

THE
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF
CHANGE RINGERS



***Newsletter
Summer 2012***

Issue Number 12

For Church Bell Wheel Repairs

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

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

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

Also orders taken for mini bell wheels (approx .75m
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Editorial

Once again, very many thanks to the many people who have kindly written articles for this edition and sent photographs.

Jean Doman of Penistone has kindly stepped into the breach to deal with the layout following Matthew Blurton's commitments to his new business. Thank you Matthew for doing the layout of the past few issues. Surprisingly this issue is the twelfth! I had never counted them before - the first was in Autumn 2006.

Jean and I are conscious that recent editions are very 'full' and we wonder if readers are finding them 'too much'. I have always been grateful for the efforts put in by correspondents and have therefore been naturally reluctant to 'doctor' their submissions significantly. Jean and I would be grateful to have your opinions please.

We are also conscious that the Newsletter has an 'old-fashioned' appearance. We have stuck to this layout so far as it's currently the cheapest way we know of getting the Newsletters printed. (We use a small firm of Christian printers, whose main output is parish magazines). Again, we would welcome your views.

Robert Cater

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and photos for this edition of the newsletter.

Jean M Doman

Robert Cater (Robert@thecaters.org.uk)

Jean Doman (secretary@barnsleyringers.co.uk)

Editors

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers



JASPER W SNOWDON LUNCH

Saturday 13th October 2012



ROYAL STATION HOTEL – YORK 1 PM

ENTRANCE FROM PLATFORM 3

Meeting for pre lunch drinks from 12 noon

Private bar

After lunch speakers

Ticket price £30.00

Dress Code Smart Casual

Bookings taken by Barrie Dove maximum 10 per table

email: barrie.dove1@ntlworld.com

Telephone: **01423 863005**

Also via branch secretaries

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Commemoration Dinner

to the Memory of the late Jasper Whitfield Snowdon
and Past Officers of the Association

SATURDAY, 19th OCTOBER, 1968

Victoria Hotel, Bridge Street, Bradford, 1

TICKETS 30/-

Meet at 6 p.m.
for 6-30 p.m.

[Here's my ticket for the 1968 Snowdon Dinner. Thirty shillings (£1.50) is equivalent to around £21.50 today – Ed]

WANTED!

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

Association AGM – 12th May

I don't know how the Association Officers did it, but they managed to get an anticyclone to settle itself briefly over the North on Saturday 12 May, following a fortnight of rain and heavy showers and similar weather afterwards.

A clear blue sky with small fluffy white clouds were with us from dawn to dusk, coupled with a pleasant temperature and good visibility, all set in a world newly green. Oh, to be in England..... Perhaps it's not surprising however as, after all, Yorkshire is known as God's Own County.

It was the occasion of the Association's AGM, set this time in the verdant strip of countryside between the escarpment of the North Yorkshire Moors - known as the Cleveland Hills - and Middlesbrough on the River Tees, the historic northern border of Yorkshire. This strip of country is dotted with numerous, delightful small villages redolent of those around Bredon Hill much further south and not often visited, even by Yorkshire folk.

Around 100 members attended the AGM at Swainby Church, referred to in Dove as Whorlton. Whorlton itself is a hamlet of half a dozen scattered dwellings near a church which had become ruinous by mid-Victorian times, albeit partially restored since. The replacement church was built in the thriving community of Swainby half a mile away.

We firstly stood in memory of recently departed members, John Hargreaves (East Ardsley), Brian Heppenstall (Cawthorne) and Pam Shaftoe (Harrogate). Our Report Editor, Janine Jones was replaced after 6 years by Margaret Perrott and our Librarian, David Potter, was replaced after 28 years by Robert Cater, with appropriate gifts being handed to Janine and David.

Tim Holmes of Richmond spoke about his captaincy of the band entering the Young Persons Striking Contest at Birmingham in June, and we all wished them great success. Our best wishes also went to Rebecca Turner of Rotherham, daughter of Helen and Malcolm, who is a member of the GB swimming team in the Olympics.

During the morning the Inter-Branch Striking Contest had been held at Stokesley, with Stedman Triples as the test piece and Mike Chester of Coventry as the judge. Eight of the Association's nine Branches entered, sadly without the East Riding Branch, which won the Contest last year. The Sheffield and District Branch clearly won, having travelled 100 miles across Yorkshire to the event. The Leeds and District Branch came second closely followed by the York Branch.

Throughout the day the towers at Ormesby, Thornaby on Tees, Stockton on Tees, Cowesby, Carleton in Cleveland, Brompton, Northallerton and Hutton Rudby were additionally available for ringing.

The five bells at the last tower, Hutton Rudby, were augmented to six by the addition of a treble in 1982, in memory of Ted Hudson of Ripon, a fondly remembered stalwart of the Association all his life and well known across the country at the time. He was an extremely amiable character in the Yorkshire tradition and a story was told at the meeting of his wild hair being set on fire by a candle at a Snowdon Dinner, when he exuberantly leaned too far over a table. I personally remember his speech at one such Dinner when for the first time I heard the punch line - "Apple pie without the cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze", referring to a Yorkshire delicacy, not adequately known during my sojourns in other parts of the country.

R Cater

Association General Meeting – 4th February

We had done all the right things learned from my winter driving in Upper Nidderdale as a student health visitor some 45 years ago - a bag of salt/grit in the boot along with a large bladed shovel, a narrow pot-fire shovel for the tyres, a thick long coat, a scarf, gloves and a hat. And this was only the preparation for setting off from near sea level in the Vale of York to the Pennines around Huddersfield for the Association's winter meeting. We had believed the BBC's weather forecast for snow.

As it turned out there was only about twenty minutes of sleet during the business meeting at Brighouse, so we felt thwarted and a bit let-down.

During the day ringing took place at Northowram, Lightcliffe, Lindley and Huddersfield as well as at Brighouse. After a well attended Service in the splendidly reordered church conducted by Revd. Dr. Stephen Spencer, hot soup and sandwiches for lunch were much appreciated by the eighty or so members present. We stood in memory of recently departed members - Edward Arnott (Thornhill), Roy Clarke (Arksey), Malcolm Cook (Campsall), Charles Hutchinson (Stillington), Colin Senior (Woolley), Joan Williamson (Strensall) and Clive Brettell (Sherburn in Elmet). Much of the meeting remaining followed a traditional format familiar to all.

It was announced that the Association's Education Committee strongly endorsed the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme being promoted by the Central Council and also its initiatives for the recruitment and training for young people. It was hoped a Yorkshire team might enter the Young Ringers Striking Contest in the summer. Ringing for the Olympics and HM the Queen's Jubilee were promoted.

The Association's Wombel had been well used at seven PR and educational events across Yorkshire in 2011. Its 'manager' for the past few years, Brian Sanders, who now wants to stand down was warmly thanked by our President, Barrie Dove, for getting its use 'off the ground'.

After the last ringing of the day at Huddersfield Parish Church, Bob and I set off for the 60th Anniversary Dinner of the Halifax Archdeaconry Guild. But that's another story.....

Archdeaconry of Halifax Guild - 60th Anniversary Dinner

As we climbed from the centre of Huddersfield at around 300 feet above sea level to The Pennine Manor Hotel at Scapegoat Hill, near Scammonden at around 1200 feet, the fine rain turned firstly to sleet and then to driving snow blowing horizontally in a strong wind. Perhaps the BBC had been right after all.

About fifty hardy members, familiar with living in the high Pennines, attended the Dinner, but many others very regretfully weren't able to make it through the snow.

The Guild had been first formed on 12 February 1938 as The Huddersfield and District Association of Change Ringers. WW2 intervened soon after and the Association was allowed to lapse 'for the duration'. It was rekindled on 17 November 1945, but after another meeting being held in early 1946, it lapsed again. It was perhaps too close on the heels of the War, with the austerity period starting and consequently even greater deprivation for many.

Five years passed and once again the Association was reborn at a meeting at Lindley on 3 March 1951. The days of our 'never had it so good' were on the horizon and the Society itself flourished along with them. It changed its name on 7 March 1953 to The Archdeaconry of Halifax Guild of Church Bellringers.

The Guild Chairman, Andrew Naylor of Ripponden, warmly welcomed everyone and the hotel did us proud with its food (after all, there was more to go round!). After Dinner he reminisced about past members and their idiosyncrasies, one memorable one being about Albert Bond who used to repair his boots out of old car mud flaps and had a Blackpool deckchair in his car as a passenger seat. Where was 'health and safety' in those days? He commended the friendship and fellowship which exists in the Guild and then proposed a toast to the continuing health of the Guild for the next 60 years. The festivities ended all too quickly as people wanted to get home safely through the still-falling snow.

We phoned through to York and found that three inches of the first snow of the winter there had already accumulated. As we are long past rising to the challenge of battling 60 miles in the dark through driving snow, something we might have relished 25 years ago, we decided to declare ourselves marooned. We spent a very pleasant late evening around the real fires in the hotel, acquired a delightful room for the night and headed home the next day in glorious sunshine after the snow ploughs had done their work.

Gail Cater

Bell Repair Fund Grants for 2012

At the short AGM of the BRF on 3 March, which followed the Association's annual General Committee Meeting, the following awards were agreed -

Heptonstall (8) - Quarter turn the bells, refurbish fittings etc - £1500
Hutton Buscell (3) - Tidy up bell fittings, repair netting to louvres - £100

Kirk Deighton (6) - Refurbish pulley boxes and check bearings - £500

Silkstone (6) - Replace bearings, refurbish pulleys etc. - £600

Wadworth (4) - Repairs to bring bells back into a ringable state - £500

Full applications for grants to be made in 2013 need to be with the BRF Convenor, Ian Johnson, by 31 December. He would however prefer if applicants could make contact with him well in advance of formal application please in order to discuss their projects.

Ian's contact details are - 01756 689456 and
ian@ijohnson26.wanadoo.co.uk

YACR Education Committee

ITTS Training Course

The Association held the second of a planned series of training courses on Saturday 26 May for Module I of the Integrated Teacher Training Scheme.

Brian Sanders, who is a YACR member on the CC Education Committee, ably led the Course at Tadcaster as its Tutor. It was attended by eight other local ringers - including three as Student Teachers, three as Mentors-in-waiting, and one as an 'Observer'.

The refurbished facilities at Tadcaster's Boys' Sunday School fitted the bill perfectly, especially as lunch was provided, whilst the

simulator in the tower allowed uninterrupted demonstration of and practice in the basics of teaching bell handling throughout the day without disturbance to the local populace.

Everyone found the Course satisfying and those who had never been seriously involved in teaching before found it both enlightening and enjoyable.

Writing personally, I note that, whilst embracing modern educational theory, the practical tuition on bell handling bears significant affinity to the scheme written by the late Wilfrid Moreton in the original version of the CC publication *The Tutor's Handbook*, published some 45 years ago. But that is hardly surprising, as this system seems to have become the norm for many teachers in the intervening period. Wilfrid's system however was itself heavily influenced by the teaching systems given in the publications by Albert York-Bramble for his College of Campanology, which flourished in the later 1950s. A difference today is that there is a structured process for the recognition of achievement as a teacher.

The College of Campanology is the subject of the informative Essay 11, to be found on-line under the CC Library - www.cccbr.org.uk/library. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the teaching of ringing and also for proponents of new ideas in ringing.

Robert Cater

Leading Up & Down in Peal

This Course was held at St. Lawrence's in York on the morning of Saturday 17 March with the participants, Emma Coles (York), Cate Gardner (Tadcaster), Martin Hardgrave (Acomb), Sue Webb (Tadcaster) and Gail Cater (York) having lots of 'go-s' at leading the raising and lowering. The Course used four bells at the start, gradually increasing to eight. Everyone thought that considerable progress was made. Thank you also to the 'helpers'.

If your group would like a Course like this, then please contact Gail on Gail@thecaters.org.uk

Conference on Ringing in the Future

A national Conference on the future of ringing, organised by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, has been held in Warwickshire, which was attended by several Association members. A full report is available on the Association web site www.yacr.org.uk Below is a résumé of the salient points:

1. How does local leadership make a positive difference?
2. What can we learn from the Church and other youth-focussed activities?
3. What opportunities does new technology offer is?
4. How can we organise ourselves for a sustainable future?
5. Who do we want to attract to ringing and how best can we do it?
6. How do we ensure we retain the young ringers we want?
7. Youngsters' Round Up at the end of the Conference.
8. What are our next steps?
9. What is our local rôle?

Summer Residential Ringing Course - Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton

For the past 27 years the Committee has arranged a Residential Ringing Course at Whirlow Grange, on the Derbyshire outskirts of Sheffield, which over the years has been very well received. However, for a number of reasons, primarily its rapidly increasing price in the last few years coupled with falling numbers of residential students and helpers, it was decided last year not to continue with Whirlow, but to look for a new venue.

A very suitable one has been found at Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton, which is situated on the border of the Western and Central Branches. It is the hall of residence for Huddersfield University and its prices are quite reasonable. The dining, bar and lecture facilities are in its Arboretum.

The sleeping blocks are organised into 'flats', each 'flat' comprising a kitchen cum living room surrounded by eight en-suite single bedrooms.

The campus is very popular with other events every summer and even by last autumn was fully booked for summer this year. However, we have reserved accommodation for 2013 - Friday to Sunday, 12 to 14 July. The Course will be advertised early next year.

The Committee also arranges the Residential Course at Harrogate in the Spring, which will continue in addition to the Storthes Hall Park one.

Gail Cater - Committee Chairman.

The Harrogate Ringing Course

This year's residential Course took place between Friday and Sunday, 13 and 15 April, ably organised once again by Susan Laycock and John Leech. The students were arranged into two groups for the tuition.

YACR Bell Repair Fund Committee

Neil Donovan, the Committee's Chairman asks "Does anyone have connections (or know anyone else who does) with companies which recycle printer ink-cartridges? If so, will you please contact

ndonovan1946@gmail.com

I am looking to encourage YACR members to recycle their used cartridges via the Association with a view to raising funds for the Bell Repair Fund".

As its name says, this Committee exists to raise funds for the BRF. Neil would welcome members to join him on the Committee and also would be pleased to receive practical ideas on fund raising.

The Snowdon Series Books

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please make cheques payable to 'YACR Snowdon Books'

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

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

YACR Library

For some years the Association's Library has been administered as a separate part of York Minster's Library and Archive. It was wisely put there for safe keeping by my predecessor, David Potter, who was its custodian from when it was set up nearly 30 years ago. I succeeded him at the AGM in May: with my living in York it makes the job somewhat easier.

Contrary to the perception of several members therefore, our Library is not housed in the ringing chamber at York Minster (along with the York Minster Society of Change Ringers' own library). It is instead housed in The Old Palace, a building to the north of the Minster, which holds the Minster's own library, archive, museums service and other works. The organisation is significantly funded by the University of York (the staff are University employees) and used by its students. The combined library and archive comprises some 120,000 volumes and documents, some going back to 1150. The building is humidity controlled etc. There is no parking available for visitors.

Our books number 185 and our archive of documents 28 box files. With such a formal organisation, there is always significant bureaucracy! For example, a number of our books are currently in the 'special collection', which may be inspected only. The other books may be borrowed. However, at the moment there are different regimes for inspecting our holdings, with 24 hours' notice being required for our archive and for some books.

Also, persons visiting some parts need to register and to do so requires two forms of identity. Further, at the moment there is a fee for inspecting our holdings and for borrowing some books, although taking along an Association Annual Report and showing your name as a paid up YACR Member in the previous year will satisfy the requirements. There are also paperwork procedures for depositing material, which can only be made by me.

I trust that some simplification may be possible in the coming months, which I will be able to report in the next Newsletter. In the meantime if you wish to inspect our holdings or deposit something, please speak with me first and I will appraise you how things stand.

Please note that the Library part is open 9.00am to 5.00pm on weekdays, but the Archive part is open only 1.30 to 4.45pm on Tuesdays to Thursdays. More about the Minster's Library and Archive can be found on www.yorkminster.org

The Financing of our Library

From 1 January 2013, I am allowed to spend up to £120 per year on books etc, but there will be no 'carry over' of unspent money. Up to 2013, the allowance was £80, but 'carry over' was allowed and a significant amount has been accrued. This will be 'lost' on 31 December. If therefore you would like me to purchase specific books, then please let me know speedily.

Robert Cater Robert@thecaters.org.uk
01904 675547

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers - Annual Meeting 2012 at Chester

Many people often ask what purpose does the CCCBR serve to the ordinary Sunday Service ringer? In fact, it has many facets which are enormously useful to even the most humble ringer / local Sunday Service Band. Need assistance in Bell Restoration? The Bell Restoration Committee is there to assist. Got problems with complaints about the Noise? The Towers and Belfries Committee can advise. Education? Plenty of it through the Education Committee. And no end of support available from the dozen or so other committees made up of representative ringers from all over the country (and abroad) of which there are five representatives from the YACR and, for good measure, an active YACR ringer representing Leeds University. The Beverley & District Society also has two representatives

The work of the Committees goes on throughout the year and the full Council meet annually, this year being over the Jubilee Weekend at Chester. The actual weekend covers a number of days which allows for general ringing in the area of the host; peals for the more adventurous; a Ringers' Songs of Praise; a Dinner and, of course, the meetings. Meetings? Yes, plural, for as well as the actual CCCBR meeting there are separate annual meetings for The Ringing World and The (fledgling) Ringing Foundation.

In 2011 all three of these meetings took place on the same day which led to an exceptionally late finish and a long journey home. Following that meeting, it was decided to move the meeting of The Ringing Foundation to the Sunday. Would it work? Would there be a good turnout? Well, yes, it did work and, yes, there was a good turnout. However, The Ringing Foundation has much to do before it really delivers. The ideas are there, the money to deliver currently isn't. One point that was brought home is that in the next 20 years 10,000 of the estimated 40,000 ringers currently ringing will cease to be ringing. Why? To be blunt, the vast numbers of active ringers are old and won't be around in 20 years time. And, yes, it will be a challenge to get new and young people on the end of the ropes if our bells are to continue ringing. It was noted that we restore and augment bells without (cost aside) any major issue but we don't have the roadmap to recruit, train and, more importantly, retain ringers. The Ringing Foundation still has a lot to do but the will is there.

Following this meeting there was an excellent "Songs of Praise" Service held in Chester Cathedral. A good turnout ensured that the selected hymns were sung with good gusto. An Evening Reception and Dinner at the Headquarters' Hotel allowed those present (not me) to enjoy fellowship and a meal.

And so to Monday. The main event is the Annual Meeting of the CCCBR but spliced (in true ringing style) into this the Annual Meeting of The Ringing World Ltd. For some reason, probably to keep us all there, the first part of the meeting following lunch is for that of The Ringing World, upon completion of this that of the CCCBR picks up from where it left off before lunch.

The meeting is opened with a prayer – with a number of ordained Priests being Council members there is no issue here of trying to find someone to take this rôle on. From this point there are a number of typical agenda items; welcome to new (and returning) members; apologies for absence; loss of members through death and so on. An important aspect of the Council is to award Life Membership to those who have given outstanding contributions to ringing as a whole and this year there was one such honour – to Bill Butler of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Various motions followed – very similar to changing the rules of the YACR – plenty of discussion; a bit of dissent (always healthy) and then a vote – usually in favour of the proposed motion. Ah well, that’s democracy for you and the end result (often like changes to the YACR rules) is very little different to the way it is now.

As is typical of most AGM’s the bulk of the content is accepting the reports of the 16 Committees and to elect (or re-elect) members to these Committees. Most of this is mundane but occasionally some prolonged discussions can take place. But the end result these reports demonstrate a lot of hard work by groups of individuals to improve ringing in many forms. All of the YACR CCCBR members are committee members – Barrie Dove is on the Public Relations Committee (and is its Chairman); Sue Laycock; Brian Sanders and Deborah Thorley are all on the Education Committee and Peter Kirby is part of the Bell Restoration Committee. All the committees meet during the year to progress their remits – we should be proud that our representatives take such an active part on your behalf.

After lunch there was a break in the proceedings of the CCCBR AGM to allow The Ringing World AGM to take place. A quirk in the “signing-in” procedure for the Central Council Meeting means you need to indicate that you wish to take part in The Ringing World AGM! If you don’t tick the relevant box you cannot take part in any discussion nor vote in this particular meeting and like 2011 one attendee was prevented from adding to a discussion that took place and eventually had her comments made through another (valid) attendee! Yes, a little ludicrous but as the saying goes “rules is rules”. Plenty of lively discussion took place as regards the future of the “comic” – circulation is down again, but to a much slower

degree than recent years. Steps are being taken to reduce costs – unfortunately this includes a reduction in staffing levels. The RW Centenary had been very successful and generated a good profit but the accounts still showed a deficit for the year. The RW Board have a tough task ahead but remain confident that the both the financial situation and circulation will improve in the future.

Following the completion of the Ringing World AGM there is a short break before continuing with the CCCBR AGM. This picks up from where it left off at lunch and continues with the Committee reports and a number of miscellaneous reports from non-committee group, for example, one from the Stewards of the Carter Ringing Machine Collection. By the time this latter end of the meeting is arrived at there is a will to get it completed fairly quickly so discussions do seem to become fewer! And so it was that just after 5 o'clock the meeting ended – much earlier than the 7 o'clock of the previous year!

So, what does the meeting achieve? Well, it is like many an AGM – tedious at times but, more importantly, summarises the work that the Committees have undertaken in the last year and, occasionally, an insight into their proposed work for the coming year.

Does the Central Council have a purpose? Yes, it does: it does provide an umbrella to all our ringing activities from your local tower through the Branches, the Guilds/Associations and upwards. It provides many valuable services that we as an Association couldn't provide to such an adequate level in all areas. Does the Central Council need to modernise? Certainly, and it does (albeit, slowly) – if it didn't it would cease to exist. Is it full of old fogies? Yes, there are probably too many, but this is something that the younger ringers can address – thankfully, the five YACR members cover a reasonably wide age range and, as previously mentioned, are all on a Committee of some sort – something other Associations should be envious of. Interested? Well, at next year's YACR AGM nominations will be taken for the next CCCBR Triennium for our representatives to the CCCBR so please don't hesitate to put your name forward.

Peter C Kirby

The Ringing Foundation Ltd

The Ringing Foundation was established in 2007 with a remit “to support the development of the skills, practice and art of change ringing on tower and handbells through enhanced public awareness of all aspects of bells and bell ringing and the training of ringers”. The Ringing Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee having charitable objects and is registered with the Charity Commission.

The Foundation was present at the national Ringing Roadshow in 2008; it then organised two consultative seminars in October 2009. From discussions at these events the Foundation’s directors concluded that the structure of ringing had to be managed on a much more professional basis if ringing was to compete with other hobbies and leisure activities in attracting new ringers, particularly the younger age groups, in sufficient numbers. It concluded that priority had to be given to building a nationwide infrastructure of teaching and training to a consistent high standard ready to accept and enthuse new recruits.

A pilot version of the ITTS, (Integrated Teacher Training Scheme), was running in some parts of the country in 2009, and the Foundation indicated its willingness to support the development of the ITTS for use nationwide.

From November 2009 to March 2012 twenty-six one-day ITTS Courses have been held from Cornwall to Scotland involving 211 new teachers backed up by 118 mentors. *[One at Tadcaster reported elsewhere in this Newsletter - Ed]*. Most of these have been for Module 1 Courses - Teaching Bell Handling, but Module 2 Courses - Teaching Elementary Change Ringing - are now following on. The Foundation has paid for the printing of all the Course literature and Course tutors’ expenses and is working closely with the Central Council’s Education Committee, which has provided 6 of the 11 Course tutors. ITTS has developed so much that there is now a need for a part-time administrator to arrange Courses and maintain all the Course records.

The Foundation has also provided grant aid for several other projects, e.g. encouraging young people to learn by taking mini-rings into schools and raising public awareness by installing a mini-ring in a shopping precinct with a follow-up in near-by towers which has ITTS-trained teachers. It has established contact with school-based ringing groups and acts as a central point for the sharing of ideas and problems. The Foundation also provided sponsorship monies to help with the staging of The Ringing World's National Youth Striking Contest in 2011.

Since its formation, the Ringing Foundation has spent almost £11,000, £6,700 on teaching and training and seminars and £2,700 on recruitment projects. A funding package is presently being prepared to support the work of the ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) – a group formed to manage the ongoing development of ITTS. Apart from the initial financial commitment from the Central Council, the Foundation has received £10,700 of which £2,000 has come from The Founders Company (a London Livery Company) and almost all the rest from personal donations, with a small amount from towers, Guilds and Associations.

With a need to recruit and train the 500 new ringers a year judged to be needed to replace present older ringers - the training of each costing an estimated £200 - there is much still to do.

Robin Heppenstall - for The Ringing Foundation

[I have requested this article so that readers can learn a bit more about this new initiative in ringing.

David Hull (St. Wilfrid's, York) is a Director of the Foundation - Ed]

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

TOWERS AND BELFRIES COMMITTEE

A ONE DAY SEMINAR

TOWER INSPECTIONS

HOW TO CONDUCT THEM AND HOW TO WRITE THE REPORT

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 2012
AT TADCASTER, Nr. YORK

The course content will be both theoretical and practical, and will be presented by members of the Committee with experience of the issues.

The charge for the day will be £25 including beverages and a light lunch.

Candidates should bring with them all necessary personal protective equipment plus a torch (a head torch is ideal), a tape measure and clip board for notes.

The programme will be as follows:

09.30 Meet at the Boy's Sunday School next to the Church for coffee

09.45 Chairman's introductions.

09.50 Powerpoint presentation on inspections. 11.00 Coffee.

11.15 Groups to towers for first inspection.
School.

12.30 Lunch in The Sunday

13.30 Groups to towers for second inspection. 15.00 Discussions on findings.

15.30 Report Writing.

17.00 Final debrief/discussions.

Please confirm your booking with: James M. Clarke
"Sansuns", Tom's Lane, Fairy Cross, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5BU.

Tel: 01237 451667

Email: jclarke1947@btinternet.com

- by the 1st September please, but note that there will only be room for a maximum of 15 participants so book early to be sure of a place.

There is a good bus service from York Railway Station.
Parking is available close to the church.

The Work of Bells Advisers

The annual Conference of Advisers on Bells to the Church of England's Diocesan Advisory Committees was held in Worcester on 13 June. Nearly two thirds of the dioceses in the country were represented, but pleasingly all four Advisers to the five Dioceses in Yorkshire were present - Christopher Bennett (Sheffield Diocese), John Arthur (York), Robert Cater (Bradford) and Andrew Aspland (both Wakefield and Ripon & Leeds).

Perhaps the work of DACs is a bit shrouded in mystery to many ringers. But basically it's due to the fact that CoE is exempt from the need to obtain planning permission from local Council Planning Authorities for alterations to its buildings, providing the CoE has its own comparable planning process. Without this, as most churches are listed buildings, a planning application would have to be made to a church's local Council for any alterations to any aspect of the church building. I shudder to think of anyone having to deal with Planning Officers about such things as rearranging pews in a church, let alone restoring or augmenting bells!

In the CoE there are two levels of 'permission' for alterations - one called a Faculty for work deemed major and an Archdeacon's Certificate for lesser work (although this might have a different name in different dioceses). Finally, low level work needs only the local Priest's permission. Each diocese however appears to have its own definition of what work falls into each category. Permission to carry out alterations is formally requested of the DAC in the first place by the local Parochial Church Council.

The 'head person' in a diocese who gives the legal permission for a Faculty is the Chancellor, who is a senior lawyer, often working part-time for the diocese. He is advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, which in turn is advised by its team of advisers. These cover all manner of things, such as architectural aspects, church vestments, heating, lighting, stained glass, clocks, organs, church fittings etc - including bells. There is, finally, a system in place to object to a decision, which can result in a Consistory Court being held.

I am a 'full' member of the Bradford DAC, attending all its monthly meetings. Bell work rarely appears on the agenda, which often runs to 30 items - and this is for one of the smallest of the dioceses in the country. Some of my colleagues might also be 'full members', but often advisers only submit written reports on bell work to their DAC when requested by its secretary to look into an application from a PCC. Bell Advisers also usually have a further rôle of giving limited advice to priests, PCCs and ringers when work to bell installations is being formulated, usually providing their DAC is kept 'in the picture'.

Cathedrals, by the way, are subject to their own separate processes.

At Worcester this year, we heard talks from an architect and a structural engineer on the effect of swinging bells on the fabric of towers, a talk from an Archdeacon on 'Bells and the Mission of the Church' and an explanation of his rôle by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Worcester. There was time for valuable collective discussion and networking.

The CoE's Church Buildings Council, under whose auspices the Conference is held, is keen to get all dioceses and their specialist advisers 'singing from the same hymn sheet', i.e. adopting a similar approach to all their work.

Next year we meet in York on 4 June.
Robert Cater

The National 12-Bell Striking Contests

The three teams from Yorkshire which have participated in the Contests over the past few years did so again in 2012. This year the Eliminator Contests were held at Aston (where Leeds and Stockton participated), Stourbridge (York) and Kidderminster.

Leeds and York made it through to the Final, held at Melbourne, Derbyshire on Saturday 23 June, which was won yet again by the band from Birmingham. Our two teams there came in 5th and 6th places out of the ten teams participating.

It's interesting to note that the York band was totally composed of the Minster's Sunday Service ringers, all of whom live in or close to the city. The Leeds band was similar to this, with nearly all its members Sunday Service ringers at Leeds Parish Church. Many of the 21 bands which entered the Contest this year however are comprised of ringers from a wide area who assemble once a month to practise, all in accordance with the Contest's rules.

The Final in 2013 is at Ripon Cathedral.

Young Persons' Striking Contest

The second Contest for your ringers sponsored by The Ringing world was held on Saturday 30 June on the back eight of easy-going ring of 10 bells (tenor 12 cwt) at St. Paul's Church, in the centre of Birmingham.

An attempt was made the previous year to assemble a band from the Association which was not successful, but this year Jennie Town successfully managed to do so.

Jennie writes - "We only met twice to practise, the first time was at Sharow and not all of the team were able to make it. Lots of them had never met each other before that day, so we were all a bit nervous! We then had practices with all the team present at Thorne and at Wetherby, although one of the ringers subsequently had to drop out, so we didn't ever practise with all the ringers on the bells which they rang in the competition.

It really was a fantastic day out and we hope to keep having 'get-togethers' throughout the year - the next such is on August 26th in York.'

A photograph of the band - which called itself 'The Yorkshire Puds' and rang call-changes - is shown elsewhere and includes Gabriel Bradley, who was the 'reserve' and who Jennie tells me played an invaluable rôle in encouraging and supporting the others.

On the day, our band had to be up early for the drive to Birmingham as the draw took place at 9.30am. They were not the earliest to get up however, as the band from the Isle of Wight (the Vectis Youths) were up at 3.30 am in time to catch an early ferry to Hampshire. Fifteen teams all together took part, with our band having to wait its turn to be the next to the last team to ring: the wait must have been nerve-wracking, although other activities had been laid on. There were for example tutorials on handbell ringing and a mini-ring plus open towers to help pass the time. Some of the band rang on the 16 bells at St. Martin's in the Bull Ring.

When the results were declared we achieved Grade B which put us in the upper third of the entrants, with the band from the Gloucester & Bristol Association being the winners. As our band was the one with the lowest average age of all the entrants, we did brilliantly!

I'm sure all Members send their congratulations to our band and wish them every success in next year's Contest. This is being held on home ground - at St. Lawrence's in York - on Saturday 6 July.

Jennie asks all other young ringers in Yorkshire who would like to join in the fun in future to contact her please on 01609 770336 or jennie.town@btinternet.com

News from the Branches

Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch

The striking competition held on 10th March attracted eleven bands, and it was good to see some new towers entering. The judges were encouraging in their remarks and those that were unable to stay missed a good tea.

The results are as follows: in the Sunday Service bands competition - 1st Northallerton B, 2nd Ripon Cathedral A, 3rd Stokesley. Boroughbridge, Richmond, Masham and Ripon B also competed. In the Fun Competition - 1st Northallerton A, Ripon C, Sharow and North Dales.

C & NY Branch - The future of ringing?

Over the last few years there has been a lot of debate about how we can recruit and develop young ringers. In the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch, we have taken this to the next natural step. Our new Branch Chairman, Tim Holmes, took the helm before he was old enough to drive (at least legally!). Building on his own experiences of ringing a peal at 14, after learning for less than a year, and conducting two peals, one before his 16th birthday and one with a local tower band, he has shown a commendable determination to develop ringers of all ages and abilities.

For example he has, with the support of the rest of the Branch committee, begun a survey of ringing in the Branch, with a view to tailoring events to suit members. Quite a challenge with a branch of over 60 ringable towers, some of which are 60 miles apart. He has also presided over a highly successful Branch striking competition, with eleven teams entering, up from five the previous year, and recruited two young (and highly able) ringers to judge their first competition. (We suspect they didn't expect to be worked quite so hard!)

With support from other ringers, he has also recruited a squad for The Ringing World National Youth Striking Contest as it comes a bit further north. We look forward to his future progress with interest.

Susan Laycock

Photograph: Tim Holmes, Chairman of the C&NY Branch



American visitors

Many towers in the area will have met some ringers from Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York City, who came to visit the area and stayed at Low Row in Swaledale. They visited a number of local towers, joining some for service ringing or practices. On Sunday 11th March they joined the 'Northallerton circuit' to ring at our three towers: Ainderby Steeple, Brompton and Northallerton. On hearing that they had a free day on Friday 16th, Ian Staves informed them that he had transport and would arrange a tour round the Northern Dales.

Imagine their surprise, waiting in Reeth, when a Routemaster bus arrived, driven by Ian with a few Northallerton ringers on board. Even the sheep seemed surprised as the gallant red bus fought its way up the gradient out of Grinton and over the top into Wensleydale; the visitors could hardly contain their excitement! Their tower has twelve bells, but the first tower of the day had rather fewer than that: the ring of three at West Witton. The locals are always delighted to hear their bells rung and the local pub opened up for coffee and tea (but David Town seemed to prefer beer).

Then on up the Dale to Askrigg (where unfortunately we were unable to ring because of a wedding) and then to Hawes where the visitors went to the ropeworks or the museum, whilst we went for beer and lunch in a pub (can you spot a theme here?) In the

afternoon we rang at Aysgarth, Middleham and East Witton and then to the Coverbridge Inn for an evening meal and more beer. In the evening, the Routemaster made the return trip over the top to Grinton, where the ringers joined the local practice, after which ... well, you can probably guess.

Judging from the excited emails and the vow to return very soon, we think that they enjoyed their day out. In the meantime, there is the small matter of saving up for our trip to New York.

Jennie Town

Leeds & District Branch

On Saturday 10th March, around 15 members of the Branch gathered at Barwick in Elmet for a practice, the focus of which was simple methods and striking. The two hours was well spent, starting from improving handling techniques and call changes with emphasis on leading correctly and extending to Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, with a 'stander-behind' to give constructive criticism on striking. This was well received, and progress could be seen throughout the morning. I have also had a comment that the ringing at Barwick on Sunday morning had improved as a result of our visit! We hope to hold another practice like this at some point in the coming year."

The Branch's 6-bell Striking Contest was held at Chapel Allerton on Saturday 9 June, when it was also the Branch's AGM. Seven teams entered and Andrew Aspland of Ripon was the judge.

The Leeds Parish Church Lads were the clear winners 26 faults and the Leeds PC Lasses second with 37 faults. They were closely followed by Burley with 40 faults. Chapel Allerton, Ossett, Kirk Deighton and Barwick in Elmet also produced stiff opposition.

Leeds PC Lads now go through to the Final of the Association's Sunday Service Band Contest in September.

Adam Crocker

Handbell practice

On Saturday 14th January, 13 members of the Leeds and District Branch gathered at Penny Thorley's house in Leeds for a handbell morning. The focus was on complete novices as well as more experienced handbell ringers, with the aim of giving people a chance to ring on handbells who perhaps wouldn't normally have the opportunity.

After assembling and a brief introduction from Adam Crocker, who was running the day, everybody split up into groups. One group managed to ring up to Bob Major and Plain Hunt on 10, whilst another rang Bob Minor, Kent TB Minor and Cambridge S Minor, with the final group ring whole pull Plain Hunt,(which was an achievement in itself, considering that the students have only just started to ring Plain Hunt on tower bells)!

The morning ended with everybody coming back together to enjoy a lovely lunch of Carrot, Coriander and Chilli soup, Parkin, Empire Biscuits and some other cakes besides! I hope that everyone got what they wanted to out of the day, and everyone seemed pleased at the progress that they'd made.

Adam Crocker

The Wombel at the Leeds Waterfront Festival

The Branch supported the Festival by having the Association's Wombel in use at Thwaites Mill on Saturday June 30th. Pete Oldfield picked it up from Brian Sanders, its keeper, at its home in Cawthorne, before a drive back to Leeds in time for setting it up at 10am by Penny Thorley, John Leech – and the muscle – John's lads.

We had a steady stream of interest throughout the day – and were particularly impressed at how many 'ex'-ringers introduced themselves. Hopefully we may have re-awakened interest in them and they may come back to ringing. The rain did make brief

appearances on quite a few occasions and a plastic car cover was just the thing to throw over the top to keep the mechanism dry.

The Wombel also proved particularly popular with kids, who were able to make a bit of a noise with little effort (even if the 'bell' was steadily ringing itself down!). We even managed to let a two-year old have a pull with the 'bell' down, which brought a smile to his face. A leaflet was produced for the day with Branch and Association contacts for visitors to find their local towers etc.

The Wombel was next used at Leeds Parish Church for its Open Day on Saturday 14th July.

Pete Oldfield

Scarborough and District Branch

As expected, this year's **Striking Competition** was hotly contested, with seven teams entering. Particular thanks and congratulations to Flamborough, not only for hosting the event and a sumptuous tea, but also for entering a team for the first time in recent memory – and well done on a very creditable 5th place.

The wooden spoon was won (?) by Martin Hall's Helmsley Ramblers (Rabblers?) team, the main qualification for which seemed to be (in)frequency of ringing at Helmsley. They achieved the fairly unique, and very Eurovision, score of nil points, as they fired out! Clearly this team was no One Direction (more like All Directions, mostly at once), and Martin is no Simon Cowell. Thanks to Jonathon Shanklin for judging.

Full results: 1st Pickering, 2nd Scalby, 3rd Kirkbymoorside. Wykeham & Brompton, Flamborough, Scarborough and Helmsley also competed.

Branch Outing, Saturday 26 May

Despite a last minute shuffle of timings due to an altered wedding at Nafferton, some 22 members enjoyed a good day out, with the sun also making a rare appearance. Branch funds paid for two youngsters to join the trip and subsidised the remainder by about £5 per head. Thanks to all who made it possible, and particularly to Paul Buckle for his arrangements.

Eddie Brewster writes:

This year we had a pleasant day out around the countryside of East Yorkshire. The coach was very comfortable and was early to all the pickups and towers. The weather was nice so those people not ringing could wait

outside in the sunshine. The trip included both 6 and 8 bell towers which allowed a range of methods to be rung.

I had great fun and enjoyed ringing in all of the towers. I found the trip useful for me as there was something for all abilities at each tower we visited. I found everybody who came very helpful and I can thoroughly recommend any young ringers to come on the next trip as it is a good way to gain experience and improve your ringing.

Lynn Hall

Selby & District Branch

The Branch continues to meet on a monthly basis and now alternates its 10/12 bell practice between Selby Abbey and Escrick. The Branch had its AGM in March at which Liz Hull stood down as Meeting Secretary and her place was taken by Cate Gardner. Thanks were given to Liz for her sterling work over the last year. We also welcomed Stuart Ovington who was elected to the committee. Stuart is one of our new ringers and is bringing some fresh ideas to the Branch.

Instead of a quarter peal week the committee decided to encourage ringing at as many towers in the branch as possible, for Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Across the Branch a total of three peals and nine quarters were rung and 'special ringing' carried out to mark the occasion at a number of other towers.

Stuart Raggett

Sheffield & District Branch

The Branch has given very significant donations to the Ecclesfield Bell Appeal much of the money coming from the Branch's '100 Club'. At the meeting at Beighton late in 2011 £4500 was handed over and another £4500 was donated in 2012.

The donations still left room for conventional draws from the 100 Club in second half of 2011 they were £50 each to Owen Platt (twice) , Neil Donovan, Pauline Heath, Lynn Ardron, The Dore tower members, Peter McCoy and £100 to J Ellwood and Mark Pitcher.

Five Sunday Service bands entered teams for the Branch Striking Contest at Ecclesfield. The judge, John Atkinson, assisted by James Blackburn, enjoyed the standard of ringing from all the bands and declared the winners as Sheffield Cathedral A. The winners of the Call change competition were Sheffield Cathedral B. The other teams taking part were Ecclesfield, Rotherham and Walkley.

The Branch Training Day was held in July at Walkley.

Western Branch

Huddersfield's Sad Goodbye

Corporal Jake Hartley, 20, Pte Anthony Frampton, 20, Pte Christopher Kershaw, 19, Pte Daniel Wade, 20, Pte Daniel Wilford, 21, of the 3rd Battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment together with Sgt Coupe was from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment who was on secondment to 3rd Battalion, died together in Afghanistan on 6 March 2012.

The funeral service and burial of Corporal Jake Hartley took place with full military honours at Christ Church, **New Mill** on 30 April 2012. Jake's funeral service, followed by burial with full military honours was held on 30 April 2012. The church was full and the service was relayed to over 100 people outside.

Members of the local band rang half muffled for 30 minutes before the service and the tenor was tolled as Jake's coffin was carried by members of his regiment after the service to the graveyard for a private burial.

A quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major rung at Kirkheaton on 11 March 2012 was dedicated to their bravery and to their families.

Wynford Carter

It was a sad duty but also a privilege to ring for the funerals of two young Huddersfield soldiers, Pte Anthony Frampton (known as Anton) and Pte Daniel Wilford (known as Wilf, Danny and Dan), at St Peter's Church (Huddersfield Parish Church) on 2 and 4 June.

The bands were made up of ringers from St Peter's, Almondbury, Longwood, Armitage Bridge, Kirkheaton, Meltham, Emley, Shelley, Halifax and Northowram.

The sombre occasion on the 2nd was directed by the Army, who required ringing for one hour before the service, silence when the coffin arrived and while it was paraded round the Church grounds and then ringing again when the service finished and the coffin was returned to the hearse to carry Anton's body to the crematorium. The address was given by an Army Chaplain.

The service on the 4th was a civilian one at the request of Daniel in a letter to his parents.

Hundreds of Huddersfield's racially mixed townsfolk stood outside the Church on each occasion to listen to the services being broadcast. They applauded as the hearses drew up to the Church, as a mark of respect for the young men who were killed while on

Association AGM & Inter-Branch Striking Contest



Tim Palmer (Sheffield Branch) receiving the trophy from Mike Chester (the judge). Barrie Dove looks on.

Halifax Archdeaconry 60th Anniversary Dinner



Left to right: Andrew Naylor (Chairman); Stephen Littlewood (Ringing Master); Patricia Kefford (Secretary); Christopher Jones (Past Secretary); Richard Senior (Deputy Ringing Master and Past Chairman); John Spencer (Treasurer)

Association AGM

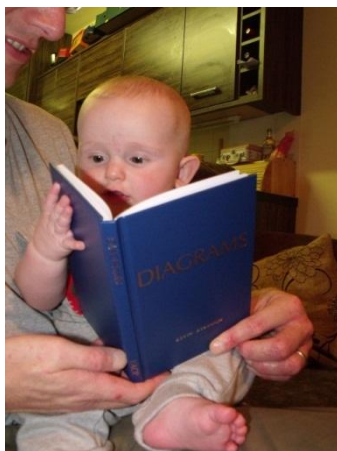


Ted Hudson (centre) with Wilfrid Moreton (l), Adrian Moreton (r) and David Potter (standing) when attending the Central Council Meeting at Penzance in 1979.

The New Diagrams book

Since the new book was printed early in the year, over 1250 copies have been sold worldwide at £12 each. There are still 700 copies to go and hopefully all will be sold in the next year.

The interest free loans amounting to £8000 given by eight members to finance the printing have now been paid back in full and already £5000 has been passed to the BRF. A little more might be able to be handed over by the Autumn.



The book has been very well received and, as can be seen, potential new ringers find it fascinating. Wilfred Allen, is being tutored by his father Ant, who used to be a member of the York Colleges Guild and who now rings in Lichfield.



Western Branch Striking Contest. The winning team - Brighouse. l to r: David Townend, Catherine Oram, Alex Wain, Eric Lord, Andrew Fawbert and Sally Williams.

The Wombel being set up at the Leeds Waterfront Festival.

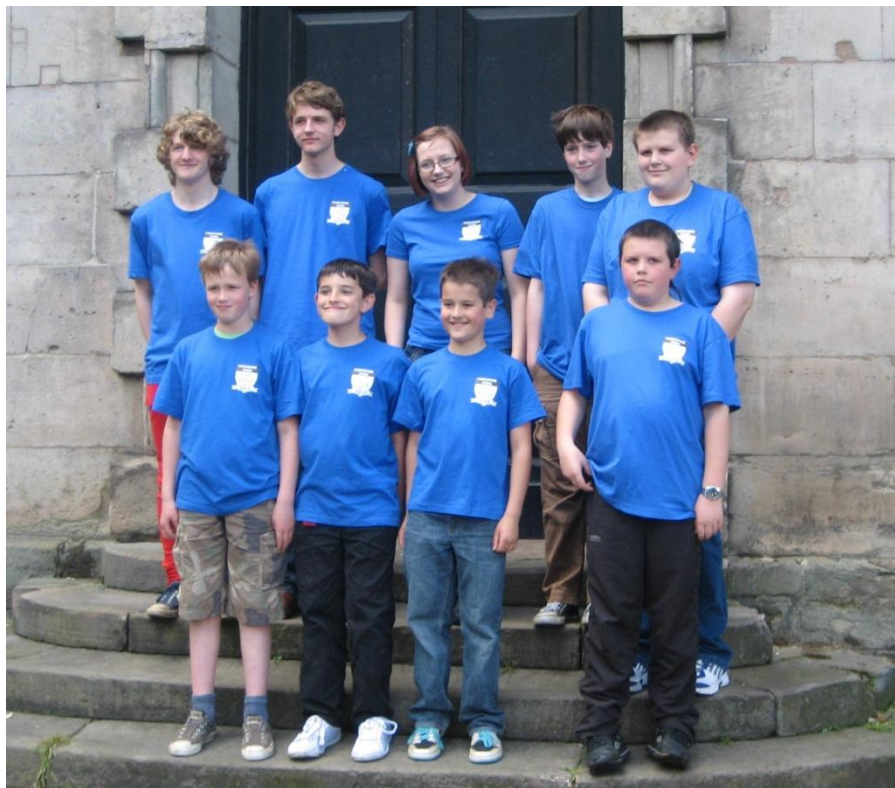


The Sheffield carols being sung in their traditional way at Silkstone..



Photograph by Tony Sanger of Wortley Cottage Guest House.

Young Persons' Striking Contest



In the photo L to R:

Back row l to r: Fraser Murray (Halifax), Tim Holmes (Richmond), Emily Bloom (Leeds Parish Church), Alex Riley (Selby Abbey), Sebastian Bradley (Brompton)

Front: Luke Riley (Selby Abbey), Jonathan Staves (Northallerton), Ewan Hull (York St. Wilfrid's), Gabriel Bradley (Brompton).

The National 12-Bell Striking Contests



The Stockton on Tees band –Back row l to r: Duncan Walker, Martin Davies, Matt Hetherington, Kris King, David Hull, Graham Blackburn. Front row l to r: Sally Walker, Wendy Winter, Judith Moreton, David Town, Jennie Town, Julia Cater.



The York band - Back l to r: David Leese, Johny Stokoe, David Mitchell, David Potter, Tim Bradley, Chris Young. Front l to r: Eleanor Carr, Peter Hughes, Helen Green, Angela Mitchell, Peter Sanderson, Christine Potter.



The National 12-Bell Striking Contests

The Leeds band - Left column top to bottom: Matt Young, Wendy Bloom, Paul Bennett, James Ramsbottom, Rachel Robinson, Rob Childs. Right t to b: Graham Bloom, Tom Mack, Adrian Moreton, Steve Ollerton, Adam Crocker, Jeff Ladd.

Pickering



Gerry Bacon of Pickering, who is a member the Guild of Railway Ringers as well as the YACR, with the Olympic torch when it was being transported by rail from the National Railway Museum at York to Thirsk on Wednesday 20 June 2012. The train was hauled by steam powered Royal Scot 46115, named 'Scots Guardsman'.

Gerry was also with the torch two days before when it was transported by rail from Whitby to Pickering, the train being hauled from Whitby to Grosmont by BR Standard 4 75029 The Green Knight and by A4 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley from Grosmont to Pickering

Ecclesfield - Augmentation dedication

The two new bells, now making the peal up to ten, were dedicated at a splendid friendly Service at the church in February.



L to r: Philip Hirst (tower captain), Stuart Armeson, Revd. Tricia Impey (previous Vicar who started the appeal for the works), Janet Gledhill (the principle donor), the Lord Mayor of Sheffield Dr. Sylvia Dunkley, the Mayor's Consort Mr. John Dunkley, Barrie Dove (YACR President), Revd. Daniel Hartley (Vicar). Missing from the photograph is Angela Smith MP, the Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge, who had to leave promptly.



The 10 bells ready for the tower.

Selby Abbey Luke Riley's first quarter peal (Plain Bob Doubles) was rung at St Lawrence's in York in December just before his 10th birthday, just as his brother did two years previously. All are members of the band at Selby.



Left to right: Luke SP Riley (1st attempt) 1, Alex S Riley 2, Catherine Riley 3, John M Wright 4, Roger S Riley (C) 5, Charlie P Bird 6.



Rebecca Turner (Rotherham) photographed at the British Championships 2012 with her Gold medal for the women's 200m Freestyle.

Monk Bretton's new bell frame at Taylor's foundry



The three young ringers at Penistone who rang their first quarters for the Jubilee.



L to r: Heather Scollick, Sian Dransfield and Lucy Stephenson-Brown.

Tadcaster ringers on their Spring Outing



HM The Queen at York Minster with the Dean of York and Peter and Tina Sanderson at the Royal Maundy Service.



Photograph by Kippa Matthews, courtesy of the Dean and Chapter of York'.

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duty and doing their best to make the world a better place. During the services Anton and Daniel were remembered with pride and love.

Vicar of Huddersfield The Canon Rev Simon Moor, who is a ringer at St Peter's, led the service on Friday and the address was given by Army Chaplain, The Rev Andrew Marlew.

A quarter of Longwood Treble Bob Minor was rung at Armitage Bridge on 29 April 2012, remembering all six soldiers, prior to the three funerals.

Pat Kefford

Pte Wilford, Pte Frampton and Cpl Hartley came from Huddersfield, Pte Kershaw came from Bradford, Pte Wade was from Warrington in Cheshire and Sgt Coupe from St Annes in Lancashire.

The soldiers died when a bomb exploded under their Warrior armoured vehicle while they were patrolling near the border between Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

Western Branch - Striking Contest

An excellent day was had at Silsden with 13 teams taking part in the Branch Striking Contest. The Silsden ringers did a wonderful job with the BBQ, Beer and Cakes. The winning team was Brighouse who will go on to represent us in the YACR final in September. Well done to them.

Comment from the winning team: "Now I know how the Liverpool F.C. captain, Steven Gerrard, felt when he took the European Cup to bed with him, reluctant to let it out of his sight. When you win any trophy, it's special, but when you win it for the first time the feeling is indescribable. And Gerrard had only won the European Cup!

Competition for the Western Branch of the Yorkshire Association six bell shield is much fiercer; this year 13 teams were pitted against each other with one goal: local bragging rights. Okay, so that's not

strictly true – participation has to be the main aim at these events, and it is testament to the hard work of several factions of our Branch that so many people turned up on a cold, overcast Saturday afternoon at Silsden Parish Church.

Roger and Sue Green began the good work several years ago at Addingham, when the Branch Committee of the day had decided the original format of the competition needed overhauling to encourage greater involvement by teams of any standard. By merging the traditional ringing format with a greater social element, numbers have swelled from as few as five teams (under the old format) to as many as eighteen in recent years.

Silsden was no exception, with the home team putting on an excellent show, including: a delicious barbecue; some tasty beer (naturally); a quiz set by serial winners Bingley, to give everybody else a chance; the raffle and a book stall.

So, it was to a full church hall that Peter Sanderson delivered the all-important results of a well-contested competition. All teams had acquitted themselves admirably, with faults kept to a minimum. Two new teams, Silsden and North Rigton, were welcomed to the competition and all that remained was the totting up of faults.

When fourth place was announced, and only Halifax Minster, Huddersfield scratch and Brighouse remained unannounced. We prepared ourselves for the 'graceful loser' expression that we'd come to know so well. Halifax were named in third with 19 faults, Huddersfield placed second with 18, and Brighouse were named champions for the first time in our history. We had accumulated 14 faults after ringing Woodbine. Unbelievable!

Needless to say, we went home very happy, with a team double – quiz masters and striking superheroes. And on reflection, I'm not so sure we didn't achieve the treble with the title of most beer consumed too".

Sally Williams

York Branch

The first half of 2012 has been a busy one for the York Branch.

Firstly we held our AGM in January at Huntington when a large number of people attended. Our second meeting was also our Branch Striking Contest at Easingwold on 19 May, when Julia Cater judged the eight teams entering. The Minster α team won, closely followed by St. Wilfrid's York and then Huntington α . Teams from Minster A, Huntington A, Easingwold, Clifton and a scratch team also took part.

The main special ringing during the period was a quarter peal at all the sixteen towers in the Branch for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which were rung during the first week of June. Indeed some towers rang more than one. This was a great achievement, especially for some towers where quarters are not often rung and for quite a number of ringers who ring quarters only infrequently.

The Queen had also attended the Minster to distribute the Royal Maundy money before Easter, as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Olympic Flame passed though the York on 19 and 20 June, with the bells being rung at least at St. Wilfrid's followed by the Minster as it passed by. On the 19th there was special playing of the Minster's carillon at 7.45am as the flame set off from outside the Minster on its next leg to Cumbria.

We held a BBQ on the lawn of The Deanery in York on Sunday 8 July, where thankfully the rain held off and which was attended by around 55 members. This was held on the weekend celebrating the 800th anniversary of the City of York gaining its Royal Charter. It was good to have a celebratory peal being rung at St. Wilfrid's in the background during the meal. Ringing for Evensong followed at the Minster for all those who wished to ring. Further celebratory ringing was done at St. Wilfrid's on the Monday, the actual day of the anniversary, when the Duke of York was in the city.

The York Mystery Plays are performed every ten years on parkland in the centre of the City. 2012 was one of these years and 28 performances were given. The ringers at St. Olave's and St. Wilfrid's rang before nearly all of them.

Robert Cater

Barnsley & District Society Records

In the YACR Library in York there is a box file marked 'Barnsley & District Society'. In it there is the Society's Peal Book recording in manuscript 208 peals rung by the Society from 1909 (when it was formed) up to 1951. Forty one of them are handbell peals rung the during the years during WW2 when tower bell ringing was banned.

The first peal was at Royston on 3 April 1909 by Albert Crossman (Wath) 1, Arthur Panther (Wath) 2, Charles E Bell (Wombwell) 3, Henry Cutts (Royston) 4, Arthur Gill (Ackworth) 5, Albert Nash (C) (Wath) 6.

The methods were Tulip, Primrose, College Treble, Arnold's Victory, City Delight, College Pleasure, London Scholars Pleasure.

The last peal recorded is at Felkirk on 17 February 1951, when the band in order was Herman Rusby, Douglas M Hall, Leonard W Carbutt, Peter Carbutt, Stanley Dance and Edwin Atkinson (C).

Looking Back

All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax

Belfry records from the 1880s

There used to be a tall, upright desk in the belfry of All Souls Church, Halifax (I think it is now to be found in the belfry at Halifax Parish church) which held numerous documents including a massive, thick, hard-backed attendance / peal record book and a

thin exercise book which was used to record the minutes of the belfry meetings which took place between January 1884 and July 1901. Tragically both of these records are now lost - unless any reader of this article knows of their whereabouts.

Some years ago I took notes of the contents of the minute book and readers might find some of the decisions taken at various meetings of interest.

At the meeting held in January **1884** it was variously proposed that the "Annual Trip be to Lincoln [and] that the Sec[retary] write the R[ailway] C[ompany] to see if there is any possibility of their running a special train.... that the Sec see the Churchwardens in reference to obtaining the necessary amount of money for the trip viz. £12 .0 .0 [*£1200 in present values - Ed*].... the Sec see the Vicar & ask him to write for facilities for viewing the Cathedral ringing." What band of ringers today would dream of asking a railway company to put on a 'special' for its annual outing? It would appear that the All Souls ringers did not intend to ring at Lincoln but merely watch the Cathedral ringers in action on what would have been at that time a 'lumpy eight'.

Further, the meeting decided that any future learner should not be an 'efficient member until he has rung 720 or covered 1000 Changes' and he shall not benefit by any extra fees, but that he shall participate in all Trips & Suppers. The decisions went on to say..."The trip goes to Bolton [Abbey?] Woods in wagonettes..... we do not exceed 4/6d [*£22.50*] for refreshments, i.e. breakfast, dinner & teas ... that we engage a tutor to teach us to ring tunes etc on the handbells..... that smoking be not allowed within the Belfry on Practice nights..... that we have our photo taken during the summer months".

At the **1885** meeting it was proposed that "Our annual trip goes to Durham City on August 30". Again the Churchwardens were to be asked to fund the trip and visits to the Cathedral and the Castle were to be arranged. On 27 July a meeting "Carried unanimously that G. Sanderson be expelled from this Society". Sanderson's misdemeanor was not recorded.

The **1886** meeting resolved that "Any member not being present at 9.45 a.m. and 5.45 p.m. be fined 1d [40p] ...and if not present at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m. be fined 2d. The Annual Excursion was to be on 28 August to 'The City of Ripon'. In **1887** further restrictions on smoking were to include 'the precinct of the churchyard on Sundays'.....the trip to a 'place to be selected at the future meeting was to be on August Bank Holiday' and the secretary was to write to the 'Agents of the L[ancashire] & Y[orkshire] and G[reat] N[orthern] Railways] to ascertain what trips they intended running on Bank Holiday August 1st'. The trip eventually went to Malton and Castle Howard and the secretary was instructed to 'buy a guide book to Malton'.

In **1888** it was decided that "This society have their [sic] annual social evening in December. It was thought that 'Dance programs without pencil would do (not to exceed 1d each)'. The programme would have included spaces in which a lady could record, using the pencil provided, the name of her partner for each dance. The 'Social Evening was a good success, 73 persons paid for admission'. However, 'it was desided [sic] that in future we charge 1/- [£5] instead of 7d. as it caused great confusion when dancing should have been going on and great inconvenience to the secretary'. The trip that year was to Nottingham and 'it was also decided to ring during the day'. It was later resolved, after a vote of members, that the society should go instead to York and 'that we ring at York Cathedral'. In November of that year it was resolved that 'practice start again on Tuesday so as to enable us to get a new method off'. It is not clear whether this meant that there would in future be two practices each week. One can but suspect that the 'new method' would be something other than Kent Treble Bob Major, which appears to have been the only method rung in Halifax at that time!

Geoff Bryant

[To be concluded in a future issue - Ed]

A memorable peal 50 years ago

On 6 June 1962 five members of the Sunday service band at All Souls Church, Halifax rang a peal of Stedman Caters in hand. The band's next ambition was to ring a peal of Stedman Cinques in

hand. Unable to find another All Souls ringer to help they enquired of Wilfrid Moreton of Wakefield Cathedral if he would feel able to join them in their ambition. Wilfrid jumped at the opportunity and so, 50 years ago on 2 July 1962, the first ever handbell peal of Stedman Cinqes was rung by a resident Yorkshire Association band at 16 Chester Road, Halifax.

The peal, composed by C. H. Hattersley and conducted by Wilfrid Moreton, was rung by John F. Bryant 1 - 2, Robert E. Moulds 3 - 4, J. Henry Fielden 5 - 6, Wilfrid F. Moreton 7 - 8, Geoffrey F. Bryant 9 - 10 and J. Neville Parkin 11 - 12.

In 1963 the same band rang two more peals of Stedman Cinqes in hand, both in Halifax, one conducted by Henry Fielden and one by Wilfrid Moreton. These remain the only handbell peals of Stedman Cinqes rung by a resident Yorkshire Association band. Robert Moulds and Henry Fielden died tragically young, Wilfrid Moreton more recently. John, Geoff and Neville are still Sunday Service ringers.

Geoff Bryant

Meltham

I started learning to ring at Meltham in 1959 at the age of 15. Edward Earnshaw (known to many as "Big Edward") was in charge and taught me to ring. He was a very dedicated ringer and a unique character, as were two other older ringers Frank Webster and Charlie Byram (his daughter Mary was married to Joe Greenwood before I started ringing). Edward used a walking stick as long as I knew him. He was a big, heavy man, as I found when I had to push him up belfry steps at several towers.

The Meltham ringers had a peculiar way of counting their bell position - instead of counting the actual bell position in a change, they counted the number of bells that had rung before them in the change. Edward also taught me how to call using this odd way, which did not match with callings in The Ringing World diaries. I spent many hours at the home of Edward and his wife, writing out changes on squared paper for different callings.

The emphasis at Meltham in those days was to always strive for good striking, especially for Sunday services and contests. Oxford Minor was the bread and butter method, but we did eventually progress to other Treble Bob methods, including Woodbine, Violet, Primrose, Duke of York and even Cambridge Surprise. Kent was never rung, neither was Grandsire. It was also the norm for each bell always to be rung by the same person, which created a problem for new ringers to fit in. I eventually took Edward's place, after he was physically incapable, ringing the tenor.

We entered several Striking Contests each year during the 1960's, being successful on several occasions. Several of us* also rang a peal at Shelley in April 1970 to celebrate the Silver Wedding of Mary and Joe with Richard Senior conducting. This also celebrated the birth, of my first child, John, on the day before.

The band was Joe and Mary Greenwood and their children, Susan and Dennis, Richard Senior and myself.

Stephen Littlewood

The Meltham band in 1965, having that year won the Hoylandswaine Cup



on the left) and the Halifax Cup. L to r: Stephen Littlewood, Edward Earnshaw (Tower Captain), Joe Greenwood, Mary Greenwood (wife of Joe), Charlie Byram (father of Mary), Dennis Greenwood (son of Joe and M Mary).

The Barnsley band in the 1960s after winning the Barnsley Shield.



L to r: Arthur Dunn-Birch, Trevor Tarbatt, William (Bill) Carbutt, Harry Mann, Irvine Crossland, Peter Carbutt.*

** father of the late Joan Pagdin.*

Barnsley won the Shield in 1964 and 1966.

Tower News

Barnoldswick

The Barlick bells and ringers have featured strongly on the national eye during the last few months. A keen group of ringers has been praised as it steps up its efforts to raise money towards the installation of the final two bells at the historic St Mary-le-Ghyll Church in Barnoldswick. The project to was started off by the enthusiastic Alan Birney. The original three bells were installed in 1723 and seven years ago the idea was to start fundraising for five more bells. Five years later £63,000 had been raised, which was enough to add another three bells. £3,000 has now been raised towards the £17,000 project to install the final two bells.

In the House of Commons Pendle MP, Andrew Stephenson, mentioned the hard work of Ghyll Bells Group volunteers in a House debate. Mr. Stephenson said: "Over the past few years, the bell

ringers of the 12th century St Mary-le-Ghyll Church in Barnoldswick have raised more than £60,000 to increase the number of bells at the church from three to six, a project that was completed and dedicated by the Bishop of Bradford in January 2010. They are now raising a further £17,000 to add a final two bells.” He went on to congratulate them on their efforts.

After the debate, he said: “Having visited Ghyll Church to hear the bells being rung and having witnessed the tremendous fundraising efforts of volunteers I felt they deserved national recognition. Bellringers from across the country are now visiting Ghyll Church, which helps to boost local tourism, and I’m sure even more will come when there is a full complement of eight bells”.

The bells were featured on the **BBC’s radio’s ‘Bells on Sunday’** in June.

Alan Birney writes”A short clip of the **Barnoldswick bells is to be featured in a TV programme** soon. From 90 minutes of footage filmed by the partner of one of our ringers, a small segment has been selected to be included in the programme and we have been invited to the pre-broadcast viewing down in London. More details of the programme, when we know the date it is being broadcast on TV”.

Huntington - a Double Celebration

Two special occasions within a week without doubt needed to be marked by some celebratory ringing at Huntington, near York. Wednesday 11th April was the Silver Wedding Anniversary of the Ringing Master, Peter Sanderson, and wife Tina. Peter was excused running the practice that evening, but he and Tina came along a little later to share some light refreshments with everyone, and we enjoyed looking through their wedding photos from 25 years ago.

On Sunday 15th April, Ron Sanderson celebrated his 80th birthday. Following a family lunch at the local pub in Huntington, Ron thought he was just going home to sleep it off in his chair. Instead, a coach was waiting to take 50 family members and friends for a

surprise afternoon trip on the North York Moors Railway, which started with a steam train trip from Pickering and culminated in tea at Signals Tearoom in Grosmont.

The following quarter peals were rung at Huntington on Friday 13th April, to celebrate both landmark occasions:

1260 Plain Bob Triples Christine Potter (1), Emma Coles (2), Margaret Coles (3), Tina Walker (4), Doreen Sanderson (5), Sophie Palmer (6), Peter Sanderson (7, C), Debbie Mitchinson (8 – first on 8).

1287 Grandsire Triples Doreen Sanderson (1), James Sanderson (2), Tina Sanderson (3), Christine Potter (4), Dennis Chapman (5), Peter Sanderson (6), David Potter (7, C), Chris Dale (8).

Christine Potter [*Ron's daughter - Ed*]

Batley - the Ringers' Rules

You that in Ringing do Delight,
Read and observe your rules aright,
For from these orders if you stray,
To Clark and Ringers 6d. you Pay.
If Rudely you come in this Place,
Use Oath, or Curse, or Language Base,
Or Ring Disorderly then know,
Your Forfeits due Before you go.
If Cloak, or Boots, or Spurs you Wear,
Or with your Hat on, Enter Here;
Or in Such Sort, Toll, Chime, or Ring,
You Pay as sure as you Touch String.
Ye Bold Intruders then BEWARE,
How you Presume to Enter Here,
For if Sett-Ringers, Forfeits Pay,
Shall Such as You Go, Free, Away.

Lawrence Sheard

Jubilee ringing at Ilkley and Addingham

We'd had our Jubilee plans in place for some time but we knew we were now going to have trouble getting a full band, let alone someone who could correct our misdemeanours. But, thanks to Jeff



Brannan, we scored a peal of Cambridge at Addingham - Andy Sutherland's first as conductor, and the Rector, Andrew Tawn's, first for 27 years. Then with the help of Cindy Maude and Helen Green, we rang a good quarter of Grandsire Triples the next day.

Our real success though was possibly our PR experiment on the Sunday. After some initial ringing, we gate crashed the Ilkley street party and offered people the chance to go somewhere warm and dry and 'ring a bell for the Jubilee' – and boy, did we get some interest! In fact, there was so much enthusiasm that we had to turn the church hall into an impromptu holding pen to keep the wannabe ringers under control. In the end, we had nearly 70 people up the tower in an hour and a half and most of them had a go at a few back strokes before going away clutching their 'I rang for the Jubilee' certificates.

Apparently, we're up for doing the same thing on Olympic torch day.....

And yes, exactly three weeks later, we were back in action again as the Olympic torch arrived on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. I'd guessed that this time no handouts would be needed, just a security guard on the door, and I was quite right. Hundreds of people were milling around outside the church hoping to secure a good view point as the torch made its way along Church St and a large number had soon taken a numbered raffle ticket (a valuable lesson learnt from the Jubilee event!) ready to visit the tower as soon as the torch had passed through. In the end, we had another 50 visitors, most of whom had a go at a few backstrokes, including some seriously small children standing on lots of boxes. We finally had to call it a day at 6.29pm due to the imminent start of the evening service!

Of course, all of this was only made possible by the willingness of our ringers to give up most of two Sunday afternoons in the space of three weeks, but we had a very appreciative feedback from the church and, from the visitors, who all showed genuinely interest in something that was completely new to most of them. And, fingers crossed, we hoped to have recruited at least one of them!

Sue Green

Monk Bretton

Prior to the removal of the bells and timber frame from the tower September last, access for maintenance was an dubious adventure which had to be contemplated a couple of days in advance just to build up a bit of courage. The frame had been shoe horned into the small tower in 1877 with bits of it notched around stone piers, some items missing and grooves cut into structural members to allow the bells to swing. It was also on two levels, bells two to six in a low sided 'A' frame and the treble sitting above the second bell, bobbing about like a cork on water.

After his visit to St Paul's, Peter Hayward of John Taylor's, gave the unexpected and welcome news that he could design a frame to house our six Mears and Stainbank bells on one level. Wow! - this was better than any three card trick; it was real-time magic; a quart into a pint pot - and an incentive to get the work done. We were invited to visit Taylor's foundry to photograph the partially completed frame with bells and support grillage, and rather foolishly remarked "it looks big: will it go in?", which brought a smile to Mr Hayward's face and an imaginary don't worry pat on the head from him.

Colin the engineer, builder of the grillage and frame, explained some of the unusual features of the design not seen before in his thirty odd years of building bell frames. He also took us to the paint shop to see the recently red painted clappers, all of course with flights, as two of our original clappers were minus their flights due to the restricted swing space. We admired exceptional craft in the joiners shop and Mick was chuffed to explain the materials used and the

method to preserve the wheels. "Re-treat every five years and they will last forever" was his advice.

The bells (without their canons) have resumed their tenancy of 135 years, now housed in a beefy looking cast iron "H" frame supported by a remarkable galvanised steel grillage based on a design last used to launch the Titanic. It is solidly tied into the tower walls with concrete. None of the ringers had considered the implications of the new design and at the start of the first ring for Mass on Friday 23 March, with the third where the tenor rope use to be and the treble where the fifth rope fell, it was very strange until we adjusted.

Have we now got more space for maintenance? Has all the adventure gone? I'm afraid not, but as in all magic, it brings a smile to the face to witness the accomplishment.

Michael Sheeran

Penistone - Three first quarter peals to celebrate HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Several months ago, when the Penistone ringers were discussing ringing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, the tower captain, David Micklethwaite thought it would be a great idea to try to ring a quarter peal with each of the three young learners we are fortunate to have in the Penistone band. When this was first suggested, Lucy, Heather and Sian were all 10 years old. They are all keen ringers and regularly ring for Sunday services and weddings. They have all earned a red badge in the bell club. This meant each one attempting their first quarter peal.

Plenty of practice followed, early starts on practice nights and touches of Plain Bob with bobs and singles. The local band and supportive ringers from nearby towers were amazed at the progress of all three. Three weeks before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Penistone a date for each quarter peal was arranged with Mums and Dads. The children wrote a list on the tower notice board it read Friday 1st June Lucy, Sunday 3rd June Heather, Monday 4th June Sian.

Lucy's quarter peal on 1st June was rung to start to Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Penistone. Lucy was very calm and competently rang

the treble to Plain Bob Minor (with Mum listening outside). The quarter peal went smoothly and was a success; we had got off to a good start. Lucy put a large red, white and blue tick against her name on the notice board!

Heather's quarter peal on 3rd June was rung during the Thames Pageant to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Heather's Granddad, a ringer in the Midlands joined us and her Mum Sandy, a Penistone ringer was also in the band. Heather rang the second bell to Plain Bob Minor and had no problem with the bobs and singles. Another successful quarter peal and Heather ticked her name off on the notice board!

Sian's quarter peal on 4th June was rung to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Sian rang the third bell to Plain Bob Minor coping well with the bobs and singles. We were all delighted and somewhat relieved when the bells came into rounds at the end of this third successful quarter. Sian's Mum, Andrea came up the tower for a photo (she had been listening outside), and Sian ticked off the last name on the notice board!

Jean Doman

Ripon Cathedral

The Cathedral bells were broadcast on the breakfast show on Radio York in February when we rang at 8:00am to mark the HM The Queen's accession. Andrew Aspland was interviewed by BBC Radio York prior to ringing and the bells were broadcast just after 8:00 as backing to a further interview with the Mayor and the Dean.

Martin Davies

Rotherham Minster - Rebecca Turner makes Olympic Team

At the beginning of March Rebecca qualified to swim for Team GB at the London 2012 Olympics. With her sights set on gaining a spot on a relay team only, she surprised herself by winning the 200m Freestyle and gaining an individual race as well as a place on two relay teams.

Since the initial elation and excitement it has been back down to hard training, 10 sessions of two hours a week, five of which start at 5.30am and two or three gym sessions a week. This is mainly based at her home club of City of Sheffield. Keeping an eye on what she eats and drinks is also a large part of her preparation, salads being high on her list of meals.

The selected swimmers had a week of training in the Olympic Pool together at the beginning of April and Rebecca is also going away to Majorca for some warm weather training at the beginning of June with some club mates and Hannah Miley. The full team will go to Edinburgh for a pre competition camp in July before the big event itself.

She has also had to become familiar with doing a fair amount of media work.

Helen Turner

After the Olympics Helen has written -

Rebecca swam in two relays. She helped the team get into the final of the 4x100m freestyle and was the fastest GB team member in the 4x 200m freestyle relay in both the heats and the final (swum on her birthday). Both teams came 5th in the final. She narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals of the 200m freestyle individual race by 0.02secs. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience as did her mum, dad and brother who were there to watch her.

Silkstone - The Sheffield Carols

One of England's most vibrant surviving folk traditions came to Silkstone just before Christmas when a jam-packed Ring O'Bells pub played host to an evening of Sheffield Carols. These songs pre-date the 'traditional' Christmas carols we all know – most of which were introduced in the 19th century – and represent a fascinating insight into a time when individual villages had their own repertoire of carols.

Apart from the roof-raising singing, there were four fabulous solos, a raffle, an auction for a meal for four kindly donated by the landlord, and a performance of traditional mumming play 'The Derby Tup', which recounts the story of a ram of epic proportions and was a huge hit with the audience.

The main aim of the evening, aside from having a good time, was to raise money for the restoration of Silkstone's church bells, and no less than £237.95 was coaxed from the wallets of the folk singers, seasoned carollers, bell ringers and curious locals who came to support the event.

The event, named 'Sweet Bells' after one of the best known carols (and for other obvious reasons), helped the Silkstone ringers get a little closer to their target as well as introducing the village to a local tradition. It was so successful that it seems likely it will become a regular fixture in the festive calendar of the parish; see you there next year!

Carolyn Charlesworth

The work comprised refurbishment of the clappers, pulleys and stay toggles, the fitting of new bearings and the repair of two wheels. It was carried out by Taylors in the spring.

Swillington

The bells are now back in action following the wheels being replaced and a couple of bells swapped over to help with the ringing circle. Practice night is Monday 7.30-9.00pm and ringers of all standards are welcome.

As a way of thanking the local community who helped raise quite a large amount of money, the ringers held an open morning on Saturday 26th May.

Tadcaster

The tower Spring Outing this year was to the far West of Yorkshire with ringing at Burton in Lonsdale, Low Bentham, Clapham, Giggleswick and Gargrave. Ringers had a very enjoyable day which concluded with a quarter peal at Gargrave and a meal at the Cow and Calf hotel at Ilkley. Many thanks to all of the towers for their warm hospitality.

2012 marks two major landmarks for the tower. To start the town's Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, a peal of Yorkshire Major was rung, which was the 100th peal on the bells for the Yorkshire Association. Later in the year we celebrate the centenary of the first peal on the bells.

Over the past year or so the tower has recruited a number of new ringers who are all making good progress. The tower and our local facilities have proved popular for training courses for the Association and the last course to be run here was part of the ITTS training programme. We are pleased to report that our latest recruit is being trained under this scheme. Later in the year we will be pleased to host the Central Council's Towers & Belfries Committee for one of its training days.

Stuart Raggett

Wragby - an extract from old Churchwardens' records, which came to light only a few years ago.

1670 - the 3 bells mentioned as great, little and middle.

1786 - Five new bells provided at a cost of £276.7s9d, the tenor bell being given by Sabine Louisa Winn.

From time to time during this century a ringing master was employed and ringers from the parishes of neighbouring Woolley and Ossett attended and were paid.

1809 - Cast iron bell windows £13.17s10d.

1816 - To Ackworth ringers when Lady Strickland was at church 10s6d.

1837 - Resolved that from this time the ringers shall not ring the bells, nor shall the usual salary be paid by the churchwardens unless they shall attend divine service, and abstain from frequenting the public house on the Sabbath Day. The ringers were dismissed the next year.

1885 - Bells re-hung and at the same time the old clock in the tower which had ticked away for over 300 years was taken down.

1956 - Re-dedication of the bells and the first peal on them by The Barnsley and District Society.

From the 1971 inventory - originally 3 bells increased to 6 (recast) 1786.

All bells bear upon them the inscription Companis Hujas Louisa Sabine Winn 1786 - Crest of the spread eagle on each. The spread eagle is the crest of the Winn family of nearby Nostell Priory.

Janet Rayner

York Minster Outing 'Down South'

On the evening of Friday 4 May sixteen members of the York Minster band travelled down to Essex and Cambridge for the bank holiday weekend.

On Saturday we rang at the following five towers - All Saints Writtle, St. Mary the Virgin Great Baddow, St. Nicholas Canewdon, St. Mary the Virgin Prittlewell and St. Augustine Thorpe Bay. We found all the bells a joy to ring. In the evening we dined "cockney holiday" style, eating fish and chips on Southend beach.

On the Sunday we continued our ringing at St. Mary the Virgin Saffron Walden, Great St. Mary Cambridge and St. Edward King & Martyr, also in Cambridge. In the afternoon we had some leisure time that very nearly ended in a wet disaster when most of the band decided to take a short punting trip on the River Cam. Our ever reliable President, David Potter, yet again did not disappoint in entertaining us by nearly falling in the river before we had even boarded our vessels and then later losing his punting pole and very nearly going in (AGAIN!) with it! After this relaxing, if somewhat dramatic, episode we drove to the Red Lion pub in Grantchester for a lovely meal.

On the final day of our trip, Monday, we rang at the following towers on our way back to York - St. Mary's Eaton Socon, St. Mary's (Notice the pattern!) St. Neots, St. Mary's Godmanchester and finally All Saints in St. Ives. After ringing in St. Neots we had to have a picnic lunch on the hoof because a certain somebody, who shall remain nameless, didn't factor in any time for a proper meal during the day!

All in all, a good time was had by the Minster ringers and was definitely a trip to remember and well recommended for any others planning an outing.

Emma Coles

York St. Wilfrid's

The band held a fund raising event in the grounds of St. Crux church in the centre of York's tourist area during the Winter. Jacqueline Ward co-ordinated all the work from soliciting bric-a-brac, to setting out the many stalls and to preparing and serving refreshments all day in the church's café. It was surprising how many of York's 'professional attendees' at these kind of events were waiting to be admitted when the doors opened at 10 o'clock. Hawk eyes were needed to deal with the throng of customers in the first half hour.

Over £800 was raised which will help towards the refurbishment of the tower.

York Minster

HM The Queen's Visit to York on Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, 5th April 2012, the Royal Maundy Service took place in York Minster. As 2012 is also the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, Royal Maundy recipients were chosen from each of the forty-three Dioceses in England plus Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since the eighteenth century, the recipients – all pensioners – have numbered as many men and women as the Sovereign has years of age (85 in 2012). The Queen gives out the Maundy money in person, so York was pleased to welcome the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice of York to the city. The royal party arrived by train mid morning and departed by helicopter during the afternoon. Tradition has it that the monarch needs to request permission to enter the city at Micklegate Bar, and this visit was no exception!

April is known as a showery month and the day before Maundy Thursday was exceptionally wet and windy. However, Maundy Thursday itself was a glorious day! The streets of York were lined with cheering, flag waving crowds along the route that the Queen took to and from the Minster.

All the people attending the service at the Minster had to be in their seats by 10 a.m., having first shown photographic ID and proof of address. The ringers met at 9:45 and were subject to the same restrictions. Two of the ringers had to go back home in a hurry because they had forgotten to bring their relevant documents! A couple of the ringers came to ring at the Minster having first ringing a quarter peal at St Wilfrid's, just beyond the Minster's twin towers, to celebrate the occasion: *1260 Grandsire Triples - Ewan G A Hull 1, Jacqueline A Ward 2, Holly Webster 3, Helen M Beaumont (C) 4, Charlotte Elkington 5, Stephen J Hall 6, Simon P Hartley 7, David A Leese 8.*

Ringling at the Minster took place between 10 and 11 am, and again after the Service from noon until 1 pm. It was organised so that the change ringing bells alternated with tunes played on the carillon (Rule Britannia, for example), played by John Ridgeway-Wood. The Service touch was Call Changes on 12, with quite a long time appropriately spent in 'Queens'.

The Royal request was that the bells should ring until the Queen actually entered the Minster, because she wanted to hear the bells on this visit! She had already indicated that her officials had requested the bells to stop on a previous visit as her car approached the Minster, so she had missed them.

There were nineteen seats saved in the nave for the ringers, at the foot of the South West tower, which gave good views of the Queen as she distributed the first set of Maundy money on the south side of the Minster. We had strict instructions not to descend from the tower until the first hymn, so we watched the Queen's entry to the building by peering down from the ringing chamber. The Queen was easily identified from this high vantage point by her turquoise hat.

The Service was simple and beautiful, with some lovely music sung by the combined choirs of York Minster and St George's Chapel, Windsor. The congregation had the opportunity to sing three hymns and the National Anthem. The strength of the singing, the quality of the music, the slickness of proceedings and the size of the Minster all impressed the officials from Windsor, some of whom had never ventured this far north!

After the Service there was more ringing, but at the same time there was also a reception at the Deanery for representatives of the people who helped to run the Service so well. Attendees included clergy, Royal Almoners from Windsor, the organist, the Director of Music, and representatives of voluntary helpers like flower arrangers, Minster stewards and bellringers. As Ringing Master, Peter Sanderson and his wife Tina were invited to attend. The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice were also present. The Dean of York presented his guests to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. Our brief chat with the Queen centred on the bells of the Minster and the carillon. The Queen confirmed "We heard the bells". The Duke was impressed at the timing of the words "God save the King" from *Zadok the Priest*, sung just as the Queen was walking through the middle of the choir!

Tina Sanderson

Stokesley - Gerry Parson's Run

The run was from opposite the Olympic Stadium and was due to finish at Windsor after 100 miles. Gerald regrettably had to give up after completing 52 miles as the injury he was already carrying became much worse and he couldn't walk. This meant he had completed the equivalent of two marathons in just over 18 hours! He is aiming to go back and complete the other 48 miles in September.

He has already raised £420 towards electrifying the winding of the clock at Stokesley Church. The clock had been installed in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, so it seemed appropriate to electrify it to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of her great-great-granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth II - especially as the ringers who wind it twice a week are now getting older.

Christine Parsons

How Many Words Does It Take?

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Pythagoras' Theorem | 24 words |
| The Lord's Prayer | 66 words |
| Archimedes' Principle | 67 words |
| The Ten Commandments | 179 words |
| US Declaration of Independence | 1,300 words |
| YACR Rules & Standing Orders | 2,900 words |

EU Regulations on the sale of cabbages 26,911 words

Puts things into proper perspective, doesn't it?

What about celebratory Ringing for Yorkshire Day?

We are the Yorkshire Association. Should we not consider the same ringing effort for Yorkshire Day as has been requested for St. George's Day?

On Yorkshire Day -1st August - in our area there are dancers in the streets of various towns and the local Council (Redcar and Cleveland) holds a church Service and a charity Dinner. I have my White Rose Flag flying as I do with the red St. George's Cross on 23 April.

I am a great believer in Home rule for Yorkshire while still recognising the monarchy. We have a greater population than Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland.

For more info see - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yorkshire_Day

Leslie Franks,
Guisborough

Obituaries

Brian Heppenstall 1935-2012

Brian was President of the Barnsley and District Society of Change Ringers and a very well known ringer in the area. He was brought up in Wath-upon-Deane, which in those days was a mining town in the South Yorkshire coalfield, where he attended the Church of England National School. He joined the church choir and learnt to play the organ, eventually becoming the assistant organist.

When his voice broke in 1951 he was, so to speak, 'kicked upstairs' to learn to ring. It was here that he met his future wife Margaret who was also learning to ring. They, along with a group of other young people were taught to ring by Mr W Green.

His National Service was done in the Army Medical Corps when he was stationed at Shawnclyffe Barracks near Folkstone in Kent. He continued ringing in the local towers of Cheriton, Newington and Hythe and continued to play the organ in the Garrison Church.

On returning north he joined the West Yorkshire Police Force and rang on the higher numbers of bells at Wakefield Cathedral and

Ossett, the eights at Rawmarsh and Wath but his real affinity was with six bell closed lead ringing (known locally as cartwheel ringing).

After training he joined the Traffic Police, eventually becoming a police driving instructor. He then became involved with his other passions of motor sport and rallying which luckily for most of the time runs on a different timetable to bell ringing.

Ringling at Sandal and Cawthorne he rang many methods named after local villages like Wragby, South Kirkby and Havercroft and the flower methods of Snowdrop, Violet and Woodbine as well as the more nationally known of Oxford and Kent.

He rang 135 peals for the Yorkshire Association, some of which had twenty to thirty of these methods spliced. Brian was a very steadying influence when it came to peal ringing, although occasionally he would tell very hairy stories about his days in the traffic police on the way there, which did little for the nerves. He was an experienced member of the band and a great comfort when three of the six of us were all first pealers!

He served on the committees of both the Central Branch of the Yorkshire Association and The Barnsley and District Society for many years. Brian was President of the Barnsley Society in its centenary year in 2009 and very ably hosted the very crowded tea held in Cawthorne Parish Rooms, at which the president of the Yorkshire Association and the Mayor of Barnsley were present. He also played the organ in the service following the tea.

His funeral, which filled Wath-upon-Deane Parish Church, had quarter peals rung in his honour both before hand and afterwards. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance and the Bell Repair Fund both benefited from the collection and donations.

He will be greatly missed by all his friends.

Claire Rogers.

[Brian's photograph appears in the Newsletters of Winter 2009/10 and Winter 2011/12 - Ed]

Brian Heppenstall - An appreciation

Brian's earthly 76 year old remains lie in the soil of the public cemetery at Wath some quarter-mile from the parish church of All Saints, Wath-upon-Deane, near Rotherham in South Yorkshire and over it, every Sunday and on other occasions, the sound of the bells ringing out from the tower drift over, mingling with the song of birds and mostly overcoming the hum of the township's traffic. Bells that Brian learnt to ring on in the 1950s, bells that rang out for his marriage to Margaret his devoted wife of 51 years and bells that rang out in full voice (not half-muffled) to quarter peals before and after his funeral service, whilst the last rites of the Anglican funeral were read and performed around this, his final earthly resting place.

His spirit and caring manner will live on even though the world in Wath will carry on with its daily routine, little caring about the man who became not only Tower Captain at Wath but then, due to pressures of work, moved to live in Sandal, near Wakefield where he joined the local team and in later years, also the team at Cawthorne, near Barnsley.

Never one to boast his ringing capabilities (open lead Doubles, closed lead Treble Bob Minor or whatever), he served his church as faithfully as he could, often with Margaret in the team and once a year returned at the time of his wedding anniversary to ring at Wath.

In his final five years he became a 'founder' member of Wath Old Codgers and friends which is a group of retired ringers who ring quarter peals roughly eight times a year before and after a social meal in a pub. He rang in the first quarter (up the 69 steps at Wentworth) for this group but in his final year, requested only ground-floor rings. His final quarter (and ringing session) was of Plain Bob Triples at Bolsterstone in August 2011 and the same composition was rung as the Committal was in progress at Wath Cemetery.

Farewell Brian, God bless and may you rest with our Lord in eternal peace.

Michael King

Clive Brettell

Clive died suddenly at home the last weekend in January. He was a regular Sunday service ringer at Sherburn in Elmet and previously rang at Willingdon in East Sussex for about twenty years before moving to Yorkshire. He joined the YACR in 1996 and rang nine peals for the Association, and was also a member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. In earlier years Clive was actively involved in teaching bell handling and continued in this vein at Sherburn, giving his opinion and encouragement to other ringers.

Alice Stanley

Joan Williamson

Mrs. Joan Williamson learned to ring at Strensall and became a qualified member of the Yorkshire Association in 1986. She was always a keen and regular member of the band there. She was also a popular teacher and active member of the local community. She died suddenly on January 2nd 2012.

Revd. Giles Galley.

John Griffin Hobson

John died in July at the age of 89, after a long and varied life both here in England, especially in Yorkshire, and overseas. John learnt to ring in 1937 at Holy Trinity Church in Hull before the WW2. During the war he was in a reserved occupation as a builder and did bomb damage repair work in Hull. He was able to ring the bells at Holy Trinity to celebrate the victory at Al Alamein in November 1942 and also for VE day in May 1945. John met his wife Sue whilst they were ringing at Hull.

John joined the YACR in 1944 and rang 33 peals for the Association. He also belonged to & rang peals for a number of other ringing Societies and Guilds including the Kent County Association, Lincoln Diocesan Guild & Peterborough Diocesan Guild. He was a

founder member of the Beverley & District Society and rang a total of 25 peals for that Society including the Society's first peal at Nunburnholme in 1947. Fifty years later John took part in the Society's 50th anniversary celebrations by ringing another peal on the superb six at Nunburnholme, with John ringing the same bell that he rang in 1947 to the same spliced minor methods.

John worked as a building construction supervisor for the Ministry of Public Buildings & Works and his job took him all round Britain and all over the world, where he tried to ring wherever he could. He worked in Kenya *[and as he once told me he rang on the remote 6 at Kilifi - Kenya's only ring of bells. - Ed]* He also worked in Iraq where he had to speak in Arabic to the hundred-odd construction workers that he supervised. John also worked for a number of years in Hong Kong. He really enjoyed his years working abroad, where he loved exploring different cultures and traditions.

When John & Sue retired they moved to Rutland, to the village of Empingham, sitting at the end of Rutland Water. In the village and surrounds they were very active ringers; Sue being District ringing master and John ringing at the newly installed 12 at Peterborough Cathedral. In 1998 their last move was to the lovely market town of Howden in East Yorkshire. Here they both supported and encouraged the local band. This was where John was to do his last ringing on the superb 8 at Howden until 2006, when his health deteriorated and the many steps became too much for someone in their eighties.

John had a reputation for being a blunt speaking Yorkshireman but he was also a man of great integrity and meticulous in everything he did.

A memorial service remembering his life is being held at Holy Trinity, Hull, on Saturday 15 September.

Sue Hobson, Marian Thomas and Richard Davis

[John's photograph is in the Winter 2011/12 edition of the Newsletter when he attended the 2011 Life Members' event. He was our only Member to join the Association prior to 1945 - Ed].

John Hargreaves

John was part of a band which started bell ringing at East Ardsley by 'brute force'. He was tower secretary for many years and including his two children helped to teach lots of ringers. He was always happy to work around everyone and always happy to drive anywhere for a ring. He reluctantly had to stop ringing a few years ago due to back problems.

One of his ringing highlights was on last Christmas Eve when, terminally ill, with rucksac and naso-gastro tube he climbed the stairs and rang as if he had never been away. I sadly missed this but he came up again on the first Monday in January and I was able to ring with him and then go to the Club like in the good old days.

He was a great friend to everyone and could convey your not being in the right place when ringing by just a glance.

Chris Swift

Pam Shaftoe

It's unlikely that many of you will have come across Pam in a ringing room. She was, however, a stalwart of ringing in Harrogate. In her mind, her duty was to ring for Services at her church - St. Peter's - and to help out wherever she could, ringing for weddings when other towers were short, for example. Pam wasn't bothered about learning methods - well struck Rounds and Call Changes, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob were fine for her. The main thing was that she was doing her bit.

On Easter Sunday she rang for Morning Service, read a lesson and went home to make lunch for her family. It's worth pointing out that she was carer for her husband who was suffering from dementia, so she was pretty busy at home. I have no idea how she found time for her many Church activities. After lunch she had a cup of tea, intending to have a rest before setting out for the Evening Service, where she was going to read a lesson again. She sat down and never got up.

Ringling in Harrogate will be poorer without her, as will her Church.

Roy Clarke 1935 – 2011

Roy died in December 2011 from a thrombosis; he had been having treatment for bowel cancer earlier in the year, his recovery was slow and he had been very poorly for several months before his death.

A number of ringers attended Roy's funeral at St. John's Church, Balby, Doncaster on 15 December where his nephew, who Roy had taught to ring, played the organ. Roy's set of ten handbells were rung as his coffin entered and left the church and during the Service as a 'thank you' to Roy for his dedication to ringing in the area. It was a very moving tribute.

Roy was a life member of the YACR which he joined in 1958. He learnt to ring when he was a teenager at Barnby Dun where he would go on his cycle accompanied by other local ringers encouraged by Ernest Padgett. The party would cycle miles to ring with the Doncaster & District Society, the Selby & District Society and the YACR showing their commitment to ringing. Roy rang 59 peals for the YACR and many other peals and quarter peals for other smaller Societies and was ringing master for the Doncaster & District Society for 17 years. Roy enjoyed ringing with Pat & Ian North and with their encouragement he attained a peal of 8-Spliced Surprise Major and rang quarters of Glasgow and Belfast Surprise.

Roy had been left a set of ten handbells by a late ringer from Arksey and formed a handbell group which met in his front room on a Thursday evening and which included his daughter Tracey, his nephew and nieces and our young children. As we all became more advanced Wilf Moreton arranged handbell training sessions at the home of Harold Chant and Roy especially loved these times with affection.

I began ringing at the age of fourteen and like many ringers in the area have spent hours riding around to towers in the back of Roy's small Ford Escort Van. No-one minded being crowded as it was huge fun and the friendship all created by Roy will stay with me for ever. Roy gave his time to travel miles to collect people from their homes and we would rush from church to church on a Sunday to ring at as many services as we could to keep the bells ringing.

Roy rang seven days a week and would collect learners to take them along to practice nights such as Wakefield Cathedral, Pontefract, Thorne and Sprotborough on a regular basis. I am very grateful to Roy for his support.

Roy encouraged new experiences and suggested David and I organised camping weekends for ringers which became an annual event with ringing friends joining us. The events soon grew. Roy was keen to take on new towers every year and go further afield so he could tick off the towers in his Dove's Guide. Roy had rung at most of the churches in England.

Roy was meticulous in everything he did, including ringing. He began his own shoe repair business from a mobile van but later moved to Balby in 1966 and had many regular customers who became firm friends over the years. Everyone was always made very welcome at his little shop. Roy was still working part-time until a year before his death.

Roy had many talents, his terraced garden was beautiful. He and Joyce loved to spend hours there together and we would often swap Fuschia cuttings over the garden wall. Roy was a wonderful carpenter as can be seen from the ringing chamber at Arksey Church. Building his own lathe, Roy would make gifts for his friends and ringing colleagues and I am sure, like myself, many people reading this will have been given a gift such as a walking stick, pencil holder or lamp stand. My late husband David and I treasured a chess table made by Roy inlaid with wood and leather, which he made as a engagement gift to us in 1980. Roy was a skilled bookbinder, many of his friends like myself having extensive year volumes of The Ringing World bound by him.

Roy was a lovely man, Godfather to our eldest son James. He was a doer for others and for many years ringing master at Arksey tower where he ran a very enjoyable practice night where everyone was made to feel they could develop their ringing at their pace. Good striking was paramount. Roy became profoundly deaf in the last five years of his life and had to give up ringing which was extremely frustrating for him. A number of quarter peals have been rung in his memory in the Doncaster area by many ringers taught or encouraged by Roy himself.

On behalf of the ringers in the area we wish to say with affection a huge 'thank-you' to Roy for his dedication to church bell ringing and his commitment to others.

Helen Nichols

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