

**THE
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF
CHANGE RINGERS**



***Newsletter
Autumn 2013***

Issue Number 14

Cat in Heaven

A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said “You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking”.

The cat thought for a minute and then said “All my life I lived on a Dales farm and slept on hard stone floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on please”. God smiled and instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later six mice were tragically killed in an accident and all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer he had made to the cat. The mice said “Well, we have had to run all our lives: from cats, dogs and even people with brooms! If we could have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again”.

God answered “It is done!”. All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

About a week later God decided to check on the cat and found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently woke the cat and asked “Is everything all right? How have you been doing? Are you happy?”.

The cat replied “Oh, it is wonderful! And the Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!”.



Dates for your 2014 Diary

- 4 January - Association Standing Sub-Committee Meeting
- 1 February - General Meeting
- 8 February - CCCBR Conference in York on ‘The Future of Ringing’
- 1 March - General Committee Meeting, Sherburn in Elmet
- 10 May - AGM and Inter-Branch Striking Contest
- 5 & 6 July - Tour de France
- 16 August* - Life Members’ Day
- 20 September - General Meeting and Final of SS Bands striking Contest
- 18 October* - Snowdon Lunch/Dinner

* dates to be confirmed with new President to be elected at the AGM.

Editorial

After seven years and fourteen Editions of this Newsletter, the last eleven of them as an A5 sized booklet, we think it's time to join the 21st Century for the means of transmission of information about the Association across Yorkshire.

Barrie Dove has set up a 'communications think-tank' to propose fresh ways of communication, not just for this Newsletter but for all aspects of communication. We trust this will cover printed words, such as the Annual Report and the Association's Library and Archive, as well as the Association's website and the speedy transference of information to all Members about activities and services the Association and its Branches offer.

The newsletters additionally produced by several of the Branches are a valuable way of recording and reflecting on local activities and deserve being able to be seen outside their immediate areas.

The Association is there (as its Aims and Object printed in the Report annually say) *'to cultivate the art of change ringing and encourage recruitment and instruction of ringers'* and *'to promote good fellowship amongst ringers and to bring all ringers into a closer friendship'*.

We hope this Newsletter in its present format has helped to foster the latter Aim by letting Members across Yorkshire know a little about what has been happening in other areas, sometimes 100 miles away, over the previous few months. We also hope it has perhaps helped to hold together a grouping of people with common identities both as Yorkshire folk and as church bell ringers.

We send our best wishes for the successful operation of whatever systems emerge in the future.

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

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Association AGM

Rotherham Minster is one of the finest examples of medieval perpendicular architecture in the North of England. The 180 ft spire topped with its 7 ft gilded weathervane has risen above the town centre for 500 years. The original Saxon church on the site is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The town itself can hardly be recognised from its steel manufacturing past with its central areas recently restored and tree-lined open piazzas skilfully created.

The church rivals many smaller cathedrals in spaciousness and 'presence' and was the setting for the Association AGM on 11 May. During the day the Association's Inter-Branch striking contest for had been held at South Anston, near the Nottinghamshire border, when Superlative S Major had been the contest piece.

Ringling had also taken place at Beighton (6), Handsworth (8), Whiston (8) and also at Eastwood (8), only a stone's throw from the Minster. Eastwood church has been owned by a Coptic community for the last 15 years whose main efforts have been directed to the church fabric. By necessity the bells have had to take a back seat and over the last few decades have become unringable. A group of local ringers led by Malcolm Turner has restored them back to life and the AGM day was the first time they had been publicly available. Donations from those who rang them amounted to £160: Malcolm sends his thanks to Association members and those ringers from further afield for their kind generosity.

At the Service in the Minster Canon David Bliss thanked all bellringers for being the vehicle which pronounces the work of the Church to everyone, including especially those who do not attend its Services.

After the tea, at which more appeared to be unconsumed than was available at the start, the business meeting followed a path familiar to all readers. We firstly however stood in memory of recently departed members, Roger Green (Ilkley), Barbara Rann (Ecclesfield), Ronald Warford (Selby, Chapel Allerton and Otley) and Suzanne Withers, previously Suzanne Snack (Leeds). Cate Ovington of Tadcaster replaced Deborah Thorley as General Secretary whilst Brian Sanders and John Goldthorpe were reconfirmed as Ringing Master and Composition Secretary respectively.

It was noted that Yorkshire will be busy with ringing in the Summer and Autumn, with the Final of the National 12-bell striking contest taking place at Ripon Cathedral, the Final of The Ringing World National Youth striking contest in York, the White Rose Shield contest for 12-bell bands in Yorkshire, a day out for Life Members, the Association's residential weekend Course, three more ITTS Courses, two Education Committee Courses, the Snowdon

Dinner and another General Meeting. It was reported that plans were underway for ringing at some 40 churches next year when the Tour de France cycle race passes through Yorkshire. Hopefully it should give world-wide exposure to bellringing.

Simon Percy of Pickering, himself only having started to ring a decade ago and still a student, had judged the Inter-Branch contest and declared the results. The band from the Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch was the winner, followed by the York and Leeds & District Branches. Bands from the Sheffield & District, the Scarborough and Western Branches were closely on their heels. Simon was presented with beverages which he's now of the age to consume.

An Association-wide quiz run by Martin Tubbs over the past few months raised £230 for the bell repair fund and a collection at the meeting raised £126, allowing for reclaim of income tax.

General Meeting and Sunday Service Bands Striking Contest

The Selby & District Branch was the host for an Association General Meeting on 21 September, at which the Final of the striking contest for Sunday Service bands was also held. The 3 cwt six at Rufforth were rung at a variety of speeds for the test piece, although, as the judge said, all the ringing was of a remarkably high standard.

A Service was held at English Martyrs RC Church in York, conducted by Fr Tony Lester, himself a lapsed ringer from his days with the York Colleges Guild. At the business meeting following we firstly stood in memory of recently departed members, Ray Beadle of Collingham, Simon Burnett of Haworth, Jack Dyson of Bolsterstone and Roger Green of Ilkley.

The Association reiterated its support for ART and its ITTS Courses and gave a donation to the group. It confirmed it will host one of 'The Future of Ringing' events next year which are being held around the country under the auspices of Chris Mew, the CC Vice-President. A central person, Stuart Holtam of the Association's Education Committee, is now the central co-ordinator in Yorkshire for organising all ITTS Courses.

The last few months in Yorkshire have been busy with the Association's two residential Ringing Courses at Harrogate in April and at Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton in June, followed by the annual gathering of Life Members. Hosting the National 12-bell Contest Final at Ripon, then the National Young Persons Contest in York followed and finally the White Rose Shield contest for 12-bell

bands in Yorkshire. The annual national meeting of DAC bell advisers was also held in York.

Plans were being made for ringing at all churches along the route of the Tour de France cycle race when it passes through Yorkshire next year. A 'think tank' was being set up to advise on 21st Century methods of communication in the Association.

A donation of £3200 was handed to the Bell Repair Fund from the surplus on the sale of the Snowdon Series books, particularly the new Diagrams book, making £11,200 altogether so far from this venture. Another £200 was gifted from sales of a wide range of titles at the Association's bookstall.

The results of the striking contest, which had been judged by Graham Colborne of Lincolnshire, were eagerly awaited. The entrants represented the various Branches and Leeds Minster were declared the winners, very closely followed by Wakefield Cathedral. Bands from New Mill, Pickering, Sheffield Cathedral and St. Wilfrid's in York, also participated.

RC

Life Members Meeting

The ground-floor ring of eight at Birstwith, in delightful Upper Nidderdale, was chosen as the venue of the year's annual gathering of the YACR Life Members on 17 August. All such members had received a personal invitation from Barrie Dove, and this year over 30 attended, some with their spouses.

The ringing throughout the afternoon covered the range of methods popular in the days the Members learned their ringing, and ranged from Closed-lead Minor methods to Surprise Major. By far, the most noteworthy aspect was the consistently high quality of the striking. On asking some members why it might be so, the answer was always "Well, we were taught how to strike as part of our early training". Is it perhaps that teaching how to strike well does not always go hand in hand with teaching how to ring methods these days, as it used to?

The oldest Life Member present was David Lockwood of Ossett, now 88, who illustrated the point by ringing in a well struck course of Yorkshire Surprise Major.

After a plentiful tea, prepared by the ringers at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds, Barrie read out messages from several other Life Members who unfortunately had not been able to be with us this year. On now to 2014's meeting.

Goodbye CRB, Hello DBS

It's taken quite a while, but changes to legislation intended to protect vulnerable groups came into effect earlier this year. Most of you won't notice anything until you apply for a new certificate, but I'll seek to summarise the main points here.

I'll deal with changes in terminology first. The former **Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)** either no longer exists or has been allocated other duties, so it really is goodbye CRB, although I suspect it will take some time for the old acronym to fall out of general use. It has been replaced by **The Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)**, so this is the new title and acronym we'll have to get used to from now on. Similarly, the term **Child Protection** is now regarded as passé, and henceforth we'll be using **Safeguarding**. This is because the legislation has been widened to include other groups, but as ringers we need not take those into account; our focus remains children & young people, i.e. those under 18 years of age.

The major difference between a CRB Certificate and a DBS Certificate is that DBS issued for voluntary service is **portable**. That means it may be used for ringing, scouting & guiding, or whatever. The other big change is that upon receiving a DBS the recipient may register their details online, and may then give permission for other bodies to access sight of the certificate via the DBS website. So let's say you've obtained a DBS through your parish Safeguarding Officer to enable you to teach young ringers. Should you then decide to volunteer as say a Scout Leader, you would be able to allow the scouting authorities to access your certificate online. The big advantage of the new system is that your details are always up to date, so you won't have to renew the certificate every few years. You may always access your record to advise changes such as name and address and to ensure that it is accurate.

If you currently hold a CRB certificate that's over three years old, I'd advise you to speak to your parish safeguarding officer about updating to DBS, particularly if you're involved in a range of voluntary activities or intend to become so. There is no charge for the issue of volunteer DBS Certificates.

You **do not** need a certificate simply in order to be a ringer. You do need one if you're a tower captain or involved in direct face to face teaching of young learners. YACR requires trainers at its courses to be certificate holders, but if you attend a course as a helper as opposed to a trainer you won't need one.

Tower Captains need to note that there are legal obligations under the new legislation which mean that it would be illegal to allow any person with **relevant** criminal cautions or convictions to take part in ringing. Similarly there is a further legal obligation to report any new **relevant** information about

individuals to DBS, and this could lead to that person being barred from voluntary activity. In first instance share any concerns with the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

YACR is not an approved body under the legislation, and may therefore only provide guidelines which are set out in each Annual Report. I'm happy to give advice, and may be contacted on ***belappy@blueyonder.co.uk***

Robert Appleby, YACR Safeguarding Officer

Education Committee

The Harrogate Ringing Course

Ten go mad in Harrogate

After arriving (please note that the Meanwood ringers were first!!) everybody settled in the traditional ringing way - beer stashed away, kettle on and a quick go on the handbells. Splitting into two groups, one for Doubles and the other Triples, we were ably taught method theory with many "Oh, that makes perfect sense" moments. However by the time we reached the first churches we all seemed to have forgotten what a sally was.

Over the weekend 5 to 7 April we got to try a variety of churches and put our theory to practice. Saturday evening gave us a really enjoyable session at Ripon with guided tours of the bell chamber and a short discussion about Hastings stays (leave it!)

The Association's Wombel was assembled for us on Sunday after a quick fix of a broken stay with micropore (the in-item for any bellringer this season.) After proper school Sunday dinner (with jelly and ice cream) we had a more laissez faire theory session or handbell sessions. (I'm now a whizz at Plain Bob Minor). After a group photo we said goodbye and it was off to our final respective churches.

Overall many achievements were made over the Course, thanks to our tutors, Susan Welch and Andrew Slade, and although we felt we should have been ringing London Surprise Maximus, by the end we had all overcome challenges making us into better ringers. No stays were injured in the making of this Course.

Jonathan Tarry

Summer Course at Storthes Hall Park

For some 25 years the YACR's Education Committee held a residential weekend Ringing Course in the Summer near Sheffield. Rising costs and other factors made it imperative to seek another venue. After 2012 lying fallow, this year in July the Course was resurrected at Kirkburton, near Huddersfield over the weekend of 12 to 14 July.

The Course was managed by Stuart Raggett (Tadcaster), Jane Lynch (Bingley) and Jean Doman (Penistone). The main tutors were David Hull (York), Brian Sanders (Barnsley), Chris Bennett (Sheffield), Alan Trebble (Huddersfield) and Andrew Aspland (Ripon). Some 30 students were present additionally and 73 different helpers turned out over the weekend to help man the towers used for practical.

One of the students, Pat Harding (Giggleswick), writes -

"It was really Amanda's fault. She drew my attention to the leaflet advertising the 2013 Summer Course after we had just clanged our way through another attempt to ring Bob Doubles inside. A whole weekend honing my 'skills' seemed a great idea. She duly booked us in and then told me it was in Huddersfield. Huddersfield? The home of dark satanic mills; birthplace of Harold Wilson and home of the finest railway station outside of St Pancras. We would be staying in University accommodation: the home of hard single beds, cold showers and cafeteria style breakfasts. I looked up the nearest spa and restaurant - just in case.

So it was a more than pleasant surprise to find ourselves housed at Storthes Hall Park, a spectacular old Edwardian building nestling in beautiful rolling woodland and countryside with not a factory chimney to be seen for miles around. Storthes Hall was originally an asylum, as the hospitals for the mentally ill were delicately called in days gone by. Care in the community has rendered most of them obsolete, but the old hospital building was taken over by Huddersfield University and transformed into a bar, dining rooms and conference rooms, while blocks of student flats were built around the secluded grounds.

No doubt in term time the tranquility of the park is frequently shattered by the sounds of partying as the students celebrate their escape from parental control, but when we arrived on Friday afternoon all we could hear was birdsong. Bliss. Shattered almost immediately by the voice of Bob Cater. 'Oh hello. Good to see you again. Thought you would be just the person to write an article for The Ringing World.' I hastily kicked the plastic Co-op bag containing the gin, tonic and lemons under the nearest table, better to present an image of responsible roving reporter, and signed in. Jean, Jane and Stuart

were on hand, with great efficiency, to welcome and label us and send us on our way with the keys to our accommodation.

The student rooms at Storthes Hall are a world away from the prison cells of my student days, though the beds are still narrow - shades of Virginia Woolf - and mine had a recalcitrant spring that threatened to impale me every time I sat down. The en-suite facilities, though small, were spotless and the water was plentiful and hot. The main meals were served over in the Arboretum and were excellent. Evening meals consisted of three courses and a cooked breakfast was available alongside the lighter options of cereal, toast and juice, and the young people who served us were friendly and more than competent. For those in need of sustenance between meals, each student flat had a large kitchen, which serviced about eight rooms and Jane had supplied us liberally with tea, coffee and biscuits. This was useful as tutoring sessions were held in the student flats rather than in the main building.

Your roving reporter and her pals, however, were rather dismayed to find a lack of kitchen knives on our return to the accommodation after our first ringing session on Friday night. Amanda, undeterred, set to and sliced a lemon using only a teaspoon! It was a remarkable performance. The G&T went down well, especially as she also had the forethought to make ice cubes before we left for the first session!

We were on the Course to ring Bob Doubles and we were very fortunate that all of the churches we visited were in delightful surroundings; we drove through some of the prettiest countryside outside of the Dales. The helpers were unfailingly generous of their time and expertise, ringing the same method over and again to accommodate us. Chris Bennett, my tutor, was patient and encouraging and put us all at ease immediately.

As part of the weekend, we had been invited to select a couple of corporate activities from a list including rope splicing, ITTS, listening skills and handbell ringing. I had opted for listening skills and handbell ringing, though for a brief and highly entertaining period I thought there was a fifth option that I had missed reading about in the brochure. I had joined my group in the Arboretum and I was handed a green plastic fork and an orange plastic spoon, which I was told to move up and down in time to a regular rhythm following a diagram not unlike the blue line in ringing methods. I was perplexed. I was uncoordinated. I wasn't at all sure what I was doing there at 4 pm on Saturday afternoon and I'm certain that Peter and Elaine Scott, who were the tutors for this activity, weren't sure what I was doing either!! It eventually dawned on me that this was a precursor to ringing the lovely little set of handbells that were ranged along the table. I decided that I wasn't a natural on the spoon and fork, though I did marginally better with the handbells after Elaine shamed me into stopping the giggling and having a try. Maybe with a lot more practice I would

have done justice to the sweet sound of the handbells and the patient efforts of Elaine and Peter!

After dinner on Saturday evening most people took advantage of the invitation to ring at Ossett, with its 14-bell tower. For a relatively inexperienced ringer, this was daunting, but we were made welcome and there were some reassuring folk on hand to encourage us to at least have a try. On Sunday morning we helped ring for Sunday Services at the various local towers that had patiently hosted us. An excellent Yorkshire Sunday Dinner might well have been the signal for most of us to sink into our armchairs and have a snooze, but this was definitely not on the Course agenda. After a vote of thanks to Jean, Jane and Stuart for their fantastic organisation, and to the staff of Storthes Hall for looking after us so splendidly, we set off for a final session at yet another church. By this time, I was brain dead and blistered - no stamina us Lancashire Lassies - but we rang on undeterred and Chris forgave us our lapses.

Many congratulations to Jean, Jane and Stuart, all the tutors and helpers on a well organised and highly enjoyable Summer Course at Storthes Hall. Let's hope it is the first of many".

RC

Course at Storthes Hall Park - How did it go?

At the end of the Course students and some of the helpers and tutors were asked for their comment. Feedback is most important to allow us to plan for the future. All of the students felt that they had achieved something and said that they would come back again next year and would recommend it to colleagues. To the organisers this would seem to indicate that the Course was a success. Helpers and tutors too thought that the course was good. Comments made were positive and have been noted and we aim to address them in next year's Course.

The one issue that surfaced was the way in which we included the travel to and from the towers within the ringing times, which many did not fully understand. We therefore hope to address this issue fully in next year's programme. The facilities at Storthes Hall Park proved to meet our requirements and the staff made us particularly welcome.

The organising committee would like to thank all those who completed their feedback forms, for their helpful comments. We would also like to thank incumbents and ringers at all of the towers that allowed us to use of their bells. Many thanks also to our five tutors, David Hull, Chris Bennett, Alan Treble, Andrew Aspland and Brian Sanders for their excellent tuition. Thanks also to David Pygott, Deborah Thorley, Peter and Elaine Scott and Anne Deebank, for

running the corporate sessions. Yet another big thank you to all of our helpers at all of the towers, without them the course would not be possible. We hope that you will all be able to help us again in 2014.

There will be a slight change in the management team for the 2014 Course. Bob and Gail Cater will be standing down after initially setting up the Course venue. We are extremely grateful to them for their hard work in getting us off the ground. Stuart Raggett, Jane Lynch and Jean Doman have agreed to remain on the committee for the 2014 Course and will be joined by Andrew Aspland whose valuable knowledge will bring greater depth to the organising team. The 2014 Course will be one week later - between Friday 18th and Sunday 20th July. Unfortunately we have to have the Course a week later as the student term is running on a week later. We hope to see you there.

Stuart Raggett

ITTS Course at Ranmoor on 2 November

Neil Donovan was the ITTS Tutor for this Course.

Ten of us (assorted into self-assigned categories of teacher, mentor or observer), met at Ranmoor Church in Sheffield for an interesting and thought-provoking day guided by course tutor Neil Donovan. The course was structured into three theory and three practical sessions spaced throughout the day.

Theory sessions touched on various aspects of general teaching principles informed by evidence-based research, such as reinforcement of good practice - (practice makes permanent, only perfect practice makes perfect), learning styles (visual, auditory and kinesthetic - learning by doing), errorless learning, differences between adult and child learners etc. As a person interested in ideas and academic theories in general, I would have relished more of a theoretical slant, but the literature that came with the Course (supplied in an attractive folder to each student) offered pointers as to where we could find out more, especially through access to the 'Association of Ringing Teachers' website.

Practical sessions covered teaching hand and back stroke, putting both strokes together, ringing up and down and solving common handling problems. For this we were divided into small groups that worked together throughout the day, whilst Neil 'circulated' around the groups offering suggestions and insights.

We were 'officially' meant to use role-play to practise teaching and learner roles. Our group soon abandoned the role-play idea as we found it much less useful than simply discussing and trying out the various teaching ideas that had been raised, bouncing ideas off each other and trying to work out the subtle variations in exactly how we each did various skills such as making coils and ensuring the hand grip on the rope ended up in the correct position on the sally and at backstroke. This was most interesting to me, firstly because I was unaware how my body automatically did some of these actions until we had 'deconstructed' them - I felt I needed to know what I was actually doing in order to be in any position to attempt to teach these skills, secondly because it was fascinating to realise that the three highly experienced ringers in our group all had subtly different ways of doing basic skills. One of the nice things about the ITTS Course is that it is not 'dogmatic' but allows for different approaches to teaching between individuals, respecting teaching styles as well as learning styles.

I have never taught basic bell-handling, but having watched many teaching sessions by others (especially by my mentor Simon Reading) I felt I knew the basic principles. However the Course did suggest several new ideas which I would consider using, such as the 'hand ring' exercise (to encourage correct arm movements), shadowing arm movements without touching the rope, assisted raising and lowering (where the tutor looks after the tail end whilst the learner concentrates on the sally and vice versa), plus other useful tips.

Limitations of the Course for me were mainly the fact that the 'role-play' method advocated didn't suit my 'learning style', it was really hard verging on impossible to pretend to be a beginner when in the 'learner' role. It would be so much more informative to have a real beginner to work with, as one would then have proper feedback as to the efficacy of the various approaches. Also I felt as if the Course had 'dismantled' my previous model of how I would go about teaching bell-handling to some extent, and I wasn't ready to integrate all the new information into a new approach until I had reflected on it for a few days/weeks, so I wasn't 'ready' to have a go at pretend teaching. Also as someone who has never liked 'acting', I found role-play rather embarrassing.

I was struck by the mentions in the theory sessions of needing to be a good motivator and a good communicator to be an effective teacher. I'm sure this is true but I'm not sure how you can acquire these traits if you don't have them already. In this respect the Course perhaps helps to highlight whether you have what it takes to become a teacher, rather than enabling you to become one if you don't have these qualities.

Altogether it was a very interesting and useful experience in many ways.

I am very grateful to those who gave up their time to make it happen, particularly Neil, and the Ranmoor ringers - wonderful catering provided by Elaine and Jill.

Judith Reading

Ringling Up and Down in Peal Course

Another Course on this topic was held at Chapel Allerton on 26 October, under the guidance of Adam Crocker. Adam had prepared a power-point presentation, which is probably a first for this kind of Course. Five students attended - Stephen Battle (Leeds RC Cathedral), Julie Etherington (Chapel Allerton), Anthony Lubbock (Saltaire), David MacDonald and Jim (Whixley).

The Course was over-subscribed with five students already waiting for a re-run.

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YACR MEMBERS ONLY

The Education Committee will pay the course fees of YACR members attending the Ringing Foundation's Integrated Teacher Training Scheme courses.

This offer applies to Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling) and Module 2 (Teaching Elementary Change Ringing).

It applies to new teachers and mentors attending courses, including mentors who are not accompanying a new teacher. *It does not apply to those attending as observers, but they can reclaim their course fee from YACR if they subsequently become a new teacher or a mentor.*

ITTS courses in Yorkshire are now organised centrally, so those wishing to have their course fee paid by YACR should apply for a place on a course via the Association's ITTS course organiser, by emailing stuartholtam@mac.com

The deadline for applications to attend courses is two weeks before the date of the course. This deadline is set by the Ringing Foundation to allow time for the preparation of course materials, and cannot be varied.

Since course fees will be paid in advance by YACR, anyone who drops out of a course within two weeks of the date of the course will be expected to reimburse YACR for the course fee.

HURRY! This offer will be reviewed at the end of 2015.

For information about ITTS courses go to
<http://www.ringingteachers.co.uk/itts/>

or

email the YACR ITTS course organiser, stuartholtam@mac.com

News from the Branches

Central branch

Central Branch Course, 16th February - A Learner's Perspective.

"You have to go on the Ringing Course!" Trevor Ledger, our tower captain, said one Sunday morning in January. My eyes glazed over and I blurted out an incoherent response as I imagined myself missing the 'sally' and shattering someone's beloved stay on bell three; no doubt a stay that had been handed down by generations of accomplished ringers! Of course, being of the male gender, I thought about Trevor's suggestion, then thought about it some more, before doing – nothing! Thirty plus years of marriage had honed my ability for vacillation into a fine art! However, Pam, our newest bell ringer at Darton, became quite animated at the prospect of the course, so not wanting to appear a wimp I finally acquiesced and said I would go.

However, it was one thing looking a bell ringing buffoon in front of people I knew, but to be shown up in front of strangers was another matter. Nonetheless, I searched out the application form via the internet and entered my details together with a request to learn Plain Bob Doubles on an inside bell. There was a space on the form for a 'second choice' (which masochist had compiled it!) so resisting the temptation to put '*be gentle with me*', I entered that, '*I was open to suggestions*' – hopefully they would be polite! I have to admit that the art of bell-ringing has not come easy to me, despite Trevor's constant advice and encouragement, but while being of a nervous temperament, I was not a 'quitter' and determined to improve. I had mastered, in a fashion, a plain course of Bob Doubles on bell three, and had dabbled in the 'mysteries' of touches, but how would I cope with the scrutiny of my knowledge and ability...we were about to find out!

The morning session was at Cawthorne and there was to be a theory session before the ringing began. There were five 'students' within this group and we were greeted with a warm drink and biscuits – so far so good! Our tutor for the day was Adrian Moreton and suitably refreshed, Adrian began with an impression of Paul Daniels as he laid out coloured cards in rows (where was the lovely Debbie McGee?). However, there was reason in Adrian's colour co-ordinated card trick as he explained that it was important not to rely on bell numbers and very soon we were able to understand some of the relationships as the bells changed order. Yet, from a novice's point of view it is quite difficult not to rely on 'bell numbers' when first learning methods, but as I was to find out, Adrian intended to 'test' this concept!

Theory over, I made a call at the 'little boy's room' and came out to find that everyone had left the parish rooms and I had been locked in; I'd obviously made a good impression! 'They've got to notice I'm not with them,' I thought, but after a couple of minutes I could hear the sound of bells – yes, I'd definitely made a good impression! Worse still I didn't know Pam's phone number or that of anyone else in the group – could you be arrested for breaking out of somewhere? I looked blankly at my phone as I held it in my right hand, and then I thought of Trevor – he always tells me, "Don't forget your right hand when pulling the backstroke!" Luckily, Trevor, who was with another group, had Pam's number, and very soon I was rescued from my solitary confinement. I joined the group in the ringing chamber, whose numbers had been swelled by helpers, gave Pam a withering look for not noticing my absence and shortly found myself being called up to the 'oche' by Adrian. Before I knew it the treble had gone and I was desperately trying to remain calm on bell three!

My first attempt at Plain Bob Doubles was not the best and for some reason known only to blithering idiots I could not understand where the treble was. Adrian remained calm and got me back in synch, yet how he knew where I should be remains a mystery! By way of analogy while Adrian appeared to have a brain with the processing power of a 10 terabyte computer my brain processing ability was equivalent to a Sinclair Spectrum! Despite not a very good first attempt I persevered but struggled with remembering what to do when a bob was called. If I'd been asked what I needed to do while I wasn't ringing then I could recite the mantra of the method, yet once a bell rope was in my hands it was as if all memory had been erased. Nevertheless, the helpers continued to provide sterling support and as I sat out I marvelled at their ability to keep to the method while also knowing where everybody else should be. Eventually we ran out of time and retired for lunch which enabled stories of 'ringing exploits' to be recounted.

I was on home turf for the afternoon session which was at Darton and it was here that Adrian played his trump card! "We'll change the order of the bells – you'll still be in third place but the others will have moved!" he said, with a wry smile on his face. 'Sadism was obviously part of the learning process' I mused as I gripped the sally tightly. After changing the bells round we went into Plain Bob Doubles and I realised I needed to count my place and pick the bells out I should follow. It initially went fairly well but when a 'bob' was called the theory went out of the window. Again, Adrian rescued me but it all appeared to be a tremendous rush. "Don't worry about which bell to follow," Adrian said, "If you count your place then you know if you should be doing a quick blow or holding up – the other bells will fit in!" Adrian's advice made sense, the problem was that I was finding it difficult to count my place and so I reverted to looking round for any facial twitch which identified where I should be! Obviously, my look of sheer panic encouraged the helpers to give me appropriate nods and

gestures to help me find my place. At the end the students sitting out told me I had done well, yet it didn't feel like it.

"You're slow coming down," Adrian said, "You really need to pull those back strokes in!"

So ended the course and while everybody rushed off for tea I went and lay down in a darkened room – well not really, I went home and got the bell ringing theory book out, because as I said earlier, I'm not a quitter!

David Robinson

Branch Outing

The Branch held an outing to Cheshire on 20 July jointly with the Barnsley & District Society, visiting Gawsworth (8), St Peter's Macclesfield (8), St Michael's Macclesfield (12), Prestbury (8) and Pott Shrigley (6).

Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch

Gerald Parson's 100 mile run last year.

For those who sponsored Gerald when he attempted 'the 100' last year and paid up even though he didn't finish, you will be pleased to know that he has completed the last 48 miles. It has been a difficult few months for him but we can see light ahead.

Well done Gerald !

The Branch's Annual Outing this year was on 28 September to lower Wharfedale and Airedale. We rang at Otley, Ilkley, Kildwick, Gargrave and Kirkby Malham.

Delight on winning the Inter - Branch Striking Contest

The test piece for the Contest this year was a full course of Superlative Surprise Major at South Anston, a tower in the Sheffield Branch. The eight ringers from last year's team, who came 6th out of 8 on home turf (Stokesley) were all invited to ring again. When four said they couldn't make it, we scratched our heads and set about finding replacements, mindful that the long distance and other events, including a local band peal attempt at Ripon, limited those that would or could say yes. Thankfully we found four willing and very able replacements, plus Gerry Parsons, who agreed to be a reserve. Of the eight, three were in the Richmond team for the Branch 6-bell striking competition two weeks earlier that managed to finish 4th out of 4.

We were drawn to ring last of the six Branches which entered and though we tried to relax by spending the time drinking tea or coffee and having idle chatter, our nerves weren't helped when the first team to ring (Sheffield) broke the rope on the tenor... A replacement was quickly in place and only caused a small delay in proceedings. When our turn to ring came around, we felt we rang reasonably well. A slight method mistake in lead 4 clearly wouldn't have helped our cause so we decided to be thankful it was over and enjoy the rest of the day: general ringing at a number of towers in the area, including the recently restored to ringing Eastwood, Rotherham.

Our Branch provided a third of the band of 12 for the Service touch at Rotherham Minster. Then came the big surprise as we were announced winners of the Contest by 62 faults to the second placed Branch on 73!

Thank you to everyone who turned out and rang on the day - we are looking forward to defending the trophy in Western Branch next year. The C&NY team was David Town, Tim Holmes, Dot Salmon, Susan Welch, Andrew Yardley, John Welch, Jennie Town, Andrew Aspland.

Leeds & District Branch

The 2013 year got off to a great start with the 2nd Annual Handbell training session, again held at the home of Penny Thorley (who organised some lovely home made soup – one very spicy!) and the teaching ably co-ordinated by Ringing Master Adam Crocker. There were three groups, each having a set of bells, some tutors and pupils – one group was for those who had never tried handbells before, another for plain hunt, and the final group for PB Major and Kent TB Major.

A quarter of PB Major was attempted which unfortunately failed – but since the meeting there have been a number of follow-up sessions for pupils to improve further and it is hoped the quarter can be attempted again soon for at least two of the pupils. No doubt next year will have the 3rd Annual Handbell training session and this will become a regular fixture, hopefully backed up with interim practices.

The Branch Outing took place on 5 October when North Derbyshire was this year's venue. We visited Bamford, Hope, Castleton, Hayfield, New Mills, Chapel-el-le-Frith and Eyam.

Scarborough Branch

Arrangements for this walking tour around York on 1 June might have come down to the wire, but members' patience was rewarded with a very enjoyable day – some good ringing, interesting towers, and the bonus of a trip on the York Wheel. People dropped in and out during the day but, with some support from Market Weighton we were around 30. Thanks to all for their help and support.

Quarter Peal Week. The successes at Helmsley, Brompton-by-Sawdon, Middleton and Pickering were balanced by failures at Kirkbymoorside, Scarborough and Wykeham. Twenty-three Branch members participated, while eight of us endured the world's slowest curry on Saturday night! Thanks to all who supported the event.

Selby & District Branch – Outing

This year's Outing was to the Keighley area of West Yorkshire on the 6th April. The Outing was in doubt a couple of weeks before when heavy snow covered West Yorkshire but as they say the sun shines on the righteous and it shone on a gloriously sunny day. Our day started with ringing on the eight at Idle before moving on to ring at the six at Saltaire. We then drove on to Keighley to ring on the eight there, before abandoning our cars and boarding the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway for a steam train ride to Oxenhope, where we had time for a cup of tea and snack. It was surprising to still see snow on the platform.

Boarding the train again we travelled back down to Haworth, where we climbed the hill and rang on the six. After ringing, there was just time to descend the hill again, have an ice cream before boarding the train again back to Keighley where we sat down to a lovely meal in the Lord Rodney pub before returning home.

It was an excellent day all round and we sincerely thank Charlie Bird from Selby who organised the day and to the ringers and incumbents at each of the towers who gave up their time to let us in and allowed us to use their bells.

Sheffield & District Branch

Branch Outing - Market Harborough – Saturday 5th October

It was an early start for this year's outing but eventually 25 ringers and friends met up at the first tower, Kings Norton, south of Leicester. Here the large gap

in the floor boards where the trap door was in the ringing room caused a bit of consternation. Then on to Kibworth and Church Langton before lunch. As all three towers had 8 bells this gave us plenty of opportunity to ring eight bell methods, including one of the methods of the day Little Bob. We also met some very friendly local people, many of whom were decorating their churches for Harvest Festival.

The party then split into two with some going to a prearranged pub in East Langton and others who took their picnics to eat beside Foxton locks. Fortunately the weather was mild and sunny for the beginning of October.

Ringing in the afternoon started at Foxton, where we elected two new members of the Association, presenting them with badges and certificates. We then moved onto the main tower of the day, Market Harborough, where we were observed by interested visitors to the church who ventured up the tower. The final tower of the day, Lubenham were nice bells to finish on and the 6 bell method of the day, Annable's London was rung here.

The day was finished off by the picnickers with a pub meal at the George and Dragon in Thringstone on the way home. A long day but most agreed it was a very enjoyable one. Thanks go to Malcolm Turner for making the arrangements.

Quarter Peal Weekend

Over the Branch's Quarter Peal weekend of 6 and 7 July 8 quarter peals were rung at Ranmoor, Handsworth, Sheffield Cathedral, Ecclesfield, Rotherham Minster, Beighton, Walkley and a handbell quarter.

Striking Competition

The Branch's striking competition was held on 8 June at Bolsterstone. Sheffield Cathedral were the winners, and bands from Walkley, Rotherham Minster and Ecclesfield also took part. Sheffield Cathedral therefore went forward to the Association's Final for Sunday Service bands.

100-Club Winners

Over the Summer the winners were Helen Slack, Robin Storey, Andrew & Lynn Beevers, Vicky Romegoux, Catherine Platt, Neil Donovan and Judith McCoy.

Western Branch

Western Branch Training Session - Introduction to Conducting

On 16 February we met at Halifax Minster for a session aimed to develop our skills at calling touches. It's an unusual reality in bell ringing that many people who have been ringing for years still don't get involved in calling and I am no exception. Concentrating on a simple but little rung method, Bob Doubles, we went straight into a simple touch calling ourselves unaffected at the four blows in fifths. It came as a surprise to the group that we actually managed this without any problems. Maybe our timing was a little off but everyone called it successfully and we finished in rounds.

After breaking the seal we went on to learn the "in-out-make" concept and called a 120, then as time allowed a 60. Calling these threw up a greater challenge. Classic symptoms were observed including a missed bob and the rest of the band going wrong! I'm fairly certain that we've all been in those situations ourselves but haven't necessarily paid attention or noticed what to do at the time. Being reassured that calling the band into rounds and starting again was an option, or carrying on and calling the bob at the correct time, are good for the confidence.

With hindsight, what we did wasn't that complicated. I had started and stopped some plain hunt in the past but had still never called a touch and even the least confident in the session were clearly very capable of calling. As with all training sessions, it was an ideal scenario to be focusing on one method and having the benefits of watching others, and then trying it out afterwards with a strong band. I'd like to pass on thanks to the helpers including the ever patient John Thurman who led the session. There's a special mention for Neil Murray who broke one of his own bells that afternoon, albeit temporarily. And it comes with a promise that we will continue to practise.

For anyone else who can ring Bob Doubles or Bob Minor and has never called a touch - the biggest hurdle is psychological. Read the notes at <http://www.callingtouces.co.uk/> and give it a go. It might not be as straight forward on a practice night, depending on your band, but it's liberating to understand how a method is called. If you're a tower captain, don't be afraid of ringing something really simple to encourage them.

Andrew Newton

Young Ringers Go Bowling

The third meeting of the Western Branch's Young Ringers was held on Saturday 23rd February. We started at Ilkley, which is an 8 bell tower. Thirteen young ringers and eight adult helpers spent an hour and a half ringing lots of Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunting, Plain Bob Major, Little Bob Major and the increasingly popular Mexican Wave. We even managed to get two waves going at once which sounded pretty good. One or two of the smaller ringers needed lots of boxes but this did not put anyone off, and everyone did really well on these quite heavy (for small people) bells.

Then we moved on to Skipton (another 8 bell tower), and with not much time due to a service being held at 4.00 pm we quickly settled into more Call Changes, ably conducted by Chloe and Dominic. Then we rang more Little Bob Major, plus some Stedman Triples with Nathan, Dominic and Jamie all ringing inside bells. Again everyone coped well on these excellent bells. They also finished the emergency box of chocolates in pretty quick time!

We were joined by our Branch Chairman, Neil Murray, who presented an Associate Membership Certificate to Sophie Combs (new member from Skipton) and Full Membership Certificates to Nathan Cox (Guiselley), Emily Jones (Longwood), Allana Jones (Settle) and Hannah Soames (Settle) who had all rung quarter peals recently. Well done.

A Young Ringer's Day

The young ringers' day was a really lovely day, and it was really nice to mix and ring with people of a similar age group. It gave me a great opportunity to ring different methods with young ringers and discuss how we managed to learn various methods.

The first tower we visited was Ilkley. We all met up after dinner and introduced ourselves quickly getting to know each other's names and the towers we came from. After a quick introduction we decided to begin by ringing some call changes with only the young ringers in. Ringing solely with young people, of all abilities, was a really nice experience and something I only rarely get a chance to do.

Towards the end of our slot at Ilkley we began to ring some other methods. We were taught how to do the Mexican Wave, which was an interesting thing to learn: I have never done anything like it before and would love to do it again as it helps with double dodging skills.

After the ringing at Ilkley we moved on to Skipton. The first of us to arrive produced a nice mixture of young ringers and helpers to raise the bells to ring.

At this tower we did most of the same as at Ilkley; some rounds and call changes, and some more tricky methods for the rest. Only sadly at this tower we had to swap for different methods and rounds and call changes quickly because of the difficulty to start on time due to some people having been delayed when they got lost on the way.

At the end of the ringing new members and updating members were given certificates. We had our pictures taken and shared congratulations with each other. I was one of the ones who received an updating certificate for a quarter-peal I completed a few years ago but was never available to get my award for.

After a fantastic day of ringing and award giving, we went to a local bowling alley. It was good fun and a fantastic way to end a great day.

Emily Jones, Longwood, Huddersfield

York Branch - Striking Contest

The Branch Contest was held at Bishopthorpe on 18 May with Alice Longden, late of York but now of Oxford, as the judge. Eleven teams entered. With the Branch having over 140 members but in only 10 active towers, in many cases ringers are full members of two or more bands. The rules the Branch uses for the Contest reflect this.

The winners this year were one of the two entries from the St. Wilfrid's York band, whilst in second and third places were two of the three entries from York Minster. Bands from Clifton, Bishopthorpe, Huntington and the York Colleges Guild also participated.

Tower News

Birstall

Readers may remember from the last edition that a new band is being taught to ring the bells at Birstall by Miles Lawson. Here is Miles' latest report on progress.

The maintenance on the tower at St Peter's was not complete until the end of May this year, being delayed by the bad weather earlier in the year. However we started ringing again at our Sunday practices but with reduced numbers.

One family moved away and our young couple have found it difficult to get back to ringing again. But they say they will come back.

The bells are a magnificent ring of 22 Cwt 8 in Eb by Gillet and Johnson. A program of maintenance on the bells has started with ropes being spliced and sliders being greased for the first time in 30 years - they were completely dry. The sliders are very different from normal, being a tube of four metal strips with a hardwood roller that is struck by the stay. The roller rolls only as far as stops clamped onto the metal strips. The whole slider tube is bolted to the side of the bell frame.

We are delighted to report two of our older ladies are now ringing on their own and in good style. Another couple in the church, Andy and Lynda Rhodes have started learning but have gone away for a long summer break. Their sons, Alex and Sam, are both ringers at Mirfield, but they join mum and dad to give support. Thanks are due to Batley ringers who continue to be very supportive.

Our next objective is to ring for the Christmas Services this year as a local band, be it just rounds and call changes.

Anyone wishing to join us for practice will be very welcome at 6 pm on most Sundays.

Miles Lawson

Cawood

The village of Cawood on the River Ouse north of Selby hosts a popular annual arts and crafts festival every August Bank Holiday weekend. At the request of the vicar, Rev Ian Ellery, himself a ringer in times past, we arranged for the Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Guild's Mini-ring (previously the ring of 8 at The Black Bull at Frosterley) to be erected in All Saints' churchyard on the Sunday and Monday.

Throughout the two days a steady stream of visitors, many of them children, were given the opportunity to have a go at ringing, with some getting the hang of it so quickly that they were able to ring some very respectable rounds after fewer than ten minutes' tuition. My thanks to everyone who came to help and, in particular, to David Pipe, David Craggs and Tim Holmes who worked tirelessly to give everyone who wanted to a go.

Three quarter peals were rung during the weekend, the second of which was immediately before the Morning Service at All Saints'.

David Hull

Eastwood, Rotherham

The Parish Church formerly known as St Stephen's - located in the Eastwood area, just outside the centre of Rotherham, - was originally built in 1874 and is a Grade II listed building. The tower, spire and bells were the gift of Colonel Sir Charles J Stoddart, who was Mayor of Rotherham between 1904 and 1906. The steeple, which reaches a total height of 121 feet, was completed in 1910. The ring of eight bells was cast by John Warner & Sons of London in 1909.

Sadly, the church became redundant in 1991, the parish of Eastwood was dissolved and the few remaining ringers disbanded. By this time, 80 peals had been rung on the bells, the last one being on 1st June 1991. With the closure, the future of not only the bells, but of the whole building itself was uncertain, with the threat of a complete demolition being a serious possibility.

Thankfully, the above outcome did not occur and in 1997, the church was acquired by Bishop Antony, Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese in Ireland, Scotland and NE England, (part of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt) and was rededicated to St Anthony. Over the years which have followed, their members have undertaken an extensive programme of internal refurbishment in keeping with their religious traditions, while at the same time retaining much of the style of the church fabric as it was originally built.

For a period of several years after the acquisition the bells remained completely silent. The ringing of bells does not form any part of Coptic worship and unfortunately all attempts made by the committee of the Sheffield & District Branch and the Diocesan Bells Advisor to establish contact with the church authorities met with no response at all. The Branch had no idea whatsoever at this stage what the fate of the bells was to be. One suggestion put forward was for the Branch to consider the possibility of acquiring the bells for transfer elsewhere if the Coptic church members had no use for them. Conversely, if the owners were not willing to either allow removal of the bells from the tower or to let them be rung at all, there was the possibility that the bells would simply sit in the tower and become a 'white elephant'.

However, good fortune was to intervene. Following a completely chance conversation between working colleagues at a Barnsley District General Hospital departmental meal early in 2001, contact was made with the Secretary of the new owners. Following on from this an initial meeting was set up involving Malcolm Turner, (tower captain at Rotherham Minster), Trevor Ledger and the late Gillian Green, (both ringers at Darton) and representatives of St Anthony's. It was greatly encouraging, not to say a relief, to learn that the church authorities did not have any objection to the bells being rung once again, although strict stipulations were made with regard to the presence of

Presentation of the Inter-Branch Striking Contest Cup at the AGM



L to r, Simon Percy (judge), Barrie Dove (President), Andrew Aspland (for the winning band - the C&NY Branch).

Sunday Service Bands Striking Contest



Daryl Watkins (left) receiving the Sunday Service Bands Trophy from Graham Colborne (Judge) on behalf of Leeds Minster.

The Snowdon Dinner 2013

The Association held its annual Dinner in memory of its first President, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, at the Midland Hotel in Bradford on 19 October. The venue was the hotel's splendidly restored ballroom.

After the meal Barrie Dove spoke about the numerous ringing events which had taken place in the County during the year and Kate Flavell, the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, proposed a toast to the continued wellbeing of ringing in Yorkshire.

'The Last Whole Turn', a very accomplished band made up primarily of ringers from Sheffield Cathedral and area, led a Ceilidh until the company was exhausted in the early hours.

The Ceilidh in full swing



The Snowdon Dinner 2013



l to r: Paul Flavell, Gail Cater (Chairman Education Committee), C Barrie Dove (President), Kate Flavell (Central Council President), David Spaul (Treasurer), Janine Jones.

The Harrogate Course 2013



Back row: Peter Scott, John Welch, Susan Welch, Julie Boyle, John Leech, Julie Etherington, Elaine Scott, Maria Kulas, Jonathan Tarry, Andrew Shortridge and Jane Lynch. Front Row: Tim Holmes, Liz Foster, Andrew Slade, Katherine O'Carroll, Sue Mothersill, Hilary Childs, Duncan Childs and Eric Lord

Life Members at Birstwith



Back row l to r: Cate Ovington (YACR Secretary - Tadcaster), Michael Sheeran (Monk Bretton), C Barrie Dove (President - St Anne's Cath. Leeds).

'Middle' row: Lawrence Sheard (Batley), Michael King (Wath upon Dearne), David Lockwood (Ossett), Eric Robinson (Ossett), Robert Pygott (Batley), Kenneth Lancaster (Ripon Cath.), Geoffrey Bryant (ex-Halifax now Lincolnshire), Gillian Daker (Skipton).

Front row: Giles Galley (York Minster), Jeffrey Cooper (Guiseley), Digby Burton (Skipton), Shirley Pygott (Batley), Eric Lord (Brighouse), Elizabeth Johnson (Kirk Ella), Stuart Armeson (Ecclesfield).

**The 2013 Summer Course at Storthes Hall Park
Some of the Course attendees**



At the ready with forks and spoons



The 2013 Summer Course at Storthes Hall Park



Jacqui Cheesman (Silkstone) - "Where does this end go?"

The Leeds & District Branch at Horbury on 27 April



Front row l to r: Bill Todd [Kirk Deighton], Penny Thorley [Chapel Allerton], Eleanor Pygott [Ossett], Andrea Pygott [Ossett] 2nd row: John Leech [Knaresborough], John Burnup [Kirk Deighton], Wendy Bloom [Leeds Minster], David Spaul [Horbury] 3rd row: Chrissie Swift [East Ardsley], Lynda Lambert [Ossett] 4th row: Graham Bloom [Leeds Minster], David Pygott [Ossett]

Scarborough Branch in York



Standing left to right - Simon Brewster, Paul Brewster, Martin Hall, Teresa Jones, John Siddle, Kathy Carter, John Speak, Michael Hastings, David Everett, Graham Clarke, Lynn Hall, Peter Richardson, Michael Stephens, Angela Witty, Stephen Witty, Helen Beaumont, Molly Stephens, Yvonne Brown. Sitting/kneeling left to right - Martin Tubbs, Karen Lane, Steven Helm, Emma Coles, Simon Percy.

Members of the Selby & District Branch on their outing at Oxenhope Station



From Left to Right :Edna Cooper, Connor Cooper, Chris Cooper, George Hull, Gill Startin, Noah Wilson Bell, Peter Bird, Liz Hull, Jim Startin, Jenny Hastings, CharlieBird, Mike Hastings, Alice Stanley, Stuart Raggett and David Hull.

The St Wilfrid's York band which won the York Branch Striking Contest.



L to r: Mike Pollard, Tim Bradley, David Hull, David Mitchell, Ryan Mills, Simon Hartley.



The Mini-ring in action at the Cawood Festival

Horton in Ribblesdale, with Pen y Ghent as backdrop



The Leeds 12 in 12 peal band at York Minster



The Leeds 12 in 12 peal band at York Minster: Front: l to r Jeff Ladd, Catherine Ladd, James Ramsbottom, Rachel Robinson. Middle: Steve Ollerton, Adrian Moreton, Adam Crocker, Wendy Bloom. Back: Paul Bennett, Tom Mack, Matt Young, Graham Bloom

At Susan and Richard Welch's Wedding at Richmond



l to r: Back row: Andrew Slade, David Atkinson, Vicky Milne, Tim Holmes, Wendy Belsey, Paul Greenwell, Sue Mothersill, Andrew Aspland, Will Trewby, Geoffrey Johnson, Colin Belsey, Glenys Jones. Front Row: Cathy Trewby, Sue Fielder, Graham Rogers, Elizabeth Foster, Glenys Rogers, Peter Trewby.

The Tong band after Forbidden ringing



Five members of the band in front of the 19th century peal board, from left to right: Maurice Calvert (C) 5, Louise Connacher 3, Jane Lynch 6, Graham Adamson 4, Andy Sutherland 1. Andrew Gregson, 2, took the photograph,

National 12-bell Striking Contest 2013

As has happened several times in Yorkshire over the past few years, bands from Stockton on Tees and Leeds and York Minsters entered the National 12-bell Contest in 2013.

Eliminator Contests to select the nine teams which go through to the Final were held as usual and bands from Leeds and York were successful. The Final itself was held on 22 June at Ripon Cathedral, when Leeds was placed 5th and York 8th.

[Although I've no article about, I understand the event at Ripon was a roaring success. Congratulations are due to all its organisers - Ed.]

The Leeds Minster band was essentially the same as shown elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter. **The York Minster band** was essentially the same as in previous years and shown in several previous editions.

The Stockton on Tees band



L-R: Alex Pym, Duncan Walker, Wendy Belsey, Martin Davies, Matthew Hetherington, Andrew Enzor, Kristopher King, David Town, David Craggs, Jennifer Town, David Hull, Matthew Jones.

The Barnsley & District Society's Novice Shield

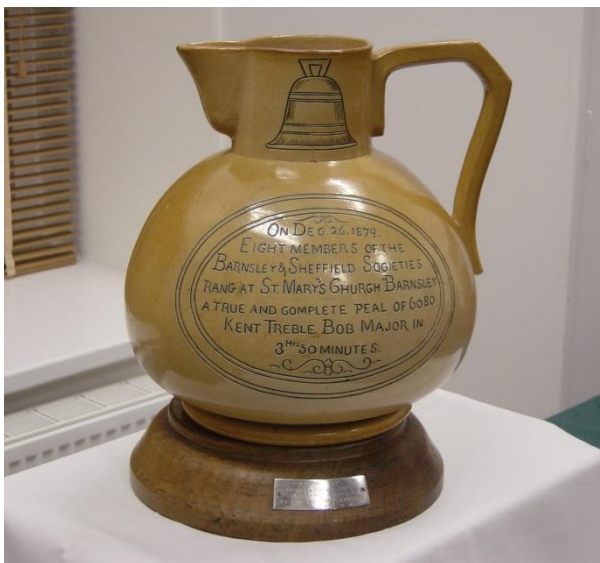
The Barnsley & District Society's Novice Shield striking competition was held at Darton on Saturday 12th October. Six bands entered - Friezland, Kirkburton, Silkstone, Bradfield A, Bradfield B and Darton. It was won by the Bradfield A band.

The Contest is for bands not yet able to muster a team for the Society's two main Contests - the Barnsley Shield and the Hoylandswaine Cup. The Novice Shield was presented to the Society by Harold Chant in 1979. The contest had been held before then although not for a trophy.



The Barnsley Society's Novice Shield trophy being presented to John Marples of Bradfield by Fr Jonathan MacGillivray, the Priest in Charge at Darton.

The Barnsley Jug at the Antiques Roadshow



Doncaster Area ringing outing to York - Some of the party



Back row l to r: Jim Hirst, Liz Tarleton, Derek & Jean Wagstaff, visitor from Kent, Next row: Annabelle Prebble, Mick Forest, Ben East, Frank Carpenter, Bottom row: Helen Nichols, Marian Thomas, Lynne Forest.

Mystery Tower Which tower is this? It's bells are cast from cannon captured from Napoleon's fleet in 1795 at the battle of Genoa. All its gravestones are exactly the same size and shape. *Answer elsewhere in the Newsletter.*



The David Nichols Shield for the Striking Contest for Novice Bands



Readers will remember the obituary for David Nichols in the Summer 2011 edition. A memorial Shield in his name is now presented by the Doncaster & District Society for the winners of a striking contest for bands of novice ringers. The second annual Contest was held at Thorne. Six bands entered and the winners were - *l to r back row: Annabelle Prebble, Ian Kingston, Nathaniel, Don Rimmer. front row: Simon crow, Ann Rimmer.*

The White Rose Shield Contest



l-r: Andrew Mills (Judge), Stockton on Tees band members Wendy Belsey, Simon Percy, Tim Holmes, Helen Beaumont.

The Hoylandswaine Cup Contest



l-r: Trevor Ledger (Society President), John Spencer (Kirkheaton), Jean Doman (Society Secretary), Brian Sanders (Judge).

Some of the late Ron Warford's instructions to his learners at Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne



The Ten Commandments

Yorkshire Bands in the National Young Persons Striking Contest



Team 6: The Blue Lines – Emily Jones 1, Hannah Soames 2, Allana Jones 3, Chloe Jones 4, Dominic Firth 5, Nathan Cox (C) 6, Fraser Murray 7 and Jamie Morgan 8



Team 15: Yorkshire Puds – Luke Riley 1, Alex Riley 2, John Richards 3, Emily Bloom 4, James Town 5, Ewan Hull 6, Timothy Holmes (C) 7 and Andrea Pygott 8

entrusted personnel whenever ringing took place. The first quarter peal under the new dedication of the church was rung on 14th April 2001.

A limited amount of further ringing took place over the following couple of years, until damage to the wheel of the 6th bell enforced a further period of silence. Records suggest that the last of the few quarter peals rung was on 28th March 2003. Closer inspection revealed that pigeons had been gaining easy access to the bell chamber. Their activity had dislodged one of the heavy wooden boards installed behind the louvres for sound control purposes and it had fallen onto the wheel and damaged it beyond repair. Additionally, twigs and other debris deposited by the birds had by now built up to a significant level, particularly so in the pit of the 4th and this was sufficient to restrict the proper rotation of the bell. To make matters worse, water was leaking on to the bells from the wooden floor at the base of the spire, approximately 25 feet above the bells, and indeed eventually the water, mixed with pigeon droppings to form ammonium nitrate, dripped down into the ringing chamber below and fused the lights.

So, by 2003 the bells had officially become 'unringable'. Although dialogue was maintained with the church authorities, nothing much was done over the following period of several years, particularly as it had become clear that any restoration of the bells to a ringable condition would not be financed by the church. Due to the likely high costs involved, this pronouncement therefore totally ruled out the possibility of a professional restoration taking place and the only solution if ringing was ever to be resumed was therefore to undertake a DIY restoration project.

The driving force behind pressing ahead with such a major task was Malcolm Turner, who began by suggesting that a new intermediate floor should be installed above the bells in order to prevent the water ingress from the spire causing any further damage. Malcolm was also clear in his vision of what needed to be done in order to make the bells ringable once more and in his belief that the necessary work could be undertaken by volunteers. In the meantime, the church members kindly agreed to fund and undertake the replacement of wire netting in front of the louvres. The proposals for undertaking the project were discussed with the church officers and their permission was given to go ahead with the scheme.

Work starts

Work got underway early in the spring of 2012 with Malcolm and Andrew Beevers of Ecclesfield beginning by dismantling the wheels of the 3rd, 5th and 6th bells and making inroads into clearing the debris that had accumulated both on and underneath the bells. Freeing the belfry floor from all of this gave

it a chance to dry out over a period of time. The new floor above the bells was to be suspended on joist hangers. The materials were purchased from a local timber supplier and the work was commenced by Malcolm with help from Chris Bennett of Sheffield Cathedral. While the more specialist work was being carried out, further clearing of debris from the floor and the removal of sliders and pulley boxes was done by Stuart Hawley of Ecclesfield and Trevor Ledger. As the cast iron bell frame fits flush to the walls on all four sides of the tower, a lot of the work was not easy and involved much contorting underneath the frame and working in cramped, not to mention extremely dusty conditions.

Over the coming months, apart from the two largest, the remaining bell wheels were removed from their headstocks and taken away from the tower to be rubbed down before being treated with preservative. The soles of several of the wheels were found to be cracked in places and therefore Malcolm secured metal plates over them to provide some stability. In addition, he also had to refasten the shrouding to the sole on every wheel. An order was placed for a new wheel for the 6th bell and this was purchased with the help of a grant from the YACR Bell Repair Fund. The removed pulley boxes, sliders and runners, wheel irons and clappers were re-painted and the bell frame and headstocks were treated with red oxide primer before being undercoated and then finally receiving a coat of gloss paint.

Work continued as and when people were available and on average, there was someone working at the tower on one or two days for most weeks over a period of almost 12 months. By March 2013 the items which had been taken down to the ringing chamber for safekeeping were gradually being returned upstairs and reinstated on their respective bells. The new wheel for the 6th bell was collected from the maker's at Masham on 7th March and fitted the same day. By this time, the new floor above the bells was in situ and, as an additional precaution, roofing felt was applied to the upper side to help to keep water out of the bell chamber. The dislodged sound control boarding was replaced at the same time. All of the work associated with the new floor above the bells, together with its access hatch was finally completed by Malcolm and Chris on 13th March. On the same day, Stuart and Trevor commenced work on removing cobwebs and the flaking paint from the walls and ceiling of the ringing chamber before then applying a PVA treatment coating to the worst affected areas of the walls.

A used set of eight ropes was generously donated by the Ecclesfield ringers and the bottom ends were all spliced into the existing polyester top ends. A set of floor mats was also similarly donated by the Sheffield Cathedral ringers.

On 19th March, the clappers were replaced in bells 1,2,5,6, 7 and 8. Three days later, all eight bells were rung up for the first time in almost 10 years. A

try-out was arranged on Palm Sunday, (24th March), with an invited band consisting of ringers from Rotherham, Ecclesfield, Darton and Sheffield Cathedral. The result was very pleasing, with the new floor and replacement boarding behind the louvres effectively helping to make the sound level of the bells outside very acceptable indeed. After the successful trial ring, the ringers were warmly welcomed and served with refreshments by members of the Coptic congregation.

The first peal on the bells for 22 years was arranged and rung on 8th April 2013, (see Ringing World 26/4/2013, page 407). This was claimed to be the first ever peal rung at a Coptic Orthodox church.

The bells were made available as part of the ringing programme at the YACR AGM held on 11th May and over 70 ringers turned up to ring at what by now had become quite a rare tower. Donations by visitors on the day raised over £150 towards offsetting the cost of materials used to date and to help fund ongoing restoration work that will be required. The most pressing item will be a new wheel for the 3rd bell.

After a period of silence at the tower lasting for ten years, this project has been brought to a successful conclusion through the vision and leadership of Malcolm Turner and the help, support and the many hours of time commitment given to the process over its duration by Chris Bennett, Stuart Hawley, Trevor Ledger and Andrew Beevers. It is also important to recognise with gratitude the support given to the restoration team by the owners of St Anthony's and for their kind permission in allowing the bells to be restored and to ring out again.

Visiting bands are most welcome to ring at St Anthony's and all enquiries should be directed to the tower correspondent, Malcolm Turner:
malcolmst@blueyonder.co.uk

Trevor C Ledger

Horbury

In 1865, Revd. Sabine Baring-Gould, then curate of St John's Church in Horbury Bridge, wrote the words of the famous hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers." It was written for the children of the Parish to sing as they walked up the hill from St. John's to St. Peter's in Horbury itself, thus linking the two Churches. The walk has been performed many times since.

This year, as part of the celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the Diocese of Wakefield, The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, led the Witness Walk at Whitsuntide along the traditional path in Horbury on Sunday 19 May. The procession included the Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield, schoolchildren,

church members, representatives of numerous local organisations which have been invited, the Parish Clergy, Church Wardens as well as the Archbishop, all accompanied by the Horbury band.

Horton in Ribblesdale

The original Norman church was beautifully well-proportioned and squat, sited below the magnificent backdrop of Pen y Ghent, one of the Three Peaks. Imagine it with a wooden or even thatched roof, impressive south door but as yet no tower. During the seventeenth century there was a more prosperous time in the village and this saw the arrival of the tenor bell dated 1614. By the end of eighteenth century there were three bells in total; papers concerning the bells tell us that “the middle bell at Horton was cast anew in 1776, in 1770 the little was cast anew. Paid for ye casting £10.1.2, carrying and re-carrying from York to Settle £2.0.0”.

1989 saw the start of a massive appeal launched to raise funds to repair the bells which by then had been standing for 25 years with no ringing. Seven years later the three bells rang out on Shrove Tuesday 1996 for a special Service led by the then Bishop of Bradford. A total of £16,000 was paid for the work. In 1999 the three bells were augmented to four, a new treble being added from South Petherton in Somerset. A new frame to hold six bells was installed.

In 2012 two bells from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire were purchased via the Keltec Trust to fit with the four bells in the tower to augment them to six. Final fund raising is under way to retune these new trebles and to install them in the tower. A new floor immediately underneath the bells is also to be built. A band of learners is currently being taught.

It is anticipated the six bells will be ringing out over Upper Ribblesdale early in 2014.

Gillian Parrington.

Laughton All Saints

Laughton All Saints Bell Ringers are an eclectic group of individuals who come together on a Friday evening to practise ringing the bells. We started in 2004 after the bells had been silent for many a year. Because of the state of the frame we could only ‘chime the bells’ and not ‘change ring in full circle’ as seen on the infamous Mars advert. Our signature tune is DING DANG DONG!

Our dream is to have a new frame with eight bells so we can ring peals. The cost of this would be in the region of £81,000 (unless you know differently) this is out of our range.

However the really good news is that with the support of the PCC and our fundraising over the last 9 years we have enough funds to get a new frame and 5 bells. This will give a 'country ring' that will sound better and be perfectly acceptable for most occasions.

The bell ringers' vision and quest is to raise more funds through donations and grant funding to be able to purchase a sixth bell (bell ringers will appreciate the greater melodic integrity of adding a sixth bell). This sixth bell will cost in the region of £24,000. It will be a new bell specially cast at Taylor's Foundry and will be special. One way we would like to raise capital is to ask individuals and companies to sponsor the bell. Any donation of £1,000 will get the name of the donor cast into the bell; this will be a lasting tribute and will join the other bells in the tower. This is not an engraving into a bell but cast at the production.

The new bell will give special memories to all couples wanting to celebrate their marriage in church. It will let the congregation know when special services are about to start and my own personal wish is on Christmas morning the peal ringing out will in a small way help put Christ back into Christmas. I have the mental picture of children opening presents and hearing the bells ringing and they may not come to church to hear the message, but there will be an association with the sound, happiness, Church and Christmas. Please help by considering if you know any individuals or companies that would be willing to support this venture and putting them in touch with the bell ringers. We would create a more accessible record of the bell donations by creating a book celebrating the support with pictures and acknowledgements.

If you would like to help, but the bank manager stops you from giving £1,000 then please sponsor part of the bell frame. Again this would be celebrated in the book and you would know that you are an integral part of the project. I hope to get together a 'shopping list' for a future issue of the magazine.

It is splendid that we are in the position to move forward and get the repairs needed to use the bells in the way they were intended but we do need support. This support is financial, practical and through encouragement. The paperwork and protocols needed to both raise funds and get permission to make changes are daunting and words of encouragement will help keep us on track and upbeat about following our vision.

Please support us. For further information please see
Simon and Karen Johnson 01909 561886, Gill Ramsay 01909 561548

Leeds Minster - 12 in 12

Friends of the Leeds Minster band will know that we set ourselves the challenge of pealing all twelve Yorkshire twelves in 2012 with a Sunday Service band. So did we manage it? Well, almost. We rang twelve twelve bell peals in eleven Yorkshire towers with just four of the 144 available ropes being taken by previous*, rather than current members of the band.

The twelve peals were:

2nd Jan, Kingston upon Hull, 5042 Swindon S Maximus
9th April, Rotherham Minster, 5060 Plain Bob Cinques
21st April, Selby Abbey, 5032 4-Spliced Maximus
13th May, Bradford Cathedral, 5009 Stedman Cinques
5th June, Leeds Parish Church, 5009 Stedman Cinques
8th July, Sheffield Cathedral, 5040 Leeds Parish Church 2012 S Maximus
1st September, Leeds Parish Church, 5009 Stedman Cinques
13th October, York Minster, 5009 Stedman Cinques
21st October, Wakefield Cathedral, 5042 Yorkshire S Maximus
8th December, Ossett, 5009 Stedman Cinques
12th December, Escrick, 5012 12-spliced Maximus
22nd December, Halifax Minster, 5015 Plain Bob Cinques

A total of 24 ringers took part, with Steve Ollerton on 11 peals being the leading ringer. So desperate was he not to surrender this accolade on the last day that he struggled up the tower at Halifax on crutches, just three days after being involved in a car crash which left him with broken bones in his foot and a dislocated toe.

There were several notable peals along the way. Ben Johnson, Emily Bloom and Ian Anderson all rang their first on 12, while Hull was Matt Young's first on 12 as conductor. We marked both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the conferring of Minster status upon Leeds Parish Church with peals of Stedman Cinques on our own bells, and we were very proud indeed of our excellent peal at York Minster which was enjoyed by many attending the YACR lunch in York that day. The peal at Escrick was our 'all the twelves' peal, rung on 12th December, starting at 12:12 GMT: 5012 changes in 12 methods, and including a new method with 12 changes per lead. We were particularly pleased with that one too, as it marked a considerable technical advance for the band.

As with all worthwhile challenges, this one was not without its setbacks. In February, a lost peal at Leeds after over three hours of excellent Stedman Cinques, and an enforced cancellation at Escrick meant that we were soon behind schedule. There were further losses at Ripon and Halifax, and it was

unfortunate that we were unable to find a suitable date for another attempt at Ripon. Also, it was unsporting of Ossett to install two extra bells before we could get to them, so purists will argue that we only managed ten Yorkshire twelves. Despite the minor setbacks, though: job very well done! Those participating were:

11 peals: Steve Ollerton (cond 1)

10 peals: Paul Bennett, Graham Bloom, Jeff Ladd (cond 6), James Ramsbottom

9 peals: Wendy Bloom, Catherine Ladd, Adrian Moreton (cond 2), Matt Young (cond 3)

8 peals: Rob Childs, Adam Crocker

7 peals: Simon Kemp, Tom Mack

6 peals: Rachel Robinson

4 peals: Ed Brightman, Paul Brook, Penny Thorley

2 peals: Ben Johnson, Simon Ogier*

1 peal: Ian Anderson, Andrew Aspland*, Emily Bloom, Jonathan Ladd*, Gill Moreton

Jeff Ladd

Richmond

The Marriage of Susan Laycock and Richard Welch

We look after our own because ringers are like that. So when Susan said she would marry only if the right man came along we started the search. Not just for a kind tall good looking man – that was taken for granted - but for a really good ringer and one who would understand the frailties of us Richmond ringers and who would command the respect of this motley, often rather unruly band over which Susan as tower captain presided. And under no circumstances should she say ‘yes’ to anyone who would drag her away from Richmond, especially not to some ringing desert like York or London.

In the end we didn’t find the perfect man, but Susan did and Vicky, our match maker in residence, spotted the signs immediately. Straight up Yorkshire style with no introduction she asks: “When are you going to marry John then?” Some months after Vicky popped her question (and she kept on asking) John popped his (at least we think it was that way round) and Susan said “yes” to the delight of all of us. And so it was just after Christmas on 28th December 2012 the bells of St Mary’s Richmond, North Yorkshire rang out to celebrate the first wedding of a member of the Richmond band in the last 30 years.

After the wedding we rang a Quarter of Yorkshire and Bristol Spliced S Major: - Yorkshire for Susan, a Yorkshire lass and Bristol for Richard, from where he hails. 1 Elizabeth J Foster, 2 David A Town, 3 Martin S Davies, 4 Timothy E S Holmes, 5 James W Holdsworth (C), 6 Andrew R Aspland, 7 Jennifer A Town, 8 Andrew J Slade.

Peter Trewby

Selby Abbey - two 'firsts'

Luke Riley, a ringer at Selby Abbey aged 11, rang his first peal on 14 October - the treble to Plain Bob Minor at St. Wilfrid's in Harrogate. The peal was also his brother, Alex's first on six bells. Their father, Roger, was in the band with them. The peal was rung on the exact 40th anniversary of the dedication of the six back bells at St. Wilfrid's.

The band comprised Luke S Riley 1, Alex S Riley 2, Roger Riley 3, Christopher Cooper 4, Ian Boocock 5 and C Barrie Dove (conductor) 6.

Settle

Hannah Soames rang her first quarter, Plain Bob Doubles at Settle on 22 February, aged 14. Hannah was taught to handle by Gail Cater, ably followed by Kate Mussett and Gillian Parrington, under the watchful eye of her father, Steven, who was the then tower captain.

1 Hannah Soames, 2 Allan Gould, 3 Vera Walker, 4 Gillian M Parrington, 5 W Stephen Walker (C), 6 Ian Boocock.

Wortley

St Leonards Church at Wortley launched its appeal for the restoration of the 8 bells on 24 August.

There was an 'Open Church' Day with displays and information about the bells and the church. Andrew Beevers has more information - a.beevers@sky.com

Looking Back

Eastthorpe (Mirfield), St Paul

Externally St Paul's Eastthorpe, is a rather plain building, the foundation stone being laid on 25 January 1881, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul.

Amazingly the whole building was completed in just ten months so that the consecration could take place on All Saints Day, 1881. Shortly after completion of the building the tower was furnished with a ring of six bells in a wooden frame all swinging in a north-south direction.

The 14 cwt Tenor was dated 1880, the front five dated 1882. Although the inscriptions identify the founder (Taylor's of Loughborough), the inscription of the Tenor (cast before the Church was built) notes "Loughborough, England". Taylor's only ever appended the word "England" for bells that were exported so it is highly likely that this bell was originally destined for overseas but the order cancelled after the bell was cast and ultimately purchased for use at St. Paul's with the other five cast at the later date to complete the ring of six.

How well the bells went is questionable – all swinging North-South may have made the bells difficult to handle. The only Peal (not listed as being rung for the YACR) was on 10 May 1884 when 7 Minor methods were rung. It is highly probable that there was limited ringing and ultimately the bells fell into disuse with the condition of the fittings deteriorating to such an extent that their condition in the early 1990's could only be described as dangerous, with the straps on one bell hardly holding it onto the headstock. The condition worsened to such an extent that in the Autumn of 1996 they were removed from the tower for safety and became one of the first complete rings of bells to be acquired by the Keltek Trust.

There then followed a period of interest in the bells from other churches – initially Kirk Braddan Parish on the Isle of Man (lack of funds prevented this project from proceeding) then the Cathedral in Newcastle, NSW, Australia (but the Church was recovering from earthquake damage and it was not the time to launch a bells project) and ultimately two enquiries from Pittsburgh and Charleston Cathedral (both USA). Subsequently, the bells were acquired and hung (along with two additional trebles to complete the octave) in Charleston Cathedral, South Carolina, where they are in regular use.

And, what of St. Paul's? Unfortunately, nothing bell-wise remains in the Tower and, sadly, regular Sunday worship has ceased with only week-day services being held.

Peter Kirby



The austere Tower of St. Paul's

Mirfield (Eastthorpe), St Paul Bell Details				
Bell	Weight	Note	Dated	Founder
1	4-2-8	E	1882	John Taylor & Co
2	5-2-15	D	1882	John Taylor & Co
3	6-3-8	C	1882	John Taylor & Co
4	7-3-12	B	1882	John Taylor & Co
5	10-1-11	A	1882	John Taylor & Co
6	14-1-0	G	1880	John Taylor & Co

Graham C Grant - WW2 'Bevin Boy'

Following the report on the Wartime activities of Peter Carbutt and David Lockwood in the last edition, Graham Grant, the tower captain at Winchester Cathedral for 25 years, who read it on-line, has sent the following report of his activities in Yorkshire during WW2:

"I was brought up in Frome in Somerset and in 1942 was articled to a local Architect at a wage of 2/6 a week (12.5p). I was 'called-up' in early 1944 and passed my medical A1 in Bristol with a view to serve in the Royal Engineers.

It was quite a shock when the OHMS letter arrived in March 1944 telling me to report to the Prince of Wales Colliery between Pontefract and Castleford.

Ernest Bevin, the wartime Minister of Labour, had told Parliament in 1943 that unless more coal was produced we would lose the War. So all 18 year olds, when called-up, were balloted - every 5th to register for work underground.

After four weeks of basic training at Prince of Wales I was sent to Maltby Main Colliery. Although labour was 'directed' in the War one could transfer to another area and I later found a job the Old Mills Colliery, Paulton, Somerset and I returned back home, travelling each day to the Pit by bicycle and Miners' Bus. I worked there until demobbed in 1947".

[For younger readers - yes, there are coalfields in Somerset and around Bristol, but not of the scale of Yorkshire. All the Pits there were closed many years ago. Did we have any Bevin Boy ringers in the Association? – Ed]

York Minster Ringers in 1928



A trip “into the Forbidden” at Tong

One of the most striking features of the ringing room at St James', Tong is the gold and black peal board recording the record-breaking peal of 10440 changes of minor rung on 11 April 1896. Both ringers and non-ringers alike comment on the list of the 15 methods rung in the peal, including Tulip, Duke of York, Arnold's Victory and Violet.

The story of the peal itself is an interesting one. The peal was the longest length to date for the Yorkshire Association and claimed that record a matter of days after the Shipley ringers had set a new record of 10,400 changes. The Association Report gives the following account of what must have been an exciting time in the environs of Bradford:

“A carefully selected band scored 10,400 of Kent T B Major, at Shipley, on Easter Monday 1896, but before the week had run out our Tong branch, after a two years' rest, accomplished one of her six bell triumphs, and gave us a peal of 10,440 changes, dwarfing the Shipley peal, and of course the 10,176 of Kent T B Major which had previously stood as our longest length. We are glad to congratulate Vice-President Bolland [this refers to the conductor, George Bolland, a Vice-President of the Association] and his talented band on this their latest achievement on six bells.”

Unfortunately, however, the peal was not recognised by the Central Council at the time, as, whilst full extents of 14 different methods were rung, the band rang only half an extent of Kent. This contravened the rules which, despite much opposition from six-bell ringers in the north of the country, required full extents of all methods to be rung for a peal to count. The outraged author of the Yorkshire Association Report for 1895-6 wrote:

“Referring to the Central Council we would further emphasise that which we laid down in our last Report, viz.: the importance of that body taking for its guide some broad and good old maxim as that set forth in time-honoured language. “In all things essential, Unity; in things doubtful, Liberty; in all things, Charity.” For instance what could be more absurd – after twenty-one years' official admiration of these intellectual feats on six bells – than our refusing to score our Vice-President's peal of fourteen and a half minor peals simply because the Council, suffering from a severe form of hypercritical bias, insists on complete minor extents.

Alas! where would be the charity, to say nothing of the want of common sense, were we to indulge in a blind obedience to those whom we respect – fully submit are wanting both in experience and in that greater breadth of thought necessary to secure adhesion amongst brethren. A further point presents itself to us: If we as an Association are compelled by common sense

to refuse to abide by the Council's decisions, it becomes an almost untenable position for our representatives to take part in making laws for others when we ourselves are law (?) breakers. We would be sorry to entirely dissociate ourselves from a body of gentlemen who are in general doing good and useful work, but we have no intention of lowering our sense of liberty and duty at the bidding of an assembly which sits only for a few hours per annum, and whose business has necessarily to be proportionately hurried as the time at their disposal draws to a close."

Fortunately for all concerned, the Central Council saw the error of its ways, and changed its definition of a peal of minor at its meeting in 1897, allowing the Tong performance to be recorded as a peal.

The Legitimate Methods Committee and 2013

However, that is not the end of the tale, for the Central Council set up a "Legitimate Methods Committee" in 1899 to decide on the definition of a "method". The story of Law James and his effective banning of many of the six bell methods listed on our peal board during the late 19th and early 20th century is well told in Karl Grave's book "Forbidden Methods" (available from the Whiting Society). Whilst the methods have now regained legitimacy, the arguments about whether they really were "methods" resulted in their decline, and today the majority of the methods on our 1896 peal board are more or less unknown to most six bell ringers.

This interesting history prompted ringers at Tong to set out on a new challenge, to revive some of the methods on the Tong peal board by ringing quarter peals on Saturday afternoons.

The first of these quarter peals was successfully achieved on 5 October, and we were delighted to ring it as a farewell compliment to our curate, Rev. Moina Bernard, who had shown great support for the Tong bell restoration project, including blessing the bells upon their return from Taylors' bell foundry in January 2012. The method, Tulip Delight Minor, was originally "Forbidden" by Law James and his committee because it has non-Plain Bob lead ends – which of course makes things somewhat challenging for the conductor.

With the first method under our belt, we are now planning our next quarter – only 14 methods to go!

Louise Connacher

With thanks to Karl Grave and his book "Forbidden Methods", from which some of this information is taken.

York Minster c 1974



L to r: Andrew Stone, Christine Sanderson, Julie Barrett, Tina Walker, David Hildred, Doreen Sanderson, Peter Sanderson, David Potter.

Ossett 1967

After ringing a Quarter on Mayor's Sunday, 2 June 1967. Fred Bennett, one of the band, was Mayor of Ossett.



L to r: Joe Ward, Tom Duffin, Eric Robinson, Patricia North (née Lockwood), Malcolm Bennett, Irvin Slack, Pamela Hudson (née Lockwood), Margaret Beaumont (née White), David Lockwood (behind), Michael Johnson, Ian North and Mark Lockwood.

Other Activities

A visit to the Antiques Roadshow with the Barnsley Jug

Having heard that the Antiques Roadshow was due to come to nearby Wentworth Woodhouse on Thursday, 19th September, Trevor Ledger, John Barden and I thought it would be a great idea to take along the Barnsley & District Society's Barnsley Jug.

The Barnsley Jug is a large earthenware jug and it records a peal rung at St Mary's, Barnsley in 1879. The jug is on loan to Cawthorne Museum where it is on permanent display. At (long) past meetings the jug had been filled with ale and passed around the assembled company. At the Society's Centenary Dinner in October 2009 the then President, Brian Heppenstall welcomed the guests with a glass of Pimms poured from the Jug. Only a slight break with tradition.

We arrived at Wentworth after first enjoying a pub lunch and joined the long queue of people carrying all sorts of interesting and difficult to carry objects. The queue moved at a reasonable speed and we were soon at the reception point. A lady had a look at the jug and asked if she could 'borrow' it, she then disappeared for 15 minutes. She returned and asked us if we would like to take part in the programme and we all agreed. Fiona Bruce the Antiques Roadshow presenter came to have a look at the Jug and we were introduced to Steven Moore the BBC's ceramics expert who accompanied us into Wentworth House.

We weren't too worried about being filmed as there were three of us, however when informed they needed only one of us to do the talking none of wanted to do this! The problem was soon solved as when they came to ask us who was to be the nominated spokesperson, John had nipped to the loo and Trevor and I had no problem in telling them John Barden! We also booked him into make up in his absence.

After quite a long wait and lots of BBC coffee we were asked to go outside for filming. John did a sterling job when the time came to record a chat about the jug with Steven Moore. The programme should be shown in late Autumn 2013 or Spring 2014. That is unless we end up on the cutting room floor!

Jean M Doman

The National Striking Contest for Young Ringers - York 6 July

The event coincided with the second of the scorching days in July when York city centre was vibrant with tourists taking their first real opportunity of the year to get out into the sun. Two bands from Yorkshire however were quietly gearing themselves up to perform in the Contest.

The Contest is sponsored by The Ringing World and features a trophy awarded by The Whitechapel Bell Foundry. It is now into its third year and open to bands under the age of 18.

With 16 bands of 8 young ringers entering supported by lots of mums and dads, it's a formidable task to make all the arrangements. This was incredibly well done by one of the members of the RW's board of directors, with David Hull of St. Wilfrid's York making all the local arrangements. The Contest itself was held at St. Lawrence's, just outside the walls on the east side of the city, a nicely going ring, but with just the right amount of odd-struckness to test the bands' skills.

The four judges were Simon Linford of Birmingham, the author of a new book on judging such Contests, supported by three younger judges who all ring at York towers - Helen Beaumont, just graduated in Maths at the University of York, Ryan Mills who hails from Leicestershire and is currently a student at the University and David Leese who started his Yorkshire ringing career at Easingwold when his family moved there and later at Durham University.

We hope they now will be ready and available to judge Branch Contests in Yorkshire!

A mobile mini-ring, displays of ringing data, the sale of books, introductions to change ringing on handbells, continuous tea, cakes, sandwiches and hot dogs were running all day in the nave at a church in the centre of York. A quiz spotting the sights of York had many ringers dashing about the city. The bells at all the churches in York except the Minster were used for 'focussed' ringing for the competitors: at each tower a couple of special methods only were chosen for practice.

Of the sixteen bands who entered the Contest, twelve rang call changes and four either Plain Bob or Grandsire Triples. One band had even come up from the Isle of Wight, drawn from youngsters at only the twelve towers there. For the results we all moved to a bigger church which could accommodate the two hundred plus people present. Tension built up as the comments on the performances steadily rolled out and finally the results themselves.

The overall winner, ringing call changes, was the band from Bedfordshire, with an 'A' score. The two Yorkshire entrants, 'The Blue Lines' from our Western Branch gained a very creditable B score and 'The Yorkshire Puds' from a wider area of Yorkshire gained a C.

The event was overwhelmingly acclaimed a great success which will hopefully help to recruit younger ringers and spur them on in their ringing career. Next year's event is on 5th July in Worcester.

Two Striking Contests at the Same Time

On Saturday 14 September two Contests were held only 10 miles apart in Yorkshire. At Wakefield Cathedral **The White Rose Shield Contest** for 12-bell bands in Yorkshire took place and the Hoylandswaine Cup Contest for 6-bell bands was held at that tower.

It was the fifth time The White Rose Shield Contest has been held, being organised on all occasions by Steve Ollerton. Andrew Mills was the judge and the winners were the band representing Stockton on Tees ringing the set piece of three courses of Little Bob Maximus. Bands from Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals and Leeds and York Minsters also rang.

The Hoylandswaine Cup contest has now been held for around 90 years under the auspices of the Barnsley and District Society. Brian Sanders was the judge and the winners were the band from Kirkheaton ringing closed-lead Oxford TB. Bands from Silkstone and Shelley also rang.

RC

Mystery Tower answer - Liversedge.

The Tour de France 2014

As everyone will undoubtedly know the Tour de France Cycle race is not confined to France. Some sections pass through Yorkshire. Derrick McRobert says "Until I went to a recent meeting about it I had no idea how big this event is. Three times the attendance of the Great Yorkshire show is expected to watch each stage. But it could be a lot of fun".

On the two days, the stages are –

1. Sheffield, Woodhead, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, Elland, Ripponden, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge, Keighley, Addingham, Harrogate, Knaresborough and York.
2. Leeds, Harewood, Skipton, Wharfedale, Aysgarth, Hawes, Buttertubs, Muker, Swaledale, Masham, Ripon and Harrogate.

Allez Yorkshire

The Grand depart of the Tour de France gives Yorkshire a wonderful opportunity to show its beauty and character to the world. The sound of full-circle ringing is almost unique to these islands and so when the race is broadcast on 5 & 6 July next year, hopefully the sound of ringing in the background would immediately tell the audience that this is in England, and not France. It was quite usual in medieval times for bells to be rung to welcome honoured visitors so perhaps before the race would be best.

The race will probably start at 11 am (12 midday CET) and take about 5-6 hours. The route will be closed for about six hours, three before the first part of the “peloton” arrives and at least one hour after the last vehicle passes which will be about three hours later. The last hour of each day is broadcast live to Europe and North America, but the nine helicopters filming the race from above may drown out the bells.

This is a ringing opportunity in a similar vein to that for the Diamond Jubilee; an opportunity for all ringers to join in, especially those who do not ring peals, quarter-peals or twelve-bell competitions. Probably a written record of the event could be prepared for the Library.

Until I attended a local meeting of *Le Grand Depart* I hadn't realised just what a huge event the Tour de France is, and the organisation will be an immense task, and there will be a lot of disruption but it should also be a lot of fun and a great way to show off the best of Yorkshire.

Looking forward to having some fun!

Derrick McRobert

Obituaries

Simon Burnett

Simon, tower captain of Haworth, died on 1st August, after a short illness. He learned to ring in Tadcaster, where his father was Vicar. He recalled that in those days the band seemed to ring Stedman and Grandsire Triples, were extremely competent and brought him along to think of little else but striking, a good springboard for his later career in ringing.

His interest developed rapidly and he was quickly ringing peals, 39 in total for the Association, two of which he conducted. While at university in St Andrew's, where he taught a band to ring in Dundee, he maintained contacts at home, and a whirlwind love affair with one of his pupils at Bramham, Sue Day, resulted in a marriage proposal.

After graduation Simon and Sue moved west as he took up a career as a chemistry teacher at Hipperholme, ringing at Lightcliffe where one of his star pupils was young Peter Kirby. A further change in 1977 saw him joining the

Navy and for some years ringing around Portsmouth and Winchester, before moving back to Yorkshire at the end of his commission in 1982 to teach chemistry.

Eventually Simon and Sue moved into Haworth and quickly set about forming the band for the recently restored bells. Things really looked up when new young recruits arrived, and after frequent quarters, he achieved his dream: a Sunday Service Band peal of Bob Minor in 2011. Relationships with Oxenhope were close and joint Worth Valley quarters became commonplace as a more varied diet of methods was attacked. A peal of three minor methods followed in December last year.

Simon had great plans for the future which included augmentation of the Brontë Bells to an octave. His death has been a great blow to ringing in the Worth Valley.

Bob Schofield

After ringing in a peal for Simon and Sue at Bramham in 1971 on the day after their wedding there, we lost track of them for a while when we moved south. However when they moved to Hampshire, when Simon was working for the Royal Navy in a job he could not discuss, we met up again and for several years rang a local annual peal for the YACR by expatriate Yorkshire ringers.

Bob Cater

Roger Green

Roger from Ilkley passed away in May at the age of 64. Born in 1948, Rog attended the King's School in Gloucester where he was a chorister for seven years. He was taught to ring by his father, but didn't really become a keen bellringer until his arrival at Leeds University in 1967 to study French. By chance, a large group of other enthusiastic students arrived in the same year and with ringing on offer at local practices every night of the week, his progress was rapid. Rog married Sue, a fellow Leeds University ringer, in 1976 and their daughter Helen was born in 1988.

Rog was an excellent ringer. He could call anything and keep it right, no matter what the band was doing around him. He rang 605 peals in total, of which he conducted 350. 412 were for the YACR and 148 for the Leeds University Society. He was also proud to be elected to the Ancient Society of College Youths in 2001 and rang 9 peals for that Society.

He loved a 'ringing project' and was never happier than concocting a plan for an ambitious peal with his friends. If Rog wanted something, he made it happen. But his projects were by no means just about peal ringing. He organised many outings and trips for ringers of all abilities, culminating in two epic trips for Leeds University past members and their families to Australia in 2004 and to Canada in 2006. And the project of teaching a new band at North Rigton gave him huge satisfaction over the last few years.

In recent times, he focussed his attention on the Western Branch, being both Branch Secretary and Chairman. He had many innovative training ideas that he had planned for the next few years after being inspired by a trip to the Ringing Centre at Worcester Cathedral. He had a vision of creating something similar in the Western Branch, but in the end, his ill health intervened. He did however set up a Ringing Centre in Bradford.

Roger's dedication and energy will be greatly missed by all those who knew him, although he would be the first to admit that he lived his life to the full and achieved all his great ambitions.

Barbara Rann 1947-2013

Barbara Rann was our friend and fellow-bellringer. She was a true team member, from her joining us at St. Mary's, Ecclesfield, in 1990 until her sudden death on 23rd. January 2013. She was reliable, punctual, friendly and practical. She helped whenever and however she could. You could depend on Barbara and so, of course, we did. She worked tirelessly in our recent fund-raising efforts to raise funds for augmentation to 10 bells.

Barbara was born at Ridgmont in North Bedfordshire, close to Woburn Abbey. The family moved to the next village, Husborne Crawley, where as a teenager Barbara learned to ring at the village church. The team rang at various churches in the area including St Mary's at Woburn and apparently most of the village joined in with the belfry outings to visit towers further afield. Barbara did not forget her roots and so continued to ring occasionally in Bedfordshire on trips back home.

She met Len, a Yorkshireman, when he was studying at college at Bletchley, and moved to Sheffield when they married. They had two children, Helen and Alex, and besides being a wife and mother, Barbara was a nursery nurse, working for much of her career at Angram Bank School. During her career she made many friends, so much so that on her retirement over 70 of them came along to the party to mark the occasion.

Barbara's children declare that Barbara gave them both selfless support whenever and however she could, and must have passed GCSE's and Duke of Edinburgh awards at least twice. Len is truly thankful for the 43 blissful years of their marriage.

Barbara always enjoyed ringing church bells, and would turn up for ringing at Ecclesfield whenever she could, even when that meant a 6.00am start for Breakfast TV last December or ringing for the Queen's Jubilee, or the Olympic Torch relay or the Olympic Opening to mention just a few. The bells were rung for Barbara and Len's wedding by her friends in Bedfordshire, and they rang at St Mary's Woburn to celebrate her life. We also rang at St Mary's Ecclesfield to celebrate her life, her friendship and her dedication.

June Gilpin

Ron Warford

It is a nearly impossible task to try to sum up Ron's life briefly. Everyone will have their own memories, and it is a measure of the regard and affection that Ron was held in, that so many people have contributed their own stories to add to this tribute.

Ron was born in 1942 in Selby. His father (Reginald) was a ringer at Selby Abbey and in due course Ron followed him up the tower and learned to ring, joining the Association in 1957. Ron learnt alongside Barbara Davies and Alan Grundy, and they rang their first peal, together, at Hemingbrough, of Plain Bob Minor, on 11th April 1959. Fifty years later to the day, the three of them rang a peal of Plain Bob Royal at Selby Abbey to celebrate this anniversary.

In 1967 Ron married Margaret and went to live in Leeds where he rang at Chapel Allerton. Whilst here, as wherever he lived, he set about training lots of new recruits. He was also ringing master of the Leeds & District Amalgamated Society initially and later the Leeds & District Branch of the Yorkshire Association when they merged. Conrad and Heather were both born whilst he lived in Leeds.

This was also his first prolific period of peal ringing when he joined forces with Ron Snack and Barrie Dove, and started ringing peals initially across Yorkshire, and later, with John Robinson, Peter Gardner, Roger Riley and other stalwarts, anywhere in the country. Copious quantities of ale were consumed on these occasions, particularly on the weekends away, and the stories are legendary. On one occasion we were enjoying a celebratory drink after a peal in Preston. The toilets were outside around the back of the pub. Later in the evening, Ron returned from the toilet to say that there had been an enormous traffic accident outside, and we must all go out and help him

search for survivors in the wreckage. It was only when we got outside that we discovered that the pub backed onto a scrapyards!

In 1977 he moved to Otley. As always, he set about training lots of new ringers and the local band went from strength to strength while he was there. Peal ringing though, took a bit of a back seat, as Ron spent more time walking. During this time he completed most if not all of the major Yorkshire walks including the Three Peaks and the 'Lyke Wake Walk'.

Ron's entire working life was spent with the Post Office, later BT, initially as a telephone engineer and then in training. Originally he was based in Leeds, but in 1985 he transferred to Newcastle, taking his family to live in Gosforth. Here, he joined the local band, and almost straight away, Gosforth was having a recruitment drive and Ron was teaching the learners. There was no limit to the time and energy that Ron would put into teaching the band, having an almost unlimited number of extra muffled practices and always striving for perfection. He was tower captain at Gosforth for twenty years and during this time, the band went from ringing Plain Bob Royal to Surprise Royal. He was still ringing very few peals, spending much of his time running marathons and half marathons. Eventually though, he was persuaded to join the weekly peal band in Newcastle and he regained his earlier enthusiasm for peal ringing.

As well as being tower captain at Gosforth, Ron was also President of the Durham and Newcastle Association, initially between 1998 and 2001 and then again from 2007 to 2010 – the only person to be re-elected for a second term of office. He was also elected a life member of the D&N at their AGM earlier this year.

He also served on Central Council from 1993 onwards and was on the Education Committee between 1993 and 2001, being its secretary for five of those years. He was also instrumental in inviting the Central Council to Newcastle for its 2008 Meeting, and organising the weekend there.

Ron rang more than 1000 peals for the D&N and organised many peals and quarters, being especially keen to encourage young and inexperienced ringers. He also organised many outings, no doubt following his own advice in the book he wrote for Central Council – 'Organising an Outing'.

He was also heavily involved in many fund raising events for the D&N. On one occasion he did a sponsored 24hr run around Gateshead stadium to raise money for St. Matthew's Newcastle. Other people joined him for a couple of hours at a time, but Ron kept going for the whole 24 hours, stopping only for a drink, something to eat and endless leg massages (which he rather seemed to enjoy).

Early retirement gave Ron the opportunity to do even more for ringing, and in 1998 he was persuaded to leave his home for three months and to go out to Charleston, South Carolina, to teach a band at Grace Episcopal Church. Forty-four people had signed up to learn to ring and with Ron's teaching thirty-three of them, advanced to solo handling in the three months. Ron begrudgingly learned the American custom of tipping the bartender when ordering a beer, and he, in turn, taught the local bar owner to properly fill a pint glass! Perhaps Ron's greatest challenge during his initial visit was conducting a peal of Plain Bob Triples with six local Charleston ringers in celebration of American Independence Day.

Ron endeared himself to his American students who called him 'Mr. Grumpy'. His friendship with them lasted until the present day and there were many repeat visits not only to Grace Church, but also to St. Michael's and the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, in Charleston.

But what everyone will really remember about Ron will be his larger than life character, his charisma, his humour and his passion for everything that he did. He not only taught his learners to ring, he encouraged them and passed on his own enthusiasm for ringing. Sometimes, frustrated by the standard of ringing at Gosforth, he would bang his head against the wall – once causing him to have to buy a new clock for the ringing room – but he made everyone care about their ringing and try to do their best.

Ron was a true Yorkshire man. He called a spade a spade, but he would say it in such a way that no one would ever take offence. He was always ready to give advice and would tell you if he thought you were wrong, but he would always encourage. He was always good company, and there was nothing he liked more than a celebratory drink with ringing friends after a good peal. He was a true friend to many people and I am glad to have had the privilege of knowing him.

Barrie Dove

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