

**THE
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF
CHANGE RINGERS**



***Newsletter
Winter 2012/13***

Issue Number 13

For Church Bell Wheel Repairs

Resoling and re-shrouding of wheels, or
new wheels made to replace old ones.

Contact : David Town
19, The Green,
Romanby,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire. DL7 8NL

Tel: 01609 770336 email: jennie.town@btinternet.com

Also orders taken for mini bell wheels (approx .75m
diameter), for display in your home or ringing room.

Editorial

Once again, thank you everyone who has written articles for this edition of the Newsletter.

For future editions, may we request please that when you submit an article and photographs to **The Ringing World** you automatically copy us in? It does save time in our having to spot Yorkshire material in the RW and then contact the author.

In the same vein, when **something 'interesting' happens in your tower or Branch**, please let us at least know. We can always write an article about it ourselves after phoning you for information.

Finally, we would urge all **Branches to have their own newsletter** and to copy us in to it. At the moment only five of the nine Branches have their own newsletter or regular emailed communication to members beyond Meeting notices. They are beneficial in helping to 'hold your Branch together', in the same way this Newsletter hopes it does for the Association as a whole.

Many thanks.

Robert Cater (Robert@thecaters.org.uk)
Jean Doman (secretary@barnsleyringers.co.uk)
Editors

If you don't have time to read this Newsletter in your tower, you can access it under 'Downloads' on the Association's web site - www.YACR.org.uk

Printed by Sharon Press, 168 Crook Street, Bolton, BL13 6AS.
Tel: 01204 398776

WANTED!

We need more advertisers for the Newsletter to help defray its printing costs. If you know of any organisation willing to help in this respect, please contact one of the editors. It doesn't have to be an organisation connected with ringing. Terms are negotiable and very reasonable. Potential advertisers can be advised that the Newsletter goes out twice a year to 250 churches across the whole of Yorkshire.

General Meeting at Armley - 15 September

The business at the Meeting at Armley was 'traditional'. However, we stood in memory of recently departed members; Joan Pagdin (Hemsworth and Wakefield), Richard Senior (Kirkburton), Guy Cox (Swillington) and John Hobson (Howden).

The **Final of the 6-bell striking contest for Sunday Service bands** was held at nearby Burley in the afternoon, judged by Adam Crocker. Seven teams entered, each having won the contest in their local Branch. Leeds Minster, representing the Leeds & District Branch were the winners, followed by York Minster and Brighouse.

General Meeting at Norton - 2 February

We were so lucky! If our four-monthly General Meeting had been held the Saturday previously then virtually no one would have been able to get to the meeting. As it was, Saturday 2 February was bright and sunny as a short-lived ridge of high pressure hovered over the country and we could get to Norton (adjoining Malton), situated in a gap in the Yorkshire Wolds in the East Riding. The previous Saturday a thick blanket of snow had wrapped the countryside.

Ringling additionally took place during the day at Helmsley, Kirkbymoorside, Middleton and the interesting three at Cayton. Just over the 100 members present couldn't manage to eat all the sumptuous lunch provide by the Scarborough Branch and many of the cakes were sold as doggie-bags.

During our business meeting we stood in memory of nine Members who had died since our last meeting in September - Brian Sissons (Batley), Peter Armstrong (Idle), Jack Gibson (Pudsey), George Hancock (Wakefield Cathedral), Robert Smith (Stockton on Tees), Geoff Wheat (St Anne's Cathedral Leeds), Gerald Wood (Marske), Peter Else (Ranmoor) and John Sheldrake (Hutton Rudby).

We were delighted to welcome several students from the Universities in York as new members, primarily attached to St Lawrence's there, who were all present.

The ITTS training scheme as one way of improving the teaching of learners was well aired at the meeting, and it was reported that four of its training

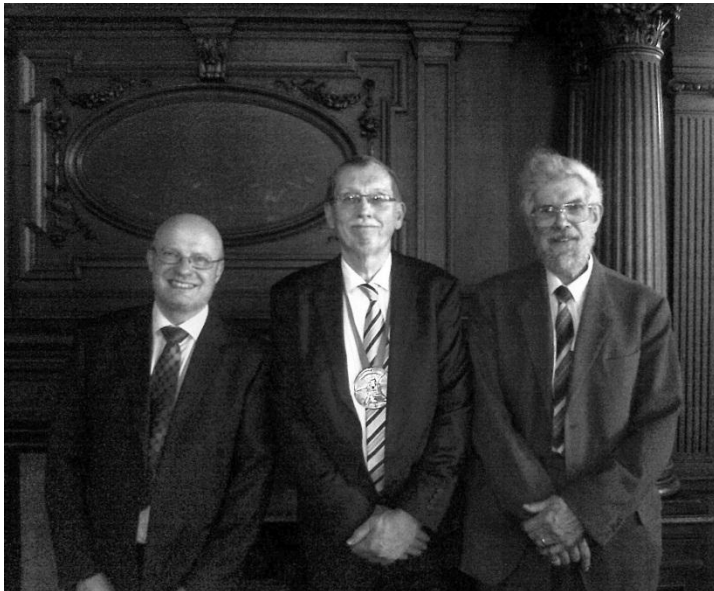
courses have already been held in the County. The Ringing Foundation and its need for donations was also mentioned.

A collection for the Bell Repair Fund taken over lunch generously raised £209 including tax relief.

The Snowdon Lunch - 13 October

The annual Jasper Whitfield Snowdon commemorative event was held at The Royal Hotel in York, set in a hall as splendid as any used for such an event by any Society in the country. This year it was a lunchtime engagement and drew over 100 diners. The hotel had direct access to the railway station platforms, so many took advantage of coming to York by train.

At the YACR Snowdon Lunch



President, Barrie Dove flanked by the speakers, Andrew Aspland (l) and John Harrison.

Andrew Aspland of Ripon Cathedral entertainingly informed us about what had been going on in Yorkshire this same week 25, 50 and 100 years ago, which he had gleaned from his assiduous study of back copies of *The Ringing World* and *The Bell News*. It seemed a case of 'Plus ça change

(plus c'est la même chose)'. He concluded his speech by proposing the traditional toast to the memory of JWS and Past Officers of the Association. The response was the traditional touch on handbells, this year being well struck Plain and Little Bob Royal performed by ringers from Sheffield and York.

Our guest speaker was John Harrison of Berkshire, well known to readers of *The Ringing World* for his treatises on numerous aspects of teaching and management in ringing. John spoke eloquently on the need for change in the recruitment and teaching of ringers, particularly with our aging ringing population, and the rôle which Societies like ours can play in it. New initiatives such as The Ringing Foundation and the ITTS training schemes are with us now: how should we embrace them and other such schemes in the future? John concluded by proposing a toast to the continued wellbeing of the Association.

Life Members' Day - 18 August

The annual event for Life Members was held at the ground floor ring of six at Aldborough, when 35 life members attended. At tea, which followed traditional Evensong, Barrie Dove read out messages from those unable to attend this year, with the hope that they will be able to make it in 2013. It was notable that the striking was of a very high standard for all the ringing. Was perhaps more emphasis given to striking when our old-timers were being taught?

The Association Library - Update

You may remember the article in the last edition about the Association's Library and Archive now being looked after for us at The Old Palace in York. (If you're interested in what's below, may I suggest you reread that article please. The Newsletter is on the Association's web page under 'Downloads').

Over the Autumn the staff at The Old Palace have undertaken the significant task of going through the list of our holdings, correcting the list in many places, ascertaining in which part of the Palace our books are held and trying to find the 'missing' ones. Most books seem to be in the 'special collection' at the moment. In the near future I shall be liaising with the staff to reassign the books, hopefully with nearly all being put into the 'general collection'.

The following are extracts from The Old Palace's conditions for visiting the library:

Association members are welcome to use library material for reference in our Reading Room. For items marked 'SC' you will need to provide ID. A minimum notice of 24 hours is required to access this material. Books in the 'General Collection' may be inspected without notice or the provision of ID.

Reading Room Regulations.

No bags or coats are allowed in the Reading Room - secure lockers are provided. Only pencil can be used, no ink at all. No food or drink is to be taken into the Room, this includes bottled water, chewing gum, cough sweets etc

Borrowing Printed Books.

To borrow a book in the General Collection you will need firstly to register. Please bring two forms of ID showing your name, address and signature (e.g. passport, driving licence, utility bill). There is normally a payment for borrowing books, but this will be waived for borrowing the Association's property if you present the previous year's copy of the Association's Annual Report showing your name as a paid-up Member. No book in the Special Collection may be borrowed.

Opening hours

Our regular opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (closed on Bank Holidays).

Archive: The Association's holdings in the Old Palace's Archive (a quite separate organisation from the Library) may be inspected for research purposes on Tuesday to Friday afternoons between 1:30pm and 4:45pm. Please contact the Archivist at least 24 hours in advance to arrange an appointment. Nothing may be borrowed. There are similar rules to the Library which have to be observed when inspecting our artefacts.

The Old Palace's telephone number is 08449 390021 Ext 2500.

In recent weeks I have purchased a number of books, primarily those written by Yorkshire people and those needed to complete 'sets' - e.g. the last book to complete the four Steve Coleman has written. A complete catalogue will appear on the web site in due course.

For the future, could I ask everyone who publishes a book to let our Library have a free copy please (unless it's expensive)? Further, once the catalogue's on-line, if you know of a book you feel the Library should hold -

especially if it's about, or includes information, on Yorkshire bells - then please let me know.

I would like to develop our Archive, but will say more about it in the future. In the meantime, if you have anything you feel the Archive ought to keep, such as the programmes for Dedication Services for bell work, then please let me know.

Finally, in our Archive there are the Minute Books of Association General Meetings (and of the General Committee) going back to March 1911. If anyone has any inkling where the Books are from the Association's founding in 1875 up to 1911, then please let me know.

Robert Cater

National Young Persons' Striking Contest - Birmingham, 30 June

A good start to the summer was the undoubted success of the Young Persons' band from Yorkshire in the national striking contest at Birmingham. The Association's Education Committee encouraged the entry of a band and, despite ours having the lowest average age of all the 17 bands which entered, the youngsters were delighted in achieving a silver award. Jennie Town of Northallerton is now leading 'get togethers' for young Yorkshire ringers with plans to meet on the second Sunday of each month. We are hoping for great success when the next Contest is held in York on 6 July 2013.

Jennie writes "The YACR young ringers met on December 27th with ringing at Huntington and St Wilfrid's York. Initial fears that we might have low numbers (because many of our youngsters were, understandably, caught up with family activities) proved groundless when Huntington's ringing room was soon crammed to capacity. Jane Lynch brought two ringers from West Yorkshire and others came with parents in support; we were also joined by two "not-so-young-any-more" ringers who were home for the Christmas holiday.

Methods at Huntington ranged from Plain Hunt to Cambridge Surprise Major and Stedman triples; at St Wilfrid's we rang up to Stedman Caters with some other change ringing on eight and ten bells. A highlight of the day was Plain Hunting on nine with all the working bells taken by ringers under the age of 18. The tenor was rung by Katie Town, who was the next youngest ringer present (just a little older than 18). The next meeting is on Sunday 10th February".

Peals in 2012

For the first time since 2001, there were fewer than 300 peals rung for the Association in 2012, with a total of 298. I don't think there is much to be read into this, annual totals have fluctuated considerably over the years. In the last 20 years we have ranged between 146 in 1998 & the record 436 in 2009. The enthusiasm of individual organisers is probably the main factor, and this clearly waxes and wanes according to circumstances. In 2009, one band was responsible for most of the record 79 hand bell peals rung that year, while as recently as 2001 only 4 such peals were rung. In 2012, hand bell peals totalled 16.

An interesting factor already emerging in 2013 is a number of peals have been rung for YACR which might have been expected to be for the Lancashire Association. No coincidence that the peal fee for that Society has just been doubled I suspect. As I never tire of saying, the current peal fee more than pays for the proportion of the cost of printing the peals & compositions in our Annual Report!

Warm congratulations to Moya McNamara at Barwick in Elmet, Martin Tubbs at Brompton by Sawdon and Lawrie Penman at Walkey who rang their first peals in 2012. Rather worryingly, this was possibly the lowest such total ever. Let's try and boost that number in 2013! As recently as 1996 the number of first pealers was 19, and that was reported as the lowest for some years.

The leading peal ringers for YACR in 2012 were headed, fittingly, by our President Barrie Dove with 141 narrowly failing to beat the record of 142 held by Nick Soanes in 2006. It is interesting to note that seven of the ten leading peal ringers of 2012 are fully or partially retired, with an interesting trend recently for peals to be rung during the working day, mainly of course featuring the retired. Barrie was also the leading conductor by a considerable margin with 96, most of which he no doubt organised. Still to be confirmed by the Compositions Secretary, it looks as though Alan Reading narrowly pipped James Holdsworth to be the leading (human) source of new compositions with 27 to James' 26. As usual, St Anne's Cathedral Leeds was the leading tower with 34 with Dore achieving a record 26 in second place. There were, rather appropriately, 23 peals during the year of Spliced Surprise Major, with the most popular single methods being Bristol S Major (16) followed by Yorkshire – 15 of Major, 13 of Maximus and 10 of Royal.

Probably the most notable achievement during the year was that of the Leeds Parish Church/Minster band who rang 12 12-bell peals during 2012,

including one of 5012 12-spliced beginning at 12:12 on 12/12/12! Unfortunately they didn't quite manage to ring a peal on all of the Associations 12's but it was still a remarkable feat of organisation and execution.

Simon Reading, Peal Secretary

Central Council's Tower Inspection Seminar at Tadcaster – 29 September

The CC's Towers and Belfries Committee held a one day seminar on the topic of Tower Inspections at Tadcaster. Eight delegates attended whilst the Committee was represented by George Dawson and Adrian Semken. The Boys' Sunday School proved to be an excellent venue and arrangements had been made for three local towers to be available for "practical" inspections.

Proceedings got underway with a welcome to Yorkshire by Barrie Dove, YACR President. There followed a PowerPoint presentation on Inspections covering some of the things to look out for and completing an inspection in a logical manner. Following a coffee break the delegates divided into two groups one travelling to Saxton whilst the other had a very short walk to Tadcaster tower. Saxton is a very interesting medieval wooden frame stiffened with steelwork so that the three bells can be rung and Tadcaster is a low-side cast iron and steel frame carried on timber base beams. Following lunch at the Sunday School the groups changed towers with the group at Saxton taking advantage of the opportunity to have a quick ring.

As things turned out the third tower that was available – Sherburn in Elmet - was not used but the local organiser is to be congratulated on his foresight as all locations were to the south of the Tadcaster bridge which was closed as a safety precaution following the severe flooding of the preceding week.

Meeting back at the School a lively discussion followed over a welcome cup of tea. It is very interesting to observe the way in which different "inspectors" see things in very different ways! This was followed by a short presentation on Report Writing and proceedings were then brought to a conclusion with further general discussions.

Our very grateful thanks must go to Stuart Raggett of Tadcaster, for making all the local arrangements and to those at the towers that were available for inspection. In fact, thanks to everybody who made the effort to contribute in any way to the success of this event.

The day was brought to a close with a ring on the fine Taylor eight at Tadcaster.

Adrian G. Semken.

White Rose Shield Striking Contest

Saturday 22nd September saw the fourth White Rose Shield Contest for 12-bell bands in Yorkshire. The venue this year was Halifax Minster, a fine, but tricky twelve. The method chosen was Grandsire Cinques and there was a degree of excitement amongst the teams as the defending champions, York Minster, had been unable to enter - so we were guaranteed a new winner.

This year we were pleased to have entries from Leeds Minster, Stockton on Tees, the Western Branch and Wakefield Cathedral. There was also a scratch team. The judging was performed by the expert ears of Phil and Liz Orme from Cambridge.

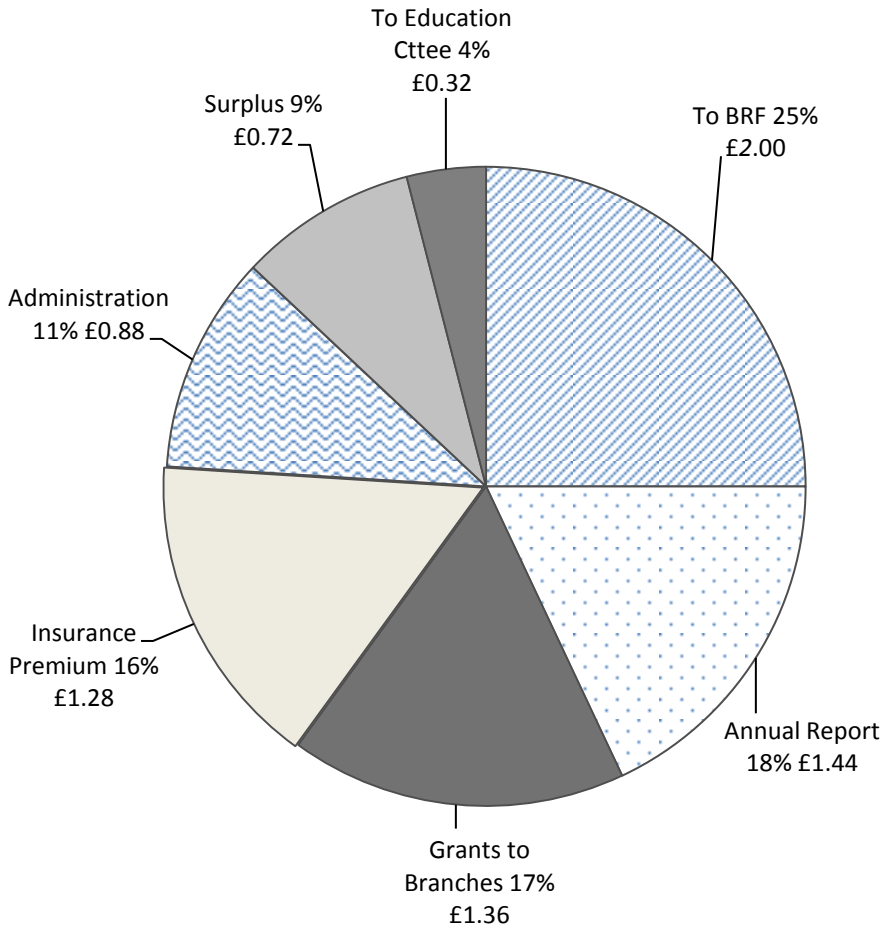
The Halifax ringers and parishioners had been well briefed on the details of a successful 12-bell contest and all the ingredients were provided. Morning coffee/ tea was followed by a buffet lunch all swilled down with lashings of Ossett beer. We were very grateful to Neil Murray and his team for their superb efforts. The standard of ringing was creditable throughout the day and the sunshine helped add to the convivial atmosphere in the churchyard.

Once the ringing was over there was an unusually long delay as the judges needed to computerise all their marking but eventually they were able to feedback to the assembled masses in the Minster. Congratulations go to the winners - Leeds Minster for a steady and accurate performance, which we doubt York would have beaten even if they had been there! The ringers and judges all adjourned to the Three Pigeons for further real ale to discuss the post- competition details. Once again a fine day for all Yorkshire 12-bell ringers of all standards.

We look forward to the competition in 2013 which will be held at Wakefield Cathedral on 14th September. We would encourage all centres of 12-bell ringing in Yorkshire to enter a band. This is not elitist - it's a fun day out with some 12-bell ringing. Please come along!

Steve Ollerton

The £8 Association Subscription – How It's Used



Here's how our current £8 subscription gets 'spent'. You will note that £6.40 of it is automatically accounted for by regular items. The 72p surplus will be used up within a very few years as inflation increases the cost of our insurance, the Annual Report and administration.

The Snowdon Series Books

Diagrams. The new 2011 Edition of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon's original work, comprising 201 methods showing their blue lines - £12.

Ropesight. The 1987 reprint of Jasper Snowdon's 'Introduction to The Art of Change Ringing', first published in 1879 - £7.

Grandsire. The 1989 reprint of J Armiger Trollope's revision in 1947 of Jasper and William Snowdon's original work, first published in 1888 - £8.

Inspired by Bells. Some 80 articles and poems with some photographs featuring bells, collected by Frank Foden and published in 1991 - £20.

Campanalogia: or the Art of Ringing Improved. Published in 1990 with a new introduction by William T Cook, this book is a facsimile copy of the original written by Fabian Stedman and published in 1677 - £22.

Copies are obtainable from John Mitchell, Manor House, Roeccliffe, Boroughbridge, York, YO51 9LY. (*Post and package included in all prices*)

Please make cheques payable to 'YACR Snowdon Books'

Any enquiries to books@jmanorhouse.co.uk
(*Sorry, but there are no discounts for multiple purchases*).

All surplus proceeds to the Yorkshire Association's Bell Repair Fund.

What's the **Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS)** all about?

Read on to find out a few more details.

The Ringing Foundation is supporting this course in line with their aspiration to *create a modern training structure* for the teaching of bell ringing.

Bell ringers in Britain as a group are getting older. 40% of ringers are now over 60 years of age, in another ten years many of these ringers will become unable to continue ringing. We need more ringers, we need younger ringers and we need them quickly. To train these new ringers we need competent skilled teachers.

The ITTS has been created to address these issues, providing training in the teaching of bell handling and elementary change ringing to a whole new generation of ringing teachers.

The objectives the Ringing Foundation has set out are as follows:

1. To ensure that best practice is followed
2. To encourage consistency of practice.
3. To create both training and educational modules (including compiling a comprehensive body of educational material).
4. To allow for some measure of performance monitoring.
5. To allow for the potential for teacher accreditation.

The **ITTS** is a direct response to these objectives.

Features of the ITTS

1. Use of up-to-date research based methods in the areas of skills acquisition, teaching skills, coaching skills.
1. Moodle site (an interactive website for learning)
2. Training day one - Teaching Bell Handling
3. Use of mentors.
4. Training day two - Teaching Elementary Change Ringing
5. Assessment of practical teaching skills and knowledge of theory
7. Teacher accreditation – leading to membership of the Association of Ringing Teachers ART

Use of up to date research based methods in the areas of skills acquisition, teaching skills, coaching skills

There has been a massive amount of money put into research of training over the last 30 years. The **ITTS** aims to bring the benefit of this work into the world of ringing to help develop more effective teaching and a higher retention rate of new learners.

Moodle site

New Teachers and Mentors will be given a user name and log in after the module one course – they will then be able to explore the 5 courses on the site.

- Learning to teach module one - Teaching bell handling.
- Learning to teach module two - Teaching elementary change ringing
- Mentors resources
- Tutor resources
- Learning to ring – a series of information to help your new ringer become more engaged with ringing. *New ringers will be given their own user name and password to access this course.*
 - Send new ringers' e-mail address to
 - admin@itts.org.uk

Training day – Module one - Teaching Bell Handling

The Teachers and their Mentors attend this day which consists of practical and theory sessions.

Practical sessions

- *The basic components*
- *Joining both strokes together*
- *Teaching ringing up and down*
- *Solving Common handling problems*

Theory sessions

- *Teaching a skilled activity*
- *Becoming a good teacher*
- *Solving common handling problems*

Use of Mentors

Mentors will:

- Plan the training of the learner with the Teacher
- Be responsible working with the Teacher when teaching their first learner(s) after the course.
- Be responsible for reviewing and signing Teacher Training Logbook
- Be responsible for arranging an assessment session for Teacher.
- Be responsible for submitting data to Moodle site (tick boxes on line) when the Teacher has completed the practical assessments required.

Second training day- Module two – Teaching Elementary Change Ringing

This day will be available to Teachers who:

- Who are ringing at Bob Minor level or above
- Mentors can attend even if their Teacher does not

Practical sessions

- *Developing foundations skills*
- *Teaching Plain Hunt*
- *Easy steps to Bob Doubles*
- *Using unusual teaching methods*

Theory sessions

- *The importance of foundation skills*
- *Building a Band*
- *Running a good practice*

Teacher accreditation

Teachers who complete the course will become have their achievement acknowledged and certificated by The Association of Ringing Teachers becoming Associate Members when one module has been completed and Full Members when both modules have been completed. Mentors will become accredited alongside the Teacher they are mentoring if not previously accredited. If their Teacher does not progress with Module one by starting to teach the Mentor can gain accreditation by completing the on line theory test for Module 1 and taking one new ringer [learner] through to level 1 on the Learning the Ropes – progressive scheme for learners. To become accredited at Module 2 if the Teacher does not proceed the Mentor may attend by themselves and may gain accreditation provided he or she completes the on line multiple choice theory test for module 2.

There will be 3 types of certificate

- Completion of Module One – Associate membership ART
- Completion of Module Two - Associate membership ART
- Completion of both Modules - Membership of ART

The criteria for admission as an accredited teacher are as follows:

- Being 18 years of age or over
- Personal ringing at Bob Minor level or above
- Completion of Module one course –Teaching bell handling

- Being assessed on teaching one bell handling lesson (Module one)
- Completion of Teacher Training Logbook, reviewed and signed by Mentor.
- Completion of multiple choice on line theory test, on Moodle site (Module one)

After attending the Teaching bell handling day, two years are allowed for the completion of Module one.

- Completion of Module two course – Teaching elementary change ringing
 - Log book of teaching experience of teaching elementary change ringing
 - Assessment of two lessons on teaching elementary bell handling (Module two)
 - Completion of multiple choice on line theory test, on Moodle site (Module two)

After attending the Teaching elementary change ringing day, one year is allowed for completion of Module two course.

The oldest Bellhanging Company in the UK
combining Modern Technology with Traditional
Craftsmanship

WHITES OF APPLETON LTD



Church Bellhangers

(Established 1824)

Appleton, Abingdon, Oxon. OX13 5JJ

Tel: 01865-862549 Fax: 01865-864969

E-mail: bells@whitesbellhangers.co.uk

Web site: <http://www.whitesbellhangers.co.uk>

Free inspections on the UK mainland
No deposit required with order



Education Committee

ITTS Module 2 Course, Tadcaster December 2012

The first ITTS Module 2 Course to be held in Yorkshire was run at Tadcaster at the beginning of December 2012. Whilst Module 1 concentrates on bell handling, Module 2 moves onto the next stage of integrating the individual into the ringing team. You can only attend the Module 2 Course if you have first been on the Module 1 Course as it is a natural progression through the scheme.

The Student Teacher is given advice on exercises that are fun and at the same time improve the individual and band skills. It is probably at this stage we lose many ringers who suddenly find that progress starts to slow down. Let's face it, if people enjoy ringing they will want to stay with it. The day was most enjoyable and even the most experienced ringers admitted that they had had a considerable amount of fun and gained from the experience. Once again I would recommend the ITTS scheme to all. If you have reservations or you feel you do not know about it, I am sure that Branch and Association officers would be pleased to point you in the right direction.

ITTS - A Personal Experience

I represent the Selby Branch on the Association Education Committee. At our meeting in January 2012 we agreed to support the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme (ITTS).

To give a little background, I took up ringing about 20 years ago when we moved to Yorkshire and being mature in years when I started to ring, it has taken me a few years to ring to a reasonable level. I acknowledge that I will never be a master, but that does not stop me trying. Over those years I have tried to do my best to recruit new learners, and with that I have attempted to play my part in helping to teach them, although I have left it to those with far more experience than I, to take the lead. In my experience I have seen some really good teaching and some not quite so good. Although very apprehensive about it, I decided to take up the ITTS challenge and have a go, and attended a Module 1 course held at Tadcaster in May 2012 as a student teacher.

The first problem I had following the Course, is that I had to find a new student. To this end I was extremely lucky. The day following the course, I happened to mention to one of our Church Wardens that I was looking for

someone to teach, and she said that her grandson would love to learn to ring. Luck was certainly on my side as the following week I took my new pupil, Noah Wilson Bell, for his first lesson. He was very keen and quick to learn. He was a model student, listening to what he was being taught, doing and reacting to it. In no time at all he was ringing a bell on his own and soon mastered the basics. I was also lucky too to have two good mentors.

My official 'Mentor' for the scheme is Martin Hardgrave, but when he is not available our tower captain Sue Webb has stepped in. Both of them attended the Module 1 course with me and I am greatly indebted to both of them for the help and advice they have given. I think we have all learnt a great deal from the Course and the information that we have been given as part of the ITTS package. We are now working on the Module 2 elements of the package. Noah was presented with his Module 1 Bell Handling Certificate at the Selby and District Branch meeting by the Association President, Barrie Dove, on the 1st December. We believe that Noah is the first person in Yorkshire to actually be presented with the certificate.

I think we have to acknowledge that the ITTS scheme is in its infancy and that all is not perfect. Overall however it has to be said that the scheme is excellent. The documentation and the information given is first class and I would recommend that all who intend to teach learners, even those with a wealth of experience and have been teaching ringing for years, can benefit from attending the Courses. If you go with an open mind you will pick up all sorts of useful information to help you fulfil your role as a teacher.

Overall the pluses are far greater than the minor problems which hopefully will be resolved in due course. I would therefore recommend ITTS to all, and if adopted should greatly improve the standard of ringing in the future. Something we should all be aiming for.

Stuart Raggett.

YACR Summer Course - Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton - Friday to Sunday 12 to 14 July

The Association's new residential Ringing Course is now all fixed for 2013 at Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton near Huddersfield.

There are five Groups available for tuition. So as not to repeat all the information here, a separate Course Brochure and Application Form is included with this Newsletter.

The success of this venture is dependent on the help we get to support the students. Please consider giving up a few hours of your time to come to the Course as a Helper and ring with the students. Once again full details are available in the Course Brochure.

A 'Ringing up and down in Peal' Course - Knottingley, 27 October

This was run by Adrian Moreton., with five students attending. It is hoped to run the Course again soon as more potential students have come forward.

Two WW2 Careers

David Lockwood of Ossett - Soldier

Although being a farmer (*usually a 'reserve occupation' meaning you didn't 'go to war'*) David was still called up to fight for his country. He had his first medical at Huddersfield on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and then reported to Branspeth in Co. Durham and Thropton in Northumberland, where he did his Army training.

Then it was to a 'Holding Unit' in France in February 1945, moving to liberated Brussels on 22 March. Two days later the Rhine Landings took place and he and 100 others were sent to reinforce the Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry's 6th Airborne Division as it was 'down in numbers'.

He saw plenty of action as he was in a 'Recce' Platoon of the HQ Company. The Battalion assaulted the German forces near the village of Frille on the River Weser, which flows to the North Sea through Bremen.

On 3 May, a few days before the end of the European war on VE Day, further east at Bad Kleinen, midway between Wismar and Schwerin on the River Elde, which flows into the Baltic Sea through what was to become East Germany, he met up with Russian soldiers coming the other way, where they all shook hands and celebrated.

(The British army then had to withdraw back west, as agreed between Stalin and Churchill, to the new border between what became East and West Germany).

After a month's leave David reported to Bulford Camp, near Salisbury, and prepared to be sent to Japan to continue the war against the Japanese. However, with the atom bombs being dropped by the Americans on Japan, the war ended. David was then sent to Palestine instead, a British 'Mandate' with Britain in legal control since WW1, where trouble was already occurring between the resident Arab population and Jewish immigrants. He spent much of his time on guard duty.

In October 1946 he gained his Class B release to continue farming and came home. He started ringing at Ossett in early 1947 and was elected to YACR membership the following year.

Peter Carbutt of Barnsley - Spitfire Pilot

Peter learned to ring aged 14 at Barnsley in 1936, being taught by his father. In later life he taught his two sons.

Peter was called up to Cardington, Bedfordshire in late 1941, aged 19, to have his medical checks etc and then put on 'deferred service' to wait call-up proper. This came in March 1942 to St. John's Wood in London for flying lectures, being issued with his kit and square bashing. In July he was posted to Scarborough, where the military had taken over The Grand Hotel, the town's largest, for more square bashing, lectures on the theory of flight, map reading and navigation.

In September 1942 he joined RAF Station Carlisle for his first flying tuition in a Tiger Moth biplane. Recruits had 'go solo' after 10 hours' tuition, after which they were allowed to continue with flying or dropped. Peter was successful and joined a four-month course in Wolverhampton for 'real' flying training. He managed to ring at Christmas 1942, the first time ringing had been allowed since early in the War.

More and more training followed. At RAF College in Cranwell he learned to fly Miles Masters and Harvard planes and was presented with his 'wings'. He was fortunate in learning in Britain as most pilots were sent by sea to train in Canada, the USA and South Africa, and many were lost en route from U-boat torpedo action.

Peter writes "By this time in the War the Allies had air superiority over the Luftwaffe, so relatively few German planes were encountered. Due to a surplus of Allied pilots it was eleven months before I saw any 'action', my time being spent practising aerobatics, formation flying and how to strafe

and dive-bomb targets. I eventually went to Ford in Sussex and saw some 'action' in my Spitfire, carrying out 'sweeps' over France whilst waiting for D-Day - i.e. looking for anything which moved and strafing it if it looked the enemy.

Hundreds of 'Spits' were deployed near the south and east coasts, right up to Scotland, although attacks by the Luftwaffe were few and far between. A large group of Spitfires was kept in reserve by 1944 to defend and assist the landings on D-Day 6 June, known as the 2nd TAF (Tactical Air Force). On D-Day and after, we were directed by ground control to attack columns of tanks, armoured cars and troop carriers. A few days later we had secured a landing strip near Bayeux where we could refuel and rearm without going back to Sussex. By late June we moved there lock, stock and barrel.

A fateful day at Falaise, Normandy - 18 August

I dived to fire at enemy troop-carriers trying to escape through the Falaise Gap and pulled out of the dive with a damaged engine. It must have been enemy flak, as the Merlin engines never went faulty! I headed for home, trying not to lose height and looking for a large flat area on which to make an emergency landing with my wheels up. I was losing height rapidly when I spotted a large field which looked suitable - it also had a bonus in a long line of Red Cross vehicles on standby duty!

My landing was the worst I'd ever made. A wing broke off and a fire started. I hit the ground very hard and the next thing I recall was waking up in a field hospital tent with face and head bandaged and severe back pain. My squadron could not find me and reported me 'missing in action'. My parents were sent the usual telegram, which I still have. I spent nearly four months in a plaster jacket in hospitals from Bayeux to Pontypridd, but made a full recovery. Lucky me!

On New Year's Day 1945 I got back into the War again with 91 Squadron operating from Manston, Kent and later Ludham, Norfolk. We got the job of escorting day bombers attacking German factories. After the European War ended on VE Day we moved to Dyce near Aberdeen to hone our skills ready for duty against the Japanese in the Far East. The atom bombs put an end to hostilities and we got peace at last.

It was time to say goodbye to my lovely Spitfire and hello to my old lady DH82A, Tiger Moth. I spent the next two years as a flying instructor whilst waiting to take up my option of a place at a Teachers Training College. One career stopped and a new one started".

Peter became a teacher around Barnsley and returned to ringing. As part of his new career he also taught for ten years in Singapore, eventually retiring back to Barnsley and near his sons' families.

[Peter says his RAF uniform and his 'wings' made a Wow! with the girls - Ed].

Please let me know if other Association Members fought in WW2 or during the Korean War or other conflicts - Editor.

York Colleges Guild - An American's Impression

If the sun had been out, it would have revealed an overcast sky on the evening of Friday, 16 November as the York College Guild's 12-person contingent said goodbye to York and headed towards Manchester and the annual meet-up of the Northern Universities Association. Swelling with anticipation and Alex Bishop's lard-laden buns, we boasted a truly international team, hailing from the United Kingdom (England and Scotland, if we're being generous), the United States, Germany, Canada and the Netherlands. Four of us, myself included, had only begun ringing a few weeks prior to the NUA event. Having been instructed that it was definitely necessary to participate in the striking competition, we neophytes were filled with not a little apprehension at the thought of the whole of Manchester shuddering at our muddled attempts at rounds and—oh no!—call changes.

Having missed that evening's ringing, for which we can only blame our fearless leader, Ryan Mills', inability to get his priorities straight and skip class accordingly, our first stop upon arrival was the pub, where a well deserved drink and our John Taylor & Co.-sponsored NUA polo shirts awaited us. After relocating to St Matthew's Hall, Stretford, we enjoyed a night of beer, mini sandwiches, and fretful sleep. So much for Day 1.

Saturday morning: we were greeted with sausages and a go on the bells of St Matthew's. It was our new members' first time ringing outside of York. I wish I could say it inspired confidence, but rather, as the striking competition loomed over our inexperienced heads like a tenor with a broken stay, I felt a desperate yearning for the familiar bells of St Lawrence, York. Our next stop was St Mary the Virgin in Bury. Afterwards, half of us managed to ring at another St Mary in Prestwich; unfortunately, I was in the group who arrived just in time to admire some tomb slabs before hurrying

back to Salford for the striking competition at Sacred Trinity. I cannot speak to the success of the YCG's first team, who rang some Bob Doubles; though it did not win us a prize, anything even slightly complicated sounds impressive to me. I will say that our second team's call changes were an inspired and desperate attempt at cohesion. If nothing else, I hope we bolstered other teams' confidence.

A hearty and lengthy [*liquid?*] lunch meant that we were unable to make it to Holy Innocents in Fallowfield with adequate time to ring. Never discouraged, and undeterred by rain and cold, the skilled YCG ringers put their navigation caps on and proceeded to wander aimlessly around Manchester for an hour looking for a specific bus stop. In the end, it was not worth it to make the hour-long journey to St James and Christ Church, both in Didsbury. We took respite from the cold at a pub. What else?

Back at St Matthew's Hall that evening, both dinner and general NUA business were dealt with hastily. Having unanimously decided that 2013's NUA will be held in Liverpool, we were free to dance and drink. West Yorkshire-based ceilidh band Shinjig provided the music for the liveliest ceilidh I had yet seen (it was my second). Few of us escaped without some colourful bruising. The night's sole disappointment - besides the occasional disruptive chundering [*Ugh! English readers: look it up on Google - Ed*] - was YCG's close second place finish in the Boat Race, losing to Leeds by only a few gulps.

Sunday: I think that I speak for all YCG ringers when I say that, feeling a bit under the weather due to excessive appreciation of juice, milk, and other traditional ceilidh beverages, Sunday morning's performance at Manchester Cathedral was not our best. There was, however, a fantastic choir of little children, and rumour has it that a captive audience outside burst into uproarious applause and tears of admiration when the NUA's ringers finished their Yorkshire Royal.

But I could tell in the shining eyes of ringing veterans that the highlight of the trip, for many, was the opportunity to ring on the 12 at Manchester Town Hall. It is, I am told, a highly elusive tower to grab: official hullabaloo meant we had to be prompt, sign in, and be on very good form. For my part, I pulled my handstrokes with great gusto and concentration. Though some of us were sick, and all of us tired, we were able to return to York content. We may have failed to win any prizes or ring at half the towers, but what we had done was far more valuable: our best! And eating lunch at Taco Bell.

Kevin Atkinson recently remarked to YCG's newest members, 'Your styles

are a lot safer after Manchester.’ This was immediately before I failed to grasp a sally. Perhaps he overstepped the mark. I do think it is appropriate to say that, for us new (and foreign) ringers, the NUA was an invaluable opportunity to see more of the country, meet a lively cross-section of young ringers, and practise ringing in new settings and under varied circumstances. It will, I hope, put us in good stead for further advancement in this curiously English pastime.

Sara Powell

News from the Branches

Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch

Roland Coates Memorial Outing

After the sad passing of one of our highly popular ringers last year, it was felt that ringers who knew and loved Roland (*Pateley Bridge and Fewston*) should celebrate his life by organising an outing at some of the towers he frequently rang.

The Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter said “It is supposed to be good weather in September so we hope this will be a good family day out.” With floods in the week leading up to the big day, fingers were crossed that it would dry up sufficiently. As it turned out, 29 September was a lovely day, enabling us all to enjoy some wonderful views of the Yorkshire Dales, especially at the very picturesque Middlesmoor.

The day started at Fewston, where the bells were well worth the tight squeeze up the iron spiral staircase. Thankfully there was no repeat of a previous visit where one ringer completed a “hat-trick” of slipping a wheel, breaking a rope and breaking a stay, all in the space of about two seconds. The locals put on tea, coffee and homemade biscuits to complete a perfect start to the outing.

The next tower was the very light peal at Pateley Bridge. Ringers who hadn’t been there for a few years commented on the significant improvement of the lighter bells, especially the third, the lightest bell to actually have a stay. It did mean that ringers used to being around the “shallow end” found themselves around the back. Having taken hold of the 7th, the long standing tower captain of Ripon Cathedral asked if he could swap with the 6th, as he didn’t know the start of the 7th to Plain Bob Triples.

After a leisurely lunch, we went to Middlesmoor where we appeared to gain even more ringers. There the excitement was caused by the treble having the chiming rope attached for use at the ground floor, only for the ringer who was to lead up discovering the bell was up all along! Thankfully she checked before taking loops... Then onto West Tanfield, where, by this time, we'd been used to fitting a large number of people in a confined space. Here we were one ringer light, as the Branch Ringing Master took this opportunity to disappear off to collect her engagement ring.

The last ringing of the day took place in Masham. With 10 bells and a larger ringing room, we didn't feel quite as much like sardines as earlier in the day.

The outing was finished off with a meal at the Black Sheep Brewery in Masham. With about 40 people putting in an appearance over the course of the day, including many from outside of the Branch, it showed the affection many ringers held for Roland. We are sure he'd have enjoyed the event.

John Welch

Scarborough & District Branch

BRF Collections

The new system adopted in the Branch of asking individual towers to make donations had yielded healthy results, if rather latterly! This was augmented by proceeds from the Christmas Quiz and the Treasure Hunt and Puddings. Since the AGM a further donation has come in, giving a grand total of **£618** for 2012. This really is a fabulous amount for such a small Branch - well done to all!

Ten Bell Friendly Striking Competition

Sadly, only one tower (Scarborough) entered a team for this event at Scarborough on 17 November, although on the day enough people turned up to make up two mixed bands – one to ring rounds and call changes, and one a very creditable attempt at Grandsire Caters.

In accordance with previous practice, the trophy went to the Scarborough team as being the only band representing one tower, but with special commendation to a very novice band for putting themselves forward. The competition is back to its usual June slot in 2013, but any ideas on using the format to encourage more experience of ten bell ringing would be welcomed. Thanks to Edwin King and his ringers for arranging the event.

Selby & District Branch

Carol Service

On the 1st December as part of its regular monthly meetings, the Selby & Districts Branch held its first ever Carol Service, at St Mary's Church, Tadcaster. Unfortunately, the Vicar, The Rev'd Canon Sue Sheriff, was unable to be with us as originally planned, as she was at the Minster in her new capacity as temporary Archdeacon of York, for the installation of the new Dean. At short notice the Rev'd Maggy Ellison, who is an Associate Priest and is helping out in the parish while the Vicar fulfils her temporary roll, stepped into the breach and led a splendid service.

Maggy was extremely helpful in putting together a Service that suited the occasion well. It was so successful that we have been asked by many if we can repeat it again next year, so it is likely now to feature as a regular part in our yearly programme.

Stuart Raggett

Sheffield & District Branch

Branch Outing

On Saturday 6 October 2012, 27 ringers and friends left England's largest county and descended on the smallest! Rutland.

We had sunny and dry weather for our trip to this lovely county. We rang on the 6 bells at Greetham, where the church was minus a roof on the north aisle, before moving on to the interesting church of Cottesmore, 6 bells, with its RAF chapel. Then on to the county town of Oakham, and ringing on the fine sounding 8. A half course of Rutland Surprise Major was well rung here.

We then made our way to the local brewery where lunch had been well organised by Andy Thackeray. The food was greatly enjoyed as were several of the local beers.

Well refreshed we moved on to Hambleton's 5 bells - a beautiful village set on a peninsular jutting out into Rutland Water. From there a drive along the edge of Rutland Water to Empingham, 6. Another fine looking church. The last tower of the day was the ground floor ring of 6 at North Luffenham.

All the bells were put to good use with ringing for all abilities including the method of the day, Stamford Surprise Minor. Those ringers who didn't come missed a great day out and our thanks go to Malcolm Turner for organising an excellent trip.

Jennifer Armeson

100 Club winners

July £50 Andrew and Lynn Beevers, August £50 Pauline Heath, August £100 Claire Monk, September £50 Andy Thackeray, October £50 Richard Knights, November £50 Pat Roper, November £100 Rotherham Tower, December £50 Chris Bennett,

Western Branch

Young Ringers Tour to the Dales

On Saturday 10th November the Young Ringers Group met again, this time to go on a short ringing tour to the towers at the northern end of our Branch. Nine young ringers and some adult helpers started at Gargrave, everyone managed some rounds and calls on 8 bells then we rang some Plain Bob Major and some Bob Doubles. The second tower was Kirkby Malham where a jar of chocolates appeared to keep the energy levels up. Again everyone had a go at call changes on 8 to get used to the bells, Charlotte (age 9 from Horton in Ribblesdale) even travels with her own extra-large box to stand on! Then we rang some more Bob Major and Grandsire Triples.

Next we moved on to Settle where two more young ringers joined us (William and George from Idle) and we had a much needed tea break, as everyone was getting a bit cold by this time. These bells are very easy going and we managed rounds and calls (again), plain hunting, Bob Major and even some Stedman Triples.

Finally, we moved on to Giggleswick, where the long ropes proved a bit of a challenge to some of the smallest ringers, but everyone had a go and again some good ringing took place. Then it was off to the church rooms for food. Here the local ringers did us proud with lots of pizza, salad, home-made cakes and drinks.

Before everyone left for home, we presented William Thomas (Idle) with his YACR Associate Membership certificate, and Chloe Jones and her mum, Amanda, (Settle) with their Qualified Member certificates. Let's hope we see more of the young ringers becoming qualified members soon.

The next Young Ringers event (age 18 and under) will hopefully be on Saturday 23rd February 2013 with ringing at a couple of towers followed by a ten-pin bowling trip.

Stedman Triples Day

To ring Stedman Triples has to be the pinnacle of my ringing ambition. To those who may view this aspiration as a very modest summit, my reply is that it took me all of two years to master Bob Doubles, and getting my head (let alone any other physical ability) round Grandsire remains something of a challenge. However, nothing ventured, nothing gained, so when the opportunity arose to join a study day devoted to Stedman at Ilkley on 6th October, it was not to be missed.

On paper it all looks fine! The theory understood, the logic mastered, the starts all memorised, Mr Coleman's excellent chapters on the subject all read and his little tips noted. Get behind a bell rope and everything goes straight out of the window! The story of my ringing career! Happily for the residents of the town, the facility at Ilkley which allows the bells to be tied and the methods to sound via sensors and a computer meant that our mistakes and clashes did not assault the ears of those peacefully going about their Saturday shopping.

The proceedings broke for lunch followed by a last minute request for a wedding, for which, of course, the bells were rung open, and the decision was made to leave them open for the remainder of the practice. By this time we students were making better progress and ringing more confidently. We had reckoned without Bobs and Singles! There has got to be a talent show prize somewhere for being able to simultaneously put seven people right and instruct, blow by blow, a novice, and how Roger Green achieves all of this remains one of life's unfathomable mysteries.

In my case practice has yet to make perfect, but the Course definitely whetted my ambition, which is to ring Stedman Triples, but now to ring them really well.

Pat Oliver-Wells, Addingham

York Branch

Following ringing at least one quarter peal in each of the towers in the Branch in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, a record of the performances was sent to HM along with the Branch's congratulations and loyal greetings. The letter below was received in turn.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

To: Mr R Cater and the Church Bell Ringers
York Branch, Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letter and kind message which you sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen has been deeply moved by the wonderful response to her Jubilee, and Her Majesty was touched to hear that, in celebration of this special year, Quarter Peals have been rung in all sixteen churches in the branch. The Queen greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness in enclosing a detailed list of the performances.

I am to thank you very much once again for writing to Her Majesty in this historic year, and hope you will understand that, because of the enormous number of messages received in the past few months, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

15th October 2012

Looking Back

The 1968 Snowdon Dinner

Following from my ticket for the 1968 Snowdon Dinner at Bradford being shown in the last edition, I have had an email from a lady who was also there.

Ann Williams of Shropshire says -

"..just come across the YACR Summer Newsletter on the web when looking for something else and saw the 1968 Snowdon Dinner ticket. We were there - my husband [*now a priest in Shropshire*] was one of the Speakers - and I remember it as a very jolly evening, particularly as I was sitting next to Gilbert Thurlow [*President of the Central Council*].Happy days!"

[Well, at least one person outside the County has looked at our web site - Ed.]

Bradford Cathedral's rise to Spliced Surprise Royal in the 1960's

My father, Harold Schofield, was a passionate and highly motivated man in all that held his interest. Bellringing was one of those interests and his work, as a very successful market trader, was the other.

The Bradford story begins when Dad and my mother, May, joined the band at Bradford Cathedral in October 1953. As early as this, Dad's goals were set. He wouldn't join the band until the lapsed Tuesday night practice was reinstated! After their election to the band Dad set about teaching beginners, including myself and my late brother Barry. Over the next few years more young ringers came along and an additional, silent, practice was introduced on a Wednesday.

At this point we were only managing to ring on 6 or 8 but early in 1959 Fred Munday, on a job move from Guildford, joined the band and this gave Dad great hope. Straight after coming home from the markets Dad would have a quick tea and, with as many youngsters as he could persuade, we would all pile into his market van to visit a local practice – Batley, Calverley, Guiseley, Leeds Parish Church, Elland, Pudsey, Wakefield Cathedral, Headingley, Haley Hill Halifax, Friezland, Todmorden, Heptonstall and Cross Stone all come to mind. Excessive homework and exams were our only excuses! However, with or without us, Dad would be at a practice every single night of the week.

Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples were soon being rung fairly regularly on Sundays and, spurred on by the progress made by his youngsters, Dad introduced a special Surprise practice on the first Saturday of each month. This was a magnet for several experienced ringers and also those wanting to progress. Leslie W G Morris, an eminent ringer of that period, who had previously been a member of the band and who was still living in Bradford, started coming to the special practices. His ability as a method ringer and conductor was probably the turning point in the subsequent progress made by the band. The special practice also attracted Gordon Benfield, Alf Smith and Fred Seager from local towers and Peter Schofield and John Fielden from Todmorden. Surprise Royal and Spliced S Major were the main focus.

Leslie rejoined the Sunday service band in 1960 and shortly afterwards Vernon Bottomley also joined. His wife Jeanne soon started to learn to ring and before the end of the year was ringing Stedman Triples – remarkable progress. Dad was now convinced that Bradford Cathedral could have the best band in Yorkshire. We were regularly ringing Spliced Surprise Major and had managed Cambridge Royal for Sunday Service by the end of the year.

Huge progress was made in 1961/ 62. London Royal was particularly difficult to master, even at the special practice, but towards the end of 1961 it was rung well enough for Dad's standards and was introduced to Sunday ringing. By March 1962 history was made and the County's first peal of London Royal by a local band was rung at Bradford. The band stood Peter Kirkby, Jeanne Bottomley, Gillian Schofield, May Schofield, Rita Jowett, Barry Schofield, Harold Schofield, Leslie Morris, Fred Munday and Vernon Bottomley on the Tenor.

Dad's final ambition was to ring Spliced Surprise Royal, but several of the youngsters had left the fold including Rita Jowett who was an excellent ringer and not easily replaced. Roy Bettley-Cooke, who had been supporting Bradford practices for several years and had recently moved into the locality, filled the gap and joined the band in 1962. Two new methods were introduced, Rochester and York and a record was achieved by the band ringing a peal of Spliced S Royal in five methods (Cambridge, Yorkshire, London, York and Rochester). It was composed by A J Pitman with 46 changes of method and 'all the work' of each method for every bell. This was rung on May 5th 1963 and was the first peal of 'atw' Royal in five methods ever rung.

It had been a long hard struggle. Dad had upset many on the way and caused many to leave, but his ambition to make Bradford the best band in the County had been achieved. Sadly, further progress proved impossible as one or two of the band moved away including me going to college. But for the next four years, until he and Mum moved to Tewkesbury, Dad continued to strive for excellence in striking at Bradford.

Gill Fielden (Solihull)

Bradford Cathedral's 5-Spliced Royal band



l to r: Leslie Morris (8), Gillian Schofield (3), Vernon Bottomley (5), Jeanne Bottomley (2), Frederick Munday (9), May Schofield (4), Barry Schofield (6), Roy Bettley-Cooke (tenor), Peter Kirkby (treble), Harold Schofield (7).

All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax

Belfry records from the 1880s - Continued from Issue 12

Scarborough was the chosen venue for the **1889** trip and 'it was proposed that an attempt to Ring a peal at the Parish Church in Halifax on Nov. 23rd [and that] Mr John Hampson become a member of this Society; he having rung 720 changes of Kent Treble Bob Minor'. In **1891** the All Souls ringers decided to visit Llandudno. It was also decided that 'a peal be rung on Saturday Nov. 28th of Kent Treble Bob Major to be about 5000'. There was to be a further attempt on 13 December 'for the benefit of the man that stands out of the first'.

The peal attempt on **28 November 1891** was successful and was recorded in the Yorkshire Association Report as peal No. 597 and on a peal board still hanging in the tower. It consisted on 5184 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major rung in 3 hours 35 minutes on Saturday 28 November 1891 by the 'Local Branch'. The band was Treble - H. Reynolds, 2 - A. Stead, 3 - F. Salmons, 4 - J. S. Ambler, 5 - H. B. Payne, 6 - J. Hampson, 7 - C. E. Stewart, Tenor and conductor - S. W. Stewart. The composition was by A. Knights of Chesterfield.

The **1892** trip went to Southport and in the same year it was resolved that H. Reynolds be paid expenses to go to the Guisly[sic] Meeting, pay subscriptions [presumably to the Yorkshire Association] & and bring full report back'. Unfortunately his report was not recorded. Later in that same year the society resolved 'that we let [hand?] bells go to the new set with the exception of 12 bells for our own use'.

On **9 January 1892** the same 'Local Company' band as in the peal above rang 6144 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 4 hours 18 minutes. The peal was composed by C. H. Hattersley and is again recorded on a peal board still in the tower. In a further peal rung on **20 February 1892** 5088 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung in 3 hours 28 minutes. In that peal G. H. C. Copping rang the 4th and the peal was called by H. B. Payne.

No minutes have survived for **1893** but problems clearly arose in **1894** when it was decided that 'the bells stand till repaired. Carried'.

The next minutes were dated January **1897** and that year the trip was to be to Morecombe. In **1899** it was decided to write to J. H. Scott 'to see if he has resigned or not. (Result) I had an interview with him & he promised to attend more regularly'.

Ambition flourished in **April 1899** when it was proposed that 'our annual trip go the London'. However, in July it was decided that 'the trip to London be rescinded [and] that we go to Blackpool on July 22nd'. On **6 May 1899** 'the Society' rang [you've guessed it!] a peal of 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major in 3 hours 26 minutes. Two ringers from Halifax Parish church - B. F. Lamb and R. Ryland - joined the All Souls ringers in this peal which was conducted by Fred Salmons on the tenor.

J. H. Scott's attendances do not seem to have improved for on **7 January 1890** it was resolved that 'he be crossed of [sic]the books & that the secretary send him a note'. That year's trip was again to Llandudno.

Members who attended the ITTS Module 2 Course at Tadcaster



From left to right: Stuart Raggett, Deborah Thorley, Stuart Holtam, Sue Webb, Brian Sanders (Course Tutor), Tracy Jones, Helen Thorley, Heather Peachey, Barry Peachey

ITTS Course Successes



*Noah Wilson Bell with his Module 1 Bell Handling Certificate.
Behind from left to right.
Stuart Raggett (Student Teacher), Martin Hardgrave (Mentor) and Barrie Dove.*

David Lockwood of Ossett



Peter Carbutt of Barnsley



The York Colleges Guild on Safari in Manchester



*Back Row (L-R): Alice Longden, James Baxter, Eric Wolever, Helen Beaumont, Alex Bishop, Joost Maagdenberg, Ryan Mills, Becky Holloway, Anna-Lena Bulgrin
Front Row (L-R): Sara Powell, Kevin Atkinson, Alexis Bond*

Young Ringers Tour to the Dales



L-R) Chloe Jones, William Thomas and Amanda Jones receive their certificates at Giggleswick.

Roland Coates Memorial Outing

Photograph taken by Janet Smith



Very front : Theo Kendrick & Ethan Kendrick I-r: John Scarth, Janet Robson, Nigel Simms, Susan Laycock, Jean Hallett, Gill Hallett, Wendy Belsey, Brian Linscott, Colin Belsey, Ian Johnson, Chris Rudd, John Welch, Chrissie Swift, Christine Parsons, Tracey Kendrick, Penny Bell, Gerry Parsons, Janet Wadsworth, Andy Guthrie, Karen Maughan, Sandra Shoyer, Robert Trewhitt & Jim Sheldrake

Haworth - Ringers' Baby Christened from Brontë Bell



I to r Simon Burnett, Tower Captain, the proud parents, Fiona and Peter Tiley and the Rector, Rev Peter Mayo-Smith.



The Huntington Outing

Listening to the carillonneur playing the 47 bells at the illuminated belfry at Bruges.

The North Rigton band and helpers at York Minster



(l to r): Judy Barton (North Rigton), Fay Martyn (NR), Mike Cooper (Ilkley), Roger Green (Ilk), Katie Costantini (NR), Emma Brennan (NR), Gill Cooper (Ilk), Pat Oliver (Addingham), Amy Brennan (NR), Sophie Brennan (NR), Lucy Brennan (NR), Sue Green (Ilk), Katy Lawson (NR), Jenny Murray (NR), Louisa Murray (NR), Nigel Martyn (NR), Amanda Martyn (NR).

The Ripon Cathedral Ringers at The Black Bull at Frosterley.



Back row: Arthur Rogers, David Edwards, Bethany Edwards, Colin Belsey, Jo Mitchell, Wendy Belsey, John Welch, Susan Laycock, Janet Wadsworth, John Mitchell, Geoffrey Johnson, Simon Ogier. Front row: Jack the dog, Theo Kendrick, Tracey Kendrick, Ethan Kendrick, Eleanor Ogier, Alison Ogier



The flower arrangement specifically designed for the Sandal Magna bells bi-centenary by Janet Rayner of Wragby.

Roos- The new treble



l to r James Blackburn, Andrew Bicknell, Graham Clifton, Gary Audley.

The Sandal band



Back row l to r - Kieran Moxham, John Cutt (Tower Capt) Graham Smith, Chris Maynard, Clive Moxham. Front Row l to r - Janet Rayner, Ann Brough, Sue Davies, Margot Cutt, Patricia Taylor, Doris Basu, Gill Heap. Chris Maynard is a ringer at Horbury, & Janet Rayner a ringer at Wragby, they regularly ring at Sandal.



Chloe L Jones of Settle,
*The runner up in the Ladies Guild
Competition.*

Tadcaster Centenary Peal Band

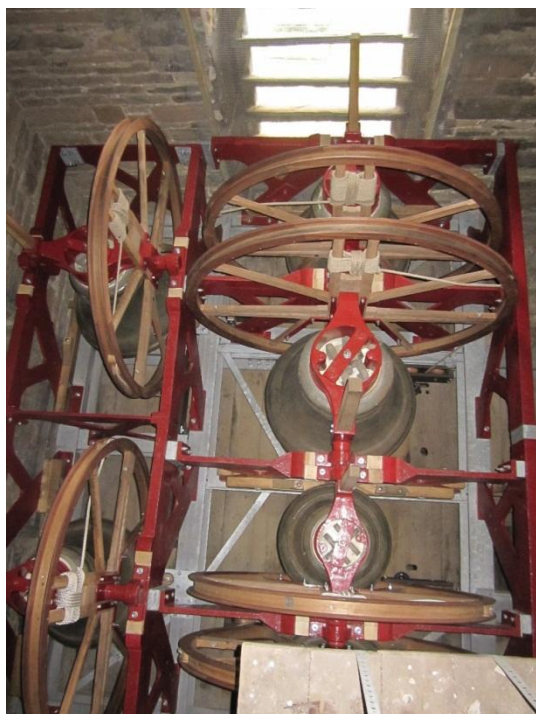


*l to r Stuart Raggett, Roger Riley, Susan Webb, Philip Brook, Pamela Hudson,
Catherine Gardner (now Catherine Ovington), James Gibb and Angela Gibb.*

Tadcaster Weekend Tower Outing



Members of the band and their friends on the trip.



The newly restored bells at Tong

York Minster



Four of the Minster ringers' children by the Christmas tree in the ringing chamber. All of them practise on the ringing chamber's dumbbell during Sunday morning ringing. l to r: Joshua Lewis, Robert Carr, Charlotte Mitchell and Gretel Auty.

The Association Wombel proved extremely popular during the Sandal bicentenary celebrations



Presentation of the Doncaster & District Society David Nichols award



I to r: Rev. Dr. Paul Shackerley President, Cyril Toyne , Helen Nichols Vice-President

The Huntington Bellringers' Outing



Northern Walls

For your drystone walls and all your landscaping needs

We arrange everything from start up to clean up



Contact David at www.northernwalls.com or 07951 481239

USE THIS SPACE TO ADVERTISE

Interested? Please contact one of the editors. It doesn't have to be an organisation connected with ringing. Terms are negotiable and very reasonable. Potential advertisers can be advised that the Newsletter goes out twice a year to 250 churches across the whole of Yorkshire.

It was proposed that the Society went to Glasgow in **1901** but no surviving minute confirms that the trip took place.

The final minutes in the book were written down in **1902** when 'a deputation of 3 officers [were] to meet the Churchwardens re ringing the bells; ...[and] that we subscribe not less than 3d per week for a trip; [and] that we go to the Dukeries'.

I thank David Potter and Les Townsend for their help with this article.

Geoff Bryant

Ringing Trip 1952



l to r: Leonard Schofield, Jack Gibson (who passed away only recently), Harold Schofield, ???, Anne Worsman

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers - Garment Order Form

Association clothing is available via Dinah Donovan - sweatshirts, polo shirts, hoodies & zipped hoodies, fleeces, gilets, microfleece and rugby shirts - all in a large variety of colours.

They display the new Association logo which is a bell superimposed onto a Yorkshire rose, and to which can be added the name of your tower if you wish.

To find out more, including current prices, please contact Dinah on 01482 882621 or drhymer@drhymer.karoo.co.uk.

Please send orders with cheque payable to "D Donovan" to:
Mrs D M Donovan 6 Waltham Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 8HB
(Tel: 01482-882621/ Email: drhymer@drhymer.karoo.co.uk)

CLASSIC COTTON POLO SHIRT (HB100) - £18.00

Sizes: XS (34"), S (36"), M (38/40"), L (42"), XL (44/46"), XXL (48"), 3XL (50/52")

Colours: navy, black, white, lilac, royal blue, bottle green, jade, yellow, charcoal, cream, cranberry, chilli, apple green, burgundy, powder blue, pink, olive, lemon, camel, purple, classic red, fuchsia, heather grey, cornflower blue, ash, ocean, burnt orange, banana, lime, slate grey, turquoise, chocolate, bright green, blue mari, surf blue, teal.

LADY-FIT COTTON POLO SHIRT (HB121) - £18.00

Sizes: M (12), L (14), XL (16), XXL (18) Colours: navy, black, white, lilac, royal blue, cranberry, apple green, powder blue, pink, lemon, classic red, fuchsia, cornflower blue, turquoise.

UNISEX SWEATSHIRT 7620M) - £19.00

Sizes: XS (35/36"), S (37/38"), M (39/40"), L (41/42"), XL (43/44"), XXL (45/46")

Colours: black, white, bright blue, bottle green, yellow, grey, burgundy, gold, deep navy, light Oxford, purple, classic red, sky blue, birch grey, emerald, bright red.

UNISEX ZIPPED HOODY (SS222) - £21.50

Sizes: S (36/38"), M (40"), L (42/44"), XL (46/48"), XXL (50/52")

Colours: Khaki, navy, black, red, royal blue, burgundy, olive, heather grey, steel blue.

UNISEX HOODY (SS224) - £21.50

Sizes: S (36/38"), M (40"), L (42/44"), XL (46/48"), XXL (50/52")

Colours: Khaki, navy, black, white, red, royal blue, bottle green, burgundy, olive, sky blue, dark navy, heather grey, zinc, steel blue, light graphite, light pink, chocolate.

UNISEX FULL ZIP FLEECE (8700M) - £22.50

Sizes: XS (35/36"), S (36/38"), M (38/40"), L (40/42"), XL (44/46"), 3XL (47/48"), 4XL (49/50")

Colours: black, bottle green, orange, grey, burgundy, sky, French navy, bright royal, classic red.

FLEECE ZIPPED BODYWARMER (RE37A) - £18.00

Sizes: XS (35/36"), S (38"), M (41"), L (44"), XL (47"), XXL (50")

Colours: navy, black, red, royal blue, forest green

QUARTERED RUGBY SHIRT (FR02M) - £24.50

Sizes: S (32/34"), M (36/38"), L (40/42"), XL (44/46"), XXL (48")

Colours: black/red, white/navy, navy/sky, white/red, white/black, black/gold, navy/purple, navy/burgundy.

LONG SLEEVED RUGBY SHIRT (FR01M) - £23.50

Sizes: S (32/34"), M (36/38"), L (40/42"), XL (44/46"), XXL (48"), 3XL (50")

Colours: navy, black, white, sand, red, royal blue, bottle green, orange, burgundy, gold, olive, bottle green/navy, purple, emerald green, sky blue, dusky pink, airforce blue, chocolate, slate, navy/slate.

LADY-FIT LONG SLEEVED RUGBY SHIRT (FR77M) - £21.00

Sizes: M (12), L (14), XL (16)

Colours: navy, black, lilac, sky blue, fuchsia, dusky pink, mint.

✂.....✂

Name: *Received:*

Telephone: *Paid:*

Email: *Delivered:*

Garment: Garment:

Colour: Colour:

Size: Size:

Tower Name Tower Name

Cost: Cost

✂.....✂

Lady-fit garments tend to be on the small side and regretfully no refunds are available if the garment does not fit. Also, no refunds can be given after a garment has been received by the purchaser unless the fault lies with the supplier.

Tower News

Bedale

Rev Robin Brown of Bedale tells me that he took up long distance running when he got to the age of 68. *[I can't quote how old he is now, beyond saying he was born before WW2]* . He manages about 100 miles each month and in mid-February joined the 10 km Llandudno run. He has run in the Leeds half-marathon for the past six years. Some going! - Ed.

Birstall

Miles Lawson, who is now the tower captain of Birstall, is teaching new recruits to ring the magnificent 8 bells, with more waiting in the wings – and all from within the local congregation!

The band was formed with the intention of ringing for the Olympics, and although they couldn't manage full circle ringing, they did chime the bells at the appointed hour. With help from ringers from Batley, Miles has been teaching on the front four bells – but would really appreciate some visitors to their practice (6.00 - 7.30pm on Sundays), to demonstrate what change ringing looks and sounds like.

If anyone is able to come along on Sunday evening, please contact Miles miles.lawson1@btinternet.com

Miles writes (*mid-January*) - "Our news is that from the end of November we have had to close the tower for roof and masonry maintenance, which were part of long term planned scheme. There is currently scaffolding among the bells. So in the meantime we have had to stop ringing and our learners are waiting for the tower to open, which we hope is towards the end of January.

Before we stopped three recruits were just ringing on their own and three more about to join them. So our next goal is to ring out as a band for Easter Sunday. Currently our learners are Chris and Becky Knight, Denise Gosling, Leif Wilks, Solange Wilson and Maddy our youngest - with still two more folks waiting to join in when the tower opens.

In the meantime Batley has been very supportive, allowing our learners to join the Friday practice. Tong has also extended an invitation".

Haworth

Ringers' Baby Christened From Brontë Bell

There was a double celebration on Sunday 4th November 2012 at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Haworth, when Beatrice Elizabeth Tiley was christened using the tenor bell of the tower's set of handbells.

Beatrice is the daughter of Peter and Fiona Tiley who are both prominent ringers at St Michael's; indeed Peter rang in the celebratory quarter before the Service. The intricately engraved tenor bell, which can be seen in the photo, was used as a font at the suggestion of the Rector, Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith.

The Christening coincided with the reopening of the Church following the completion the first stage of restoration work and it was the first time that the tower bells had been rung for four months.

Two Peals for Brontë Anniversary

As some of you may know, 29th December 2012 was an important Brontë anniversary, for on that day in 1812 Patrick Brontë married Maria Branwell at Guiseley Church. Patrick and Maria had six children amongst whom were Charlotte, Emily and Anne. Patrick later went on to be Rector at nearby Haworth, the three daughters became world famous authors and the rest as they say is history.

Perhaps one of the lesser known aspects of the Brontë story is the fact that the six bells in the tower at St. Michael and All Angels, Haworth were paid for with money raised by Patrick Brontë. The bells were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1845. The tenor bears an inscription to this effect, including Patrick's name and local people like to think of the ring as the 'Brontë Bells'.

The ringing community could not let such an occasion pass without a special effort and so on the day, ringers at both Guiseley and Haworth rang peals to mark the anniversary. The Guiseley peal was scheduled to begin at 10.30 a.m. and that at Haworth at 3.00 p.m. At both churches the starts were slightly delayed due to the local press arriving who wanted more details and photographs. As a result the peals featured prominently in the subsequent news articles. There were many other celebrations of the anniversary in Haworth, especially by the Brontë Society. At the Parsonage Museum, next to the Church, themed events, re-enactments and special

readings took place. In particular a toast was raised to the couple and an anniversary wedding cake cut as the Haworth peal started.

It is not known for certain, as there are no records dating from the time, but it is highly likely that the Haworth bells rang for Charlotte Brontë's wedding and it is very fitting to think that they rang again, all these years later, to celebrate the bicentenary of her parents' marriage.

More News

We commissioned a peal board for our Royal Wedding Peal which will be dedicated shortly. We hope to use this event to launch a recruiting drive.

As part of the church restoration mentioned in the article the PCC hopes to augment the bells from six to eight.

Simon P D Burnett

Horton in Ribblesdale

A little over ten years ago the three bells at Horton were augmented to four and installed in a new frame to hold six bells.

The PCC has now purchased the two trebles from the old twelve bells at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, which have been replaced, in order to complete the ring. The bells are at Taylors Bell Foundry at Loughborough at the moment awaiting tuning to match the existing four.

Some new ringers from the area are already being taught by Gillian Parrington.

Huntington Bellringers' Outing

A break with tradition this year found us boarding, not a mini-bus taking us to several towers in this area for our annual outing, but instead a mini-bus taking us to Hull to board the overnight ferry to Rotterdam on Friday evening, August 24th. Following a pleasant crossing, we were met in Rotterdam by our host for the weekend, Paul de Kok, who whisked four of us by car directly to Dordrecht to ring a quarter of minor, whilst the remainder boarded a train (double-decker) to take us to Dordrecht. We all met up again at t' Klockhuys, next to the Cathedral, where we were

welcomed by Paul and his son, whose name we had difficulty in pronouncing correctly, but who answered cheerfully to "Ham-Jam"!

We spent a very enjoyable morning trying out various methods on this delightful easy to handle light ring, and also being plied with refreshments and given the opportunity to meet one or two local ringers.

The building housing the bells has been refurbished by Paul and his team and includes a small well-equipped kitchen, and a washroom as well as a large dining area next to the ringing area. Our hosts provided us with a delicious and plentiful lunch, after which we were entertained by a Carillon performance on a mobile Carillon in front of the Cathedral tower.

Those who wished to visit the Cathedral tower, translated to Big Church, were then escorted up to the large ringing chamber and given a brief description of ringing in The Netherlands. We were then able to continue further up the tower to see the Cathedral Carillon and to hear and watch a demonstration on the Carillon.

Those who did not want to venture up the tower were free to wander round the local area. There were plenty more opportunities to ring at 't Klokhuis during the evening, and once again a splendid meal was provided, after which we were taken to our hotel, The Postillion, for our one and only night in Dordrecht.

The following morning we were back at the Cathedral again before 10 o'clock, and those of us who wished to try our hands at swinging the six very heavy Cathedral bells once more made our way up the tower to ring for the morning service.

The ringing started with just one bell on its own, to be joined gradually by the others until all six were booming out together, a much different sound from the change ringing we were used to hearing at home, but nevertheless a thrilling experience. Because the bells are just swung, and not rung full circle, this meant that any non-ringers in our group could also 'have a go', much to Gareth's delight. Once again, a magnificent lunch was provided by Paul and his team, and still more ringing, including a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Major.

Time again for some to take a walk by the canal, and to watch the busy tugs on the river, and Paul also took one or two in his car to see a replica of Noah's Ark, built to scale and actually floating.

All too soon, it was time to say goodbye to our new friends, who had been so kind and generous. Some of our party made their way back to Rotterdam for the evening ferry back to Hull, whilst others had arranged to extend their trip by travelling on to Belgium by train to spend two nights in Bruges.

Our time in Bruges included canal trips, horse-and-carriage rides, visits to museums and galleries, walks around Bruges to enjoy the fine old buildings, a trip up the bell tower, and a Carillon recital, to say nothing of visits to pavement cafés to sample the local produce, (and to bring some of it home) This contingent travelled by coach to Zeebrugge on Tuesday, Aug 28th to catch the evening ferry from there back to Hull.

Altogether an excellent extended weekend had been enjoyed by all and our thanks go to Peter and Christine for making such meticulous arrangements, all of which worked extremely well, and also to our hosts in Dordrecht for making this year's outing such a memorable one.

Doreen Sanderson

Mirfield St Mary (Old Church)

At Mirfield there is a tower where bells no longer hang because the building is largely demolished but the replacement building less than 100 yards away contains its own ring of bells.

There has been a church on this site since Mediaeval times and the Mediaeval tower of St Mary (Old Church) is all that remains of what was attached to a building constructed in 1826 and used for worship purposes until the present cathedral sized Church was constructed on the adjacent site in 1871. Between 1810 and 1815 the Incumbent was Patrick Brontë being Rector here and at nearby Hartshead Moor (more well known nowadays for its Motorway Service Station).

The tower of the Old Church was furnished with bells from at least the early part of the 18th century, when it was known that three bells existed. Over a number of years various recastings and augmentations ultimately brought this to six ringing bells with the Tenor being cast by C&G Mears in 1852 and weighing nearly 17cwt. It is believed that a number of peals were rung on these bells with the last one being rung on 22 March 1871 (a Peal board for this can be found in the tower of the current building).

But what became of these bells after the current Church was completed? Well, from 1871 they were transferred to nearby Thornhill, where they served this parish until 1980 when they were replaced, yet again, by a second-hand ring, this time from Cross Stone, Todmorden. At this point five of the ex-Mirfield bells were scrapped but the Treble managed to serve again by augmenting the ring of five at Cropwell Bishop in Nottinghamshire where it still is in regular use.

The current St Mary's Church still exists with its "interesting" ring of 10 – these being the only ring of 10 with Yorkshire Tail Ends and certainly the heaviest tenor (30cwt) with a Yorkshire Tail End – the ringing of these bells is, without doubt, demanding but with the right effort rewarding.

Peter C Kirby



The Tower with the current St. Mary's behind.

Monk Bretton - Rededication of the bells

Re-dedication of a complete ring of bells following removal from the tower and re-hanging in the same tower doesn't happen often in a person's lifetime and sometimes not at all. To occur twice is rare. When ringing resumed after WW2 in 1945 the six Mears and Stainbank bells cast in 1877 were lowered from their timber frame witnessed by a young altar server and transported to the foundry for re-tuning. Later in his life the altar server

became a Church Warden and was there to see the same six bells in 2011 making their second evacuation to the bell founders to be fitted with metal headstocks and new clappers.

It was appropriate that the second Service of Re-dedication on 25 January 2013 was held on the feast of St Paul, our church's patronal festival, when the Bishop of Pontefract the Rt Rev Tony Robinson was given lots of things to do. His address championed the reasons for churches having bells and the important message they proclaim, and was pleased to be welcomed by the ringing of a quarter peal. His list of things to do included the re-dedication, not only the bells, but also the organ after extensive refurbishment. He then blessed the new parish office built as an extension to the church and where hopefully lots of couples, together with their other arrangements, will be able to request the bells for their wedding day.

After all the joyous singing, which included Fr Kevin's solo sung in Latin and being splashed by holy water three times by a aspergillum wielding Bishop everybody did their uttermost to remove as much food and drink from the wonderful array in the church centre. Some of the caterers originate from north of the border, and not to be out done on Burns Night served haggis and neaps and the traditional amber coloured liquid. The walk home in the snow didn't seem to be much of a problem after that.

Michael Sheeran

Northallerton: There and Back Again - a story of 1200 miles and two towers

It was all Ian Staves' idea. He wanted to go on the Caledonian sleeper from Euston, but that wasn't all - he wanted to turn it into a round trip from Northallerton with a little bit of ringing thrown in and somehow or other he gathered support for this idea from some of the local band and persuaded me to go along too!

So, after morning ringing at Northallerton on 23rd September (I suppose that makes it three towers really), we caught a train to London. We left a sunny day in the north to be greeted by a torrential downpour in the metropolis, so we had to take shelter in a public house. Later on we braved the rain to ring for evensong at St Bartholomew, Smithfield, preceded by a few drinks in the Rising Sun nearby. This was the first anti-clockwise ring and the first 5 bell tower for some of the band. Then it was off to Euston to meet up with Ian Campbell and to catch our sleeper train to Fort William.

I couldn't believe it when I saw the length of the train – there must have been at least 16 coaches and ours was right at the front, so we felt as though we had walked half-way to Scotland by the time we reached it. Having settled into our cosy compartments (Martin Kirk managed to lock himself out of his whilst helpfully demonstrating to others how to work the doors), we made our way to the first class lounge for some food and drink and very pleasant it was too.

And so to bed and perhaps rather more sleep than the zero that I had anticipated. I had been told that when I awoke we would be heading into some beautiful scenery, so was rather perturbed, on flinging open the blind, to discover a man staring in at me from a station platform! It was 6am and apparently we were at Edinburgh Waverley station at the time, well behind schedule. Breakfast was served in our cabins at 8am – I gave the steward a shock by declaring that I would eat mine with the man in the cabin next door. He didn't even seem to be mollified when I pointed out that the man is my husband.

It was then that the news began to filter through that an engine pulling a goods train had broken down on Beattock bank, causing a delay to our journey. We were now caught up in commuter traffic round Glasgow and running about two hours late. We had complementary coffee and shortbread until we couldn't face any more and gave the helpful lady on board a problem when we told her we were going to Inverness (“you're going **where?**). The planners got busy with their smart phones and re-arranged the tour, given that we had missed all our connections.

Alwyn and Sheila Shaw joined us at Rannoch; fortunately they had not spent two hours on a wind-swept platform, but had been drinking coffee in the nearby hotel. We had missed the steam train from Fort William to Mallaig, but managed to catch a later train and then a ferry to Armadale on Skye. There was no longer a suitable bus connection, but phone calls from the train had engaged two people carriers to take us to the Kyle of Lochalsh where we caught a train to Inverness, arriving at 8pm, about three hours later than planned.

We were met by Mike Neal, who had altered his schedule for the evening and who gave a lift to some of the party, both of which were much appreciated; the rest of us walked to the tower in the rain. We were not allowed to slack – yes we might be three hours late but we still had to ring for an hour, with young Jonny Staves doing well on these bells after a long day travelling. We managed rounds on ten and change ringing including Surprise Major on the back eight. Finally, sometime after 9:30pm, we were allowed to have food and drink.

Next morning I felt cheerful. We had managed to get to Inverness against all the odds, I had had a good night's sleep (in a bed which stayed still) and an excellent breakfast and I was going home. Or was I? The news was leading on a story of floods in North Yorkshire and the East Coast mainline was closed. Why did I ever think anything was going to go smoothly?

Inverness to Edinburgh was achieved with only minor delays, but our plan had been to have two hours visiting some sights (pubs) in the city before heading south. In fact we were advised to get on the first train possible and see how far we could get. We parted company with Ian Campbell here, as he headed to the west to go back to London on that route, whilst we tried to get south down the east coast. By some miracle, we managed to get on a train to Newcastle and then one down to York. Our final train on the trip did have to do a detour and come into Northallerton down the Middlesbrough line, but at least we got home, to find conditions really were as bad as described. Everywhere we looked there were cars at a standstill on flooded roads – thank goodness we weren't on the promised bus replacement service, since the A1 was closed and we might not have made it home that night. Snorkels in place, David and I set off to the Tuesday night practice at Brompton just as though we had never been away.

Jennie Town

North Rigton

We started teaching a new band for the 3cwt six at North Rigton in March 2010 at St Wilfrid's, Harrogate. Their own new bells were rung for the first time at Easter 2011. We now have a lively band of around a dozen regular ringers and are beginning to master Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. There is also a thriving handbell team.

Members regularly visit other towers for practice or training, so we thought a trip to the premier tower in the country in early September might inspire them further. Particularly pleasing is the fact that of the dozen local ringers, six are under 18. Visitors to the Tuesday evening practices will always be very welcome.

Roger & Sue Green

Our Trip to York Minster

On Tuesday 4th September, instead of the normal practice at North Rigton, we went for a slightly bigger ring of bells - at York Minster! After climbing more than 100 steps into the ringing chamber we watched the experienced

band. The people ringing the heaviest bells had to stand on boxes not far off a metre tall. Two lucky North Rigton ringers were even allowed a go! They were very relieved to get through it without breaking anything.

Helen Green then took us on a private tour up into the bell chamber itself. The bells were enormous and were so loud that we had to wear ear defenders. Swinging the clapper to Great Peter was awesome. We On the way back down the sun was setting and we enjoyed the breathtaking view over York.

Thank you so much to everyone at York Minster for making our experience so special.

Lucy Brennan (aged 12 - one of the original learners from March 2010).

Pickering

Simon Percy of Pickering made a big show in Scarborough on Bonfire Night.

In his invitation to the Scarborough Branch members he said “I’m doing the Lions firework show at Scarborough (Weponess Valley road car park) this year. It’s an 8pm fire and its quite a large show with a £3,333 budget. I think it’s a couple of quid to get in. It’s just in case there are people in the Branch interested in going. I know my parents, Martin, John and Kathy will be there”.

Pontefract All Saints

Inscription on bell serving this parish 1598 to 1865 AD

Translation -

“This is the trump of God
Jesus is His name.
May this bell be blessed
By The Sacred Trinity”

Anno Do - 1598

Copied from a notice in the ringing chamber.

Ranmoor

The first performance on the band's restored handbells, and their first for over sixty years, was a quarter peal rung on 10 November at St Luke's Church, Lodge Moor, Sheffield in thanksgiving for the life of Peter Kenneth Else. The quarter was rung as the his funeral procession left the church.

1272 Plain Bob Minor: Iain D Scott 1-2, Elaine M Scott 3-4, Peter J Scott (C) 5-6.

The bells were donated to the ringers of St John's Ranmoor by the family of John Garratt of Sapcote in Leicestershire. Peter Else was the link between the bells' old and new homes.

Ripon Ringers Outing

The Outing on 20 October began at Shildon a lovely 16cwt 8 - which were easier to ring than they were to strike. Next on the itinerary was a trip on the Weardale Railway. The station at Bishop Auckland proved easier to find by some than others. Be warned, when using a sat nav ,to stipulate which end of the line you want or you might end up at Stanhope.

The Weardale Railway could probably help its cause by investing in a few signs for their stations. Thankfully all who wanted a ride on the train managed to get one. As the last group to find the station were hurrying up the path by the side of B&Q someone said ' We have only got a minute!' A voice replied ' You are OK; I am driving the train!' ' On arriving on the platform we were assured by the friendly volunteer crew that they would not be going without the ringers.

The party, consisting of fourteen ringers, three small children and a dog, re-grouped at Frosterley for some pre-lunch ringing on the mini ring of 12 at the Black Bull. This proved entertaining but not nearly as entertaining as the post lunch ringing. A number of people "lost it" much to the amusement of the rest of the band. Youth had its turn -Theo Kendrick (age 6) made a very creditable debut on a bell rope using an upturned crate for a box. All those who wanted to had a go at double handling which added another dimension to the afternoon. Back down the line to finish the day at Bishop Auckland ,11cwt 8. These were hard work for a tired band and the ringing reflected that.

All in all it was a very enjoyable day. Thank you to Colin Belsay for all his organisation and to all at the Black Bull, Frosterley who made us so welcome.

Roos - Now We Are Six

All Saints Roos, East Yorkshire are now a fine ring of six following a complete refurbishment of the five and the addition of a new treble. The work was completed by Whites of Appleton in July – just two years after the initial idea was conceived.

The Roos Bells Appeal was launched in November 2010. We held many fund raising events which were very well supported and really pulled the community together. The Beverley and District Ringing Society BRF donated the new treble and we were also awarded a generous grant from the Yorkshire Association BRF. The rest of the funding came from private donations and other grants, notably The Garfield Weston Foundation and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

Roos is in Holderness, some 15 miles East of Hull. As such we are geographically isolated and tend to get thought of as an area where not much happens. Not any more! The York Diocesan Advisory Committee seemed genuinely pleased about our proposals and John Arthur, the bells adviser, supported and encouraged us at every stage.

Roos has three 17th Century bells which were augmented in 1911 by the addition of a treble and tenor by J. Taylor & Co. The five were hung for full circle ringing on plain bearings in a single tier steel frame by Taylors. It was therefore very fitting that Taylors should cast our latest bell 100 years later in November 2011. By then we had raised a total of £47,000 in exactly a year.

Whites of Appleton commenced work in April 2012 to take advantage of longer daylight hours and better weather. Two steel girders were inserted into the tower above the existing frame to support the frame for the additional bell. The old 2nd (now the 3rd) is in this new frame. The old treble has been moved into the 2nd pit and the new bell is in the treble pit. All the fixtures and fittings have either been refurbished or replaced and the bells have been hung on ball bearings. Graham Clifton from Whites was assisted by volunteers James Blackburn and Andrew Bicknell, together with the Roos team.

Watching our new treble being hoisted up the tower was such a special moment, matched only by the joy of ringing six for the first time on a Sunday morning.

It has been a tremendous experience to be involved with such a project. Yes, it has been hard work but we have had a lot of fun along the way. There has been so much goodwill. Friendships have been forged and, as a band, the Roos ringers are now a really solid team. The village newsletter (The Rooster!) has kept everyone up to date with our progress and a lot of interest has been generated.

The dedication of the bells themselves by the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, on 23 September was so very special. We had a large slot on BBC Look North and the dedication was reported extensively in the local press.

Helen Audley

Sandal Magna - Bi-centenary of the bells.

A special celebration event marking the bi-centenary of the bells took place on the weekend of the 6 - 7 October 2012, combined with Harvest Festival.

Saturday

For the event several flower arrangements were displayed in church representing Harvest and various church groups. Thanks must be given to Janet Rayner, a ringer from Wragby, for her arrangement specifically designed for the bellringers. Two banners had been made and hung high on two of the central pillars depicting bells and their role in church life of calling to worship, prayer and praise.

The Association Wombel proved extremely popular with queues forming to have a go at ringing on it. Sandal ringers would like to thank David Pygott for arranging its delivery and tuition in demonstrating how it works.

Also as part of the event there were tours of the tower with demonstrations of bell ringing. A loop video was arranged of the ringers on a practice night and of the bells actually turning for those unable to climb the tower. Displays of bellringing, the history of Sandal's bells and ringers and the history of church bell ringing especially in England were made. Thanks go to Peter Arnott, a Sandal ringer for his time and IT know-how for his help.

Handbell Workshops were arranged with refreshments available at both morning and afternoon sessions provided and served by friends of the ringers.

Sunday

During Morning Service, which was attended by some 250 people, the bells and ringers were blessed and thanked for their continued commitment and service. A commemoration stone carving made by Graham Smith one of the Sandal ringers was presented and has since been mounted in the ringing chamber for posterity. It is a beautiful work of art and will be treasured. Some of the church children played 'Give me Joy' on the handbells delighting family, friends and congregation. The choir sang the 'Bellringers hymn'. In the afternoon all the workshops, displays and tower visits were again available.

It is estimated that over 200 people came to the event on Saturday, of these approx 60 came up the tower. It was particularly nice to see previous ringers who have moved out of the area return to see us all and rekindle an interest in returning to ring in their new areas. Four new ringers have been coming to practice nights since the weekend, three of them complete beginners, two of whom are teenagers.

This was a lovely church community event and our thanks go to everyone who contributed, including the ringers themselves. Special thanks to Margot Cutt for all her organising and hard work. Everyone had a great weekend.

Sue Davies

Settle - Chloe Jones' success in Competition

Chloe Jones recently entered the Young Ringers Competition held by the Ladies Guild to celebrate its Centenary. She was approached by George Parker (Tower Captain at Kirkby Malham) who had seen the invitation in The Ringing World and felt that Chloe was an ideal candidate and should have a go.

All that was required was to write a small piece about yourself and why you liked ringing etc. From this she was one of the runners up and received an invitation to attend the presentation on the Isle of Dogs in London to receive her prize (a Steve Coleman book) and to meet other ringers. Unfortunately as it was during school she was unable to attend.

It was a great boost to Chloe to feel that people believed in her. She has since gone on to ring the treble to a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles and is at present learning the circle of work inside.

She has chosen bell ringing as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Gold requirements and is being tutored by Gillian Parrington.

Chloe's letter

18th November 2011

My name is Chloe and I am 16 years old turning 17 at the end of November. I was born in Hong Kong and have been back in the UK for the last 3 years.

I started bell ringing this summer quite by chance due to other family members and I was curious as to what it involved as I had never really thought of it as a young person's activity. Right from the start I realized that it was a challenge combining a range of skills needed from co-ordination, listening, timing, watching and being part of a team. That ringing such heavy bells is not about brute force and strength but from good technique and that light bells can be just as tricky as heavy ones.

I get great satisfaction and a sense of achievement at being able to ring my bell in the right place and feel quite proud that my tower (Settle) has felt that I have progress enough in a short space of time and should enter this competition. At present I am learning plain hunt moving from bell to bell (trying to follow the last rope down and not doing it from numbers) and trying to glimpse rope sight. I feel that a week's course would benefit me immensely in trying to master other methods and hopefully take me closer to my aim of ringing from rope sight and being able to hear my bell at all times within a method.

Chloe Lian Jones

Tadcaster Centenary Peal.

In 1906 the existing six bells at St Mary's Tadcaster, were removed and taken to John Taylors where they were melted down, more metal was added and the fine 20cwt eight that we now enjoy were cast and re hung in a new frame. It was some six years later, on the 12th October 1912 when the first peal was rung on these bells. To mark this very special occasion, exactly 100 years on, to the day, a band rang a peal of the same method and composition as that original peal.

Friday 12 October 2012 in 2hrs 54mins

5040 Grandsire Triples

Composed: Joseph J. Parker

1 Susan M Webb, 2 Catherine J Gardner, 3 Stuart R Raggett, 4 Angela K Gibb,
5 Pamela A Hudson, 6 Philip R Brook (Cond), 7 James R Gibb, 8 Roger S Riley.

1300th peal - 8, Birthday compliment to the conductor.

Tadcaster Weekend Tower Outing

2012's Tadcaster weekend tower outing in October took the ringers and their friends to the Chester area. On their way across to Chester we rang at Stretton, Daresbury (the birth place of Lewis Carol), Frodsham and Backford before we reached our hotel, The Crabwall Manor and Spa on the outskirts of Chester, where some took a dip in the pool before Dinner.

It was an early morning rise on the Sunday morning to join with the local band to ring for service at Chester Cathedral and Hoole. In the afternoon we rang at Dodleston before the impressive ring at Eccleston (the country seat of the Duke of Westminster) and then moved on to the last tower of the day at St. Marys without Walls, Handbridge.

On the Monday morning we rang at Christleton, Waverton and Tarvin and in the afternoon at Winsford (Over) before completing the weekend's ringing at the beautiful and interesting church at Lower Peover. On their way home we stopped for a meal at the Turnpike Inn, Rishworth. We were blessed with good weather and there was some excellent ringing. A weekend enjoyed by all that took part.

Stuart Raggett

Tong — restoration of the bells - “A long time coming”.

Upon moving into Tong Village over 10 years ago, I thought that I had arrived in the perfect spot – a pretty village with an exquisite Georgian Church, a real ale pub, country walks on the doorstep and less than half an

hour's drive from both Leeds and Bradford. However, lurking in the depths of Dove was the one drawback: a ring of 6 designated as "unringable".

Five of the bells were cast in 1730 in York by Edward Sellers II, soon after the church was rebuilt. Four of these bells were the gift of Sir George Tempest of nearby Tong Hall, with the remaining bell being donated by the villagers of Tong. The treble was added in 1841, cast by Thomas Mears of London, all the bells being on plain bearings.

Upon perusing the Association reports, it became clear that there had been no members listed at Tong since 1970, with the last peal being rung in 1960. A letter from Ron Dove to *The Ringing World* in 1960 following that peal did not fill me with confidence, referring as it did to both "the neglected state of Tong bells" and to "these toneless, tuneless, breathless and odd-struck bells".

A review of the Vicar's files showed that there had been interest in restoring the bells for many years, with various bell hangers' reports going back 25 years. However, it seemed that there had always been some other project on the go to take up the efforts of the local congregation. Nevertheless, the then incumbent, Canon Gordon Dey, was keen to see the restoration of the bells prior to his retirement in July 2011. This enthusiasm, coupled with myself as a ringer in the midst of the congregation, was sufficient to get the ball rolling, following an informal enquiry to Canon Dey and a visit to see the bells by Alan Birney of Barnoldswick.

Various options were considered, but the view was that in order to get the bells ringing again with a new local band, the bells would need to be restored, rehung and retuned. Taylors Eayre & Smith (as they then were) were invited to carry out an inspection of the bells in October 2007 and we found ourselves looking at a restoration project in the region of £45,000.

The PCC agreed to proceed with fundraising for the project. With a population totalling a few hundred, it was clear that we would not be able to raise the money from the villagers alone, so we agreed that grant funding would be necessary. With the help of some other local ringers, I set about teaching a small band of ringers at Drighlington church to ensure that there was some enthusiasm, and a team, to get the project going. We then progressed to the most obvious fundraising ideas – coffee mornings, cake sales, gift days and the church fete. Perhaps the most moving fundraising story was that of a local parishioner who had worshipped at the church for most of her life. As her 90th birthday approached and a celebration was planned in a marquee on the village green, she let it be known that she did not want any birthday presents – but instead asked well wishers to donate to the bell fund. We raised over £11,000 from these local efforts. Grants

from the Central Council (£1,400) and the Yorkshire Association (£4,500) followed, but we were still a long way off the target.

It was at this stage that Bob Cater, the DAC bell advisor for Bradford, suggested approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant. The church is a Grade 1 listed building and the bells are also listed. After making some enquiries, I received some encouragement from the HLF and so sat down with a small working party to formulate an application.

It was clear that the HLF would not simply give us money to restore our bells: our project would have to include a heritage angle. We were fortunate to have quite an amount of information about the 18th and 19th century bell ringers from a history written in the late 19th century. We therefore put together a project that would involve setting up a local history group to research the history of the bells and bell ringers; the production of leaflets and display boards; the training of stewards to show people round the church and tell the story of the church and the bells; the training of a new band of ringers; and the training of a maintenance team to preserve the bells for future generations.

At last, in April 2011, we received the wonderful news that the HLF would fund our project, with a grant of £45,900! This meant that the project could go ahead.

We held our breath as the faculty application made its way through the process, as we had received a letter from The CoE Church Buildings Council raising concerns about our proposal to have the bells retuned. In stark contrast to the views of Ron Dove and all those villagers and ringers who could recall hearing the bells, the CBC's advice was "The CBC did not consider that the sound of the bells necessitated tuning and advised against this". Fortunately, the Bradford DAC firmly recommended retuning and a faculty was granted by the Diocesan Chancellor.

Canon Gordon Dey retired, which left us with a further challenge – the completion of the restoration during an interregnum! This put a great burden on the Churchwardens and the lay Chair of the PCC but the contract was awarded to John Taylor & Co. The bells were removed from the tower in view of an audience of local well-wishers on a beautiful sunny day in September 2011. The work involved the cleaning, restoring and retuning of the bells. New fittings were manufactured, including canon-retaining headstocks. Work was also carried out to the 1892 cast iron frame, strengthening it and enlarging it.

Whilst the technical aspects of the restoration were ongoing, we formed a local history group to research the history of the bells and bell ringers. We had as our starting point a history of the bell ringers written by John Oddy in 1881. January 2012 saw the return of the bells to Tong. Approximately 50 residents attended an open evening to see the bells standing in the nave, resplendent with their new red headstocks. The new Curate read out some prayers that she had written for the occasion, as she blessed the bells and anointed them with oil.

I did not envy the Taylors' team over the course of the next two weeks as they worked in some of the coldest conditions of the winter. By the middle of February, neighbours and friends were telling me that they had heard lone bells ringing out one by one as the project approached completion. The excitement mounted until, on Friday 17 February 2012, a team of ringers met to ring the bells for the first time in over 40 years. A local audience gathered outside and cheered as the bells rang out once again across Tong village. All agreed that the retuning had been a success, whilst the bells retain their "old fashioned" village appeal.

Arranging a date for the rededication proved to be difficult. Our new Vicar was installed in March 2012, but this took place at a different church within the Parish. Eventually, to our delight, a slot was found in the new Bishop of Bradford's diary on 4 November 2012. Since this was the bishop's first official visit to Tong, the rededication service was combined with a Confirmation and a Communion Service.

The project has taken some four years to reach completion, but it has certainly been worth it. Tong is now the perfect village for any bell ringer to live – so please bear this in mind if you're relocating to the area we could do with a couple of extra ringers in the band!

Louise Connacher

Doncaster & District Society

Presentation to Cyril Toyne of Sprotborough

In January 2013 the Society AGM took place with a Service and Meeting at St George's Minster, Doncaster with evening ringing at Sprotborough. Everyone braved the four inches of snow which appeared suddenly the night before and we were all warmed through by a lovely pie & pea supper. During the meeting our President Rev. Dr. Paul Shackerley, Minister of St. George's presented the Walker Cup for Sunday Service ringing to Wath on

Dearne and congratulated Mike King on their achievement. A full programme for 2013 is available on the Society's website.

A new award was also presented by Helen Nichols - 'The David Nichols Award' for 'Dedication, Outstanding Achievement & Services to Bellringing'. The award was inscribed with his name and given by David's family in celebration of David's life and his fifty years as a ringer. *[David's obituary is in the Summer 2011 edition - Ed]*.

The first recipient of the annual award was Cyril Toyne of St. Mary's Sprotbrough. For 67 years Cyril has been a member of the Doncaster & District Society and Yorkshire Association *[Elected in 1946 - Ed]* . Cyril began ringing at the age of 15 after leaving the choir at Doncaster Parish Church. It was the policy at the time to send choirboys 'upstairs' to learn to ring when their voices broke.

During Cyril's ringing career he has taught many people to ring both tower and handbells. He has served our Society well over the years and has held the position of Vice President for 20 years. He has been ringing master and deputy & is still a serving member of the committee. Cyril was Sprotbrough tower captain for many years and after a break following a short illness has now taken the role on again, despite being in his 80s. It shows his dedication and commitment to bell ringing and to the Church.

I think you will all agree that he is worthy of the award for outstanding achievement

Congratulations & well done Cyril!

Helen Nichols , Vice-President Doncaster & District Society.
[and YACR Member at Sprotborough]

Obituaries

Peter Armstrong – Idle

Peter came to ringing at the time of the Millennium as something new to fill his time as he moved towards retirement. With his home being close to Idle Church it seemed logical for him to make himself known to the local ringers after he listened to some wedding ringing. A quick tour of the bells and a demonstration of how it's done were all that was needed to convince him he was in the right place. From that day forward he was a team player.

Peter became an Associate member in 2005 and was happiest when ringing rounds and call changes and the treble to plain hunting. He was a dedicated and dependable member of the Sunday Service team and didn't miss any other ringing event he signed up for. Through his contacts with a local engineering firm, when a Hastings stay toggle broke he was able to get it fixed almost immediately.

Peter was a colourful character in the ringing chamber and quite proud to be 'non pc' with his many jokes: he certainly couldn't be described as dull. Towards the end of his life cancer made his joints less supple, but for his last year he joined us in the ringing chamber whenever he could. He died on 3 October 2012.

Nick Thomas

Edward Guy Cox

Guy Cox was the one and only tower captain of Swillington for 32 years, since the bells were moved from Holbeck - and tower captain at Woodlesford before that. Without Guy, the bells would not have come to Swillington - he arranged for the bells to be taken out by the light of Tilly lamps and torches as there was no electricity - constructed the bell frame, and after the bells had overwintered in a hay stack - fit these too. In the last year, even though awaiting a knee operation, Guy was instrumental in taking out and replacing all the wheels, and turning the tenor to make a better rope circle.

Guy Cox was Swillington born and bred, living in 'the village' for most of his life. Guy was a colourful character who lived life to the full. From a very early age he was an inquisitive lad - tweeking the milk man's horse's nose - just to watch it bolt down the road, wagon and all. Or, at age 3, climbing up the scaffolding of a nearby house to the chimney and scaring everyone half to death. During the war Guy picked up a lifelong passion with steam engines and engineering - he could quote chapter and verse on every engine he ever saw. I don't know what he'd make of 'elf and safety nowadays - they certainly wouldn't have let Guy put pennies on the tracks to watch the engines flatten them to 3 times the size.

Other than National Service, Guy worked in Engineering his whole life - first with Leeds City Council maintaining their vehicles and then following his father into the mining industry.

In addition to ringing Guy had many interests - cycling, motorcycling, sailing (Guy built his own boat!), caravanning (visiting of course lots of engineering museums), traction engines (of which Guy built two - the garage was the workshop and the loft the drawing office). Guy met his wife Margaret through ballroom dancing and in 2010 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They have two sons, David & Tim, both who ring - and a number of grandchildren.

Guy died on 1st September 2012 aged 76 and his funeral was on the 14th. His ashes were scattered at the base of Swillington tower.

Peter Else - Ranmoor

Peter learned to ring in 1954 whilst a pupil in the choir school at Southwell, Nottinghamshire, on the anticlockwise 8 at the Minster (now an anticlockwise 12). He also rang at home at West Bridgford, Nottingham after the three bells there were augmented to eight in 1956. He then had a break from ringing whilst a student in London and Birmingham.

He took up ringing again at the Aberystwyth University tower at Llanbadarn Fawr and rang in the first peal for the University of Wales Society in 1962, that peal being his second. He came to work in Sheffield in 1963 and joined the Association in 1966. However he continued his Sunday Service ringing at West Bridgford and became tower captain there in the late 1960s.

Peter moved to Sheffield permanently in 1971, was married and took another break from ringing, eventually starting again at Ranmoor, where he rang until last July.

Elaine Scott

Jack Gibson – Pudsey

Jack, a lifelong bachelor, was Pudsey born and bred and joined the Association in 1945. He rang 45 peals for the Association altogether, with his favourite method being Double Norwich CBM, something he always asked for when asked to name what he wanted to ring. He was active in ringing in Suffolk when a member of the Royal Air Force.

Alex Marsh (*who rang his first and second peals at Rothwell on VE Day and VJ Day respectively in 1945*) says that Jack was a perfect example of the ringer who turned up faithfully for Sunday Service ringing at Pudsey for decade after decade. He was also a founder member of the Snowdon Scholars, a group of young ringers primarily from the West Riding who started to learn during or just after WW2. They were an enthusiastic and active group and included Alex and also Gordon Benfield, who later became a priest. [*He officiated at the Christmas Eve Service at Barford, just outside Warwick, which I attended in about 1994 - Ed*]

Jack always had a jovial air, was very supportive of learners and was a good chap to have around. He was very active in the old Leeds & District Amalgamated Society prior to its merger with the Association in 1970 and then in the new L&D Branch. Robin Brown [*now a retired priest living at Bedale*] who was the Society's Chairman and first Chairman of the L&D Branch, says he always used to call Jack 'Uncle Jack', as he always fulfilled the role as honorary uncle. Such was Jack's style.

In later years Jack especially enjoyed attending the Association's Life Members' events and meeting up with companions from his younger days. His funeral was at Rawdon Crematorium in January and was attended by a good number of his ringing friends.

George Hancock

George died on 22nd December in Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield aged 83 .He was born and brought up at North Wingfield near Chesterfield, where he started to ring on VE day 1945. He was an engineer by profession, and he moved to Wakefield in 1962 whilst working for the Coal Board. He became a member of the Cathedral band, and he continued to ring there until infirmity prevented him climbing the stairs to the ringing room. He also rang at Emley in recent years.

He met his wife Joan ringing at North Wingfield, and their two sons Robert and Richard were also ringers in their youth. George rose to become Chief Mechanical Engineer for the NCB for whom he continued to work until retirement.

He rang a total of 113 peals of which 80 were for this association. 49 of these were at Wakefield, where he conducted Bob & Gail Cater's first peal*, and rang in the first Sunday Service band peals of Stedman Cinques and Yorkshire Maximus. Several attempts were made to ring his 50th peal at Wakefield, but sadly none was successful.

His funeral was held on 7th January at Wakefield Crematorium, and was attended by several members of the Cathedral and Emley bands.

**the peal was Plain Bob Major at the Cathedral on 29 August 1967. It was George's 50th peal overall and his first as conductor. Also in the band were Pat and Ian North of Ossett (Pat was still Pat Lockwood), Chris Moxon of Cawthorne, Alan Clifton of East Ardsley and Wilfrid Moreton of Wakefield – Bob Cater.*

Joan Pagdin (née Dunn-Birch): 6 Mar 1944 - 5 June 2012

Joan learnt to ring at Wakefield Cathedral in the early 1960s under the tutelage of the late Wilfrid Moreton. She was at the time a student nurse at Pinderfields Hospital. On a ringers' outing in June 1965 she met Rod and eleven months later married him, a marriage that was to last for 46 years, during which time they had two sons both of whom learned to ring.

At the time of their marriage Rod was serving in the Army and Joan accompanied him to Germany where they lived for a year and a half. On their return to the UK at Christmas 1967 they set up home in Warminster, Wiltshire, and rang there with the local band until they moved to Anglesey in North Wales.

When Rod left the Army in August 1971 they went to live in Eccles near Manchester and joined the Manchester Cathedral band. Two and a half years later they moved to Stotfold in Bedfordshire where they became members of the local band, and remained there for more than five years before moving to Hemsworth in late 1979. Hemsworth was at that time a silent tower, so Joan and Rod, aided by their sons and Joan's father, taught a number of learners. However due to a variety of

reasons this band folded and Joan and family went to ring at Wakefield. During the last five years, at the request of the Rector of Hemsworth, Joan and Rod have taught some more ringers with the valued aid of some regular visitors and now regular Monday night practices are held.

Joan was not a prolific peal ringer: she rang only two. Her first peal was on the treble to Plain Bob Triples, the first peal on the newly augmented eight at Stotfold; the second was inside to Bob Major at Wakefield in which peal her son Richard rang his first. Although not overly interested in peal ringing, she would happily ring in a first quarter or a 720 for a learner before a shoulder injury prevented her from ringing more than short touches. The last time she rang was for Morning Service on Sunday June 3rd.

Her funeral at St Helen's Hemsworth was well attended by many of her fellow ringers, and by members of the brass band in which she used to play. Many of her former colleagues from the nursing and midwifery professions were also there to pay their respects. She was known and loved by many, and by many she will be sadly missed.

Rodney Pagdin

It was Joan who introduced me to ringing. We were student nurses together at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield in 1961 and ended up sharing a flat. One Tuesday evening in 1964, Joan's father, Arthur Dunn-Birch of Barnsley, happened to be ringing at Wakefield Cathedral, so we went up the tower to watch. Wilfrid Moreton started to teach us to ring the following week and we have rung ever since. Bob (already my boyfriend) started to learn about a month later.

Joan and I have been friends ever since, though because of our travels we haven't always seen much of each other. So thank you Arthur, Joan and Wilfrid; without you I would not have had a lifetime's pleasure from ringing.

Gail Cater

John Richard Senior 1931-2012

Richard Senior was the Tower Captain at St John the Baptist Church, Kirkheaton and died on the 20th August 2012. He had been increasingly unwell for some time, but, in terms of ringing, seriously out of action for less than a month.

He was a lifelong member of the church. He was a choirboy and when his voice was breaking, the Rector of the time asked him to think about bell-ringing. That was the start of a lifetime's service of exceptional consistency, commitment and high standards.

Richard was a committed Tower Captain for upwards of 60 years and he was still very much in charge in that post to the end. Richard's priority was to maintain the

ringing for two Sunday Services and the weekly practice. Regular ringing was never allowed to lapse. He spent countless hours teaching young ringers, many of whom regretfully drifted away. Although band numbers fluctuated, he remained committed to keeping high standards in method and striking skills.

These exacting standards and leadership style paid off in the long term. Although insufficient new ringers came from the local church, he attracted people who were willing to give the commitment and make the effort, and he never gave up on a learner who was willing to keep on trying. The result was a nucleus of a band that was usually just sufficient for reasonable Sunday morning ringing, augmented by a number of ringers from further afield, who were free and keen to come for practice nights and Sunday evenings.

Richard was a keen striking contest ringer; the Kirkheaton band being a regular winner of striking contests in the closed-lead style throughout the time of his leadership. He was a Life Member of the YACR, and had always played a leading part in the Halifax Archdeaconry Guild, including a number of terms as its Chairman.

Richard inspired his Church and local team to raise funds and to spend hundreds of hours of their spare time in augmenting Kirkheaton's peal of the 1818 Whitechapel six bells to a 'Taylors eight'.

To commemorate Richard's life, a Quarter Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Minor with two covers was rung for evening service on Sunday August 26th.

Richard's funeral service at Kirkheaton on the 29th was attended by a large congregation of family, members of the local community and ringing associates from far and wide. The bells were rung before the service - unmuffled for a ringer in accordance with local tradition - and to a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major afterwards.

Despite the sadness and mourning at Richard's passing, it was a day of many reunions, and great celebration and thanksgiving, all united by deep appreciation of a life lived well and to the full, of distinguished achievement, of long and valued relationships, and of the personality and character of a true Yorkshireman.

John Sheldrake - Hutton Rudby

John Sheldrake died tragically in a car accident on Sunday 16 December on his way to ring for the Sunday Service. John was 61 and had rung at All Saints for over twenty years. He had learned to ring there and was a regular and enthusiastic ringer on Sunday mornings and Tuesday practices.

John's funeral was held at Rudby Church on 4 January. His cheerful presence will be greatly missed

Nick Roberts

Kenneth Brian Sissons

Brian, as everybody knew him, died after a short illness on 20th November at the age of 82. Born into a farming family in Sherburn-in-Elmet he learned to ring as a teenager and became a member of the Yorkshire Association in 1946.

After graduating in maths in London he taught there for a while before returning to his roots. Brian rang about 180 peals - not many by today's standards, but in his hey-day in the 60's, 20 to 30 peals a year was good going. Many were handbell peals with Alan Shepherd and John Potts and others; Brian conducted 34 himself. 1965 saw a move to Batley where he joined the local band and on retiring from the post of Deputy Head at Batley Boys' High School he enthusiastically joined 'retireds' groups, organising towers for the local "fogeys" group and attending the monthly Yorkshire/Lancashire gatherings.

If anyone wanted to know what such and such bells were like, or who to contact, we always used to say "ask Brian". He had stopped ringing in the last couple of years but would come to meetings and just sit and listen, and latterly would sit in his car outside the tower on practice nights. He's probably listening to us now!

Lawrence Sheard

Robert Neil Wallace Smith - Stockton on Tees

It was with great sadness that in October ringers learned of the death of Neil. He was a man greatly respected in the tower, always pleasant and ever helpful. Neil had been a ringer for twenty five years and for most of that time he had undertaken the task of steeplekeeper, and in later years also of tower contact.

Neil had led a very busy life, he was in the Merchant Navy and later, the Police Force. Among his many interests other than ringing was being a member of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade and the Scouting Movement. In the past few years he took on the duty of Coast Watch at Redcar

He leaves a wife and family and is much missed by all.

Geoff Wheat

Geoff was a member of the band at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. He learnt to ring in the late 1950's on the heavy eight at St Peter's Swinton in Lancashire (now Greater Manchester). He rang his first quarter, covering to various doubles methods, in March 1959. For a time in the 1970's he was the tower captain at St Peters and was also responsible for winding the church clock.

In the 1980's he moved his business activities to Yorkshire and acquired a flat near Leeds Parish Church. He joined the band there and rang with them when his business commitments allowed. In 1998 his ringing activities moved to St Anne's Cathedral Leeds and about that time he also joined the Guild of St Agatha, the Guild of Catholic Ringers. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Guild events which involved trips to various parts of the country and overseas to Dublin and the Isle of Man. He became a member of the YACR in 1999.

Geoff was an excellent coverer. The high placings of the Cathedral band in striking competitions owed much to his competent handling of the tenor bell. Indeed, on one occasion, this aspect was specifically mentioned by the competition judge.

Away from bellringing, Geoff had many other interests including jazz, a touring theatre group and most forms of transport. Transport also provided his occupation which was that of a bargee ferrying aggregate and other bulk loads on the Humber and the tidal reaches of the Trent.

Geoff was diagnosed with cancer in the Spring of 2012 and underwent a major operation in May 2012. He died from complications arising from this on 7 January, a week after his 70th birthday. Geoff was an integral part of the closely knit Cathedral band and his presence will be greatly missed.

Tony Stamp

Gerald Wood - Marske by the Sea

Gerald was one of our older learners but very quickly became a valued member of the team. As with most adults his progress was slow and steady and over three years had become a reliable treble ringer. More importantly he was one of our most reliable Sunday Service ringers. When he felt too unwell to ring he was able to help others by standing behind the treble: he lost his battle with cancer in June last year. We have lost a friendly, helpful member of our band.

Sue Sotheran

JOHN TAYLOR & CO.,
BELFOUNDERS BELLHANGERS
CARILLON BUILDERS

Tower Bells Chimes Handbells
Design service Building work Access systems
Profile matching Restoration Augmentations
Wrought iron clapper repairs

See our website: www.taylorbells.co.uk for specifications services and the latest information.



The Bellfoundry, Freehold Street, Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 1AR, England.
Tel: 01509 212241 Fax: 01509 263305
Email: office@taylorbells.co.uk

Dates for your Diary 2013

- 2 March - General Committee Meeting, Sherburn in Elmet.
- 11 May - YACR AGM and Inter-Branch Striking Contest, Sheffield and District Branch.
- 22 June - Final of National 12-Bell Striking Contest, Ripon Cathedral.
- 6 July - Final of National Young Persons Striking Contest, St. Lawrence's in York.
- 17 August - YACR Life Members Day.
- 14 September White Rose Shield Striking Contest, Wakefield Cathedral.
- 21 September YACR General Meeting and Final of Sunday Service Bands Striking Contest.
- 19 October Snowdon Dinner, Bradford.

Advance Notice: 6 September 2014, The Ringing Roadshow at Newbury, Berkshire.

JASPER W SNOWDON DINNER

This event will take place on Saturday, 19th October 2013 at

THE MIDLAND HOTEL, BRADFORD

and will be followed by a Ceilidh. Please make a note of the date and look out for more details from your Branch Secretary later.



The Weekly Journal for Church Bell Ringers since 1911



*'cocooh, I seeshe's still ringing peals
with wots' is name then, even after
all that to-do' NASTH*

*A subscription to **The Ringing World** gives you a weekly supply of news, letters and useful information about bell ringing*

Don't rely on the tower copy - get your own

Contact us for a free sample copy

- Communicating • Informing • Unting •
- Educating • Sharing • Entertaining •

35A High Street, Andover, SP10 1LJ

Tel: 01264 366 620

E-mail: subs@ringingworld.co.uk

www.ringingworld.co.uk

