

# In Touch

North East Region Newsletter  
February 1995

Issue 20

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Ringers

As this will be our first newsletter in the New Year, I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and hope you will have a happy and peaceful New Year after what was no doubt a hectic Christmas season. Every year without fail I have 'phone calls from people in December asking if we can ring for them that Saturday before Christmas or just for a couple of hours on Christmas Eve or over lunchtime when all my ringers are working. I always suggest other local teams in our area for them to contact but it isn't always easy to have all the relevant information to hand using the HRGB directory and it is in order to help make tasks like this easier that this year we intend to produce a more comprehensive directory of Regional teams using information which you wish us to supply or have available for enquiries.

Just before Christmas we held the Regional Christmas Celebration in Selby Abbey at which nine handbell teams took part. Some wished to just join in the massed ringing, others were also able to perform solo items. Along with items by the Cathedral organist and a very good young violinist, there was a very varied programme that everyone who attended enjoyed. Proceeds from the event went to the National Children's Home Action for Children.

Looking to the year ahead, the first event in the Region will be the Music Festival in Harrogate on Saturday 4 March. Details can be

obtained from the Secretary, Cliff House, Kirkby Overblow, Harrogate, HG3 1HX. This is a general music festival (not run by HRGB) which has a handbell ringing section which any team is invited to enter.

Our Spring Rally this year is not in Grassington. Instead, for a change, it is being organised for us by the Otley Bell Orchestra on Saturday 13 May. Otley is still in Wharfedale but further down the valley.

Looking ahead to the Autumn, there is a change in the venue for our Autumn Rally and AGM. Because of illness and other difficulties, we will be unable to visit one of our newest teams as planned this year but hope to meet the Barnburgh Handbell Ringers at Darfield next year.

Hope to see you soon.

HAZEL BRADEY  
CHAIRMAN



## MUSIC REVIEWS

### FESTIVE EXULTATION!

'Festive Exultation!' has been sent to us by Malcolm C Wilson of the Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers. It is for three, four or five octaves of handbells and three octaves of optional handchimes. It may be of interest to note that this piece was commissioned by the Moorings Ringers of Moorings Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida, to celebrate the tenth anniversary under the direction of Richard T Crofts, Minister of Music, and was first performed by them in the church in Autumn 1994. Handbell techniques employed to add

colour to this original composition include martellato, thumb-damp, martellato-lift and tower-swing - with the special effect reminiscent of a Highland bagpipe drone included to reflect the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian form of church government at Moorings Presbyterian Church.

If you are interested in purchasing this music it is published by Jeffers Handbell Supply Inc, Carillon Park, Irmo, SC 29063-1728, USA (catalogue no JH S9149), and is available through any handbell music supplier.

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## A NATIVITY ANTIPHONAL

‘A Nativity Antiphonal’ has also been sent to us by Malcolm C Wilson. It can be rung on three, four or five octaves of handbells and organ. It may be of interest to note that the idea for this piece was suggested in a conversation with American handbell composer/arranger Douglas E Wagner. It is a medley of three European traditional carol tunes - ‘Noël Nouvelet’ (French), ‘Personent Hodie’ (German, 1360) and ‘Il est né, le divin Enfant’ (French). It is dedicated to Malcolm’s son, Adam, born just before Christmas 1993 who played around about Malcolm all the time it was being written! The piece makes extensive use of handbell techniques martellato, shake, martellato-lift and mallets.

If you are interested in purchasing this music it will be published in April by Lorenz Publishing Co, 501 E Third Street, PO Box 802, Dayton, Ohio 45401-0802, USA (catalogue no 20/1063 L for handbell part, 30/1111 L for organ/full score), and will be available through any handbell music supplier.



The views and opinions expressed in letters, reports and articles in this Newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily shared

by the HRGB Executive Committee, North East Region Committee or the Editors.

## MBE FOR MEMBER OF ST MARY’S HANDBELL RINGERS, SCARBOROUGH

In the New Year’s Honours List it was revealed that one of our members has received the MBE for voluntary services over the last 15 or so years. Ron Jackson (72) retired to Filey around 1980 and was one of the founder members of the St Oswald’s Tower Bell team which was formed in 1981 when their new peel of six bells was installed and soon after joined our handbell team along with his wife, Joyce, who eventually had to give up through encroaching deafness.

Since moving to Filey from Leeds, Ron has given nearly all his spare time as a voluntary bus driver for Dial-A-Ride, Pop In Club, Stroke Club, Salvation Army and WRVS, often having to use his own car when buses are not available and has become a well-loved figure in Filey over the last few years.

It is indeed a great privilege to have him in our team and long may he continue to be so.

Following our usual habits, we have been out with the handbells over Christmas, starting on Saturday 10 December with a concert for the Mencap Annual Christmas Party in Scarborough. This went down a treat with the audience joining in with great enthusiasm. This was followed on Tuesday 13 December when we joined in a Christmas Concert at the Albermarle Baptist Church and were given a half-hour spot which, pleasingly, went down very well. Sunday 18 December saw us up at Grosmont Station (North Yorkshire Moors Railway) where we caught the 12.05 pm departure (The Moorlander) for our Annual Christmas Dinner which was greatly enjoyed by everyone and then back to St Mary’s for a 5.00 pm practice and our annual slot in the Carols by Candlelight Service - this year we rang ‘The Linden Tree Carol’ and ‘Good King Wenceslas’. On Christmas Eve we

toured the wards of Scarborough Hospital, a 1¾ hour marathon rounded off by mince pies and coffee (we have been doing this since 1965).

At the time of writing we have five more old peoples' homes to ring at before 12th night in Scarborough and Filey, then it's a short rest before starting practices again for the Spring Rally!

EDWIN KING

ST MARY'S HANDBELL RINGERS, SCARBOROUGH



## A TYPICAL PRE-CHRISTMAS WEEKEND?

I just knew it was going to be chaotic. Right from the start, when everything fell on the same weekend, I knew I would be both shattered and exhilarated at the end of it. It all started back in February 1994 when I tried to book our local village hall for our usual Saturday in December and found that it was already booked. We had to change to the previous weekend - 10 December. Then the Christmas Celebration was moved from the first Sunday in December to the second Sunday when we were already booked for a special concert in Sheffield City Hall. So I had three concerts within two days. It was obvious that our team couldn't get to Selby, but I certainly should be able to with careful planning. What I needed was a timetable of things to do. Here's a diary of events as they happened.

Friday night - Finish work. Feed the family. Get the washer on and do a mad dash round the supermarket (thank goodness for late night shopping). Make sure I've printed out the concert order for Saturday night's concert and Sunday night's playing order. Make sure all my tea bags, paper plates, blue tac, raffle prizes, etc, are ready for our

own concert. We've had new carol sheets printed for us this year and one of my ringers has done the mammoth task of printing them all and then stapling them all together.

Saturday - Finished some work off, then over to Ecclesfield to set up the village hall for the concert that night. It's just been re-decorated so the chairs are bound to need washing - put in the floor cloths and dusters. First job is to clear the hall of all the tables which we won't be using and push them all into the back room. My ringers set to with brush and pan to sweep up. Just finished this when the organiser of our Sunday concert calls in, just to check on table sizes and ease of movement once we'd set up in the City Hall. We finalise details of table positions and sound and microphone checks for Sunday, then on with arranging the chairs. I was right - they do need washing. We put all the small chairs on the stage for the band. It's the local children's brass band and they are very good, but because they're so young they have difficulty sitting on the usual hall chairs as their legs swing off the floor. We set up the bell tables in front of the stage as usual, leave a space for the choir to stand and then set up the chairs in the main part of the hall. We have a table for the raffle prizes, tickets and also the CD which is actually going to be available before Christmas. Time now 4 o'clock - can I be home for 4.30, cook tea for 5 and out at 5.30? Help, there's a football match on! I'll have to go the top way home or I'll be stuck in traffic at 4.30.

Back at the hall for just after 6. Doors are due open at half-past. Band start arriving. All their instruments go into the back room. I've put the heater on but it's still quite cold in there - it's heated separately to the hall. People are arriving, chairs are filling up. I hope it's full. 7 o'clock - hall full - band on stage, choir ready, walk to the front, 'Oh, Come All Ye Faithful' and off we go. Fall into bed at 12 o'clock.

Sunday - Treated to breakfast in bed. Check I've all my music for Selby and City Hall concert. Packed up one meal as we won't have time to get back home. Leave at 10.30, find a pub for lunch and arrive in Selby in time to say hello and sort out any queries. Massed ringing rehearsal at 2 o'clock. Arms beginning to ache. Celebration

starts at 3.30 - overruns a bit and then everyone busy clearing up. Time to grab a quick sandwich and head back to Sheffield. Arrive at the City Hall for 6.50. My team's on stage setting up. Quick practice moving tables. Sound and microphone check, not quite right - do it again. Check bells and then wait for our turn. Nerves beginning to show, the hall is full. Right, this is it, on we go. Spotlights on us but good overall lighting as requested. Sound level just about right. Then it's all over. Tremendous applause. They're giving us a standing ovation. Were we that good? It's all over so quick, I can't remember - I feel as though I could go on and do it all again. Fall into bed at 12.

Monday - up at 6.30. I've to be at a meeting in Northampton this morning. Down to earth with a bang. Roll on Christmas.

HAZEL BRADEY  
ECCLESFIELD HANDBELL RINGERS



## **BEVERLEY TOWN HANDBELL RINGERS' CHRISTMAS SEASON**

As Christmas is over and our busy concert season is behind us, now would be a good time to tell readers what the Beverley Town Handbell Ringers have been doing since we met at the Autumn Rally.

We have given several performances in various parts of the Region. First was an evening's entertainment in October at a meeting of the Beverley and District Ringing Society 100 Club. Next was a full concert, again in October, for the WI in St Andrew's Church at Burton-upon-Stather. In November we played in a marquee at Hornsea Freeport then two weeks later in the Princes Quay Shopping Precinct in Hull.

December was our busiest time, starting with a guest appearance at Drifffield Old Town Hall for Drifffield Miscellany with whom we have joined forces on previous occasions. Also in December, we did another full concert in St Mary's new Church Parish Hall in Beverley for the Candlelighters who work to support regional children's cancer treatment facilities.

On 11 December we all met for our Regional Christmas Carol Service in Selby Abbey. It was almost like a summer's day outside - it was so mild for December. There were nine teams taking part and everything seemed to go like clockwork, making another successful Regional event.

Our own Annual Christmas Concert was on 17 December at St Nicholas Community Centre in Beverley where we practice. Our guests were the Beverley Operatic Society who sang a selection of seasonal songs and carols. Proceeds from this event went towards the Beverley Westwood Hospital Community Ward.

Finally, we ended the season by entertaining the guests at the Beverley Arms Hotel on Christmas Eve.

All our performances have gone well this season - audience participation spots are always popular too. We have played some old favourites and some new material has also been given an airing.

In October, Gillian Levitt, whose husband Brian died three years ago, tendered her resignation due to ill-health. Both Gill and Brian were regular members of our team for 9½ and seven years respectively.

We are now training up Louise whose father, Robert Jordan, is our second treble ringer. Louise is 11 years old and doing very well - she has already played some pieces in all our concerts this season.

On New Year's Day, in our local hostelry, we renewed acquaintance with Richard Binns who rang with us until he and his American wife, Marilyn, left to take up residence in Connecticut, USA. Marilyn was our second treble ringer and Richard rang first bass. They are doing

well in America and two of their three children are now ringing handbells in their new home town.

With 1995 just beginning we are already putting new dates in our diaries so here's hoping all our ringers keep good health and we have an even more successful year ahead.

Happy New Year to you all from Beverley Town Handbell Ringers.

ELIZABETH COLES  
BEVERLEY TOWN HANDBELL RINGERS



## BELLS AND FOOD

Do all bellringers have to watch their weight?

When playing at an engagement, the inevitable coffee and biscuits appear afterwards. The best feed Trinity Handbell Ringers of Ripon ever had was after playing at a 'Raspberry and Cream Evening' for the North of England Christian Healing Trust at Holy Rood House, Sowerby, Thirsk. After a lovely July evening on the lawn playing to a smaller than expected audience, and competing with the tower bells at nearby St Oswald's Church, we packed our bells and ventured into the House for sandwiches, cakes ... and raspberries and cream - no doubt because our services were given, and the fact that the Office Manager of Holy Rood House and the Treasurer of Trinity Handbell Ringers (and the writer of this article) are one and the same person, may also have had something to do with it!

Christmas engagements started early. In November we visited disabled scouts at their meeting, followed a few days later by a visit to the Springback Club which is a club for those who are overcoming various problems. At the latter we mingled with our audience, which numbered about 12, after completing the ringing, having coffee,

sandwiches and biscuits. A letter was received afterwards expressing appreciation that we stopped to talk to them, together with a small donation. Hint - stop to chat and they forget the odd wrong note that may have been played!

Having enjoyed a lengthy day out to join other teams at Selby Abbey in early December, hunger pangs were evident once the cars had been packed. As we have to head for the A1 to go northwards we called at the Happy Eater at Selby Fork. Although three members had to return to Ripon, the remaining ten of us caused havoc by asking for tables to be put together so that we could sit together. Once our jackets were off and our slippers revealed our common interest, questions were asked by the staff, where we had been, etc. They had no idea such an event was happening only seven miles away! We had a very good feed!

A Christmas Family Lunch was organised by the National Trust at the nearby Fountains Abbey Visitors' Centre on Sunday 18 December. Would we play whilst the families ate their Christmas dinners until the children went to hear Father Christmas read a story? A coffee was promised for us at the end of the ringing. With no time for lunch for ourselves before going, we started playing at 12.30 pm with empty tummies whilst our audience tucked into turkey and all the trimmings! Maybe hunger brings out the best in bellringers, for another invitation followed after Christmas for us to play at a similar lunch with a 'Peter Rabbit' theme on Sunday 8 January. This time we had two sessions with coffee and cake provided by the National Trust with sandwiches added by Constance, our Musical Director, who insisted on treating us, which we ate with relish in the staff room in quite some comfort! I do believe that, judging by the amount of applause in the two halves, the first half for hungry bellringers was greater than the second when we were 'well stuffed'. So, save the food for the end!

Returning to December, to the week immediately before Christmas, life became rather hectic with working, ringing ... and eating. Wednesday saw yours truly with his wife, Elsie, back at Holy Rood House, but just for a feed for the trustee and staff party. Thursday

evening saw us in our own Church of Holy Trinity at the annual Carol Service where we traditionally play for half an hour before the start of the service whilst the congregation are arriving and mostly chatting so that the few who come to hear us are driven to the front pews! However, we had a 'spot' during the service for a rendering of 'Silent Night' - Selby style. This brought much appreciation afterwards; John Atkinson would have been proud of us! The customary coffee and mince pies followed, together with a promise of a new member! As she is a teenager and, under new Saga Holiday rules the entire team qualifies for Saga Holidays, we may have a refreshingly younger look in 1995! The following evening our convoy of cars crossed the City to Ripon House, residential home for the elderly, for our annual visit of carols where there was a valiant effort to sing whilst we play by the residents. Food followed!

Christmas Eve evening brought us together again for a visit to the Boar's Head Hotel at Ripley between Ripon and Harrogate (the ice cream at the shop opposite is out of this world!). This was our first visit which had come by invitation. We played at first in the small hallway at the foot of the stairs, followed by another session in the restaurant whilst the guests came in for their evening meal. A few tables had to be pushed aside to get us all in. Waiters came out of the kitchen immediately behind us wafting plates of seasonal food under our noses whilst we were trying to read our music in the subdued lighting. However, the Treasurer was able to bank a nice fee for our troubles! Maybe our rendering of the 'Boar's Head Carol' helped!

Our second annual Christmas dinner was held on twelfth night in our flat which is big enough to sit the 13 of us around the bellringing tables, suitably adorned. Elsie spent the day cooking to provide us all with the final 'Christmas blow-out' of the season. After a superb meal, we sat comfortably and firstly played a game involved £.s.d. (we ALL qualified for that you may remember) and then listened to a tape on the music centre ... of ourselves!

The kind comments concerning the Autumn Rally in Ripon were appreciated; we noted the food was highly acclaimed.

Yes! Handbell ringing really does give you an appetite!

DAVID S CLARKE  
TRINITY HANDBELL RINGERS RIPON



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 1995

Saturday 4 March	Harrogate Music Festival
Saturday 13 May	Spring Rally - Otley
Saturday 28 October	Autumn Rally and AGM - Beverley

### 1996

Saturday 20 April	National Rally - York University
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Further details are available from the Regional Secretary.



## CARILLON HANDBELLS

Well, once again Christmas is over. The Carillon Handbells had a very busy time. We started on Sunday 11 December by playing at the Granary Wharfe at Leeds to a bustling crowd of shoppers (this is an annual event and the reason we were not able to attend Selby Abbey). Then the following two Saturdays we played in Shipley at their Victorian Days, interspersing these by playing carols at various hotels in the evenings. Our Charity was the new Bradford HEARTBEAT

Fund for a heart unit at Bradford Royal Infirmary to enable heart patients to have full treatment instead of going to Leeds and we were happy to hand over £450 to this fund.

This year we are entering Harrogate Festival and hope to see some more of the North East Region teams there.

EDNA AND KEN SINCLAIR  
CARILLON HANDBELLS



## **SPRING RALLY - OTLEY**

The Rally is being hosted by Michael Charnley and the Otley Bell Orchestra teams. The event will be all ringing with no workshop on this occasion. The Spring event has been moved to Otley from Grassington as it has been well supported recently with the Town Hall at Grassington packed to capacity (and beyond). The Committee hopes you will support us and look forward to meeting you in Otley. Further details and an application form are enclosed with the Newsletter.

JOAN ENGLER  
REGIONAL SECRETARY



## **A CELEBRATION FOR CHRISTMAS - 1994**

Sunday 11 December 1994 saw ringers from the North East Region visiting Selby Abbey for the second of our annual Christmas Celebration Concerts.

Nine teams took part in the event and it was particularly pleasing to welcome 'The Harlaxton Chimes - Dolly Mixtures' under the leadership of Tegwin and Richard Manton. Regional teams were: Ackworth St Cuthbert's Handbell Ringers, Beverley Town Handbell Ringers, Dronfield Handbell Ringers, Grassington Handbell Ringers, St Mary's (Beverley) Handbell Ringers, Selby Abbey Handbell Ringers, Treble Eight Handbell Ringers and Trinity Handbell Ringers Ripon.

We were lucky to have access to the Abbey very promptly which enabled much of the preparation of the Nave area to take place swiftly and my thanks go to helpers from Beverley Town, Dronfield and Treble Eight for their willing leg work, moving chairs and constructing the complex conductor's podium!

Every team, upon arrival, did exactly as requested which enabled them to be set up, squeezed in and rearranged in time for our massed ringing rehearsal.

Those who remember the difficulties rehearsing the opening 'Fanfare' (by Mr Cox) in 1993 will marvel at the chaos that ensued this year in our efforts to keep our first massed ringing piece, 'Joy to the World', intact. Three massed ringing pieces from last year - 'Personent Hodie', 'Little Drummer Boy' and 'Silent Night' - proved less troublesome and the performance of the massed ringing was generally good.

The performances of individual teams was very creditable and I was particularly pleased with the two handchime groups, Ackworth St Cuthbert's and Harlaxton Chimes, whose playing added variety to our 'handbell' concert.

Our two guests, Daniel Shilladay and Dr Roger Tebbet, performed 'non-ringing' interludes; Daniel's performance of the Schubert 'G

Minor Violin Sonata (fourth movement)' contrasting with the Daquin 'Noel No 6' performed on the grand organ by Dr Tebbet.

Reminders of the Christmas Message came from readings by Margaret Simms of Selby and Constance Hawthornthwaite of Ripon to whom I extend my thanks.

May I thank all who took part at Selby and, in particular, the Selby Abbey Ringers who provided much needed refreshment and warmth after the Concert. Final accounting still needs to be done before the results of the retiring collection in aid of the National Children's Home is known. Details will appear in the next edition of 'In Touch'.

### **Towards 1995**

The Committee are to hold a meeting shortly to discuss our programme of events for 1995. This year's Christmas Concert will be high on the agenda. Following two years at Selby it is possible that a change of venue will be sought, approaches having already been made to the authorities at Ripon, but you can also help us develop this event and we would welcome your views. Please write to the Secretary with your views on the 1994 concert and how you would like to see them developed and improved!

JOHN ATKINSON  
REGIONAL TREASURER



## **AUTUMN RALLY - BEVERLEY**

The Darfield team have, regretfully, had to withdraw their offer to host the Autumn 1995 Rally for a variety of reasons. Hopefully, when circumstances permit, they will be able to extend the invitation again. Meantime, the Rally will take place on the same date at Beverley. Invitations will be sent with the August Newsletter.

JOAN ENGLER  
REGIONAL SECRETARY

Once again, thank you to all who have contributed to this Edition. It is good to hear what other teams have been doing over the Christmas season.

We would like to point out that the February edition of 'In Touch' is circulated according to the most recent membership details that we have been provided with. As the renewal date for membership of HRGB is about this time, some of the details may be out of date which may result in some teams getting either more or less issues than they expect. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but this will be rectified with the May edition when correct details will be to hand.

All items for publication should be sent to: Andrew & Claire Ford, Editors, 'In Touch', 11 Green Lane, Tickton, BEVERLEY, N Humberside, HU17 9RH. The last date for receipt of articles for the next edition is **23 April 1995** though photographs should be received two weeks before that date.

**Claire and Andrew**