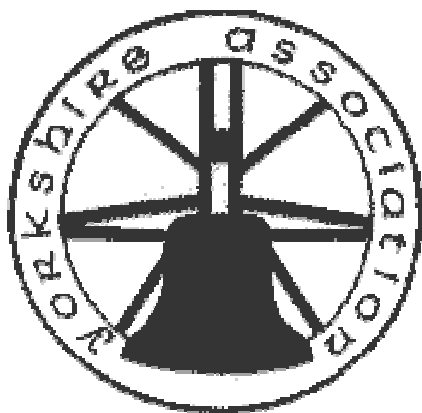
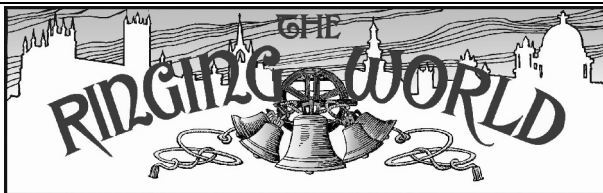


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CHANGE RINGERS**



NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2007



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EDITORIAL

We have pleasure in producing this edition of the Association's Newsletter as a printed booklet. This follows many comments we received after the production of the last Newsletter as a document on the Association's web site, available for downloading by tower correspondents and others and then printing off. Far too many people had great difficulty in achieving this.

The new format is printed by a commercial Company and the advertisements herein have paid for this in full. Do please draw the advertisements to your tower's members and PCC and consider making use of what is offered. The Newsletter is still available on the Association's web site for those who wish to access it this way.

The next Newsletter will come out after the Association's AGM in May 2008, so please send articles for it to either of us by April.

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and find it interesting.

*Robert Cater (Robert@thecaters.org.uk)
Anne Deebank (anne.deebank@virgin.net) Editors.*

ASSOCIATION NEWS

General Meeting at Kirklington & Sunday Service Bands Striking Competition

The Striking Competition was held in the morning of 15 September at Wath juxta Ripon - a nice, easy, ground-floor ring of six. Seven of the Association's nine Branches sent teams - in many cases the winners of the respective Branch's own competition. Gail and I judged it.

The ringing was of a high standard throughout, with all bands ringing 240 changes with open leads of either Minor or Doubles. The leaders were closely spaced, with very little in it between them. The results were declared at the Meeting in the afternoon as follows:

Position	Band	Branch	Method	Faults
1st	Leeds, St Peter	Leeds	Minor	16
2nd	Sheffield Cathedral	Sheffield	Minor	18
3rd	Northallerton	C and N Y	Doubles	19
4th	Pickering	Scarborough	Doubles	20
5th	Huntington	York	Minor	24
6th	Wakefield Cathedral	Central	Minor	25
7th	New Mill	Western	Doubles	30

Regrettably, no member of the Leeds Parish Church band was present to receive the trophy, so that's the reason there's no photograph this year.

There has since been much chat on the YACR email web site about possible changes to the Competition's timing and management in future years (not to its rules), so we'll have to wait and see what develops

Ringling took place during the day at Sharow (8), West Tanfield (6), Well (3), Burneston (6), Pickhill (6), Kirklington (6) and Masham (10), with a Service being held at Kirklington before tea.

At the Meeting, which around 75 members attended, the usual business took place, with the addition of elections for the five posts of the Association's Central Council Representatives, who will hold office for three years from the start of the CC Meeting at Newcastle upon Tyne next May. There were six candidates. Andrew Aspland, Neil Donovan, Barrie Dove, Dinah Rhymer and Brian Sanders were duly elected. Deborah Thorley was unsuccessful and she was very warmly thanked by Barrie Dove on behalf of the Association for her services to the CC during her term as one of our Representatives.

Bob Cater

Snowdon Dinner 2007

This year's Snowdon Dinner was organised by the Leeds and District Branch and held at the Pavillions Restaurant, Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate on Saturday 20th October. Forty two YACR members and guests enjoyed a three course meal of goat's cheese and tomato tart, pork or stuffed peppers and tarte tatin. The food was delicious and plenty of it – some of the pork pieces were enormous! The venue was a super choice for the dinner – the room was spacious and well decorated, service was very slick and even a microphone was provided. The speakers decided they didn't need this as they were all used to talking loudly – whether from the pulpit, in the classroom or lecture theatre. The dinner attendees also looked very decorative. The Leeds Branch ladies had decided to dress up for the occasion and a variety of smart dresses were on show. The gentlemen had also followed the theme and were well turned out – I particularly admired the beaded shirt.

The church and the queen were proposed by the president Deborah Thorley who also introduced the speakers. Paul Greenwell replying on behalf of the church gave an amusing and well executed speech which focused on the relationship between the clergy and ringers; Paul as a ringing vicar being in an ideal position to comment from both sides. He thought that all trainee ordinands should learn to ring and that incumbents should know more about what happened in the belfry. Conversely ringers should be involved in church life – for example becoming members of the PCC. Deborah then introduced Michael Henshaw who proposed the toast to Jasper Snowdon and the YACR. Michael was resident in Yorkshire until he moved earlier this year to Leicestershire to take up a chair at Loughborough University. He commented that he came up to Hull University in 1980- and had stayed in Yorkshire for 26 years. He had rung with many YACR members over the years including many present at the dinner. His speech was highly entertaining – especially his version of the Gilbert and Sullivan song 'I have a little list' which detailed the type of visiting ringers who you wouldn't miss in your tower. This included tower grabbers who ring once and then make a hasty exit (the president and myself would of course not be recognised here!) There were also those 'expert ringers' who took over the practice and the ringers who though they could ring anything but could in fact ring nothing. The response on handbells was by Leeds Branch members who were not experienced handbell ringers but had got together especially

for the occasion. Congratulations to them on a great effort. They did enjoy the handbell practices and hope to continue handbell ringing, an unexpected bonus outcome from arranging a dinner. The photographs show Carole and Peter Kirby, Joan and Peter Dawson, Gail Cater, Barrie Dove and Janine Jones. The handbell ringers are Katharine Thorley, Angus Dodds and John Leech.



Penny Thorley

And for those of you who are not sure why we commemorate Jasper Snowdon...

Jasper Whitfield Snowdon - The Man

All members of the Association will have at least heard the name of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, the first President of the Association and after whom our annual Dinner is named. But who was he?

Jasper was the second son of the Vicar of Ilkley and born there in 1844. He was educated at Rossall School in Fleetwood and then entered Kitson's Locomotive Works in Leeds and there became an Engineer, along with his brother William. He then managed an engineering works in Wakefield for two years and then practised as an Engineering Consultant with William in Leeds from 1877 until his death.

He was a fine sportsman, particularly in athletics and cricket and learned to ring when 17 years old. He then gave it up, but came back to ringing in 1870, when aged 26. He rang his first peal of six Minor Methods at Ilkley in 1872, conducted by himself after which the bells were augmented to eight. In 1875 he conducted the first peal on the eight, Kent TB Major and went on to ring 103 more peals of Kent out of his peal total of 129.

In the early 1870s there was a movement in Yorkshire to hold periodic friendly meetings between the companies of ringers at various churches, which became more and more successful. At a number of these meetings at York Minster, Bradford and Leeds it was decided to form an Association of the separate companies. This came into being at Birstall on 30 October 1875. Jasper was elected President by acclamation.

However, it is for his writings that Jasper is most widely known across the ringing community. He had printed in *Church Bells* the first part of his six-part article on Annable's manuscript on ringing, and in 1878/9 his *Treatise on Treble Bob. Ropesight* appeared in

1879, for which he is best known. It gives a thorough grounding in all aspects of Plain Bob and is still in print.

Standard Methods appeared in 1881 in two parts - letterpress and diagrams. In the latter, he drew a line through the path of bell 2, which the printer printed in blue. Thus the term 'blue line' came into being. A book on Double Norwich followed and he was working on one on Grandsire at the time of his death. He also wrote extensively for *Church Bells* and *Bell News*, the forerunner of *The Ringing World*.

The 10th anniversary of the Association was held in Sheffield in early October 1885, but Jasper was taken ill shortly afterwards and died of typhoid fever on 16 November aged 41. He was buried on the north side of Ilkley Parish Church and a memorial window to his memory was installed in the Church in 1887, subscribed to by ringers from all over the country.

His brother William succeeded him as YACR President until 1911 and died in 1915. William's daughter, Margaret, was quoted in *The Ringing World* in 1965 and at that time continued the publication of her father's and uncle's books.

Another of Jasper's brothers was named Edward, who lived with his family in Skipton. His daughter left home in her 20s to work at a school in Dartford, Kent, where she married and had at least one daughter, Elizabeth. In 1998 Elizabeth was living in Hampshire and worshipped at the church at Odiham. There is a plaque there which reads:

'In celebration of the coming Millennium, the treble was recast and all the [6] bells rehung in 1997 through a gift to the Friends of All Saints from the great-niece of Jasper Snowdon, ringer and author 1844 - 1885'.

Bob Cater

Extracted from *Giants of the Exercise* by Dr John Eisel, 1998, Central Council publications and from information privately supplied by Elizabeth Hayhoe of Odiham in 1998.

The Central Council Meeting at Cheltenham in May - a personal reflection

'...the CC is past its sell-by date'. '...rather than being a dynamic and effective body, the CC has become a holiday club. It's a Victorian relic, failing to succeed in a modern world'.

So said Philip Earis, a Cambridge University Representative in *The Ringing World* before the meeting. Well, is it? Yorkshire Association members will have to judge for themselves from what they can glean went on during the weekend and from what they know the CC does for the Ringing Exercise.

Our five Representatives, Andrew Aspland, Neil Donovan, Dinah Rhymer, Deborah Thorley and myself (for one year only, replacing Arnold Smith who has emigrated), sat through the business meeting on the Bank Holiday Monday from 10 o'clock until early evening and went through more or less the same kind of business which goes on at our own AGM, but in more depth. The debate is formal and for the most part eloquent.

There were also several other ringers from Yorkshire present such as my wife, Gail, who is an Honorary CC Member. Michael Henshaw, representing the Beverley & District Society, should have been there, but he and his family were unfortunately struck down by illness on the way to Gloucestershire. Altogether, there were just over 200 reps present, representing 65 Societies such as ours, covering ringing across the whole world.

I'll mention only two proposals discussed. Firstly, a 'Ringing Foundation' was set up '*as a charitable vehicle to raise funds and channel them to projects that support the development of ringing, including training and enhanced public awareness*'. It followed the proposed anonymous donation of some tens of thousands of pounds to the cause. Very worthy stuff! David Hull of York was elected to become one of its Trustees, and I suspect he's going to get a lot of work on his plate.

Secondly, there was a proposal to wind up the Redundant Bells Committee, now that there are flourishing organisations around like the Keltec Trust, which buys redundant bells and sells them on. The debate became embarrassing as it sank into personal attacks on the Committee Chairman, but the proposal was narrowly defeated and the Committee lives on to another day.

Over the years, the CC has spawned 17 Committees in all and some 50% of Representatives are members of them, including all our own reps (me excluded these days). In my view most of them do very valuable work for the Exercise such as write and sell ringing books, promote ringing education and deal with country-wide PR etc. There are other Committees, such as one keeping biographies on all CC members, which perhaps Philip Earis had his mind on. All the Committees presented reports saying what they had done in the last year, and it is actually through them that most of the CC's work is done.

What about the jollifications then, which Philip Earis deprecates? Well, at least Neil, Dinah, Barrie and I rang peals. We attended a Service in Cheltenham Parish Church. There was a BBQ laid on and a splendid formal Dinner, which some of us attended. Others went on organised tower outings, had a go on a mini-ring and we grabbed some new towers for Sunday Service ringing. And what we decided to do over the three days was to some extent decided by the depth of our pockets.

Does all this add up to a 'holiday club'? Perhaps some might say it does, although I personally think the work which gets done - particularly by the Committees - justifies the event. Also the ideas brought back from talking with other people can help our own Association provide even better services for our members. My over-riding memory of the weekend however was that we got our fair share of this summer's rain.

Bob Cater

Whirlow Grange 2007

Whirlow has been a very wonderful, intriguing sort of weekend. There have been many good things about it. One of the good things was that the amount of towers visited was AMAZING. I now know what it is like to go to other towers and that I should not be the slightest bit nervous because everybody is so kind and caring that you don't seem to realise



it is not your own tower. I was in Group E and tackled Bob Minor on the second bell. Others in the Group did Little Bob, Cambridge Surprise and Plain Bob Minor on the third bell. On Sunday morning I rang at the church at Dore for the Sunday service where I rang the treble to Plain Bob Triples. I also was taught how to ring handbells to Plain Hunt on 6. It has been a wonderful weekend for me and I would hope that I can go next year and that

perhaps I shall see a few new faces along with it. Everyone seemed to be having a good time and everyone always had a smile on their face. No-one was getting cross with anyone else and it was really calm and happy. I have been ringing for around 2 years and Whirlow has by far been the best course I have been on so far. All the helpers, teachers and people who organise it are very dedicated and a big THANK YOU to you all.

Students and helpers of Group E

*Emily Shrimpton - Aged 11.
Settle tower*

Life Members' Event

On Wednesday 29th August about 25 Life Members (of the YACR) and friends gathered at St James' Silsden for 'ringing, singing and tea'. Everyone present enjoyed themselves – there was good ringing, including some cartwheel minor, the singing of traditional hymns (Michael King especially commented on the choice of Love Divine to the correct tune) and a fine, substantial, ringers tea.



What was the reason for this gathering? Life Membership of the YACR entitles you to free subscriptions but not much else. Other Associations hold Life Members or Veterans events but the YACR had not, to my knowledge done this. As some of our Life Members get older they are not as active in ringing as they were and this seemed a good opportunity for them to get together and meet up with old friends.

As much as we need to move forward as an Association and encourage the next generation of ringers to come and learn the ropes, we must not forget those who have gone before. I therefore encourage whoever becomes the next President to think hard about adding a Life Members event to the annual calendar.

*Deborah Thorley
President*

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FROM THE BRANCHES

Leeds & District Branch

Outing to North York Moors 22 September 2007

This year's outing took place on Saturday 22nd September. A lovely, bright sunny early autumn day, perfect for a trip to the seaside. Our first tower was Guisborough. Only a small number of branch members managed to get so far north, the rest joining the outing at Whitby as a number of people had decide to camp for the weekend near Robin Hood's Bay. I suspect they were very glad of the fine weather and happy to escape the gales and driving rain of earlier in the week. The small number of ringers at Guisborough was however a bonus for some of the youngest branch members who were able to get lots of experience on different bells and gained confidence which they put to good use later in the day. Thanks to the local ringer who stayed and rang with us – we really appreciated you giving up your time.

We then moved on to Whitby – a lovely ring of ten in an unusual and interesting church in a superb setting high on the cliffs next to the famous abbey. The church was closed to the public in preparation for a wedding and we had quite a number of tourists wondering why we managed to get access and they didn't – as we were obviously not dressed as wedding guests! The ringing here ranged from rounds and call changes to Yorkshire Royal with plenty of opportunity for everyone to enjoy the bells. Lunch was taken in either Whitby or Robin Hood's Bay – our group picnicked by the sea shore in the balmy sunshine.

The next tower was Robin Hood's Bay (also known as Fylingdales as the church is in the village set back from the shore. Only the front six bells can be rung here due to excess tower sway if all eight are rung together. We found the six surprisingly easy to ring and even our youngsters managed a good ring here.



We then travelled down the coast to the light, easy six at Scalby and then to the five at Brompton by Sawdon, finishing at the splendid eight at Norton. Here we were joined by a Devon call change ringer visiting the area who heard us ringing- it can't have sounded too bad!

We had an enjoyable day out by the sea with a wide range of methods rung. Our young ringers gained valuable experience on different bells and some members were able to tick a few more

towers off in Dove.

The photo shows some of the Leeds Branch young ringers on the outing.

Penny Thorley

Scarborough & District Branch

Quarter Peal Day Saturday 8 September

Despite the usual round of last minute adjustments, and a couple of potential banana skins on the day, this year's Quarter Peal Day proceeded relatively smoothly, and was felt to be a success by those who participated.

In all nine quarters were attempted, with six successful, and some thirty different ringers taking part. The variety and complexity of methods attempted, including two of Surprise, and two on ten bells, are a testimony to the growing strength of ringing in the branch, especially as there were some notable absentees. As importantly, much of the ringing, even in the unsuccessful attempts, was reported to be of a pleasing standard.

The day ended with an excellent meal at Trenchers in Whitby, which proved quite the best venue so far.

Special congratulations go to all who achieved firsts on the day, especially Amy Laycock from Helmsley, who scored her first quarter peal.

Martin G Tubbs

Scarborough Young Change Ringers Outing to York Saturday 1 September

No Branch outing this year, much to the disappointment of one young Pickering ringer, Simon Percy, who decided to organise one for the young ringers of the branch.

So it was that a group of 10 young ringers and a motley selection of slightly older ones met



at Rawcliffe Bar Park and Ride on a lovely September Saturday morning. We took over one of the buses as far as Clifton, where this light ring proved a little challenging for some of the novices, but we escaped with only one broken stay between us. A quick re-adjustment of the tower fees for the day ensured that the Clifton ringers weren't left out of pocket. A brisk walk into the centre of York took us to All Saints, North Street, where we discovered that the tenor didn't have a stay. Showing that it's not only

novices who can have accidents, one of our most experienced ringers let it go over at backstroke – fortunately after everyone had had a ring. After lunch some of us walked around the walls to St Lawrence's, with a loo-stop at one of York's many hostelries. Here the Branch Chairman did her duty and bought a beer while everyone else crept past to use the facilities. Then it was back into the centre of town to St Olave's, St Martin-le-Grand and St Wilfrid's, where many of the youngsters had their first taste of 10-bell ringing. As we had to wait for the Spurriergate Centre to close before we could ring there, we took the

opportunity to have tea, where the three young geezers, Tom, Justin and Gareth, mulled over the day's events so far, looking for all the world as if they were born to inhabit the 'Last of the Summer Wine' café! Leaving the Spurriergate Centre we all decided that the planned visit to the York Bowl was all too much like hard work, so we returned straight to the Park & Ride and an uneventful trip back to the Branch.

We would like to thank the York ringers for their hospitality and for putting up with our less than perfect ringing, the adults for coming with us and helping us out and Simon for organising it all. When's the next one, Si?

Scarborough Young Ringers

Pickering Deanery Ringers Bid Farewell to Canon Francis Hewitt

Canon Francis Hewitt, vicar of Pickering from 1994 and Rural Dean of Pickering Deanery from 1995 to 2005, retired on Saturday 29 September. During his time as both vicar and Rural Dean, Francis has been a staunch supporter of the local ringers. To mark his retirement peals and quarter peals in all the Deanery towers with 5 or more bells were attempted.

The first, at Middleton, on 14 September, was a peal of 5040 Plain Bob Minor. This was also the first peal on the augmented bells and was rung by individuals and representatives of the various ringing organisations who had devoted time and/or finances to the project. The band was:

- 1 David Kelly (representing the Keltek Trust. David personally donated the treble bell in memory of his mother)
- 2 Anne Deebank (representing the Scarborough & District Branch)
- 3 E John Arthur (the Mastermind behind the whole project, former tower captain at Middleton and Pickering)
- 4 Gerry Bacon (representing Pickering ringers)
- 5 Richard Gibson (representing the Beverley and District Ringing Society)
- 6 C Barrie Dove (Conductor, representing the YACR)



The Middleton band. From L to R: Gerry Bacon, Barrie Dove, John Arthur, Anne Deebank, Richard Gibson, Dave Kelly

The second peal at Pickering was rung immediately prior to Francis' last service at Pickering on Saturday 29 September by a Sunday Service band. Francis was presented with a framed certificate of the performance (5056 Plain Bob Major) at the beginning of the service.

1. Pamela A Robb (Eucharistic minister & tower captain)
2. Simon A Percy (Server)
3. Catherine A Simpson (Former tower secretary)
4. Gerry A Bacon (Former ringing master)
5. Pauline A Percy (Lesson reader)
6. Jeremy J Strange (Steeplekeeper)
7. Anne E Deebank (Former ringing master)
8. J Howard Percy (Conductor, ringing master)

On Sunday 30 September, quarter peals were rung at Brompton-by-Sawdon and Wykeham by Janet Bate, Lynn Hall, Anne Deebank, Simon Percy and Martin Tubbs

All the ringers in the deanery wish Francis and Brenda a long and happy retirement.

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Selby & District

We are pleased to report that the bells at Goole are being rung again. Repairs have been carried out to parts of the tower and it has been made water & pigeon proof. A small but enthusiastic group of locals are being taught to ring. Work still needs to be done on the bells and the church warden is applying for grants. Members of the Branch rang a quarter peal at Goole for the annual Mariners Service, at the request of the church wardens and PCC. By lucky coincidence, this was also in the Branch's quarter peal weekend.

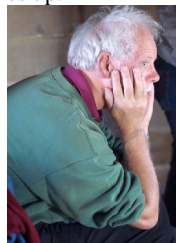
Our quarter peal weekend took place early in September and was ably organised by our Secretary Kirsty Watts. This was very successful, with 5 out of the 6 quarter peals being completed and some "firsts" were achieved.

Tower	Method	Comments
Bishopthorpe	Plain Bob Minor	1 st inside Marrieanne Pringle
Kippax	Plain Bob Minor	1 st on treble Mark Hayes
Goole	Plain Bob Triples	1 st QP on bells by local branch in at least 7 years
Pocklington	Cambridge Minor	
Barwick in Elmet	<i>Spliced Doubles</i> Plain Bob, Grandsire, All Saints, Reverse Canterbury	

Our annual branch outing, organised by our Ringing Master Philip Brook, took place on Sat. 6th October. We went to North Wales, visiting 6 very different towers around Flintshire & Clwyd. The sun shone brilliantly all day, and the bells at our first tower, Hawarden, were a joy to ring.

The highlight of the day was the marble church at Bodelwyddan, with its melodic 8 bells. The church was beautifully decorated and the graveyard was poignantly full of 1st World War soldier's graves. The experience of the day was attempting to ring the 6 bells at Rhuddlan, (ground floor, plain bearings) we were warned by a grinning local contact that the bells were in need of much work. Other towers visited were Rhyl (8 bells, 17cwt, very nice), Northop (8 bells, 11cwt, in need of refurbishment), & Flint (8 bells, 7cwt, very light). The day ended with a pub meal; a very enjoyable day was had by all.

The 2 photos taken on the Branch outing show Branch ringers at Hawarden and Philip Brook, the Ringing Master, looking exasperated after a method fires up.



Western Branch

Outing to Central London 29 September 2007

As ringing households throughout the branch woke early and made their way to catch the early morning train out of Yorkshire to London the big day had finally arrived.

Collecting its last passengers from Wakefield at 7.52 the train made its way out of the station towards Kings Cross and our first tower. Before long seats had been exchanged with non-ringing passengers and we all huddled together, opened some bottles (of pop!) and made our plans for the day. The excitement was mounting.

The express pulled into London where we queued for underground tickets and set off to our first tower St Lawrence, Jewry which is located by London's Guildhall in Gresham Street. This fine ring of 8 (24 cwt) would not prove to be easy but everyone had plenty of opportunity to try them out under the watchful eye of Bob Cater. The itinerary included rounds and call changes, Stedman and Grandsire Triples and Yorkshire Major.

We strode on bravely to the next venue the 2 tonne ring of 12 at St Michael, Cornhill. We were expecting these to be difficult. However, this was not the case, the bells were up and we were soon into a touch of Grandsire Cinques. The melodic tones of the bells were perhaps not the best but we did well to include Plain Bob Cinques and various rounds and call changes to queens and whittingtons. Everyone enjoyed more than one go here and left for lunch in high spirits. Perhaps this 12 bell ringing was not as difficult as one thought!!

Lunch was round the corner at the Crosse Keys on Gracechurch Street. Whilst most of us settled for beer and a burger some party members were seen with full bottles of wine - at London prices!!

After being suitably refreshed we all gathered again at the 41 cwt ring of 12 which are St Mary le Bow. These would be the test as they certainly go their weight and with not too many backenders available one or two ringers were panting a little at the end of it. However, after the initial preparations were sorted and the bells rung up (not in peal!) creditable attempts were made at a touch of Stedman and Plain Bob Cinques along with numerous 12 bell call changes.

Both the 12's were run by Barrie Dove who along with the other experienced ringers were very impressed at how some of the less experienced on 12 bells managed and certainly the Bradford practices had paid off handsomely. Bow are not easy to ring and the belfry itself with its numerous awe inspiring peal boards can be quite daunting.

Next came the only 6 in London which stand in the shadow of St Paul's Dome - St Vedast on Foster Lane. As the tower here is fairly small it was left to Gail Cater to organise ringing in shifts of 6 people at a time. Plain Bob and Grandsire Doubles along with Cambridge Minor were amongst methods rung. As there were 36 of us regretfully we only had one go each on this 16 cwt ring. The toilets had no lights!!!

A 20 minute march past St Paul's down Fleet Street and onto the Strand took us to our last tower the 10 at St. Clement Danes. This church is famous for its links with the RAF and the local ringer who opened the church up for us was happy to point out and show those who were not in the tower various interesting items relating to this. In the tower after a slow start the ringing gathered pace and although we actually rang well over 80 minutes (instead of the allotted 60) there was not enough time to fit everything in. Grandsire Caters, Kent, Little Bob, Rounds and Call Changes and Spliced Plain and Little Bob were all included and the final act was to ring all 10 down in peal.

A fine end to the day where everyone was lucky to have enjoyed more ringing than they perhaps had expected.

We all made our way back to Kings Cross where some of us located the Cornish pasty stall and pub. We boarded the train back home a bit more weary than when we had set off 12 hours earlier.

The number of people on the trip included 36 ringers which represented 15 towers from across the whole of the Branch. We are sure we speak on behalf of all of these people when we thank Gail and Bob Cater for their wonderful organisation on what was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Where are we going next year Bob?

Alan Trebble

Operation Wombel

On Monday 6th August, four specially selected agents were sent on a mission by the Branch Committee. The instructions were brief: "Rendezvous at postcode DN17 3QE at 11.00am precisely." Travelling in separate vehicles, to avoid detection upon entering enemy territory, the intrepid agents set off on their secret mission.

Three of the agents arrived at the destination on time. The fourth, our leader Agent Gould, got stuck in traffic and arrived late. We pulled into the drive of a splendid house with a large rear garden, and were greeted by three extremely friendly locals known to us as Ian, Sue and Richard. We were led to the bottom of the garden to a large garage, or was it a secret bunker? The garage was fantastic, a complete Aladdin's cave. Agent Kefford was in his element especially when he found a "*plant pot mini ring*" hanging in the rafters. Within seconds he was having a go, but this was not what we came for....!

The friendly locals had manoeuvred a strange looking contraption onto the lawn area, and began to instruct us on how to assemble it. Once the frame like structure had been built they again disappeared into the bunker, I mean garage, and reappeared with a large wooden frame containing a working dumb-bell. The dumb-bell was bolted onto the top of the metal frame, and then all of us had to heave the complete structure into an upright position. Hey-presto it was a mobile bell, known as "the Wombel", complete with its own sally, which impressed Agent Lynch as the sally was in the red, amber and black colours of the Bradford Bulls. It also had a lap-top computer attached to generate the sound and allow simulated method ringing.



All the agents became excited and clamoured to have a go. It was just like ringing a normal bell, if a little on the light side, but the potential was obvious. This equipment could have so many uses.....! Eventually the time came to dismantle the Wombel and say our goodbyes to our new friends; although Agent Mathers did persuade them to let us have a quick ring at Messingham before we set off back.

So what did we learn from our mission? Well chaps it looks like the enemy have stolen a march on us. The Lincoln Diocesan Guild use the Wombel for promotional, teaching and recruitment purposes. They have taken it to local galas, school events, supermarket car parks, Scout and Guide events, church functions etc to promote ringing. They also have some professionally produced banner displays and photographs

which travel with the Wombel to form a display about ringing. Sue said that everywhere it goes it generates interest, particularly from children, who are keen to have a go. Several people have been recruited to ringing as a result.

So what do we do now? Well we could undertake a daring raid to pinch the Wombel.....but we feel it would be easier if we were to recommend that the Branch purchase a Wombel of our own.

Agents Gould, Kefford, Lynch & Mathers

Reminiscences of an Ex-Ringing Master

It is now eight weeks since we left Yorkshire, but it has been such a busy time that it seems much longer. The send-off really did surprise us; thank you everyone who contributed to the gifts. The picture - for those of you who were not at Kirkheaton - is a view over Calderdale with Heptonstall Church and Stoodley Pike on the horizon. It is a reminder for me, not so much of ringing in Yorkshire, but of a Boxing Day walk early in our time at Huddersfield when we had our sandwiches covering behind a stone wall near Stoodley Pike with the snow blowing in horizontally from the west - yes we really were in Yorkshire long enough to remember when it snowed in winter.

I first visited West Yorkshire on a ringing holiday in 1965 and rang peals at both Skipton (London SM) and Heptonstall (Bristol SM) but never thought then that I would find myself being ringing master of the area for ten years. Although it is an enormous branch to look after it is a wonderful area and I felt privileged to be ringing master there.

Being in charge of the branch meant that I had to develop my own ringing and conducting abilities. I had been ringing master when we lived in North Hertfordshire, but that was a much smaller district with no ten or twelve bell towers and what seemed like an awful lot of fives. As I rang on ten and twelve right from the start of my ringing career, doubles methods were a bit of a closed book to me. I don't think I ever really met that challenge satisfactorily. However, I felt better able to cope with practices on ten and twelve although I had little experience of conducting on the higher numbers. I think the message I am trying

to put over by that is, to anybody faced with the prospect of taking over as ringing master of a tower or branch, it will give you the incentive to develop your own ringing as well as the abilities of other members of the band or branch.



We now seem to have settled into ringing here, mostly at Malvern Link (ten - 16 ½ cwt) and I have also attended a few practices at Malvern Priory (a 21 cwt. eight that are really hard work to ring). We have, as usual, been made most welcome at both towers, but at the moment I am resisting getting too involved as there are so many new things for us to do as well as getting the house and garden sorted out.

Thank you all for your friendship and hospitality to us both while we were in Yorkshire. We shall be watching the Ringing World for progress at WB towers especially quarters at Armitage Bridge.

*Ian Panton
Malvern*

York Branch

Since the last newsletter was published, we have been reasonably active in the branch.

We had our branch outing on 19 May to Chapel Allerton, Far Headingley, Saltaire, Haworth and Oxenhope. Although the weather was not perfect, everyone who went enjoyed themselves. We particularly enjoyed the bells at Oxenhope, before our evening meal at a local pub.

We have also continued to hold monthly practices, so far of Surprise Minor and Major, with varying attendances and success. After a break for the summer holidays, these monthly practices have now recommenced, starting with a first Stedman and Grandsire (Doubles and Triples) practice of the year, which is being followed by another two Surprise practices before Christmas.

The new bells at Rufforth have now been installed, and those of us who have been out to join the locals at practice have been very impressed by the quality of the bells and installation, as well as the enthusiasm of the local band!

The Ron and Doreen Sanderson Trophy

A new trophy for the winners of the branch striking competition has been made. Designed by David Potter, it has been named 'the Ron and Doreen Sanderson Striking Competition Trophy' in recognition of their contribution to the branch over many years. Two brass plates on either side record the winners for each year since 2000. It was presented to Ron and Doreen on 23rd September at a lunch hosted by David and Christine Potter, to which the Minster and Huntington bands, as well as the branch officers and Canon Glyn Webster were invited. A number of anniversaries were being celebrated: Ron and Doreen's 60th anniversary as members of the Yorkshire Association, Tina Sanderson's 25th as a ringer at

the Minster, Bob Meadows' 35th at Huntington, Glyn's 30th since his ordination as a curate at Huntington, and the 80th anniversary of the Huntington Guild of Bellingers.

*James Sanderson
Branch Ringing Master*

TOWERS' NEWS

Bellinging Simulator is Launched at Bingley



At the beginning of the year the Bingley Ringers decided to purchase and install a ringing simulator for all 8 bells. The equipment was purchased from David Bagley, in Tewksbury, who is a well known supplier of the electronics required for a simulator. The simulator works by attaching a photo-head sensor to the frame of each bell, and a reflective strip to each wheel. The clappers are tied to stop the sound, and the bells are then rung normally. As the reflective strip passes the sensor this triggers a signal through a black box, known as the multi-bell interface, to the computer in the ringing room. The computer then generates the

sound through speakers attached so no noise is heard outside the tower.

Eventually our equipment arrived and during June and July the ringers installed the kit onto the bells, not without a few hiccups along the way. A couple of practice sessions were held and final tweaking to correct the striking and sound system took place.

Saturday August 18th was the date we decided to hold a small launch party for our new piece of equipment. We invited ringers from other local towers to join us to see the system in action and have a go. We were pleased that quite a lot of ringers did attend, although we suspect the refreshments on offer were the real reason they came....!



Our guests of honour were Rev Derek and Rev Joan Jackson. Joan kindly performed the cutting of the celebration cake, which was suitably decorated with a picture of a computer. Derek climbed up to the bells for a closer look then surprised us all by having a go at ringing. He took to it really well, but then confessed that he had actually had a go in the past at one of his former parishes at Westhoughton, nr Bolton....!

So what will we do with the simulator now? Well we plan to use it for additional practices, probably once per month focusing on specific methods we are learning at the time. It will also

give us the ability to teach potential recruits to quite a high standard before they ring on open bells. We will also be happy to welcome any visiting ringers who wish to have a closer look at the system.

Watch out - Beadles about!

Little did the villagers of Rufforth know what they had let themselves into when Ray Beadle, a bell ringer of over 60 years experience, moved into the village. Ray very generously offered to pass on his knowledge of bell ringing to allow the three 150 year old bells of All Saints' Church to sound out across the village after many years of silence. Ray, who began ringing at the age of 12 in Robin Hood's Bay, has devoted many hours over the last two years to teach a small group of villagers the basic skills of bell ringing. The group originally started out with 4 members which soon doubled to 8 once news got out of the revival. Two years on members of the "Rufforth Ringers" now stand at 16!

As interest in the bells grew the Ringers decided that something had to be done about the limitations imposed by three bells and soon talk was about increasing the ring to six. After obtaining the support of the Parochial Church Council the green light was given to look into refurbishing the bells and increasing their number. It was soon established that the existing bell installation was in need of a major overhaul. The advice of Bell Founders (TES), The Diocesan Bell Advisor, John Arthur and York Minster's David Potter was sought and it was decided that a new installation would be required. The Keltek Trust was contacted and four bells were offered from a redundant church at Cradley Heath in Birmingham.

After a tendering exercise Taylor Eyre & Smith, Bell Founders of Loughborough were chosen to undertake the bell augmentation project. The project was to comprise the refurbishment of the Cradley Heath bells to form the back four and the casting of two new bells to comprise the treble and second bell of the ring. In addition the fitting of an "Apollo" unit would allow an automated ringing facility whilst also allowing less able-bodied ringers to participate.

The total project cost was £38,000 and the PCC decided that the money for the project had to be raised from fund raising and donations. This was to be a mammoth task for the Ringers but amazingly after only 18 months from when the proposals were first put to the PCC the new bells were installed and the enthusiasm of the Rufforth Ringers continues to go from strength to strength. In addition to donations from Parishioners and from fund raising events organised by the Ringers financial support for the project was given, from amongst others the following:

York Minster Bell Fund

The Sports Council

The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers Bell Repair Fund

The Keltek Trust

The Rufforth Ringers range in age from 15 to 82 and a 100% turn out is normally achieved on each Thursday practice night. There is still a long way to go before all members of the group can ring the bells confidently but with the support that has, and continues to be offered by many experienced ringers from other York Towers the pleasing sound of the bells will soon be something the villagers can enjoy.

So if you know of a Church near you whose bells are silent ***WATCH OUT THERE MAY BE A BEADLE ABOUT!***

All Saints' Church, Rufforth, York							
Bell	Weight	Nominal	Note	Diameter	Cast	Founder	Canons
1	1-2-12	1952.0	B	19.00 "	2007	Taylor, Eyre & Smith Ltd	F
2	1-3-5	1736.0	A	20.25 "	2007	Taylor, Eyre & Smith Ltd	F
3	1-3-17	1553.0	G	21.00 "	1939	John Taylor & Co	F
4	2-0-23	1466.0	F#	22.13 "	1939	John Taylor & Co	F
5	2-3-21	1306.0	E	24.50 "	1939	John Taylor & Co	F
6	3-3-9	1163.5	D	27.00 "	1939	John Taylor & Co	F
Source: Bellmaster (via Dove website) Contributed by: Andrew Higson Last updated: 31/07/2007							

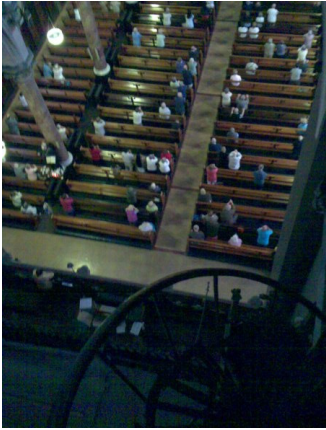
Footnote: *The project would never have succeeded without the drive and enthusiasm of the Rufforth Ringers themselves. However no article would be complete without a special mention of Duncan and Hilary Child, Paul Jeff and Geraldine Barker without whom the project would not have happened.*

Northallerton/St Wilfrid's, York Trip to Dublin September 2007

Over the last few years close links have been forged between the bands at Northallerton and St. Wilfrid's York. The towers have similar weight rings of ten and both bands have a range of abilities from call changes to surprise royal. We meet up at dinners, on outings, peal attempts and joint practices – not to mention the cricket match (which, sadly, did not take place this year). The next step was to see if we could cope with a weekend away together and the chosen venue was Dublin.

Travel plans were flexible, with some people extending the trip either side of the weekend and many of us were able to join with the ringers at Christ Church Cathedral for their Friday night practice. This tower has the largest number of bells hung for ringing anywhere in the

world (19) and for some it was their first opportunity to ring rounds on 16. Then it was off to the pub for some Guinness – a pattern that was repeated a few times over the weekend!



Saturday saw a total of 31 ringers assembled for a ring at John’s Lane. The tower and spire are impressive from outside, but inside the stories of the terrors of the access had not been exaggerated. Some people didn’t attempt the open spiral staircase while others “froze” part way and had to retreat. The bells are not easy either – an anti-clockwise ten with a long draught. Quite a baptism of fire, although we did ring some decent Yorkshire Royal. After a scenic train ride down the coast the next bells were the lovely heavy 8 at Bray. We rang well here, the granite tower ensuring that the bells behaved immaculately. In the evening we all went out for an Italian meal and then dispersed to various hostels.

Sunday was a busier day with service ringing at the interesting old 6 at St Audeon’s and then once again joining the Christ Church ringers, some very presentable Grandsire septuples being the highlight here. Then a march across Dublin to catch the tram out to the 8 at Taney, which handled very easily. Back on the tram, a quick sandwich grabbed on the way back across Dublin and it was time to join in the service ringing on the wonderful Taylor bells at St Patrick’s Cathedral. They were certainly not easy, but we acquitted ourselves well and did ring Bristol Maximus and Stedman Cinques here.

Then it was time to go our separate ways – some to return to Yorkshire that day while others left the next morning or stayed on for a holiday. A fantastic weekend and so successful that the organisers were already planning the next trip the day after we got back! Many thanks to David Hull and Martin Kirk for all their hard work – it was great!

Jennie Town

Stokesley

100 Years of Scouting

Three quarter peals were rung at Stokesley to celebrate the 100 years of Scouting. Most of the twelve ringers who took part had been involved with the Scout or Guide movement. Three members of the Trefoil Guild (Heather Waring, Ros Dykes and Jo Preston) who had learnt to ring at Stokesley rang together in the last Quarter of Bob Doubles.

John Hallett

OBITUARIES

Gillian Margaret Green (28/10/1956 – 28/09/2007)



Gillian died in Barnsley Hospice on Friday 28th September 2007, after a brave six - year battle against cancer.

She was born at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, the oldest of three children. As a young girl, she won a scholarship to Wakefield Girls High School and her early adult years saw her undertake a variety of different jobs before joining the staff at Barnsley District General Hospital, where she worked in the Clinical Audit Department - a role ideally suited to her naturally inquisitive mind.

She married her husband, Stephen at Darton Church in 1975. Coincidentally, they both shared the same surname. Steve had his own business as a school and graduation photographer and as demand for his work increased, Gill gave up her job at the hospital and went into partnership with him. Tragically, Steve died in 1995 at the relatively young age of only 43, leaving Gill to raise their three young children alone.

After Steve's death, Gill continued to carry out the photographic assignments on her own for several more years. As the children were growing however, she found that she missed working life at the hospital and when an opportunity to return there arose, she successfully applied for a post as a medical secretary. She therefore decided to sell the photographic business. In time, another opening at the hospital enabled her to move back into Clinical Audit, which she was very happy about.

Although living outside the village, Gill became a regular worshipper at Darton Church and was one of a dozen or so people who started to learn to handle a bell in 1997 in preparation for the restoration of the (then) unringable bells there, a project completed under the *Ringing in the Millennium* scheme two years later.

Gill didn't care too much for some of the ringing text books available, preferring instead to devise her own way of making sense of what was required. She had a determination to succeed and when she mastered something, the effort that it required of her made the achievement all the more satisfying. She challenged the time - honoured methods of teaching ringing and at times could be obstinate in her learning; often questioning what she was being told. She would not accept being shouted at whilst she was ringing, or spoken to 'sharply', as she put it and many experienced conductors who met her found themselves having to moderate their usual approach.

Her enthusiasm for ringing remained undiminished however and she became a committed and regular member of the band at Darton. She was particularly thrilled when she eventually mastered ringing touches of Grandsire Doubles, which became her favourite method. It didn't stop there however, she also learned to ring both Kent and Oxford Treble Bob on an inside bell and shortly before her illness took its final hold on her, she had successfully rung

plain courses of Stedman Doubles. She had also started to make good progress with ringing on eight bells too, including Plain Bob Triples and Major and Grandsire Triples.

She enjoyed ringing in different towers, visiting over two hundred in total. Through going on outings and attending various meetings within the Yorkshire Association over the years, she was able to meet some of Yorkshire's leading ringers and in turn, she became quite well known herself.

She rang her first quarter peal at Royston, South Yorkshire in February 1999 and her first full peal at Barnsley in June 2001. A short time before she passed away, she recalled that her greatest moments in ringing were ringing the first bell to sound in the first quarter peal at Darton after the restoration of the bells and when she conducted her first quarter peal, also at Darton in 2004 - a feat she repeated on a handful of other occasions, including one at Rotherham Minster, possibly making her one of very few female conductors to have done so. She also particularly enjoyed ringing her first quarter peal on ten bells, which was at Marsden, West Yorkshire, with ringers from Sheffield Cathedral and similar quarters at Rotherham Minster. Altogether, she rang five peals and more than fifty quarter peals. Her ringing achievements are all the more remarkable considering that she was a 'millennium' ringer and the fact that throughout her illness she had several periods of inactivity.

She was treasurer of her own tower at Darton, a past secretary of the Barnsley and District Society of Change Ringers and until recently, was jointly secretary of the Central Branch of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, as well as being a member of the Association's General Committee. Gill also served as a member of the Darton PCC, Mothers' Union and representative of the parish at the Deanery Synod.

In October of 2001, she received the terrible news which confirmed the diagnosis of breast cancer. She faced many courses of surgery and other gruelling treatments over the following six years with great courage and without ever once complaining or feeling sorry for herself. Each time, after a period of recuperation, she returned to ringing, accepting her limited range of movement and strength and contenting herself with ringing the lighter bells.

A particularly happy event in her life occurred in February 2007, with the birth of her first grandchild, Jack. In August, in spite of being in failing health, she was thrilled to be able to attend Jack's baptism at Darton Church.

Gill will be fondly remembered; not only as a fun loving, larger than life character, who had an incredibly positive outlook on life, but also for her friendliness, generosity, kindness, warmth and sense of humour. It is difficult to think of anyone who met her that wasn't captivated. She listened intently to what they had to say and had a precious ability to make everybody she encountered feel special. It is without doubt that these personal qualities attracted a large congregation into Darton Church for her funeral service on 4th October 2007. The church was full beyond capacity, with mourners also standing at the back and down the side aisles. Many of her ringing friends from across the whole of Yorkshire had come to say their final goodbyes to a very special person. She was a real inspiration to many people and will be greatly missed by all those of us who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Trevor C Ledger

Christine Moxon

Christine died suddenly on 29th May at the age of 62 years. She was taught to ring at Cawthorne in 1961 by Christopher, her future husband and Noel Moxon, Christopher's uncle. Bob and I went to their wedding in Westerham, Kent in 1967, where her parents were then living. Although her marriage to Christopher eventually ended, they had two children, Andrew and Sarah.

Christine continued to ring at Cawthorne for many years where she has been described as a 'sound striker' in the cartwheel tradition, being a regular Sunday Service ringer and member of the competition team. She was a member of the Barnsley and District Society as well as the Yorkshire Association. Latterly she rang at Huddersfield Parish Church and was also associated with Wakefield Cathedral.

Christine was a school teacher by profession and attended teacher training college in Durham where she rang with the University Society. She taught at a number of schools in Yorkshire and was a highly regarded deputy headmistress at the time of her death. She had a range of interests apart from bellringing including singing in the church choir, piano playing, appreciation of classical music and visiting Cathedrals. She enjoyed holidays at a cottage in the Lake District, one of which Bob and I spent with her and Christopher. She had also been a Women's Institute President, a member of the National Women's Register and the National Childbirth Trust.

The following quarter was rung cartwheel and half muffled in Christine's memory at All Saints, Cawthorne immediately before her funeral on Friday 8th June 2007.

A Quarter Peal of 720 Woodbine Delight and 552 Oxford Treble Bob

- 1 John Barden
- 2 Gail Cater
- 3 Brian Heppenstall
- 4 Robert Cater
- 5 Michael Sheeran
- 6 Brian A. Sanders (C)

Gail Cater

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Association Meeting (Leeds & District Branch) 2 February 2008

General Committee AGM (Sherburn-in-Elmet) 1 March 2008

Association AGM (Scarborough Branch) 10 May 2008. Ringing at towers in the Eastern area of the Branch, Service, tea and meeting at Bridlington.

Harrogate Course 4-6 April 2008

Many ringers find attending the Whirlow Grange Course difficult, either because it is a long way from home or because places are snapped up very quickly. We hope that by having an extra event, located towards the north of the county, we can help. The course is intended to help those of you who are becoming comfortable with method ringing, but need that extra little help to become confident. For example we could cover moving from plain courses in the basic methods (Plain Bob and Grandsire on 5 and 6 bells) to touches or to the same methods on 7 or 8 bells.

The course will be based at Ashville College in Harrogate, which will provide accommodation, tuition and meals. The key component, however, will be practicals at towers in the Harrogate / Ripon area.

Following the same approach as Whirlow, the event will start at tea time on Friday, 4th April and finish at tea time on Sunday the 6th. Yes, there will be a lot of hard work, but hopefully lots of fun as well.

We shall be asking for applications after Christmas, with a closing date at the end of January. If you think you, or members of your band, could benefit, make sure that the first thing you put in your 2008 diary is the Harrogate Course, 4th April to 6th April.

*Susan Laycock and John Leech
on behalf of the YACR Education Committee*

Whirlow Ringing Course 2008

This course will take place at Whirlow Grange Diocesan Conference Centre in Sheffield. The dates for the course, the 24th year since inception in 1985, will be Friday 18 to Sunday 20 July. This is the third weekend in July, a week later than our usual weekend because of other activities in the Whirlow Grange Calendar.

Students will take part in four practical ringing sessions, practising a wide range of methods, usually from Plain Hunting up to Surprise Major. In addition, there will be a programme of theory and general interest lectures.

Full details will be available from the beginning of February 2008. Ask your Branch Secretary for details or watch out for further news and application forms on the Association website – www.yacr.org.uk.

RINGING ROADSHOW 2008

(Letter received by the General Secretary)

Dear Peter

The 2008 Ringing Roadshow will be held on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. This will be the 6th Roadshow and promises to be the biggest yet. Stoneleigh Park is a premier showground, the event will extend over two days and there will be a vast array of items of interest to all ringers, whether of tower or hand bells or both, as well as attractions for ringers and non-ringers alike

We would like to enlist the help of Yorkshire Association to publicise this event to your members. As usual there will be extensive advertising in the Ringing World, but ringing associations are a huge source of getting to all ringers who might be interested in attending this event, which will have something for ringers at all levels. Please can you include it in your programme for 2008 and please can you avoid scheduling any association events for either of those days if at all possible?

We are planning a major publicity drive accompanied by early discounted sales of tickets through Branch annual meetings in the autumn and spring (when it seems most of them take place). I have compiled a list of your Branch AGMs and secretary contacts from your guild website and entry in the Ringing World diary – can you check this and fill in any gaps please.

Finally, the Ringing Roadshow is also a good fundraising opportunity for association BRFs. At previous events, towers and associations have raised money in a variety of ways, and have been very successful. If you would like more details on the practical aspects of the show, please contact Derek Smart who is co-ordinating the exhibits at the show on a_dsmart@longdon1.demon.co.uk or 01564 730081. He will be pleased to supply an exhibitors information sheet.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Eleanor Linford



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