup>th</sup> July attended our first committee meeting.

It is always nerve wracking joining a committee where you do not know anyone well – do you act the shrinking violet or do you try to make an impression?



Fortunately the committee are a really friendly lot and made us both feel most welcome. We were soon making ourselves known and realised there were things we could do. For example I found a way to transpose the only version we had of the constitution from PDF to Word and Rachel with her legal background was able to redraft parts of it in the correct language.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September there was an all day meeting which was mainly intended for long term planning of the region’s activities and our ideas were listened to, if not always accepted!

I know I will never be the greatest handbell ringer and conducting, for example, will always be well above me but I know that I am good at organising and can always call on members of my own team to assist - they have already agreed to organise a rally in 2015 or 2016 and as nearly half of us are tower bell ringers too they were keen on the idea of a combined event with the part of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers. I come from one of the newer teams in the region and know what events or aspects of events they (and probably others like them) enjoy so I can always put forward their point of view.

There are still three vacancies on the committee so why don't more of you (particularly in the Northern parts of the region) put yourselves forward ahead of the next AGM and make sure the views of you and your team are represented.

Most meetings are held in Ecclesfield because it is fairly central given the current composition of the committee, but John has already said this can be changed so please don't let the idea of a long drive put you off.

So what is stopping you???

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



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## **Royal Visit to Mark 900 Year Celebration.**

Although a little late, we the Bridlington Priory Handbell Ringers, thought we would let you know of our experiences for the Priory's 900<sup>th</sup> celebrations last year.



There were many activities and celebrations, including a visit from Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, taking place but we were privileged to ring at the major concert at the conclusion of the celebrations.

A special piece was especially written for us, the choir and silver band by Phillip Wilby. It was a great event and the Priory was full. Weeks, if not months, of practice had gone before. We only practised the handbell part and it sounded nothing like 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. We only all came together to practice on the day of the performance. It sounded fantastic. The composer gratifyingly said he hadn't expected the handbells to sound as good or as effective especially as he had shown the piece to a team in America and they thought it unplayable.

As our team has been depleted in numbers over the two previous years and with two members ill we were very pleased and proud of our efforts.

**Tricia Fozzard**  
**Bridlington Prior Handbell Ringers**

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## **'Jabberwocky'**

Children from the Stannington area performed 'Jabberwocky' on the stage at the Lomas Hall in Stannington. The music was put to the poem by Lewis Carroll and the children all had costumes to wear. There were six teams taking part from different schools and the audience were able to join in some bits.



The whole project was very exciting and challenging. The children looked forward to it because they like performing and they learnt all the music.

Other people did all the other parts like being the creatures and it was fun watching them moving and dancing in their costumes. All the teams had a special piece to perform on their own.

The Jabberwocky is a huge, scary monster and some of the children helped to make the Jabberwock's head.



The children enjoyed meeting other bell ringers and found it fun to perform in front of a large audience.

### **The 'Performers' and Kathy Smith Stannington Area Handbell Ringers**

## **From Bridesmaid to Bride**



In June 1994 Louise Jordan acted as bridesmaid when Andrew and I got married. In May this year it was Louise's turn to be the bride when she got married to Richard Cowton at All Saints' Church in Hessle. Whilst Andrew and I had met through handbell ringing, Louise introduced Richard to handbell ringing and he is now a member of our team.

Louise is also Godmother to our daughter, Kimberley (also a bellringer), and Kimberley was one of Louise's bridesmaids.

The weather was changeable on the day of Louise and Richard's wedding but, every time they needed to be outside, the rain managed to hold off with only a few photos having to be taken inside.

Some of the handbell ringers formed a guard of honour with the handbells as Louise and Richard left the Church after the ceremony and headed for their reception which was at St Nicholas' Community Centre in Beverley which is where we hold our rehearsals but it was completely transformed and beyond recognition as one room was turned into a marquee for the dining area and another room was dressed up for the disco.



The whole team thoroughly enjoyed the day and all wish Louise and Richard all the best for the future.

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

## **Christine McGoldrick - Bingley Handbell Ringers**

Last month (October) was a very sad one for the handbell ringers as one of our number, Christine, passed away after a short illness.

Christine was not one of the original ringers but joined us during our first year and was instrumental in our fundraising drive to augment our two octave set of bells to three octaves. As she was involved in fundraising for other groups she was full of ideas and happy to draft begging letters on our behalf.

Christine was certainly more musical than most of us. In fact we did wonder initially if she would be able to cope with our light hearted approach and the fact that we used highlighter pens to mark our notes when reading the music. Christine sang in a number of choirs and often invited us to listen to her in more serious classical music performances.



Christine could not resist singing along to the music as we rang, which could be both a help and a hindrance, however at Christmas performances, if not required to ring she was only too happy to mingle with the audience, singing and encouraging them to join in.

She was certainly keen and until recently would make it to evening rehearsals after she had driven home from her post at John Moores' University in Liverpool. Some time ago she broke a bone in her foot but would still trudge down the hill from her home on Bailey Hills Road, with a stool to sit on, joining in rehearsals even though she could not stand.

At the beginning of August we learned that Christine had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of stomach cancer which over-whelmed her far more quickly than anyone anticipated. She passed away peacefully in the early hours of 4th October.

Christine's funeral was held in All Saints on 16th October. As soloists and choir members from groups she sang with took part in the funeral, it was felt handbell ringing as well would be too much. Handbell ringers who were able to attend the funeral and six of us, who are also tower bell ringers, rang the church bells before the service, recruiting two of our friends to ensure all 8 bells rang in recognition of our loss and in celebration of her life.

We wish to extend the sympathies of the whole group to David and the family. Christine, her musicality and her significant contribution to the early years of the revival of handbell ringing in Bingley will not be forgotten.

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

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## Autumn Rally at Sedgefield (1)

Three teams and individual ringers made the journey to a rally hosted by the Sedgefield Ringers in the Parish Hall at Sedgefield. The hall was compact and the facilities were very good. The Sedgefield ladies put on some very nice food to keep us fed and refreshed throughout the day.

There were two Rally Ringing sessions during the day with three Massed Ringing sessions in between. The Masses Ringing pieces were An Artist's Life by Johann Strauss II conducted by Stan Nuttall of Holy Trinity Ringers Sheffield, Meditation on Valiant Hearts by Charles Harris arranged by Sandra Winter and conducted by Roger Lazenby of Treble Eight Ringers, Country Gardens by Percy Grainger conducted by Helen Foley of Dronfield Ringers and a Gavotte from Symphony No. 4 by William Boyce conducted by John Atkinson of Beverley Town Handbell Ringers.

The first rally session featured Sedgefield Ringers playing Waltzing Mathilda followed by Broomhill Bells who chose a medley of Northumbrian Folk Songs. Next up were the Dronfield Ringers who gave us Spanish Ballad – a piece often played on guitar – the composer is Anonymous and the last team to play was Beverley who galloped away with Blaze Away.

The second rally session was started by Broomhill Bells with Hymn Tune – St. Edmund followed by Dronfield playing Ramona, then Beverley stepped up to the table to play Waltz No. 2 from the Jazz Suite by Dimitri Shostakovich. Next was Holy Trinity Sheffield who played that lovely hymn Be Still for the Presence of the Lord and finally our hosts for the day played Mozart's Variations



In between the Rally sessions the Massed Ringing pieces gradually took shape and by the end of the day they were becoming easier to ring and sounding very good.

We all had an early start from the Beverley area to drive north to Sedgefield but were compensated by the rally closing earlier due to the hall being needed for another event so those who were travelling back to Beverley were home by about 6.30 pm.

Thanks to the Sedgefield Ringers for their hospitality.

**Elizabeth Coles**  
**Beverley Town Handbell Ringers**

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## Mid-Summer Ring

This evening event was held at Far Headingley, Leeds on June 10<sup>th</sup> – the closest we could get to Mid-Summer in the booking availability of the hall that we wanted to use.

Nearly 50 ringers from 8 different teams joined together for an evening of ringing, socialising and food. There were representatives from Bingley, Eastbrook Mission, Holy Trinity Sheffield, Remarkabells, Bradfield, Grassington, Beverley and the host team, Treble Eight. We were also pleased to welcome visitors from 'over the border' in the North West, John Partington and Linda Parkington.

Thanks are due to all those who helped by lending equipment, conducting the pieces and preparing the food.

Some teams are finding it increasingly difficult to get the full team together to attend events. The Mid-Summer Ring was arranged so that people could come along as individuals or part teams to enjoy ringing and socialising. If you would like to try something similar in your area, either as an evening or daytime event, then please have a word with one of the Committee.

**Christine Lazenby**  
**Treble Eight Handbell Ringers**



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## **Ecclesfield Round-up**

### **Celebration of the Diocese of Sheffield Centenary 2014.**

Bishop Stephen ( Rt Rvd Dr Stephen Croft) has completed a tour visiting and preaching within the various regions encompassed by the Sheffield Diocese. It covers a wide area other than just Sheffield itself stretching out towards Goole.

The third 'stop' of the tour was held at Beauchief Abbey on Sunday 22nd June in the afternoon.

Beauchief Abbey was once a Premonstratensian Abbey, but was turned to ruins during the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in 1536. The Abbey Church of St Thomas the Martyr and the Virgin Mary survives.

Beauchief is locally pronounced as 'Beechiff' .



Through a member of Ecclesfield U3A, the team were invited to perform for the visitors during the afternoon. Four members of the concert team were able to help out.

We were asked to perform outside in the grounds – 'outside' being something we very rarely do. A careful 'reccy' of the site, with tape measure, followed. The grounds are large, but, being Sheffield, very rarely flat!

With our backs against a wall and an area of flat grass, there was just enough room for a smaller table layout.

Preparations were made to cover *all* weather possibilities.

In the end it was an absolutely beautiful day, so much so that we were extremely glad of the shade under one of the enormous trees.

Maybe the Bishop had prayed for a fine day.

As the church itself is tiny, the Act of Worship and the Bishops's teaching were relayed outside through speakers.

Other events on the day were guided tours of the abbey grounds, Centenary Choir, stalls and refreshments, Artist in Residence, Puppet Shows and Lawn Games. <http://beauchiefabbey.org.uk/>.

## **Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers Summer Concert Saturday 21st June**

Held at the Gatty Hall Ecclesfield with friends Grenoside Singers.

Both teams rang, both performing some new pieces of music.

This year – even though it was a similar weekend to other years, we seemed to clash with so many other events and audience numbers were down.

The previous year the hall had been absolutely full.

**Hazel Bradey**  
**Ecclesfield Handbell Ringers**

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## **Autumn Rally at Sedgefield (2)**

What makes a good rally? It's one where you go home feeling that it was worthwhile getting up early, travelling a long way, meeting ringers new and old, enjoying the challenge of Massed Ringing, playing your own party pieces, and ending the day full of ideas and happy memories.

Sedgefield was excellent. Once we'd convinced ourselves that we'd actually found the village (and not the Industrial Estate or the Racecourse), we were charmed by the little silver bells outside the church hall welcoming us to a day of music. The hall (more bell decorations inside) was a good size for the teams who were able to come – Beverley Town, Broomhill Bells, Dronfield, Holy Trinity Sheffield, Sedgefield, and also representatives from Catterick, Heddon, St John's Lynesack and Treble Eight.

Plenty of attention was given to Massed Ringing. Four pieces had been well chosen and were available beforehand. Each piece had a different conductor, which in itself was entertaining, given the differing styles and approaches to the music. The rally at Coal Aston last autumn had convinced Broomhill Bells that we were much better off ringing bells that were in suitable keys and at the right pitch rather than the bells we normally ring - fine on their own, but not with everyone else! Thanks, Christine and Roger, for letting us loose on your table. There were also handchimes and Belleplates for people to try.



Impressive was the solemn and slow-moving Meditation on "O Valiant Hearts", by Charles Harris, arranged by Sandra Winter. It included a verse specifically for chimes. The only thing which defeated us most of the time was the crotchet rest at the beginning of the last line of the hymn. There is a great art in getting the rests right! "Country Gardens" – well, we all know Country Gardens, or do we? This excellent arrangement by Robin Benton was quite intricate in the inner parts. Having available more than one version of the piece (2, 3 and 5 octaves) made for one or two surprises.

The Strauss waltz "Artist's Life", arranged by A. Ellis, was happy and spirited. There was even mention of a typical Strauss slight-anticipation-of-the-second-beat-of-the-bar in the accompaniment, but this was not Vienna nor New Year's Day, so we decided we wouldn't. "Gavotte" from Symphony No. 4 by Boyce, arranged by John Atkinson, is a charming piece, fits well on bells and sounds easier than it looks. Why do Gavottes start 3 4 1 2, when they sound as if they are a straightforward 1 2 3 4? And then John says "I think we'll count this in TWOS"! I KNOW it says 2/2 time and I KNOW the emphasis is on two in a bar, and I KNOW the feel of the

piece should be “2 and 1 and” , but I also know that there’s only so far you dare go with a hall full of ringers trying to get something together for the first time....



in action, this time with “Blaze Away” and a Shostakovitch Waltz. Thank you.

There were two Rally Ringing sessions. These were short because the numbers of teams was small, but it is always good to have the opportunity to ring to an audience. Sedgefield Handbell Ringers were well prepared, not only in their ringing of arrangements by Hilton Mottram, and Margaret Cunningham of Northallerton, but in the kitchen department too, with several Lunch options, lots of lovely CAKE and endless cups of tea. Well done, Sedgefield, your hospitality was much appreciated. It is heartening to see Beverley Town at our rallies. They have to start out earlier than anyone else, but they’re always there, to set an example, and to give us the chance to see five octaves

I had wondered whether everyone would be playing “Bobby Shafto” since this was the first regional rally north of the Tees for a long time, but they didn’t, so I was glad we had prepared a medley of Northumbrian tunes. Holy Trinity Sheffield were short of ringers, but rose to the occasion with “Be still for the presence of the Lord”. Dronfield rang Vic Cox’s arrangements of “Ramona” and “Spanish Ballad”.

As we headed south, through the rain and the roadworks, we were agreed. It was a lovely day.

**Rosalind Rogerson**  
**Broomhill Bells**

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## ‘Feast in the Forest’

It all began with a simple phone call - ‘Will you be having a stall at this event?’

So, yesterday my husband Ian and I attended this annual event in Ecclesall Woods in Sheffield, as representatives of Sheffield Beekeepers, who have an apiary there, to sell the honey. Ian sells the honey, I have the task of helping the children to roll beeswax candles, which I have to admit to enjoying although it is hard work.

‘Oh, and as you are coming please will you run a handbell workshop—just for an hour?’

To cut a long story short I think I must have had over 50 children and adults trying their hand at ringing during the space of an hour and a half, such was the demand and queue!

We rang 8 bell music, rounds and chimes and simple tunes such as ‘Frere Jacques’ and ‘Morning has broken’, which I thought children might know. Wrong! They didn’t know any of the pieces I had prepared but enjoyed themselves nevertheless, especially when they rang chords, and had very appreciative audiences. It always amazes me just how quickly most children can get to grips with finding their notes in the music and ringing a tune.

By the time I called a halt and managed to drink my much needed cup of coffee it was stone cold! And today I have to remove the all the sticky finger marks from the Belleplates . Yuk!! Knew there was a reason for taking Belleplates not bells. But it was worth it to see their faces and to spread the word.

Now it's onwards to their next big events in December.....Christmas tree sales.....two consecutive weekends (Saturday and Sunday) when we will be doing this all over again, with bell workshops morning AND afternoon!! Carols this next time, I wonder which ones the children of today know?

I knew there was a very good reason we had booked a couple of days away in December!

**Kathy Smith**  
**Stannington Handbell Ringers**

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## **Handbells and Wedding Ringing**

In 2012 we responded to a specific request and rang the handbells for the wedding of an ex-local resident, who has connections with tower bell ringing. She wanted the sound of real bells at her wedding but was marrying in a church where there were no tower bells. At the wedding we rang the handbells as guests were arriving, during the signing of the register and after the recessional music. This gave us an incentive to develop a small portfolio of suitable wedding music, which we began to expand.

Early in 2013 we had a number of requests to ring at weddings in 2013 and 2014. We therefore decided to respond to such requests as a “pilot” before making this a regular feature of our repertoire in future years. The intention was to offer to ring at weddings in exchange for a donation to the handbell fund.

Subsequently a number of the requests did not materialise into firm bookings and we only rang at one wedding, in East Morton, in 2013. This would therefore not seem to be a popular idea.

However in 2014 Kate, the vergers at All Saints Church, Bingley married her long term boyfriend Charlie who is one of our local policemen. Kate however has been a member of our handbell group since we were formed and decided for her wedding she wanted tower AND hand bells!



The tower bells rang out for what should have been half an hour before the bride arrived, but in true bridal tradition Kate was fashionably late and they rang for a bit longer. As she arrived at the doorway we began to play 'Trumpet Voluntary' as processional music just as Kate had specifically requested.

During the signing of the register we played three other pieces she had chosen before the happy couple walked down the aisle to the sound of 'All you need is Love' – not played by us I hasten to add!

The tower bells then took over again. At that stage we should have been having champagne, Pimms and canapés on the grass outside the church, but here was Kate's one problem – she had failed to organise the weather! It was pouring with rain so instead we imbibed in the church with different groups being called to the front for photographs as required. This included one of us with the happy couple and by the way Charlie handled the bell we gave him we might yet persuade him to join us!

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

## Northern Bell Orchestra - Summer Concert

The Northern Bell Orchestra was formed in 2005 - we reach our 10th Anniversary in 2015- under the auspices of the North East Region. It was started to give members the opportunity to play in a large group using a wide range of bells and to have fun doing so. It means that most members get the chance to ring a completely different range of music from what they play in their main teams.

Numbers fluctuate from year to year but we have around 30 members that assemble from across four different regions, North East, North West, West and East Midlands at our practices in Ashover Parish Hall. Practices are approximately monthly, all day on a Saturday. We also have 2 conductors, Tim Willetts, who has been with us from the start, and Katherine O'Rourke.

The season lasts from September to July and we usually have a main concert and other events in the summer. This summer we had our concert in Newbold Community School in Chesterfield and we were joined by a young singer near the beginning of her career. She sang songs in a variety of *genres* and was much enjoyed by all. We also played different styles of pieces including music from The Nutcracker, El Condor Paso, Prelude on Thaxted, Presto by Mozart arranged by a

Japanese composer, Plink Plank Plunk by Leroy Anderson which is quite fast and played almost entirely with mallets and a medley from Les Misérables. The school is newly rebuilt with quite a large auditorium and tiered seating. It is a light and airy hall and we enjoyed playing to a large appreciative audience.



Usually in July we have an open practice where we try out new music to choose what we might take on in the autumn and to give anybody who would like the chance to 'come and have a go' and then possibly join us in the coming year. Each year we play 12-15 pieces split between new pieces, some from our last repertoire and some from earlier years.

This season we are planning another concert in Chesterfield at the same venue on May 16th and we have been invited to help celebrate American Independence day with a school in Lincolnshire.

Do come and enjoy our concert and/or join us in our open meeting . We would love to see you and also welcome you as a member of the Northern Bell Orchestra.

**Margaret Ibbetson**  
**Holy Trinity (Sheffield)**

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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 January 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.**

## Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering

The Green Dragon Inn, Hardraw was again the venue for the second Yorkshire Dales Handbell Gathering which started on the Friday evening (26 September) where delegates from around the country met for a weekend's handbell ringing organised by brothers Don and Phillip Bedford and Peter Fawcett.

The weekend was planned with 'massed ringing' in mind with chances for each team to play one or two party pieces throughout the weekend. Workshops for 'Handbell Techniques and Rhythms', 'Synchronised Lapping', 'Four-in-hand' and 'Playing on Chimes and Plates' were suitably arranged in-between.

On Saturday evening Beverley Town Handbell Ringers joined the group to take part in the evening concert which turned out to be a 'Master Class' with questions being asked on 'how do we do this' and 'what happens when'. They were followed by a performance from the Bedford Handbell Ensemble lead by Philip Bedford.



The event finished with a mini concert of the best of the massed ringing from the weekend.

**Andrew Ford**

**Beverley Town Handbell Ringers**

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### Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 13 December – 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 -

### 2015

**Saturday 17 January Ashover Parish Hall - Northern Bell Orchestra Practice -**  
Further details contact Roger - 01132677711 / 07802434782 or Judy 01623 883705

**Saturday 14 February - Ashover Parish Hall Northern Bell Orchestra Practice -**  
Further details contact Roger - 01132677711 / 07802434782 or Judy 01623 883705

**Saturday 14 March - Ashover Parish Hall Northern Bell Orchestra Practice -**  
Further details contact Roger - 01132677711 / 07802434782 or Judy 01623 883705

**Saturday 25 April - Ashover Parish Hall Northern Bell Orchestra Practice -**  
Further details contact Roger - 01132677711 / 07802434782 or Judy 01623 883705

**Saturday 9 May 2015 - Grassington**  
Spring Rally and AGM  
Further details to follow -