



## Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch

# Newsletter

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### *YACR Website*

The Yorkshire Association Website can be found at [www.yacr.org.uk](http://www.yacr.org.uk).  
Contact the Branch Secretary to add events and get tower pages updated.

## Branch Contacts

### Chair:

Robert Wood  
[robert-m-wood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert-m-wood@hotmail.co.uk)

### Treasurer:

John Welch  
[jrw147@gmail.com](mailto:jrw147@gmail.com)

### Membership Secretary:

Jonathan Couchman  
[jonathan.couchman@live.com](mailto:jonathan.couchman@live.com)

### Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

Ross Weddell  
[ross2weddell4home@gmail.com](mailto:ross2weddell4home@gmail.com)

### Ringling Master:

Susan Welch  
[sew295@gmail.com](mailto:sew295@gmail.com)

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### *Welcome from the Editor*

A warm welcome to the tenth issue of the Newsletter from the editor. This is the third newsletter of year and comes as Christmas is approaching.

If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, contact the editor.

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### *Im Memoriam: Frank Dean*

The Branch is saddened to hear of the death of Frank Dean of Pateley Bridge in August 2019. Frank was a faithful ringer at St Cuthbert's from his youth until a few years ago when illness forced his retirement and he is greatly missed.

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### *Annual Report 2019*

If your listed as unattached in the 2018 annual report but want to be listed under your home tower for the 2019 report, please contact the secretary ([ross2weddell4home@gmail.com](mailto:ross2weddell4home@gmail.com)) or Janine Jones (Association Membership Secretary) [janinehjones@ntlworld.com](mailto:janinehjones@ntlworld.com) who will provide a form to fill in.

If you have already filled in a form, your preferences have been saved from last year and your details will be included in the same way as the previous year.

## ***Safeguarding Training @ Swainby***

*by Ross Weddell*

Approximately 20 people from the Branch and across the Association converged on Swainby Church Hall for Safeguarding Training. The Training was led by Jenny Price, the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for the Leeds diocese. The course was at the C2 level which is recommended for all leaders of adult and children's activities

Jenny heavily focussed the training on the ringing environment, answering questions and allowing discussion of pertinent points from the ringers present.

The training started with a quiz covering various aspects of safeguarding to assess our knowledge. The key thread was that we need to know we have done our best and that we document actions that we have taken.

The course then moved on to covering the fundamental meaning of Safeguarding. The key message being that there is 2 sides to any potential safeguarding situation. Namely the person and you. Both parties are equally relevant and important.

The discussion then moved on to safe working practices. There was a lot of discussion around teaching and lone working. The message is that teaching should always occur with at least 2 non-connected adults in the room (i.e. not husband and wife). Teaching Bell Handling is the most challenging part of ringing from a safeguarding perspective. It was recommended that a consent form is used when teaching new recruits particularly young ringers.

We then moved on to a series of scenarios looking into safe practice. This highlighted how certain actions can have a different effect in different circumstances. An

example scenario: 'Is giving a young person your contact details ok?' 'The answer depends heavily on the circumstance. Firstly, parental approval should be received. Secondly, all email contact should have at least the parent cc'd in, if not other members of the tower. The conclusion being that if steps are taken then asking for personal contact details is ok, but asking for contact information 'in private' is not an appropriate action.

### **Broad Take Home Messages:**

- Have a safeguarding poster on tower notice board.
- Know who the church safeguarding officer is and their contact details.
- Always do something if there are any concerns! Start by discretely discussing with another member of the tower then contact the church safeguarding officer if deemed appropriate.
- Ensure you never alone with a young person or vulnerable adult inside the tower.
- Carry out a 'Risk Assessment' for your tower. (Templates and further information online)
- Ensure that all tower leaders have attended a C2 course. It helps that some other ringers in the tower have completed the free online C1 course.

The Safeguarding Course was very valuable to participants. It provided context and information on the issues and challenges facing ringers. Our thanks go to Jenny Price for giving up her Saturday morning to come and lead the course and Robert Wood for organising the course.

## ***C&NY Branch AGM @ Sowerby and Thirsk***

**When:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **Timings:**

- Ringing at Thirsk: 3-4
- Tea and Meeting in Sowerby Hall: 4-5:30
- Evening ringing at Sowerby 5:30 – 6:30

**Venues:** Thirsk, Sowerby Church Hall, Sowerby.

The meeting Agenda will be sent out with this newsletter.

**Names for Tea** to Ross Weddell by **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

[ross2weddell4home@gmail.com](mailto:ross2weddell4home@gmail.com)

**More information:** Contact the Branch Secretary

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## ***New Committee Members Needed***

At the Branch AGM 2020, the Treasurer and Ringing Master are looking to stand down from the Branch Committee. Therefore the committee are we are looking for volunteers to take on these roles.

**Ringing Master:** Runs the ringing at C&NY Branch Events

**Treasurer:** Organises the Branch finances.

If you are interested, contact a member of branch committee to discuss.

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## ***New Members Elected***

The following Members were elected at the Half Yearly Meeting in September at Northallerton

- Victoria Woodhead(A) – Guisborough
- Mark Phillips(A) - Barton
- Valerie Harker(NQ) - Northallerton

## ***Branch Mailing and Facebook Group Pages***

*By Ross Weddell*

The current Branch mailing list consists of a list of address to which emails are sent every time.

In next period of time, this list will be migrated over to a 'google group'. Everyone on the list will receive an invitation to join this group. This change will allow everyone better control over whether or not you want to receive updates from the email list.

I have had a few challenges in getting this to work, therefore I am looking into options to create a viable system.

All posts to the list will need be approved before sent out to the list. The Branch Mailing list will continue to be for the distribution of information/ requests throughout the branch.

Please get in touch with the secretary if you have any questions.

### **Branch Facebook Page**

The Branch Facebook page is for the latest news information and requests across the branch.

All Events advertised through the newsletter will be advertised through the Facebook page.

Search 'Cleveland and North Yorkshire Ringers' to find the page. I encourage everyone on Facebook to join up with the group.

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## ***Grants for ART Courses***

*By Elaine Scott(Education Committee)*

- Individuals are encouraged to attend ART course and workshops.
- Grants up to the full cost of the courses are available.
- Please apply for a code to the Treasurer BEFORE applying for a place on the course.

## *From the Vault: A Bell for Titoki(NZ)*

*By Peter Sotheran(Marske)*

A Bell, retrieved from the disused Miners' Church at Dunsdale, was shipped to New Zealand where it was installed in the Healing Centre at Titoki, Whakatane on Bay of Plenty.



*The 'Tin Tabernacle' St Oswald's Church, Dunsdale.*

The initial request was made to the London-based network editor of the BBC's local radio station network who circulated it to the BBC local radio stations.

Having worked with Marske Bell Ringers and the Cleveland Handbell Ringers a number of times, BBC Radio Tees (then known as Radio Cleveland) asked Marske ringers to help. We identified the small bell in the redundant 'mission' church at Dunsdale and obtained permission to remove it.

The apprentice training centre at ICI Wilton was approached. They cleaned & painted the bell and refurbished the bearings. We supplied a second hand rope ex-Marske belfry.

Whilst pondering how to transport the bell to New Zealand, there was a news report on BBC Look North about a ship being prepared to go to NZ to work on the submarine power

cables that link the North & South Islands. The BBC newsroom provided contact details for the ship owner.



The Chairman of Stag Line offered to carry the bell to NZ. He obtained special dispensation from the Panama Canal to avoid paying the cargo duties as the vessel transited the canal. He then contacted the NZ national electricity company who took interest and arranged to transport the bells 200 miles across New Zealand to Titoki, near Whakatane on the Bay of Plenty – the tropical region on the north coast of the North Island.

In 2015, the Titoki Healing Centre reported that the bell was still in excellent working order and was rung to announce each of the regular acts of worship. The Healing Centre provides conciliation services and counselling for families under stress. At one time it also ran a drug-recovery programme.

## Other Upcoming Branch Events

### Surprise Royal Practice

**When:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 7:00-9:00.

**Venue:** Northallerton.

**Purpose:** Practice aimed at offering ringers the opportunity to ring methods on 10. The principal methods that will be rung are: Cambridge/Yorkshire/Bristol/ London Surprise Royal and Stedman Caters. The intention is to hold the practices bimonthly on various 10 bell towers across the branch.

All able ringers are welcome.

**More information:** Contact the Branch Secretary

### C&NY Branch Striking Competition

**When:** Morning of Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**Venue:** TBC.

More information will be provided in due course.

### C&NY Branch Firsts Week Including Ringing for VE Day

**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May 2020(VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020)

**Venues:** Across the Branch

**Purpose:** The 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 is a Bank Holiday to Mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. The branch committee have decided to combine this anniversary with the Branch Firsts Week to encourage everyone to ring for VE Day and to try something for the first time! Whether its ringing a new method, ringing at a new tower, ringing a quarter peal or ringing a peal. Discuss it within towers and see what would be good to try.

**More information:** Contact the Branch Secretary

## YACR Membership Subscriptions 2020

*By Jonathan Couchman(Branch Membership Secretary)*

I shall start collecting membership subscriptions in January for existing members and those elected at the Branch AGM on Saturday 18th January.

Subscriptions are £12 except for those under 17 years old or in full-time education, for whom the subscription is £6.

Payment may be made by cash, cheque or BACS, the latter of course being most convenient to your membership secretary. Some branches kindly make a donation to the YACR bell restoration fund at the same time as they pay their membership subscriptions, again by cash, cheque or BACS.

Please make cheques payable as follows:

- Membership subscriptions: “Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers”.
- BRF donations: “Yorkshire Assoc of Change Ringers Bell Repair Fund”.

Bank account details are as follows:

- Membership subscriptions: Sort code 56-00-54; account 02325853.
- BRF donations: Sort code 56-00-54; account 00656275.

When you pay, I would be grateful if you could include a list of your tower members to reconcile with my spreadsheet. Please email me at [jonathan.couchman@live.com](mailto:jonathan.couchman@live.com). If you need to phone me, please call 07770 302653.

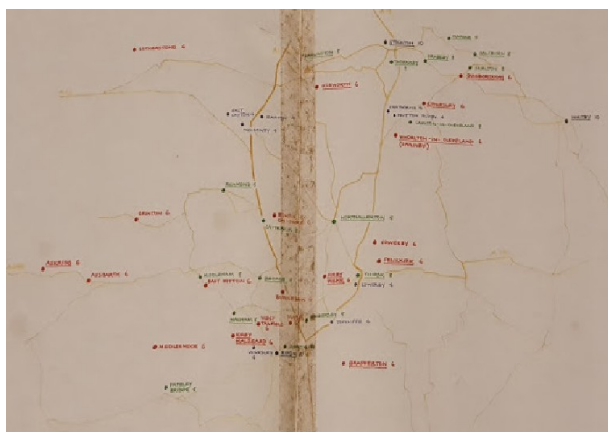
Thank you!

## Cleveland Ringing: Past, Present and Future – A Story of links

*By Ross Weddell and historical background from the chair of the C&NY Branch in the 1960s, Peter Sotheran(Marske)*

*Article also published in the D&N Times*

There was a time when there existed an association called the Cleveland Association of Change Ringers. The association covered the area where the northern edge of the Yorkshire Association met the southern fringe of the Durham and Newcastle Association. To give sense of perspective, the map below shows the geographic reach of the association at an unknown time. (Possibly the 1960s).



### **History of The Cleveland Association**

The Association was formed in the late 1890s. Covering towers from Sharow and Thirsk in the South, to Stockton, Darlington and Stokesley in the North, and from Cotherstone, Richmond and Grinton in the west to Saltburn, Skelton and Whitby in the east.

In the 1960's, the same territory was also covered by the North Yorkshire Branch of the Yorkshire Association. Both associations used to plan their ringing programmes as to not conflict

with each other. Particularly as the majority of members belonged to both.

Both associations had about forty regular members and probably thirty of them belonged to both associations. Most years a joint meeting was held, usually at Whitby, in the summer. But you wouldn't find sixty-plus ringers there, just the same thirty or forty who supported both societies. These were the Halcyon days.

In 1969, after over five years of discussion, the Cleveland Association merged with the North Yorkshire Branch of the Yorkshire Association, creating the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch(C&NY). The new C&NY Branch was vast, covering the same area as Kent, Surrey and East Sussex combined. A meeting at Cotherstone, the furthest outpost, entailed a round trip of 120 miles from Peter Sotheran's base at Marske.

The long running Miners Strike of 1972 brought about many changes including reduced working hours and restrictions on the use of electricity. This in turn caused the Branch Committee to review its borders and attempt to trim the branch to a more manageable size.

Several adjoining towers were 'given' to adjoining branches. Cotherstone went to the D&N and towers near the boundary of the North and West Ridings of Yorkshire were re-allocated to the adjacent branches. The arrangements determined in this period continue to this day.

### **An ode to the present and future**

The history of ringing in Cleveland has always been one of collaboration. Towers and ringers have always travelled around for ringing and seeking out ringing opportunities to the North, South and West. The rural geography of the Moors and Dales, combined with the urban populations of Teeside have a huge effect on ringing in the area.

Ringers from outside the area have always been welcomed into towers in the area. A beautiful description is given in the 1902 Annual report of the Cleveland Association by the Hon Secretary and Treasurer. It states: There is a kind of Freemasonry amongst ringers which binds them together, and laid down as a general rule which I believe hardly any exception to prove its truth, a ringer is welcomed by his brother strings in any tower even though he is an absolute stranger to them when he enters it.' This description depicts the ringing culture of the area back in 1904, now and into the future. Ringing in the area relies upon the links between towers within the area and around the borders of the area.

When Ross Weddell moved to Saltburn, there were a few links to between ringers in the D&N and C&NY. As time has progressed, the links have increased further. The advertisement and word of mouth of the D&N Advanced Practices at St. Johns Darlington have gradually made the links stronger. The practices have been visited by numerous ringers whose home towers are in the C&NY. This has had significant benefits for both ringing areas. It has been a major contribution to the large number of quarter peals that have been rung in the area over the past few years. Including the regular Sunday evening quarter peals at Stokesley and Darlington, and numerous quarter peals days/afternoons.

The links aren't just of benefit to the more advanced ringers. They offer benefit to newer ringers as well. For example there has been ringers from Melsonby visiting Heighington practices and ringers from Barnard Castle helping out ringing at Grinton.

The key point is not what links the Branch and Association officers of area know about but what links are being made organically on the ground in towers across the area. The boundary between the D&N and C&NY is artificial. We should not feel constrained by this boundary.

Geographically Marske and Hartlepool, Richmond and Darlington, Hurworth and Brompton are very close together. These towers are closer together than other towers within the same association.

### **Conclusion**

Let us not treat the boundary between ringing associations as boundaries to our ringing. Let us create the links between our local towers across these lines. The outcome of making these links is always unknowable but the potential benefits of creating the links are huge. Search online, ask other ringers, visit open churches and find out where ringing is happening. Ringing in Cleveland and the surrounding areas has been based upon ringers making connections for over 100 years. Let us continue in this spirit of fellowship and discovery for 100's of years to come.

Lastly, thanks must be given to all those ringers, particularly from the across the D&N Southern District and C&NY Branch, who have taken the step to visit other towers both inside and outside of the their areas.

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## **YACR Sunday Service Band Striking Competition Results**

*Held at Thorer on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019*

- 1st - Leeds Minster (7)
- 2nd - Ripon Cathedral (15)
- 3rd - York Minster (19)
- 4th - Pickering (20)
- 5th - Rotherham Minster (21)
- 6th - Selby Abbey (40)
- 7th - Ilkley (50)
- 8th – Silkstone

## Golden Quarter at Stokesley

Yorkshire Association  
On Thursday, 22 August 2019 in 42m  
Stokesley, North Yorkshire  
St Peter and St Paul  
Tenor: 7–2–5 in A  
1260 Plain Bob Doubles  
1 Heather Waring  
2 Jean Hallett  
3 Gerry Parsons  
4 John Groom  
5 John G Hallett (C)  
6 Christine Parsons



band clockwise from front right

Rung by members of the Stokesley band to celebrate the fifty or more years of marriage of Jean and John Hallett, Heather and Mick Waring, John and Marie Groom and Christine and Gerry Parsons. 4 and 5 each ringing their 200<sup>th</sup> quarter on their respective bell.

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## 2020 Ringing Pathways

*Information from Bell Board*

The Ringing World has published a collection of ringing ‘Pathways’ for 2020. They replace the ‘Method of The Month’ in 2019.

Pathways are routes through a selection of methods. There are three 2020 pathways

aimed at ringers of different levels: they are called the blue, red and yellow pathways. We suggest you’re comfortable with the starting point before you step onto the path. The first step shouldn’t be too difficult.

The pathways are flexible. Go through at your own pace, or in a different order, ringing a performance of each step on the pathway during 2020. We’re anticipating most people will ring quarter peals for each step, but you can ring peals, extents, touches or just plain courses – and log them all here on BellBoard. You might want to conduct a whole pathway, or take the same band through.

### Blue Pathway

The blue pathway is for ringers looking to develop their ringing beyond **Plain Bob Minor** by learning some simple new doubles and minor methods.

### Red Pathway

The red pathway is aimed at ringers who can ring a **surprise minor method** and who wish to learn more methods on five, six, and optionally seven bells.

### Yellow Pathway

The yellow pathway takes ringers who can already ring **some surprise major methods** and expands their repertoire on eight bells with both plain and surprise methods.

More information can be found through this link  
<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/pathways>

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## Next Newsletter

**Articles/Events/Items for the Next Newsletter to the editor by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March.**



## Yorkshire Tykes

By Jane Lynch (Yorkshire Tykes Organiser)

The YACR Young Ringers are also known as the Yorkshire Tykes. The group is open to all young people aged 18 and under from any of the YACR Branches. Minimum standard is to be able to control a bell unaided. Parents and adult helpers are welcome to come and help.

The Tykes meet on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month and visit various Association towers for a general practice or to ring quarter peals. The ringing is usually run by one of the young people and is all aimed at what they wish to ring.

Next Meetings:

- 12<sup>th</sup> January: 2-3:30 Ripon, 4-5 Sharow
- 9<sup>th</sup> February: Kippax and Swillington
- 7<sup>th</sup> March: Durham Trip

The Tykes also represent YACR in the Ringing World National Youth Contest each year. On 1st July 2017 they successfully overcame 18 other teams to win the Whitechapel Trophy in Birmingham. In July 2019 the team, which included two young ringers entering their first contest, finished in 3rd place overall and 2nd in the method ringing category. The contest was held in Liverpool and concluded with ringing at Liverpool Cathedral.

In July 2020 we will be hosting the RWNYC in York.

For more information contact Jane Lynch (Yorkshire Tykes Organiser)

Contact: John Hallett

[jgh135@gmail.com](mailto:jgh135@gmail.com)

- **D and N Southern District Advanced Practice** Locations TBC in 2020 due to tower issues at St. Johns Darlington 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7:30-9pm Plain Bob Triples to Standard 8 Surprise Major Including Spliced Contact Jack Hanlon [jack@poolsurplus.co.uk](mailto:jack@poolsurplus.co.uk)
- **Monthly Practice @ Sowerby** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:30-9pm Call Changes and Simple Methods. Contact: Neil Irving [neil@neilirving.co.uk](mailto:neil@neilirving.co.uk)

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## Diary

- **4<sup>th</sup> January** – Surprise Royal Practice at Northallerton (See Page 5)
- **18<sup>th</sup> January** - Branch AGM at Sowerby and Thirsk (See Page 2)
- **1<sup>st</sup> February** YACR Meeting in the east Riding Branch
- **25<sup>th</sup> April** - C&NY Branch Striking Competition @ TBC
- **1st-10th May** - C&NY Branch Firsts Week (See Page 5)
- **9<sup>th</sup> May** - YACR AGM in the Sheffield Branch



Image of Marske Belltower with Christmas Star  
Courtesy of Peter Sotheran

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## Non Weekly Practices

- **Sunday Surprise @ Stokesley**  
3rd Sunday: 4:45-6pm Standard 8  
Surprised Major, including spliced