

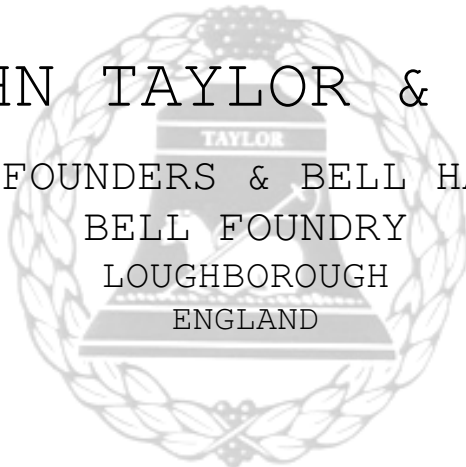
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**THE  
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
CHANGE RINGERS**



***NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2010***



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**Association Attire**

There's a new range of garments now available via Dinah Rhymer - sweatshirts, polo shirts, hoodies & zipped hoodies, fleeces, microfleece and rugby shirts - all in a large variety of colours. They also display the new Association logo which is a bell superimposed onto a Yorkshire rose, and to which can be added the name of your tower if you wish.

To find out more please contact Dinah on 01482 882621 or [drhymer@drhymer.karoo.co.uk](mailto:drhymer@drhymer.karoo.co.uk).

It's hoped the range will be shown on the Association's web site soon - [www.yacr.org.uk](http://www.yacr.org.uk).

**WANTED!**

**Joint Editor of this Newsletter to look after the layout and liaison with the commercial Printing Company.**

**You only need reasonable word processing skills - although if you have professional experience to take the publication further, that would be even better! - and a few hours every 6-monthly edition.**

**For more details please contact me on [anne.deebank@virgin.net](mailto:anne.deebank@virgin.net) or 01751 460274.**

*Anne Deebank*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Teaching Bell Handling Course	26 June	Bingley
Whirlow Course	9 - 11 July	
Life Members Day	21 August	Batley
White Rose Shield 12-bell		
Striking Contest	4 September	Bradford Cathedral
General Meeting & Sunday Service		
Striking Contest	18 Sept.	East Riding Branch
10-bell Striking Contest	16 October	Knottingley
Conducting Course	13 November	Tadcaster
Snowdon Lunch	20 November	Ilkley
General Meeting	5 February	Sheffield & Dist. Branch

There's also the Final of the National 12-bell Striking Contest at Crediton, Devon on 26 June.

As well as being available as a printed book - with new editions having been produced every 6 or so years - Dove these days has a website: <http://dove.cccbr.org.uk/home.php> Use of the internet version makes it very much easier to find information. And having found the tower you were seeking, with a simple click you can see a map showing not only that tower but all those nearby. You can also do considerably more than was ever easily possible with the printed book by extending the number of items to be searched for at any one time. Thus, for example, you could ask for a list of ringable 6 bell towers that practise on a Saturday and which are also rung from the ground floor!

Another by-product of having Dove on-line is that the tower positions can be 'downloaded' and then, when put into a SatNav, make getting to towers easy. There's no more need to try to read maps when driving.

You can also supply the website with additional or correcting information. The Dove Stewards work continually to keep the data as accurate as possible, averaging more than four changes a day. This is just one example of the services that are provided by the CCCBR for ringers everywhere.

*John Baldwin  
(ex CCCBR President)*

## **Future Ringing Roadshows & A Ringing World Event in 2011**

*For those of us who were expecting there would be another Ringing Roadshow to attend in 2011, here's a letter published in The Ringing World.*

Sir: The Central Council has been very pleased with the support given by ringers to the six Roadshows held to date. However, some exhibitors have had mixed success and it is not clear how much appetite there will be in future from ringers for 'more of the same' in the way of Roadshows.

As The Ringing World is planning a Grand Event for ringers on 26 March 2011 to celebrate its centenary, we believe this will be the next focus for ringers from all over the country (and beyond) to meet, in a rather different format from a Roadshow. The CC 's Public Relations Committee will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the future for Roadshows and will make its recommendations to the CC in due course. The review will take into account the obvious benefits of large events where ringers can meet, socialise and sell ringing-related goods, and also the successes of the RW event next year.

In the meantime we would be very pleased to hear of any suggestions from ringers of how to make future Roadshows even more attractive for visitors and exhibitors so we can continue to build on previous success.

*Tony Smith  
President CCCBR*

## **EDITORIAL**

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter, which is again a bumper one. Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed an article or information on which an article could be based.

We need more advertisers for the Newsletter to help defray the cost of its printing. The usual ringing organisations have been exhausted. If you know of any organisation who would be keen to advertise - and it doesn't have to be a ringing one - please contact one of us. Terms are negotiable. Potential advertisers can be advised that the Newsletter goes out to some 250 churches across the whole of Yorkshire.

We are still looking for someone who has a few hours to spare every 6 months to take over Anne's duties. These are not onerous - they just happen to coincide with the busiest times of the year for her at work! Please contact her by email if you think you might be able to help.

*Robert Cater ([robert@thecaters.org.uk](mailto:robert@thecaters.org.uk))  
Anne Deebank ([anne.deebank@virgin.net](mailto:anne.deebank@virgin.net))  
Editors.*

## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Association General Meeting at Aldborough, 6 February**

The Winter meeting on Saturday 6 February was held on a cold, foggy day in the Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch, although members coming from the western side of the Pennines reported it was clear and sunny over there, with fog only being encountered when entering the Vale of York.

Ringing during the day was at Boroughbridge, Kirby Hill, Sharow, Aldborough and Ripon Cathedral, with the lunch and meeting being held at Aldborough, following a Service there. Some 70 members welcomed the piping hot soup and hot garlic bread to start off the lunch, which was followed by a cornucopia of desserts.

The meeting itself followed the traditional routine after members stood in silence to remember Herbert Lawn (Pudsey), Pearl Smith (Kirkthorpe), Denis Burling (Rawmarsh), Betty Murtagh (Wakefield Cathedral), Herbert Wood (Thornhill) and Terry Greaves (sometime of Darton) who had all died since our last meeting in September.

A surprise announcement was that Peter Kirby, our General Secretary, had decided not to seek re-election for another three years at our AGM in May. Brian Sanders and John Goldthorpe however allowed their names to go forward for re-election as Ringing Master and Composition Secretary.

The sub-committee elected at the last meeting to look over the Rules for the Final of the Sunday Service Band Striking Competition - Barrie Dove, Wendy Bloom, Brian Sanders, Neil Murray and Robert Cater - proposed that a new Rule be added so as to avoid any confusion, viz. 'In the Final, each Branch may be represented by a tower

within the area of that Branch'. This will be voted on at the AGM. The sub-committee welcomed the possibility of different rules being applied for the preliminary competitions in the Branches to select bands to represent them, thus allowing for the inherent diversity which exists in numerous ways between the Branches.

A collection for the Bell Repair Fund raised £113 after income tax is recovered.

Robert Cater briefly outlined an approach initially made to the Education Committee by Christopher Groome, originally from York, about the Association taking over from him the Snowdon Series of books he publishes. He noted that much more information is required before Christopher's suggestion can be debated more widely.

Half a dozen handbell ringers practised elementary ringing organised by the Education Committee in the church hall at Ripon after general ringing finished at the Cathedral.

### **Association AGM at Harrogate, 8 May**

The Association held its AGM this year in the environs of Nidderdale, which perfectly matched the Yorkshireman's view of the County being God's Own Country, with the Spring sunshine giving clear long distance views ranging from the high Pennines near Ingleborough right across the Vale of York to the Yorkshire Moors and Wolds beyond.

Ringing was available at Kirk Deighton, Hamphthwaite, Beckwithshaw, Fewston (currently part-way through the augmentation and restoration of its bells), the two towers in Harrogate and at Knaresborough. This last tower sits in one of the picture post card views of England, with the church perched on the side of the gorge which the River Nidd cuts through the local Millstone Grit and overlying Magnesian Limestone, the Castle further along the edge and the castellated railway bridge dominating the view as it spans the gorge.

The meeting - attended by some 120 members - and the Service beforehand was held at St. Wilfrid's church in Harrogate, an very expansive church built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the size of a small cathedral. It has a tradition of High Church worship and many of the congregation were well satisfied to participate in traditional Evensong using the Book of Common Prayer - a rare treat for many of us these days.

Our President, Barrie Dove, chaired the meeting, which followed the conventional format of accepting reports, accounts and the like. Members firstly stood in memory of recently departed friends, Keith Muxworthy (Hoylandswaine), Alan Pickersgill (Rothwell), Joan Dawson (Calverley), Derek Bottomley (Sherburn in Elmet) and Jim Hall (Clapham). Our Association Secretary for the last six years, Peter Kirby, had regretfully decided not to continue for another term, and as no-one had volunteered to fill the post, Deborah Thorley, an ex-President, agreed to serve for a period. Brian Sanders and John Goldthorpe were re-elected to the posts of Ringing Master and Composition Secretary respectively.

The highlight of the meeting was the declaration of the result of the Inter-Branch Striking Competition which had been held earlier in the day at Birstwith. Eight of the nine Branches put in a team which rang a course of Yorkshire S Major: judging was by

John Hobson, now 86, learned to ring at Holy Trinity, Hull before the war when he was 7. His father was a ringer there; John took his rope on his father's death and left the choir. He is our only member who rang for the El-Alamein victory. He had a motorbike by this time and dashed about ringing bells, including Kirk Ella. He later became a civil servant and worked and rang across the world.

Colin Ashworth and Jack Gibson learned to ring after the ban was lifted, Colin following in his great-uncle's footsteps.

William Stoker had a few pulls in 1939 at Hemingbrough but war intervened and he started again in June 1944. He was roped in one evening by the sergeant-major type of tower captain and he's been ringing there ever since.

Alex Marsh learned under Tom Strangeway at Rothwell, but rang at Woodlesford at the time. His first peal - Plain Bob Major - was on VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945) and his second - Kent TB Major - on VJ (Japan Day 15 August 1945) both at Rothwell, where there is a peal board recording the peals.

### **Our Other Long Serving Members**

Eleven other members were elected before 1950 - Cyril Toyne (Sprotborough), Brian Kenneth Sissons (Batley) and Charles Hutchinson (York area) in 1946. Clive Scott (Knaresborough) and Arthur Rogers (late of Elland, now of Easingwold) followed in 1947. Doreen and Ronald Sanderson (Huntington), David Thorley (Howden) and David Lockwood (Ossett) were elected in 1948 and finally Jeffery Cooper (Guiseley) and Derek Sharples (Kirkheaton) in 1949.

Of the 16 members elected prior to 1950, two rang peals for the Association last year - Arthur Rogers, who rang one and Jeffery Cooper who rang eighteen.

*Robert Cater*

### **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **“Dove” in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Most ringers will have heard of "Dove", the book which lists every ring of bells in the world that are hung for change-ringing. Its full title is "Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers" and takes its colloquial name from that of the original author, Ron Dove, a ringer at Leeds Parish Church (*and Barrie Dove's father - Ed*). First published in 1950, it has a 'one line entry' for each ring, telling us the name of the church county by county, how many bells comprise the ring, and the weight and note of the tenor. To those who are keen 'tower grabbers' the book is - or at least WAS - an absolute 'must', even being colloquially known as "the ringer's bible".

In recent years responsibility for Dove has passed to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. It is now kept up to date by two "Stewards", currently John Baldwin and Tim Jackson. They are assisted in this work by Ron Johnston (*ex YACR President - Ed*) acting in a consultant capacity.

The length rung was 1344 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, the judges being Messrs. Hanson and Kitson of Elland and Mr. Joe Wood. They gave their decision as follows:-

1. Kirkburton - rung out	345 faults
2. Earlsheaton	286 faults - 2nd prize
3. Huddersfield	519 faults - 3rd prize
4. Dewsbury	130 faults - 1st prize
5. Almondbury	560 faults - no prize

### Wartime Ringing

Another article in the Newsletter mentions the Order which banned ringing in 1940 during the Second World War. It reads as follows:

Order 1042 of 1940. The following are the terms of the Order:

1. No person shall in any area of Great Britain sound any church bell or cause or permit any church bell to be sounded except for the purpose of making a signal in accordance with the directions given by a commissioned officer of His Majesty's Forces or the chief officer of police for the area to indicate that members of an enemy force are landing or attempting to land or have landed from the air.
2. In this Order the expression 'church bell' includes the bell in any church, chapel or other place of public worship ordinarily used or intended for summoning persons to public worship or for any like purpose and any bell ordinarily used or intended for tolling at a cemetery.
3. This Order may be cited as the Control of Noise (Defence) Order 1940.

The ban was temporarily lifted to celebrate the Allied victory at El Alamein in North Africa and ringing was allowed on Sunday 15 November 1942. It probably aroused more public interest than any other ringing in history.

The ban was renewed with a reissue of the Control of Noise Order early in March 1943. There was still much debate and call for its abandonment and on 21 April 1943 the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, said the War Cabinet had decided it was time for its removal and steps would be taken to see that bells could be rung for church services on Sunday for Easter. From Easter Sunday they could still however only be rung on Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day, and only for summoning people to worship - they could not be rung for weddings, for instance. Agitation to have the ban removed completely continued, and it was finally lifted at the beginning of June 1943.

From our latest Report we have five members who were elected to the Association in 1944 and 1945 - John Hobson (Howden) and Colin Ashworth (Heptonstall) both in 1944 and William Stoker (Hemingbrough), Jack Gibson (Pudsey) and Alex Marsh (Pudsey) in 1945.

Revd. Martin Daniels of Blackburn. It was a tough competition with all teams ringing well, with no mistakes and good striking throughout. There had to be a winner and it was again for the second year the Western Branch fielding a mixed team drawn from five different towers, some over 30 miles apart.

Over £200 was donated to the BRF by Dinah Rhymer from the sale of Association Attire and another £200 (including refunded tax) was collected at the meeting.

It was, as Grommit might have said, 'A Grand Day Out'.

### Bell Repair Fund

The Fund has enabled grants totalling £8750 to be paid during 2009 towards the cost of bell works at Cleckheaton, Pateley Bridge, Cottingham, Long Preston, St. Wilfrid's Harrogate, Hemsworth and Barnoldswick.

Further, grants amounting to £21600 awarded in previous years remain to be paid on completion of works at Clapham, Kirkby Overblow, Dent, Fewston, Horton in Ribblesdale and Tong. This latter amount is nearly all that remains in the Fund at the moment.

Recently, fresh grants amounting to £16550 were awarded for planned works at Beckwithshaw, Ecclesfield, Kirkburton, Monk Bretton and Nafferton, all to be paid when the works are finally completed. Nearly all of this amount will be dependant on future contributions to the Fund.

The Friends of the Bell Fund scheme continues to flourish and 90 'corporate' Friends such as Parochial Church Councils and groups of ringers at individual towers generously contributed over £2500 to the Fund during 2009. Regrettably several 'corporate' Friends who have made donations in past years have not continued, but Barrie Dove, as President, has cordially invited them to restart in the annual Report of the Friends scheme which is sent to them.

Further, some 25 individual members contributed over £1000 to the Fund during the year, and a further £2000 or more was collected at meetings or donated through raffles and the like held at Association events.

Only the Scarborough, Selby and Western Branches hold collections for the Fund at their meetings, but it is hoped all Branches will start to do so soon. Envelopes for making a donation under the Gift Aid scheme are available from Association Officers. The scheme enables the Association to claim back the income tax paid by members on their donations and amounts to several hundred pounds each year.

### Child Protection: Are You And Your Tower Complying?

The new legislation came into force on 12 October last year. Since then it has been illegal for any voluntary organisation to **knowingly** permit any person barred under the Act to have unsupervised access to young people within its care.

This places responsibility on the organisation itself to comply by ensuring that all people aged over 16 years who have, or may have unsupervised access to young people involved in its activities, to become registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).

YACR itself is almost entirely exempt from the legislation, but its members affiliated to local parishes, i.e. nearly all of us, aren't. The legislation relates to voluntary activity involving young people, so it is the responsibility of each parish to comply.

This is my advice to each ringer in my role as YACR Child Protection Officer:-

1. Each tower captain should be registered, even if there are no young people at the tower at present. It is difficult to predict when young recruits may appear.

2. Any ringer who undertakes face-to-face teaching on a regular basis, either at the home tower or elsewhere, even if there are no young people involved at present. Again, new recruits could appear who fall within the Act. It is the tower captain's legal duty to ensure compliance whenever teaching involves young people, but only needs to check once – not every time a new young learner shows up.

3. Any ringer who regularly provides unsupervised transport for young people. If you already hold a CRB Certificate, you do not need to re-register, as you will be blanketed-in to the new authority within 5 years.

Registration involves your finding out who is the person with responsibility for Child Protection within your parish – your incumbent or churchwarden should know. Ask that a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure Certificate be obtained for you. This involves giving your name, date of birth, etc., and the diocese will process the application for which there will be no charge to you. Once you have received your certificate you will (in the fullness of time) be registered with the ISA, and will be covered for all activities – not just ringing – which involve unsupervised access with young people.

If you are a ringer not affiliated to a particular tower, and 1, 2 or 3 above apply to you, then you still need to be registered. Seek registration through whichever parish you're involved with for teaching ringing.

You are likely to be required (although I hope this will come as a friendly request) to produce your CRB Certificate to a suitably authorised person, e.g. tower captain, parish official or similar. Please do so cheerfully, as the person asking is required by law to do so, and could face legal proceedings should any incidents occur and it should transpire that no checks were made.

However. You do not need to be registered to:- Be a ringer. Stand behind a learner during ringing to advise. Help out at a training session by ringing alongside learners. Go on ringing outings.

Neither do you need to take it upon yourself to check whether visiting ringers are registered, even if there are young people in the party, or to prohibit ringing by young

event it held - a striking competition at Sprotborough on 22 November 1969. Bands could ring either six or eight bells. The results were:

1. Halifax & District Society (the Roughtown band ringing cartwheel minor)
2. Leeds & District Society (ringing Little Bob Major)
3. Yorkshire Association
4. Barnsley & District Society
5. Beverley & District Society
6. Halifax Archdeaconry Society
7. Sheffield & District Society
8. Selby & District Society
9. Doncaster & district Society
10. Cleveland & North Yorkshire Association

*The Halifax & District Society has ceased to exist - does anyone know its history please? The Leeds, Sheffield, Selby and Cleveland Societies all later merged with the Yorkshire Association and became Branches – Ed.*

### **The Heavy Woollen District Association**

In the last edition of the Newsletter it was reported that the Heavy Woollen District's striking competition trophy had now 'come back to Yorkshire'. I asked if anyone knew about the old Society. Lawrence Sheard of Batley has kindly provided the snippets below.

It appears that the Association was founded in 1894 and the silver trophy, now in the possession of the Yorkshire Association, was for an 8-bell contest inaugurated on 12th May 1894. It was won by Dewsbury with 479 faults. Liversedge had it the following year and then Dewsbury won it three times in succession, therefore keeping the cup. This necessitated the purchase of a new one and this was decided at a meeting at the Globe Inn at Lindley.

By 1897 there were 26 towers in the Association, ranging roughly in a line from Barnsley through Dewsbury and Batley to Huddersfield and Halifax. I have a contemporary list of all the towers and adjacent pubs where meetings would be held.

The following is an excerpt from a contest report:- Ringing Contest, Christ Church, Liversedge. Easter Monday, April 26th 1900, Heavy Woollen District, Silver Challenge Cup.

Prizes from Liversedge ringers and friends:-

1. The Association Cup and eight splendid marble timepieces
2. Eight silver plated teapots.
3. Eight silver alberts and medals with gold centres.

name but four. (Bob Binns, the “gentlemanly blackguard”, was the only member ever to be expelled from the Society - for refusing to give a required apology!) However, the outstanding personality of those 81 years was neither a highly talented ringer, nor “colourful”, but the very stuff of which successful social groups are made. Harry Lofthouse of Armley became Secretary in 1923, when funds were too low to buy new membership cards. To Harry’s unstinting devotion to the Society’s wellbeing was very largely due the fact that when he finally left office 30 years later there were 230 members, of whom 163 were fully paid up. Harry was simply a perfect gentleman, the warm, welcoming face to the nervous newcomer, and the greatest tribute to his work was that by 1955 the Society had come to be known affectionately as “Lofty’s L & D”.

*Robin Brown*

*Chairman of the L&D Society at the time of its fusion with the YACR  
and first Chairman of the L&D Branch*

### **L&D Society Snippets**

Here are some snippets from the Leeds & District Society’s Minute and Peal Books, which, as Society secretary, I placed in the Leeds City Archives when the Society was dissolved in 1970. They are available there for inspection.

The Society’s opening statement was “It is desirable in the interests of Change Ringing in and around the Borough of Leeds to form an Amalgamated Society of the various towers to mutually assist each other in the advancement of the Art of Change Ringing”. Subscriptions were 6d a year.

The first entry in the Peal Book is actually a date touch of 1889 Kent TB Major at St. Matthew’s Holbeck. William Snowdon, YACR second President, rang in a peal of Kent Major at Leeds PC in February 1893. There are peal boards to the Society in Leeds PC, Burley and Far Headingley.

The first peal on handbells was Grandsire Triples in 1893, rung in a greenhouse at the residence of Miss Craven in Armley.

The Minutes record the start of the wartime ban on ringing, which became operational in 1940.

For the fusion with the YACR in 1970 the Society’s funds were used up in a Dinner at the new church hall at Far Headingley, after donations of £5.0.0 to the YACR towards the cost of dividing up the Western Branch to accommodate the new Leeds & District Branch and after paying The Ringing World’s bills. Dinner tickets were 17/6 per head, but 11/- for paid up and life members.

*Robert Cater*

### **Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringing Societies**

In his article on the Leeds & District Society, Robin Brown mentions this short-lived organisation. Does anyone know more about it please - such as who set it up, how long it lasted etc? What do the YACR minutes say about it? I have a record of one

people or unregistered adults. Under these circumstances the responsibility for child protection is entirely the responsibility of the organiser of the outing, and there is no liability resting with the host parish.

Nor do you need to carry your CRB Certificate around with you.

I can’t cover every eventuality in an article which the editor asked me to keep short, so please remember that I’m here to give impartial advice, and can be contacted as below.

Robert Appleby  
YACR Child Protection Officer  
01274 223753 and 07966 234849  
[belappy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:belappy@blueyonder.co.uk)

Warning! This article sought to reflect the requirements of the legislation. However in early 2010 one Yorkshire Diocese issued advice to incumbents that participants in all mixed-age church activities must be CRB registered. This has been challenged, and some three months later there has been no response. It seems that further Government advice will be issued during or after July 2010, and so more clarification should be available by then.

### **Education Committee**

#### **Teaching Bell Handling Course – 31 October at Tadcaster**

Gail Cater led a course at Tadcaster on 31 October for three students (one other failed to turn up), facilitated by Stuart Raggett. The tower has a new simulator and the church hall has been recently refurbished, with refreshments and light lunches provided on some Saturdays. Local ringers came as volunteer beginners. In the morning the group watched part of the Central Council’s CD on teaching bell handling, after which Gail gave a short demonstration of the various stages in its teaching. They are all illustrated in the CC’s ‘Tutors Handbook’, originally written by the late Wilf Moreton of Wakefield. The students then practised the techniques on the volunteer beginners and later discussed problems they had unearthed in the process.

The maximum number of students which can be accommodated on a Course such as this is only four. The Committee is running it again on 26 June at Bingley for members from across the Association. It will also be very pleased to run it in individual Branches where requested.

#### **The Harrogate Course - 9 to 11 April**

##### **A new experience!**

We had only been ringing for just under a year, so we had no idea what to expect from the Course. We were sent information about groups and towers via email and packed our bags ready to arrive at Ashville College, Harrogate.

After the evening meal on our first day we met our tutor (in our case Phil Gay) and fellow students, and had our first theory session. We used our session simply to discuss what we knew already and to talk about what we would be doing over the weekend. Phil told us how he would be helping us (standing behind and guiding rather than ringing most of the time). We then organised which cars we would take to the towers. Luckily for the Sanderson pair Kirk Deighton is our home tower, so we were quite pleased to have an easy start to the Course on fairly well-known bells, along with a few familiar helpers. Both of us were ringing Plain Bob on the treble and rang it quite well. My next target was to ring inside, whereas Victoria needed to make sure that she could ring it a bit better.

We left Kirk Deighton at around 9.00pm and went back to Ashville College to find that the majority of residents had gone to the 'Squinting Cat' – the local pub down the road! (As my sister and I are 16 and 13 respectively, we could not drive ourselves or go to the pub!!)

Saturday morning began with more theory and we looked at writing out Plain Hunt, which lead to ringing it on handballs on some stairs - grab a bell, get into two lines, side by side, one person on each step! We moved around to the method, being on different steps for each place. We then left for Boroughbridge. I began to learn Plain Bob inside to a method called 'Bales' (no, I had never heard of it either). After lunch it was but a short trip to Aldborough where more Bob Doubles and Bales was rung.

At 7.00ish we left for the Plenary Ring at Ripon Cathedral where there were 12 bells, which was an experience of its own. We also went up the tower and see the bells being rung, which is not usually safe in most towers. It was very loud and slightly scary, but definitely worth it! After an hour and a half in Ripon Cathedral we went back to Ashville College via the Co-operative Supermarket (good with food!) for some supplies. Consequently we had quite a feast that night! (*The Co-op hasn't yet paid for this advertisement -Ed*).

On Sunday morning we did Sunday service ringing. This meant that we travelled around and helped both local towers in Harrogate, Kirk Deighton, Knaresborough and Beckwithshaw. This was another fantastic opportunity to visit other local towers and a big thank-you to them for allowing us to ring there that morning. After lunch we departed for the final practical which was in Whixley, with very light bells, where I managed to ring Plain Bob inside, which was quite an achievement for me!

I would just like to finish with a huge thank-you to everyone who was involved with the weekend. To Susan Laycock and John Leech, who between them organised the Course - towers, tea breaks and all and all the helpers who gave us advice and tips.. Also to the tutors, who pointed out mistakes, gave out constructive criticism and helped everyone, not just their own group. And finally, thank-you to the towers who allowed us to use their bells and lent us some of their ringers to help us along the way!

The Course has helped us with improving methods and technique and has been a great chance to meet new people and to socialise with other ringers who could give each other a lot of help, ideas and laughs along the way!

*Rachel Sanderson  
Kirk Deighton*

*The other tutors were Deborah Thorley and Andrew Slade - Ed.*

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

### **Lofty's L & D**

The Leeds & District Amalgamated Society of Change Ringers came into being on 30 March 1889 and, with considerable fluctuations of membership and fortunes, continued alongside the YACR until, 40 years ago, on 31 January 1970, it was formally dissolved to become a Branch of the Association.

Relationships with the YACR over the years had varied from amicable to almost openly hostile. Certainly, a major factor in the formation of the Society was friction within the Association, a clear reflection of which is seen in a minute of Sept. 1890: that the YACR "be left to manage its own business" and added "if it ever could!" In the 1960s, the formation of the Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringing Societies was perceived by some as an insidious takeover bid by the Association. A merger was indeed mooted in 1968, and despite initially vehement opposition from a small minority a motion to fuse with the Association was carried unanimously within two years.

The initiative for a new Society came from Leeds Parish Church, and the first President was Tom Lockwood of the Leeds band. Six towers were represented at the inaugural meeting, and of these Far Headingley, Pudsey and Rothwell maintained continuous affiliation to the end. Membership and attendance fluctuated considerably in the first two years, and this was to prove a pattern for the whole of the Society's history. 1938 and 1957 were peak years, each with around 250 members, but periods in the 1920s, 1940s and 1960s were bleak: in 1924-25 the only officer was the Secretary! The Society was affiliated to the Central Council in 1894 and was regularly represented until 1921.

By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number of towers the Society covered had grown considerably, and "invitation meetings" were held as far afield as Hull. Ringing on meeting days was normally "by companies", long touches being the norm - 720s were common, with the occasional date touch! The custom of attempting a peal at the meeting tower before general ringing, although often contentious, was not dropped until 1927. Meetings continued in a local pub, with both change and tune ringing on handbells and "vocal contributions". From the beginning, regular proposals to introduce a striking competition were turned down, until, following a complete volte-face between 1966 and 1967 a competition was launched in 1968. It was so successful that it continued as an annual event into the life of the new Branch.

Well over 600 peals, including 115 in hand, were rung for the Society, but none after 1959 until those during the fusion with the YACR. The Rothwell band, with some 100 peals was the leading tower, while Billy Barton's handbell band from Pudsey rang 40. A Golden Jubilee peal in 1939 was conducted by Billy, who also called the peal in March 1970, appropriately at St. Chad's Far Headingley, to mark the dissolution of the Society.

Despite its mixed fortunes, the Society played an important role in the development of ringing in the area and was well served by a number of notable and colourful Characters – Tom Lockwood, Percy Johnson, Billy Barton and Tom Strangeway, to

and his other passions included gardening, growing hundreds of plants from seed and bedding out all the church flowerbeds; and was a keen member of Thornhill Cricket and Bowls Club. He wrote and published a history of this club and also wrote and had published the story of the 1893 Thornhill pit disaster as seen through a collier's eyes.

On retirement Herbert and Edna managed to get away to Spain for the winter months for health reasons but he was always keen to get back for Easter.

He taught many people to ring, including his wife and several in-laws. Whenever the ringing was getting a bit bumpy, I can still hear him calling, albeit quietly, "Cum on, wi can do betna this"

*Lawrence Sheard*

## **TECHNICAL MATTERS**

### **Lightning Strikes and Tower Simulators – Fried Chips?**

In many places the installation of a simulator as a teaching aid for bell ringing is one of the options increasingly considered. Briefly, for those who do not know, this system consists of sensor in the bell chamber, a communications box and a computer, all linked by wires and connected to the mains. There are several issues which need consideration before installation, some very technical and this article can only be a summary. In planning such a system consideration of these, as well as safety issues, e.g. trailing wires and items fixed securely in place, need to be taken into account.

In general low voltage wiring should not share the same electrical conduits as mains and other cables. Section 515 of the 17<sup>th</sup> Edn IEE Regs is relevant. Therefore wiring runs need to be carefully considered.

If a simulator is being installed in a tower with a metal bell frame, then the issue of whether the bell frame is connected to the church's lightning conductor should also be considered. If the bell frame is so connected, then this has implications in the event of a lightning strike. In simple terms, the bell frame may build up a charge in the region of 1 megavolt. This could be sufficient to discharge down any electrical sensors fitted to the bell frame and bring the charge down into the church's wiring. Such an electrical force would probably burn out the computer and other parts and could have a detrimental effect on the church's wiring.

In churches where a metal bell frame is not connected to the lightning conductor the risks of the discharge coming into the building are less, but lightning may still enter the tower through other sources such as rainwater pipes, in which case the scenario already set out would apply. In churches with a wooden bell frame there is nothing to provide a discharge path and the risks are lower. There could, therefore, in this case be some protection for the system.

In short, when a simulator is being planned, thought should be given to external factors such as the effect that a lightning strike might have.

*John Arthur*

## **Future Courses:**

### **'How To Teach Bell Handling'**

At Bingley Church on Saturday 26 June, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Come along and learn how to teach good handling using the steps given in The Tutors Handbook. There will be some theory and then practical teaching with 'volunteer beginners'. Tutor: Gail Cater. *The Course is restricted to four students.*

The cost of the Course is £5 to cover admin. expenses, coffee etc. Lunch is available at many places near the church, or bring your own.

Closing date for application is 13 June.

Gail will be pleased to give more information. Please contact her as below.

### **Bob Calling and Conducting**

At Tadcaster church on Saturday 13 November, 10.00am to 4.00pm

For both beginners at Bob Calling and more experienced Conductors. There will be some theory and then practical calling/conducting at nearby churches. Tutors: Barrie Dove & Brian Sanders.

The cost of the Course for students is £10 to cover admin. expenses, coffee etc and provided light lunch in the newly refurbished church hall.

*(Helpers to stand in at the practical sessions will be most welcome and may have coffees and light lunch at the church hall for £5).*

Closing date for application - both for students and helpers requiring coffees/lunch - is 31 October.

Barrie will be pleased to give more information. Please contact him on 01423 863005 or [barrie.dove1@ntlworld.com](mailto:barrie.dove1@ntlworld.com)

### **Application procedure**

For both Courses please book a place with Gail Cater, 5 Jubilee Croft, Long Preston, Skipton, BD23 4QZ, tel:01729 840806 and [Gail@thecaters.org.uk](mailto:Gail@thecaters.org.uk) (*Helpers for Tadcaster requiring lunch should also let Gail know please*). Please pay 'on the day'.

## The Association's Wombel

The Association's Wombel is now available for borrowing. Here are the terms under which it may be borrowed. (The attachments mentioned in 8 and 9 are not shown).

### Management of the Wombel Simulator

1. The Wombel is stored and managed on behalf of the YACR Education Committee by Brian Sanders, to whom all enquiries about its borrowing should be made. Brian is contactable at 12 Carlton Road, Smithies, Barnsley, S71 1UA, Tel: 01226 230405 & 07985 590303, Email: [briansanders@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:briansanders@blueyonder.co.uk) The equipment is stored at Cawthorne.
2. At least four weeks' notice of a desired borrowing should be made to Brian, wherever possible.
3. There is no charge for borrowing the Wombel, but borrowers are requested to make a significant donation to the YACR Education Committee please. (*Brian has details of how to make a payment*).
4. All persons using the equipment must be monitored at all times by a 'Resident' member of the Association who has paid his/her subscription for the year. The Association's public liability insurance then comes into play. (*Questions about this insurance should be directed to the Association's General Secretary*).
5. Borrowers must note that the equipment itself is not insured. Borrowers are responsible for rectifying any damage or theft whilst the equipment is under their control, including should they or a person privately arranged by them be transporting it. Borrowers should consider obtaining insurance against this contingency. (*The General Secretary will be able to provide the equipment's current value*).
6. Where Brian Sanders (or any other person not the borrower and not privately arranged by the borrower) transports the equipment for the borrower, a charge of 40p per mile travelled will be incurred in both delivering and collecting the equipment. Where the transporter is Brian Sanders or is not privately arranged by the borrower, the borrower must make his/her payment direct to Brian. He will issue appropriate receipts.
7. Borrowers must ensure persons transporting the equipment have public liability insurance during transportation. (*This may be included in one's house contents and/or car insurance*).
8. Borrowers must ensure that the equipment is erected and dismantled strictly in accordance with the instructions attached to this document.
9. Borrowers must also ensure the attached Risk Assessment is fully taken into account during the whole period it is borrowed.

Keith learned to ring as a teenager at Hoylandswaine and remained a stalwart member of the band until his death. He had been in charge of Hoylandswaine tower and bells for many years and was in the process of erecting a door to the bell chamber to cut out the cold wind which swirls up the steps in winter. As a teenager Keith taught a band of young people at Hoylandswaine including Philip Charlesworth; the whole band were able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Minor entirely by numbers. Philip recalls learning the numbers on the school bus.

Keith was an excellent striker. For many years he had been a member of our contest band as our treble ringer, and we often won, despite his grumbles that we always rang too slowly. He loved the traditional methods of the area, only ever ringing Cartwheel and used his artistic skills to produce suitably illustrated blue lines which adorn both Hoylandswaine and Silkstone towers.

Keith was always happy to ring for weddings and other occasions and over the years has joined us on holidays and ringing trips. He rang many quarters, usually on the treble and rang one peal in 1976 to celebrate his marriage to Rosemary. This was Plain Bob Minor and was the first peal called by Philip and also my first peal. It was rung for the Barnsley and District Society and not as is more usual for the Yorkshire Association.

At his funeral on 18 February the bells were rung half muffled to Oxford TB and to Queens, Keith's favourite change, the local band being joined by ringers from across the district who had known Keith as a fellow ringer. We will miss Keith in many ways, his practical skills, his company, the vegetables that he would bring from his garden and not least for his dreadful jokes, quiz questions and conundrums usually voiced as we were about to start ringing.

The local band rang two half muffled quarters in his memory, Snowdrop TB, the last method he rang before his death and Merchant's Return, another of Keith's favourites.

Hoylandswaine - 12 February, 1320 Snowdrop & Oxford TB, 1 Jean Doman 2 Carolyn Charlesworth 3 Denise Horbury 4 John Barden 5 Trevor Ledger 6 Philip Charlesworth (C) 6. 19 February, 1320 Merchants Return & Oxford TB, 1 Jean Doman 2 Carolyn Charlesworth 3 Denise Horbury 4 Simon Moor 5 Mike Sheeran 6 Philip Charlesworth (C) 6.

Rung half muffled and cartwheel in affectionate memory of Keith Muxworthy.

*Carolyn Charlesworth*

### Herbert Wood

September saw the death of Herbert Wood of Thornhill. A Life Member of the Yorkshire Association, Herbert had been a ringer at St. Michael's for 66 years, having learnt to ring in 1943. Never a great peal ringer, he was a faithful Sunday service ringer and a stalwart of "cartwheel" minor, ringing right up to his 83rd year and the death of his wife in July of last year.

Apart from a few years doing a window-cleaning round, Herbert worked as a miner for most of his life, eventually becoming a pit deputy. However he did prefer the open air

### **Christopher James (Jim) Hall**

Jim moved to Clapham from Clitheroe with his wife Kathy in May 2005 and lost no time getting involved in village life, particularly the church. He updated St. James' Church history and became the treasurer when the project to augment the number of bells in the tower, together with other improvements, began. He was also a member of our band of learners, all beginners, and became a valued friend. Sadly he became ill in the autumn of 2008 and died of leukemia at the age of 62 in June 2009. We all miss his cheerful presence and his ever ready helping hand.

*Brenda Pearce*

### **Betty Murtagh**

Betty learnt to ring at Wakefield in the early 70's. She was born with very poor eyesight and was registered blind, and as such she was one of my father's more challenging students. I don't think he or Betty herself held out much hope of progressing very far. I think her comment was 'if I just ring rounds and call changes for Service, I will be happy'.

She wasn't content with rounds for long. Betty made very good progress, and when she moved to London to train as a telephonist, she found her way into the St. Mary Abbots band at Kensington, where her timing and listening skills came to the fore. She became life long friends with Steph. Pattenden, Robert Lewis (*Editor of The Ringing World - Ed*) and Jim Belshaw, and it was good that Jim was able to come to her funeral in January.

She moved back to Yorkshire and started ringing quarter peals and then peals with Pat and Ian North. In total she rang 224 peals, including 140 for this Association. She served on the committee of the Central branch and was the founding editor of our Branch newsletter at the time.

Betty had health problems most of her life. Arthritis progressively prevented her ringing peals, quarters and eventually ringing at all became very difficult. But she would try and come to ring at the Cathedral on Sunday mornings, when she would ring a short touch of Stedman – Triples or Caters for preference – she thought there were too many ropes on 12! She would ring the treble, and I would get a telling-off if she didn't get to ring the whole of the slow work!

In recent years she found getting around increasingly difficult, and had become all but house-bound by the end of last year. She died at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield on 13 January. Her perseverance and fortitude will be missed by all who knew her.

*Adrian Moreton*

### **Keith Muxworthy, 1942-2010**

Keith Muxworthy, who tragically died of a heart attack on 5 February, was a well known ringer in the Barnsley area. He was a constant in the often changing ringers who make up the joint Hoylandswaine and Silkstone band.

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

## **Jasper W Snowdon Memorial Lunch**

A celebration of the life of the Association's first President

on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

An Outline of the day's events

### **General Ringing**

Addingham 6 bells – 09:30 – 10:30 SE 085497  
Guiseley 8 bells – 09:30 – 10:30 SE 194422  
Saltaire 6 bells – 09:30 – 10:30 SE 139381  
Silsden 6 bells – 09:30 – 10:30 SE 042465

Tea, coffee and light refreshments available at Ilkley Church House from 10:30

Open ringing at Ilkley 8 bells – 10:30 – 11:30 SE 116478

Wreath laying at Jasper Snowdon's grave in the churchyard - 11:30

Service Touch by Leeds Parish Church Ringers 11:35 – 11:45

**Commemorative Service at Ilkley – 11:45 – 12:30**

**Followed by lunch at the**

**CRAIGLANDS Hotel – Ilkley - 13:30**

Meeting for pre-lunch drinks - 12:45

### **Speeches**

Ron Johnston to propose the toast to Jasper W Snowdon

Response on handbells

President to give a résumé of the activities of the Association during the year

Ron Warford – to reply for the visitors

**Price £23:00 adult - £13.00 under 12**

**Dress Code Smart Casual**

Bookings taken by Sue Green - maximum 10 per table - email:

[suegreen43@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suegreen43@yahoo.co.uk)

Telephone: 01943 864081

Also via Branch Secretaries

## 12-BELL STRIKING COMPETITIONS

### **The Eliminators for the National 12-Bell Striking Competition**

The year the three Eliminator competitions were all held in London on 27 March, at St. Magnus the Martyr, St. Martin's in the Fields and St. Leonard, Shoreditch. In all, 21 teams participated. Of the three bands who entered from Yorkshire, both Leeds and Stockton on Tees rang at St. Magnus and York rang at St. Martins. The test piece was Cambridge Maximus.

The first three teams in each Eliminator go through to the Final, which will be held at Crediton, Devon on Saturday 26 June. Sadly, Stockton came fourth in its Eliminator, but Leeds and York were in the first three teams in theirs. They will join the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, Birmingham, Cambridge, Exeter. St. Martins in the Fields and Melbourne (Derbyshire) in the Final.

### ***The Leeds Experience***

Another year - another National 12-bell eliminator to practise for! This year we were drawn to ring at St Magnus the Martyr - the brand new Whitechapel 12 in London. We had some idea what to expect, as we rang on the bells during our trip to St Paul's, London last year. We knew they were very easy to ring and easy to hear. All mistakes are clearly audible so the standard of ringing was destined to be VERY high! Oh good. Just to add to the pressure, we were in a group that contained four of last year's nine finalists. At least one team was not going to the final this year!

We started practising in January at Leeds and had our first peal attempt at Selby at the end of January. This particular attempt however just never settled. We could not decide on a speed or a rhythm and despite me getting quite narky with the band it did not improve. For the first time in my career I stood the peal up on "quality" grounds.

We were not too phased by this setback and continued to practise around Yorkshire until late February when we were booked to practise at St Magnus. Our day trip took us first to Leighton Buzzard and Luton which were grabs for a lot of the band. The pre-grab punditry had told us LB were classy and Luton were dreadful. These two towers proved you should not believe everything you hear. It also backed the theory that if you are a good enough band, tricky bells can sound fantastic. So onto St Magnus in London village. We had a reasonable practice and a good meal in the local Wetherspoons before our long trip home.

We continued to practise throughout March mopping up some more Northern 12 bell towers and I didn't let the birth of my daughter, Martha, on 8th March get in the way! *(Clearly he has a VERY understanding wife! Ed)*. We rang a successful peal of Cambridge Maximus at Ossett the weekend before the eliminator.

So, 26 of us set off to London for the big day out. The draw came and I figured we were due a bad one as we were lucky both times last year. And so it was - we were drawn 6th. Not terrible, but it still meant we had 2½ hours to kill. The band split up but

had to put up with some resistance from some very traditional members of the band at the time. It was typical of Joan that she would recount some of these with a smile on her face and not an ounce of rancour. It's fair to say that she worked hard to ensure that girls and women were always welcome in the ringing-chamber, and there were many who learned the pleasures of ringing over the years.

Joan was well-known in the village. As a teacher at Calverley Church School and attender at the Parish Church she was able to influence young people into ringing and this played no small part in maintaining continuity of ringing at Calverley and further afield. She and Peter were avid supporters of the Snowdon Scholars, a society dedicated to developing ringing skills in young people and broadened the horizons of many youngsters by introducing them to the wider fellowship of ringers across the then West Riding. In those long gone days of limited car ownership, Joan, as one of the few car drivers, would frequently commandeer her father's Standard Vanguard and cram ringers into it to transport them to foreign territories. She and Peter organised annual Ringers' Outings and would fill coaches with people not only from Calverley, but from a surprisingly wide local area. On one memorable occasion the coach returned with one fewer passenger than on its departure!

Joan's own ringing expertise developed and she became a well-known and competent ringer. She was justifiably proud of taking part in a peal of Grandsire Caters at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, as part of the celebration of her Silver Wedding Anniversary. But undeniably, her major achievement was her unflinching support for good quality Sunday Service ringing at her home tower of Calverley for many years incorporating both Morning and Evening Services and enabling ringing here throughout her ringing life of some fifty-four years. There's a lot of humility that today's ringers can learn from this outstanding example of why ringing exists.

Sadly, Joan's retirement from ringing in the autumn of 2009 was not to last and she fell seriously ill. The Association knew that things were bad when she missed the Snowdon Dinner in Bradford, but nonetheless it was a shock when the sad news of her passing reached those of us who had come to know her so well. On behalf of the Yorkshire Association, her lasting memorial is not only her commitment to Calverley ringing, but particularly her often unsung efforts in supporting Peter in the various offices he has held. He is quite clear that without her love and support he would not have been able to fulfil those duties, and the Association would have been so much poorer without her.

The ringing for her funeral today is one of our tributes to her. Before the service the bells here at St. Wilfrid's were rung by a band with particularly close ties to Joan from all stages in her Calverley ringing, and immediately afterwards a quarter-peal is to be undertaken, again by ringers with significant connections, and the Association's President will conduct. The method has been chosen with Joan in mind, and the bells have not been muffled, as the intention is to celebrate her life and ringing with a loud proclamation of our love.

1250 Yorkshire S Major: 1 Edna Sullivan, 2 Ruth H Smith, 3 Robert A Appleby, 4 Roger Waddington, 5 Nick E Thomas, 6 Andrew Gregson, 7 Barry Sullivan, 8 C Barrie Dove (C).

*Robert Appleby*

good to ring and, as with many old bells, we were impressed by their mellow tone. We also enjoyed the interesting sculpture made from an old headstock, clapper and a wooden silhouette of the bell.

And then it was off to Shildon where there is a fine "village hall" complex, crafted from the west end of the church. A pleasant 16cwt 8 followed by delicious cakes, biscuits and tea before setting off for Staindrop's 15cwt ring of 8. This fine ring of bells seemed to be a little neglected with no local band but, having made some adjustments to the ropes we had a good ring, spoiled just a little by the "shouting" of the seventh. This may have been as simple as a belfry door left open of course.

The ringing over, we gathered in the Enzor's lovely new house for an excellent evening meal and chat. It is often said that "a good time was had by all". And often that's a good story, spoiled only by the truth! The comments that all the ringers have made since we got back seem to show that, indeed, an excellent time was had by everyone. We rang some lovely bells (though it has to be said, whether truthfully or not, none so lovely as ours!) and enjoyed good company. When can we go again?

*Chris Wright*

## **OBITUARIES**

### **Denis Burling**

Denis joined the Association in 1938. His entire ringing career was spent at one tower, Rawmarsh, until he re-married after the death of his first wife and moved to Kent in 2001.

After military service in World War II, he returned to ringing at Rawmarsh, ringing his first peal in 1949, the treble to Bob Major, in-memoriam of the local band secretary. In 1950, there was another in-memoriam peal, for the local vicar. Denis rang eleven peals for the Association in all, mainly Plain Bob Minor or Major and usually on the treble.

Denis was a stalwart of the Rawmarsh band through good times and bad, spending much time teaching new ringers. For many years, the number six bell had a 'stay' which was made from a sawn off length of a railway shunter's coupling pole. This reflected Denis' employment as a foreman in the local steelworks railway sidings. Occasionally, the pole being a fraction short, it would miss the slider as the bell was being set and a surprised ringer would watch the bell go over the balance, whipping the rope from their grasp.

*Neil Donovan*

### **Joan Dawson (Tribute read out at her funeral)**

The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers is well-represented here this afternoon which reflects the sadness and sense of loss at the death of Joan, who was so well-known and loved.

Joan was introduced to ringing at Calverley by Peter Dawson very shortly after they'd first met and although Joan was not the first girl to learn to ring here, she nonetheless

met for a couple of soothing pints in the Walrus and Carpenter before we rang. It was a bit sickening to listen to all the other bands telling us how well they had rung and those of us who had heard some of the ringing were adding to the anxiety. There had been NO bad ringing all day. Gulp!!

Waiting in the tower, we were forced to listen to the College Youths ringing their test piece. We tried to pick holes in the piece but, in truth, there wasn't much wrong with it. Finally we were on. As usual, my pre-ringing plan for practise went out of the window and we kept stopping and starting. Eventually time ticked on and we just had to get on with the test piece. I think the multiple starts helped us a bit as we started very well. The first three leads went very smoothly and we relaxed into a good rhythm. I even made a point of telling the band how well we were doing after the first lead. Unfortunately there was a slight method mistake in the fourth lead which was very quickly corrected but we did not regain our composure until the 6th lead. We had a good finish. We were all mightily glad to get down the tower and sink some real ale.

We gathered in the church and waited and waited for the results. It's amazing how the next three months of your life seem to hang on the findings of the judges. You start thinking about what you will do with all your spare time if you don't qualify but then start thinking about where you might stay if you do. Your mind is just whizzing! Eventually the results are read out. The usual format of 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. We didn't come in any of those positions. That's a relief for starters. They then announce 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> - the College Youths and Melbourne. How cruel!!! That left us and Stockton on Tees, as only the first three teams get through to the Final. We wait what seems like an eternity till finally they say "3<sup>rd</sup> place team 6". Whoop! Whoop! - it's us again - by the skin of our teeth.

Our commiserations go to Stockton who certainly rang well. I would have preferred it to be a non-Yorkshire team, but there you go. So the next three months involve lots more practising and the Final in Crediton, Devon in June. I wouldn't want it any other way! Leeds - onwards and upwards!

*Steve Ollerton  
Ringing Master - Leeds Parish Church*

*I wonder if the beer before ringing the test piece helped or hindered. Ed.*

### ***The Stockton on Tees Experience***

Our team is drawn from people who attend the monthly practices at Stockton on Tees and we arrange additional practices to give the squad opportunity to ring the chosen method, which was Cambridge Maximus this year. There are disadvantages in not being based on a local band, as we don't ring together very often and our members come from a wide area: Penrith in the north-west, Tyneside in the north-east and near Selby in the south.

A practice schedule was drawn up and we are grateful to the towers who accommodated us: Ripon, Halifax and Bradford come to mind but there may have been more! We were pleased to find that we were able to ring quite well on unfamiliar bells. Then we had a trip to London to practise at our eliminator tower, preceded by a

visit to St Sepulchre, Holburn. I was amazed by the size of the door by which we gained access to the tower at St Magnus – it resembles something from Alice in Wonderland where you need to drink or eat something to make you smaller before you can get through it.

On the day of the contest there was hot competition between the seven teams drawn at St Magnus and rather less fierce competition between the members of the Town family (Northallerton) who were all drawn to ring there: David and Jennifer for Stockton, with elder daughter, Katie, ringing for the “favourites”, the Ancient Society of College Youths and Rachel ringing for Leeds. Another major feature of these competitions is the opportunity to see people from all over the country – entries range from the northern teams to Southampton and Exeter in the south and west, with all places in between. Needless to say, most of this socialising takes place in a pub and we did indeed manage to drink our designated pub dry.

The judges remarked that all teams had rung well, and placed our team a close 4<sup>th</sup>, with the daughters (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively) well and truly trouncing their parents. So, congratulations to Leeds and York who go through to the final with our support and, like the Terminator – we'll be back!

*Jennie Town*

### ***The York Experience***

The team representing York Minster at the 12-bell eliminator competition at St Martin-in-the-Fields was delighted with the result. Not only did we qualify for the final at Crediton, Devon at the end of June by being placed second (after the home team) but we beat Birmingham into third place. In spite of being drawn to ring last, we kept our nerve and pulled off a very pleasing performance. For two of our team – Lilah Longden and David Leese - it was their first 12-bell competition.

It's quite a nightmare organising transport (and sometimes accommodation) for these competitions, but on the day, East Coast Mainline did us proud, getting us and our supporters safely to London and back in good time, although the Underground was extremely busy and at times quite overwhelming due to various lines being out of action on the day.

No teams are being allowed to practise at Crediton prior to the final, which in some ways is a relief from an organisational point of view, so we will content ourselves by practising on our own bells and bells of a similar weight a bit closer to home.

*Christine Potter*

### **The White Rose Shield Striking Competition**

The WRS Competition, which was a great success when held for the first time at Ripon Cathedral last year, will take place at Bradford Cathedral this year on Saturday 4 September. All bands in the County practising ringing on 12 bells are cordially invited to enter what it is hoped will be another super day out.

### **Penistone**

David Micklethwaite was 80 yrs old on 14th April 2010. The ringers and visiting ringers at Penistone wanted to give him a day to remember and what could be better than the biggest practice he had ever had! We decided to hold the event on Thursday 15th April as David was spending the day of his birthday celebrating with his family. Thursday is practice night at Penistone and we asked him if he could come to the church at 4:00 pm. We didn't tell him any more than that.

We organised the day so that people could attend whenever they wished and stay as long as they were able to. We started ringing at about 3:30 pm so that David could hear the bells ringing when he arrived. The ringing room was decorated with balloons and banners.

Tea was held in the church about 5:00 pm and after heartily singing 'Happy Birthday' about 50 people sat down to tea. The church was decorated with banners, balloons and confetti in the shape of '80'. Although we tried our best to pick all this up afterwards it has now turned up in a couple of towers elsewhere.

We continued ringing after tea up until 9:00 pm. The event was enjoyed by all those who attended and I am sure David thoroughly enjoyed himself.

We have told David we will repeat the event when he gets to 90!

*Jean Doman*

### **Skipton**

Bellringers like to go on outings to visit other towers. Sometimes that's just to see how much nicer it is at home!

When we bid a sad farewell to that very significant family of the Enzors, we were determined not to lose touch, so when they said, "Come for an outing to our neck of the woods", we leaped at the chance. Anthea arranged an excellent tour for us in November, starting at Brompton, near Northallerton.

Here we had a rare opportunity – to "grab" a new tower - but not necessarily to ring new bells. This very lightweight ring of eight bells were previously hung at Denholme where several of us had rung them before. When that church was made redundant, the bells were moved. Used, as we are, to a significantly heavy ring of bells at Skipton, this 4cwt set meant that we did not, perhaps, give of our best but the little bells, combined with some good sound control shutters meant that the peace of the village was not shattered.

From there, it was on to Darlington St Cuthbert where the 18cwt ring was much closer to our comfort zone and we had some good ringing there, including a course of Pudsey. We had a fine sandwich lunch at the George and Dragon at Heighington (much to be recommended if you are in that area) before ringing the six bells of St Michael's (15cwt). A ground floor ring with a long draught, they were nevertheless

town manned by the local company, all of whom are Associate Members, ably assisted by local ringers including those from Shelley and Emley. Pancakes and wine followed.

The celebrations continued for some days. The band at Longwood held their practice there on the previous Thursday and the monthly Monday practice usually held at Marsden was transferred there.

On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Valentine's Day, after the main Service, a peal of Kent TB Royal was rung, replicating the peal 100 years previously, when 5000 Kent TB Royal was rung in 3 hours 37 minutes.

Sunday, 14 February 2010 in 3 hrs. 15 mins. 5120 Kent T B Royal  
1 Roger G Green 2 Gail L Randall 3 Janine H Jones 4 Ruth M Marshall  
5 Lorraine Trebble 6 James W Holdsworth (C) 7 Neil J Murray 8 Peter C Randall 9 C Barrie Dove 10 Alan M Trebble.

Rung as part of the church's celebrations, marking the centenary of the recasting of the bells, and the first peal (of Kent Royal) rung upon them.

Great performances have been rung on the original bells in the past, including the first ever peal of Surprise Major (which was Superlative), rung on them on 5 November 1821. (*CCCB records*)

### **The Steel Bells at St. Mary's, Ingleton**

The bells are inscribed 'Naylor Vickers, Sheffield' and dated 1862, with the mouth of the tenor being 47¼ inches. They are large for the size of the tower. As a result, only the heavier five bells are accommodated at the same level, with the treble mounted above. The wooden frame holding the bells is relatively flimsy and at least the upper tier has been strengthened in the past by bracing it against the tower walls.

The bells are hung for conventional full-circle change ringing, although they are quite unringable today. The bells have been prevented from moving by straps being placed around a wheel and by securing by other timbers attached to the frame. There are chiming hammers fitted to the clappers which 'clock' the bells by pulling the clappers against their insides. The hammers are still operational and are used occasionally: the bells sound quite melodic and in tune.

Being made of steel, the bells have rusted. They are all covered with a sheen of rust, but this might not penetrate too deeply. Pitting through rusting however, extending into the metal a couple of millimetres, is present throughout. The bells are shown as 'Listed' on the Diocesan website of bells as 'Worthy of Preservation' being 'A fine example of steel bells'.

*Robert Cater  
Bradford DAC Bells Adviser  
March 2010*

Detailed plans are under way, but at the moment it looks like the draw will be at 11 o'clock, with coffee and snacks available from 10 o'clock. It's planned to have real ale available again!

Steve Ollerton ([steveollerton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steveollerton@yahoo.co.uk)) is taking bookings. The entry fee to cover expenses will be £1 per ringer. There are no strict rules, but obviously Steve hopes the teams will be representative of the tower they are ringing for and also be Yorkshire resident, or regularly ring in Yorkshire. He says 'we aim to be inclusive rather than exclusive'.

The test piece will be two bobbed Courses of Grandsire Cinques with a single half way and end. More advertising will be coming out from Steve soon and from Alan Trebble, who is looking after the arrangements at Bradford.

*Bob Cater*

## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **Central Branch**

#### ***Annual Course***

The third Saturday in February is the long standing date for the annual Central Branch Course. This one was a bit special, as it was the last to be organised by Brian Sanders. Brian has retired as Branch ringing master, so next year the baton passes to Mark Sheridan.

Organising an event like this is a major exercise. Co-ordinating students, helpers, tutors and coffee making facilities at a number of different venues doesn't happen by accident, though ensuring the tutor's pack is delivered to the right church can involve a last minute dash from one church to another. Brian based this year's event on home territory around Barnsley, with four groups ringing at Darton, Monk Bretton, Cawthorne and St Mary's, so at least he knew the short-cuts!

The groups ranged from Rounds and Call Changes through to Oxford Treble Bob. I looked after a group learning Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, with some Grandsire Doubles thrown in for good measure. The other tutors were Mark, Brian, and Neil Donovan who with Dinah Rhymer regularly makes the trip over from Beverley to help run a group. Instead of gathering together at the start of the day, we have a short theory session at each of the towers before the first ringing.

With coffee in hand, my group embarked on a study of Plain Bob, whilst my wife Gill discussed the intricacies of Grandsire to the student who needed that. All too soon it was time for some practical ringing. We were at Monk Bretton – not the largest ringing chamber in the district, and there was some concern for those sitting under the clock weights! These bells are about to be overhauled, and one or two students found them quite difficult. Ringing on unfamiliar bells is often a challenge in itself, without trying to learn new methods.

Finding somewhere for lunch for over 50 people could also present quite a problem, but The Chestnut Tree at Barugh Green rose to the occasion. The only problem was sorting out all the 2-for-1 offers when it came to pay the bill! It's good to get all the groups together, and students can swap their experiences of the morning with their friends in other groups.

After lunch it was time for the second practical, and an opportunity to re-enforce the practice of the morning and to stretch the more advanced students a little further. Then a Ringer's Tea (in case we didn't eat enough at lunchtime!), a short meeting to elect two new members, then general ringing at St Mary's. One or two continued their practical work, including a very well rung course of Kent TB Minor. The touch of Stedman Triples was less successful – I think the conductor was half-asleep by then. It had been a long day.

Our thanks go to the incumbents and local ringers at the towers visited, the helpers who make these events work, and to Brian for organising another (and his final) excellent course. It's over to you Mark...

*Adrian Moreton*

### **Barn Dance**

The Central Branch held their annual Barn Dance on April 17th at Cawthorne Village Hall, the event this year being attended by more than 40 people from across the Branch. Young and old came together for a very enjoyable social evening, which followed the Branch striking contest held earlier in the day at Emley.

Once again the evening followed the same successful format as in the previous three years; the only change this year was in the band, which this year was "The Well-Dressed Band" from Derbyshire. We were entertained throughout the evening with an exciting series of dance music during which the MC encouraged both the experts and the novices to navigate their way through each dance.

A pie and pea supper was yet again provided by Brian and Margaret Heppenstall which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and as in previous years the real ale from the Ossett Brewery was sold out before the evening came to an end. If you missed it this year, make sure that you are there next year for a super evening of family entertainment.

*John Courtney*

### **Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch**

Despite the harsh winter and abundance of snow we have been able to hold all our scheduled meetings and attendance has held up well. The Wednesday meetings (the last Wednesday of odd months) include two towers with a leisurely lunch in between. Attendance at these meetings average circa 20 and usually includes our President Barrie now he has joined the ranks of the retired.

Through the kindness of the congregation and Churchwardens the ringers were entertained to an outing on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1903, Manchester being the place visited. Rylands' Library was first visited, then dinner partaken of in a vegetarian restaurant, after that a peep into the new Midland Hotel. The electric car (*tram*) landed the party at the entrance to the British Westinghouse Electrical and Engineering works, where they were met by the Vicar's son, A B Brocklehurst who showed them over the wonderful enterprise which pays nearly £40,000 weekly to its workmen.

After viewing the Ship Canal, an enjoyable day concluded with a visit to an evening entertainment at the Manchester Free Trade Hall. Ringers present: Messrs. T N Brassington, John Graham, M Bradley, N Moorby, N Hudson, Henry Cox, T Young, J L Bulcock, R Rothwell and the Vicar, Rev. T P Brocklehurst.

*(Treating the ringers to an outing - now there's a novel idea!!)*

*Vera Walker*

*[Sounds to me as if the ringers have been well and truly roped-in and given an 'improving' outing. However, as was recorded in the Autumn 2008 Newsletter, they managed to maroon the Vicar on an island in Ullswater on their September 1904 outing and bemoaned the price of the beer. - Ed].*

### **Handsworth**

The Handsworth ringers recently applied to the 'South East Community Assembly You Choose Fund' - a Sheffield City Council grant application scheme for clubs and societies - for £500 to go towards paying for a new set of eight bell ropes.

On Monday 23rd November at the Handsworth Parish Centre, each group which applied for a grant presented to the public a three minute presentation followed by a question and answers session. The public then voted on awarding the grant. Handsworth ringers were successful in being awarded the £500 for their bell ropes. Congratulations!

### **Huddersfield - Centenary of the Bells**

Following their recasting, the bells and the new clock were dedicated at Huddersfield Parish Church on Shrove Tuesday in 1910. A hundred years later the bells were rededicated by the Vicar, Canon Catherine Ogle, again on Shrove Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Canon Ogle told 'The Huddersfield Examiner' that "Since the Middle Ages church bells have rung out to mark births, marriages and national victories and celebrations. They marked the working day .... and before newspapers and telephones, rang out with news of approaching danger or on the death of parishioners. Bells claim our attention and remind us of a life and world beyond our own".

The main celebrations had taken place during Service the previous Sunday, but on Shrove Tuesday Canon Ogle conducted a short Service after which she blessed the ropes in the ringing chamber. All 10 bells with their 23 cwt tenor then rang out over the

Persuading the powers that be to let approximately 100 (possibly hung-over) students ring a 59 cwt 12 for Evensong is not easy. After several discussions, pleas and the sacrificing of Helen Green's body (!!!! Ed) we came to an acceptable arrangement. The ringing was supported by the Minster Society and ringers had the opportunity to see the bells as well as Great Peter, the carillon and the Queen Mother Clock chime.

*Kevin Atkinson*

## **TOWERS' NEWS**

### **Barnoldswick**

The new ring of six was dedicated by the Bishop of Bradford on Saturday morning, 30 January, in the presence of the Mayor & Mayoress of Pendle and the Chairman of Barnoldswick Town Council. It was an occasion witnessed by many ringers from local towers and further afield, giving us an opportunity to thank all those who had helped with the project, the teaching of the ringing band and those whose generous financial support allowed us to complete the project.

It was such a great relief and a joy to answer the Vicar's call "Let the bells be rung" by ringing the first rounds. Afterwards all those more experienced ringers had their chance and all agreed on how easy going and great sounding the new "Sweet bells of Ghyll" are.

*Chris Whale  
Tower Captain*

Ghyll Church is a small and very historic building, with original box pews, a small altar at the customary east end of the nave, but with a three-decker pulpit dominating the north wall. Many of pews face it and not the altar. It was good to see it used to the full, with the Bishop towering above everyone in the topmost deck, the Vicar, Revd. John Lancaster in the middle and Chris Whale, Tower Captain, occupying the bottom deck.

One of the new bells is inscribed "Yorkshire and Lancashire Associations of Change Ringers" in thanks for the generous grants awarded by the two Associations, the wording reflecting the traditional and post-1974 location of the town.

### **Giggleswick - Another Outing**

In January 1903 the existing company of paid change ringers attached to the Belfry of St. Alkela's Church, Giggleswick was dissolved and a new set of rules were laid down by the Vicar and Churchwardens for the conduct of the Belfry.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1903 the Churchwardens were present in the Belfry to receive the names of men who wished to join the band of non-paid ringers.

*(Possibly as a result of this changed status, the report of the next Ringers' outing reads as follows:)*

During the even months we have a "join a practice" meeting where we go to a tower on their practice night. Attendance at these "join a practice" seems to be more variable ranging from 6 to 20, but we will continue them this year.

A new innovation for the Branch which seems to be popular is a Thursday practice aimed specifically at younger ringers as it is scheduled for half term week. We recently (February) held one at Stokesley and Hutton Rudby which was well attended. We were careful to choose a lunch venue which would accommodate youngsters. It impresses me the speed with which young people who are keen can progress in ringing. We have one young person (14 years) who seems to have gone from nowhere to ringing Surprise Major inside in a matter of weeks. I am envious of the speed with which he learns!

In addition to their Branch involvement we have individuals who are active within the Association itself and they will be carrying on this work over the coming year.

*Gerry Parsons  
Branch Chairman*

*The C&NY Branch's innovation in the way it holds meetings, with weekday events, 'join a practice' events and events specifically for younger members is clearly showing encouraging results. Is this something for other Branches to copy? Ed.*

### **Learning to Ring**

I learnt to ring at Richmond in March 2009. During my first few practices, people often asked me why I decided to learn to ring. I still do not know; it must purely have been a passing fancy, which soon developed into a fascination. From the first practice I was immediately engrossed; I imagine the kindness and welcoming of the other ringers was responsible for this, and soon my fascination and passion for the traditional English art also began to be largely influential in my commitment.

As my ringing progressed and I began to ring at other towers and with new people, it became obvious that all ringers welcome you to ring with them and every person you ring with contributes to your development as a ringer. I currently attempt to go to a few different towers in the C&NY Branch. At Northallerton, I try to concentrate on developing my striking and ringing on larger numbers, in addition to having the opportunity to ring in more complex methods than I had previously experienced or had much opportunity to ring. Stokesley has also contributed to my ringing development, as it is where I learned to ring Surprise and also where I began to learn Major.

After I had been ringing for a while, it was somehow decided that I would try to ring a peal before the first anniversary of my learning to ring, and also before my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Because of this, a peal of Grandsire Triples was arranged for late January. Unfortunately, this peal attempt was not successful and, despite many recollections of the event by some of the ringers, I am still not entirely sure what went wrong! The subsequent peal attempt (in February), however, was successful and it felt brilliant and really relieving to hear 'that's all!'

To date, I have greatly enjoyed my ringing experiences and I have learnt a great number of things. I believe that the most important thing is that, irrespective of skill or knowledge, every ringer has a vital role in their band in ensuring that ringing is a satisfying and enjoyable experience for all. It has been most interesting to discover a 'new world' hiding in a small room a few feet above the town, and I have met a great number of friendly and welcoming people during my ringing experiences. I hope to continue ringing for a long time and I will try to make myself useful in the world of ringing!

*Tim Holmes (Richmond)*

## **Scarborough & District Branch**

Following the Branch AGM at Flamborough in November, and after the usual last minute arm-twisting, the Committee is once again up to full strength, with Wykeham and Brompton wresting overall control from Pickering. For anyone distrustful of this mafiosi-style takeover, the message is clear, to paraphrase crudely an eighties' icon: you stand if you want to, no one else is standing! The new committee lost no time in bedding into its new role, attending the YACR General and Committee meetings en masse, and launching yet another attempt at a branch newsletter - Tail Ends - still running after five issues. If you would like to be included on the distribution list please contact the Secretary.

Branch events continued despite the appalling winter weather, although attendance was, understandably, depleted; the Christmas party and BRF raffle had more prizes than attendees. The raffle was held over to the well attended January meeting (to the benefit of the visiting YACR President), while the few present felt obliged to make an attempt at the copious supply of mulled wine. A memorable (or not!) evening!

By contrast, the hottest day of the year so far saw eight teams contesting this year's Sunday Service Band Striking Competition at Scalby. With the previous year's winners, Pickering, not fielding a team, there was bound to be a new name on the trophy. In the end the Scalby A team with their blend of youth and experience avenged last year's half point defeat and triumphed by one point from Scarborough A. This win was neatly bookended by the Scalby B team who secured the much-coveted wooden spoon! Congratulations to all for taking part, and especially the winners, thanks to Deborah Thorley for judging and to the Scalby ringers for their hospitality.

The seaside resort of Filey, with its bracing sea air, leisurely promenade and genteel charm has long been a mecca for those seeking to pass their twilight years in comfort and style. Perhaps less well known is the longevity of its ringers. Recent months have seen Bob Hall, a regular at both practice and Sunday service ringing, celebrate his 95th birthday - marked in usual Filey style with a Quarter before practice, wine and cake during - and then local tower captain John Siddle reach 80. As if to prove age is simply a number, John is currently absent from ringing as he undertakes his latest motorhome excursion - to Poland. All this despite Filey tower having one of the most awkward staircases in the branch - must be that sea air!

*Martin G Tubbs  
Chairman*

## **The Northern Universities Association at York**

The Northern Universities Association (NUA) meets annually, usually during late November. Officially the purpose of the meeting is for University Ringing Societies to compete for the striking competition and the 'boat race' trophies. Sister to the SUA, the NUA has always been a popular weekend and this one was no exception. November 2009 was the York Colleges Guild's turn.

The English Martyrs Hall in York was the venue which would have us, where the priest was not at all fretful about our plans for sleeping on the floor. Matthew Illman was volunteered to do the catering. His skills in the cooking department are legendary in YCG, though he is more often than not found in the middle of a field preparing three course meals over an open fire rather than in a fitted kitchen using a gas cooker!

On the Friday night, St Michael's Spurriergate was first grab of the weekend. After a meal and beer back at the hall, socialising took place in the Windmill Inn (where incidentally the first meeting of the YCG took place in 1969).

On the Saturday, after the draw for the striking competition, ringing was at Huntington, SS Philip & James, Clifton, St Wilfrid's, St Olave's, St Lawrence's, and All Saints North Street before concluding at St Stephen's Acomb. The striking competition took place at St Olave's, where teams were marked on 120 changes of any method or principle. Thirteen teams entered; the most northern was Edinburgh, and the least northern was that well known northern university, Kent.

During the evening meal and ceilidh Peter Sanderson, ringing master at York Minster, mathematician and someone who once gave 750 faults to a team that rang an extent of doubles for their test piece, gave the results. Newcastle were declared the winners and took the trophy from last year's champions, Durham.

Barn dancing commenced soon after the meeting, only to be interrupted by the 'boat race'. For those not aware of this ritual, we did not go down to the Ouse and pit our rowing skills against each other. Rather, it was our drinking ability. Teams of four line up and each member of the team in turn has to finish off a pint of ale then kneel down with the empty pint glass on their head. The first team to do so wins. Nottingham pipped Leeds to win, but the host team ignominiously came last - the excuse being that most accomplished members were occupied with the organising. The 'race' was run outside in the car park. The weather was not terribly warm but a member of the Newcastle band insisted on showing the rest of us how hardy he was by relieving himself of his clothes.

After this interlude, it was back inside for more dancing, which I use in the loosest sense of the word (*and undoubtedly more use of the bar - Ed*). By the end of the evening we were lucky that no one had been seriously injured, which was much to the worry of the caller.

After Sunday morning ringing and lunch at Wetherspoons, the weekend concluded with ringing at York Minster. This in its own right was an organisational masterpiece.

## Dedication of the Bells at Barnoldswick



David Burgess (President Lancashire Association), the Bishop of Bradford, Chris Whale (Tower Captain), Revd. John Lancaster, M F Digby Burton (Vice-President Yorkshire Association).

## Penistone



David Micklethwaite on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, with Lucy (left) and Heather, nearly 9, the youngest learners at Penistone.

## The 'Second Wednesday' Group



There are a number of Groups of retired ringers in Yorkshire who meet monthly for good fellowship and good ringing. The photograph shows some of the Second Wednesday Group outside Saddleworth church on Wednesday 14 April. The caption to the photograph was going to be 'THWARTED!' as no one turned up on time with the key. Valiant phoning around by Gillian Moreton eventually got them in. The Group meets for two hours in the afternoon of the second Wednesday of every month and was originally set up many years by the late Trevor Tarbatt of Shelley. It's now managed by Brian Sissons of Batley.

Back row l to r: Stuart Raggett (Tadcaster), Barry Sullivan (Almondbury), Robert Pygott (Batley), Lawrence Sheard (Batley). Front row l to r: Edna Sullivan, Gillian Moreton (Wakefield), Shirley Pygott, Patricia Kefford (Longwood).

What other Groups like this are there? I know of Digby Burton's, but are there more? Please let me know for a future feature. Ed

## Selby & District Branch

In January Branch members had an excellent late Christmas Dinner at the "White Horse" at Church Fenton. There was no Branch meeting in February as it clashed with the YACR meeting. In March we had our AGM with some excellent ringing before the meeting at Snaith and after the meeting at Selby Abbey. Our April Meeting was an outing around the Doncaster area where we were joined by some of the local ringers, the weather was very kind to us and we had a very enjoyable day.

We continue to hold our monthly 10-bell practices at Selby Abbey which we introduced last year in line with the Yorkshire Association initiative to try to encourage more ringers to ring on 10 bells. Prior to these sessions there were very few ringers in the Branch who had rung on 10, but it is good to see many more now having a go.

Stuart Raggett

## Sheffield & District Branch

On a sunny Saturday afternoon Branch members gathered at Rawmarsh Church for the April meeting. A lock-out! After a few telephone calls the contact details for the church were obtained. Pete McCoy as greeted with "why haven't you got my message - I left it on Malcolm Turner's ansaphone". The only problem was that Malcolm was in Germany! We were eventually to enter the church 45 minutes late and rang for approximately 30 minutes. Whilst waiting we held our business meeting in the churchyard; five new members were elected from Dore (Eli Wall, Daniel Widdup, David Skelton, Oliver Skelton and Amos Wall) and David Rushby from Walkley as a full member after ringing a quarter peal.

After ringing at Rawmarsh we sped across country to Wentworth (keeping to the speed limit at all times) and arrived just on 4.30. After climbing the steps to the ringing room we had an enjoyable 45 minutes ringing, despite a few people struggling to control the tenor as the rope tried to jump the wheel. We left without breaking any stays!

## Western Branch

The Saturday before Christmas is always a busy day for all of us and it's also the day of the Western Branch's December meeting. For that reason it was eminently sensible to have a Christmas theme to the event and for it not to take up too much of the day.

After ringing at Pudsey in the afternoon, we met for a Carol Service at Tong, for where Louise Connacher is teaching new ringers at nearby Drighlington for when Tong bells are back in action. Canon Dey led a traditional Service of carols and readings, with the ringers and members of the local congregation in full voice. Mulled wine and mince pies back in the church hall followed, after which we had a short business meeting, then away to continue preparing for Christmas.

It was something of a homecoming for Barrie Dove, as his great great grandfather, Revd. William Hammerton, had been the Vicar of Tong from 1806 to 1835.

It was an innovation for the Branch to hold a Carol Service and its great success means it's ripe for repeating.

### **Beverley & District Ringing Society Annual Dinner 2010**

The 2010 Annual Dinner of the Beverley & District Ringing Society took place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January in the Pavilion Suite of the Willerby Manor Hotel. Undeterred by significantly adverse weather conditions, 83 ringers and friends attended and only a handful were not able to make it through the snow. It was a great relief when all three speakers arrived and we finally allowed ourselves a celebratory glass of wine.

Following Grace said by Society Chaplain Giles Galley, we sat down to our delicious four course meal. We first selected this venue for the 2009 Dinner and returned for a second year because we were so impressed by the service and standards and the hotel certainly lived up to our expectations. We enjoyed starters of chicken liver parfait or parsnip and apple soup followed by beef in red wine or braised leeks and wild mushrooms in puff pastry. Dessert was either French lemon tart or a duo of cheeses. The loyal toast was then proposed by retiring Society Treasurer Clare Robinson before coffee and mints were served.

The formal part of the evening was introduced by Master of Ceremonies Paul Andrews. Our President Michael Hastings opened with a few words of welcome especially to Barrie Dove, President of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers. Robert Sherriff proposed a toast to the church and Robert Richards responded on behalf of the church and proposed a toast to the visitors. Finally our guest speaker Barrie Dove entertained us with ringing anecdotes including the influence of the B&D on his early ringing career. He went on to express his wishes to strengthen links between the two societies and concluded by proposing a toast to the B&D.

Our Celidh band the Holme Church Buskers were now able to begin and proved to be very popular throughout the evening. During the interval David Smith, ably assisted by Dinah Rhymer, conducted the raffle raising £150 for the bell repair fund. Due to a number of generous donations the raffle table was overflowing with quality prizes and tickets sold out at a very early stage.

Those members staying at the hotel retired to the bar for a night cap and reflected on another successful evening for the B&D. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who helped make the dinner run so smoothly and thanks to everyone for making the extra effort to get there through the snow! Please put Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in your diary and come and join us next year!

*Sarah Dawson & Ann Hughes  
Dinner Stewards*

*The Beverley & District Society is the prime Society and provider of services to bellringers in most of the eastern half of East Riding of Yorkshire - Ed.*

### **Scarborough Branch**



*Filey ringers celebrate Bob Hall's (seated) 95th birthday. John Siddle is behind him.*

### **The Steel Treble at Ingleton**



### **Skipton Outing**





**The York Team.** L to r: front row - Kevin Atkinson (6), Peter Sanderson (5), Rob Lee (our conductor 4), Lilah Longden (3), Eleanor Carr (2) with Robert, Rachel Storr (1). Back row - Tim Bradley (12), David Potter (11), David Mitchell (10) with Charlotte, Peter Hughes (9), David Leese (8), Christine Potter (7).

### Central Branch Ringing Course



Mark Sheridan & Brian Sanders at the Central Branch Course. 'I'm not sure why Mark is looking so happy - he's got to organise it next year'.

### Inter-Branch 8-Bell Striking Competition



*I to r: Barrie Dove (President), Alan Trebble (Conductor Western Branch team), Revd. Martin Daniels (Judge) and Brian Sanders (Ringing Master), who arranged the Contest.*

*The trophy is the Yorkshire Heavy Woollen District Competition Cup, recently 'rediscovered' and kindly returned to Yorkshire by Ruth Curtiss.*

### The General Committee

The General Committee comprises the Association's Officers, the Vice Presidents, Central Council Representatives, Chairman of Committees and four members of each Branch. It meets in early March every year. Its main business is to approve the reports of the various Committees about what they've done during the previous year and to go through the annual accounts. After that's done, the Committee then gives a steer to new initiatives proposed for the coming year. Generally the business takes 'a morning'.



*It's eyes down at Sherburn in Elmet for the Annual General Committee meeting on 6 March, with the top table comprising:*

*I to r Peter Kirby (Secretary), Barrie Dove (President) and David Spaul (Treasurer)*

### Tadcaster Course



*Irene Helps (local volunteer beginner) being shown how to handle the ropes by student teacher Daniel Richardson (Sheffield University).*

### Beverley & District Ringing Society Dinner



*Barrie Dove and Michael Hastings, President of the B&D Society*

### National 12-Bell Competition Eliminators



*The Leeds Team. Front row, l to r - bells 6 to 1, Graham Bloom, Simon Kemp, Adrian Moreton, Steve Ollerton, Rachel Town, Rob Childs. Back row, l to r - bells 7 to 12, Ed Brightman, Paul Bennett, Matt Young, Wendy Bloom, Simon Poole, Jeff Ladd.*



*The Stockton Team. L to r: Graham Blackburn, Wendy Belsey, Duncan Walker, Christine Richardson, Kris King, David Town, Jennie Town, Judith Moreton, Julia Cater, Matthew Jones, David Craggs, David Hull with Bethany Cater in the front.*