



Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Spring 2018 / No.5

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Branch Committee:

Chair:

Robert Wood robert-m-wood@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer:

John Welch jrw147@gmail.com

Secretary and Newsletter Editor:

Ross Weddell ross2weddell4home@gmail.com

Ringing Master:

Susan Welch susan@slaycock.plus.com

Online!

The Yorkshire Association
Website can be found at

www.yacr.org.uk.

Contact the Branch
Secretary to add events
and get tower pages
updated.



Events 2018:

Branch Striking Competition Saturday 28th April 2018

Programme:

- 10:15 Refreshments in Hall
- 10:20: Draw in Hall
- 10:30: First Competition Ringing
- Approx 13:00: Lunch
- Approx 13:30 Short Meeting with results

Competing bands are asked to bring a contribution of
baked goods for dessert.

The competition rules are attached with the newsletter.

There will be a raffle in aid of the Branch BRF.

Email entries for the Competition and lunch
ross2weddell4home@gmail.com by

Wednesday 25th April

Association AGM and Interbranch Striking Competition Saturday 12th May 2018

Striking Competition – Ripon Cathedral

Refreshments from 09:30, draw at 10:10, First band 10:30

11:30 – 12:15 **West Tanfield**, St Nicholas (6)

12:15 – 13:15 **Masham**, St Mary the Virgin (10)

13:15 – 14:00 **East Witton**, St John the Evangelist (6)

14:00 – 14:45 **Askrigg**, St Oswald (6)

15:00 – 16:00 **Grinton**, St Andrew (8)

Service 16:30 – 17:00 **Richmond**, St Mary

Tea, AGM and Striking Competition Results

17:00 – 19:00 **Richmond Town Hall**

Evening Ringing

19:00 – 21:00 **Richmond**, St Mary (8)

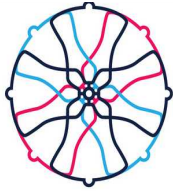
**Names for tea to Susan Welch Wednesday 9th
May at the latest. No name no tea.**

Email: susan@slaycock.plus.com

A Warm Welcome from the Editor

A warm welcome to the fifth issue of the
Newsletter from the editor. After my first year
as editor, the plan is to move to having 3 regular issues
per year (Spring, Summer and Autumn/Winter)
If you have any comments or suggestions for
improvements, contact the editor.

Central Council Update



What is the Central Council?

The Central Council of Church Bellringers (CCCBR) is the body which represents all bellringers and bellringing activities. Societies and Associations are affiliated to the central council.

For example, each individual tower (eg. Sowerby) is part of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch which is part of the Yorkshire Association of Church Bellringers (YACR). The YACR is affiliated to the Central Council.

The Central Council has frequent meetings to discuss issues and solutions to issues effecting ringers (eg. recruitment)

Reform of the Council

At the Council Meeting in May 2017, a mandate was given to reform the council. This involves many facets including improving the governance structure, bringing the Council's rules into compliance with current Charity Commission Guidance and to simplify the language of the rules

More information can be found at <https://cccbr.org.uk/about/reform/rules/>

Ringling Remembers

To commemorate the 1400 bell ringers who died in the First World War, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, together with the Big Ideas Company, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, have launched a new campaign to recruit 1400 new bell ringers. This is a call out to all of us and an opportunity for everyone, a chance to make this wonderful ancient tradition open to all.

More information can be found at <https://a100.cccbr.org.uk>

Central Council Meeting 26th -28th May Lancaster

The Central Council Meeting Weekend is following a new format this year. As well as the annual meeting itself, there is a wide variety of seminars, sessions, stalls and activities on offer for ALL ringers.

Online bookings are being taken at the following address (<https://cccbr.org.uk/about/meetings/2018-meeting/>) from all ringers. All ringers are invited to attend this exciting event.

YACR Education Committee

By Elaine Scott (Education Committee Convener)

The Education Committee believes that the majority of training should be given at Branch level as the needs of members and bands will be best known by the Branch officers. There are exceptions to this, such as residential courses and training in specialist areas where Branches may not have the resources to provide a successful event.

However, the Education Committee is more than happy to assist in preparing, advertising, delivering or assessing training events run by any Branch as it has ready access to many resources to assist with ranging from materials, trainers, helpers to flip charts, a projector, old ropes and hard hats. To use any of these resources, or to obtain grants for Simulators etc. please contact any member of the Committee.

YACR Education Committee Presents: A Grand Day Out

The Education Committee is organising a Grand Day out at the Great Yorkshire Showground on 13th April 2019. This a day for everyone to join in a range of ringing activities and attend seminars and workshops.

More information to follow nearer the event.

Association BRF - Easyfundraising

The association has setup a page on the easyfundraising platform as a way of getting donations for the BRF. This allows anyone to donate to the BRF by shopping online through the platform.

[Easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yorkassocbellring](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yorkassocbellring)

How it works?

When your about to do your online shopping, go to the easyfundraising website, sign in and start shopping! Once you've made a purchase the retailer pays a commission to easy fundraising for directing to their website. Part of this commission is given to the BRF. It is FREE to use and an easy way of donating money to the BRF.

Items for the next
Newsletter to
Ross Weddell
ross2weddell4home@gmail.com

By Friday 22nd June

Branch-Review of the Year

by Janet Wadsworth(Kirklington)

The Annual Striking Competition was held at Sowerby with 9 bands competing. 5 Sunday service and 4 fun. The Sunday Service competition was won by Ripon ringing Grandsire Doubles. The fun was won by Richmond and friends ringing Cambridge Minor.

Ripon went on to win the Yorkshire Association Sunday Service Striking Competition at North Cave in September beating York Minster by half a fault. There was some discussion following the event who should be entering which category. It was decided that the Sunday Service competition is for all towers with enough Sunday ringers to muster a team. The fun competition is to allow ringers whose towers don't have enough to enter a band in the Sunday service competition to participate in the event.

The branch entered a band in the Yorkshire Association striking competition at Birstwith in May which came third. The proposal to operate the branch as a group of clusters has been taken forward, Each cluster has a named representative to aid communication with the branch and report annually on the ringing in their cluster. Thank you to those who have volunteered for this.

On the bell front Richmond now has a grand new ring of eight and work continues at Middleham to replace the plane bearings. Work is going ahead to augment Barton from 4 to 6 bells. Northallerton are teaching learners from Barton.

Thanks go to the committee for all their hard work on behalf of the members of the branch. Special thanks to Ross Weddell for his hard work on the newsletter. Thanks to all those who have made the effort to contribute to this. Please keep reporting and advertising events via the newsletter to broaden opportunities for ringers in the branch.

D and N Young Ringers

8th April - 2-3:30 St Oswalds Durham

6th May – 2:30 - 4 Shildon

1st July – 1:30-3:30 St John Newcastle

2nd September – 2:30-4:00 – St Brandon
Brancepeth

4th November – St Oswalds Hartlepool
TBC

Contact Elizabeth Thompson:

Elizabeththompson998@hotmail.com

Or Jack Hanlon

Jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Stockton Update

by Jack Hanlon(D&N Southern District Master)

Since the start of the year, ringing at Stockton has started to become more regular. A new monthly practice on the first Thursday of the month has started, bringing ringers together from the YACR and D&N alike. There is no pre-required standard for these practices, they are open to all, so please come along. In addition Sunday ringing twice a month, led by Margaret Jobson, has also re-started. We are hoping to build up the ringing profile so as to be able to attract new learners to create a self sustaining band. Thanks to all that have helped so far, it's going from strength to strength.

Tykes Conquer Liverpool

by Jane Lynch(YACR Young Ringers District Joint Leader)

Saturday 17th March saw a party of Tykes and their parents/supporters visit Liverpool. Reduced in numbers due to illness, holidays and the "beast from the East" we still had a good number for some very decent ringing at St Barnabas, Mossley Hill (also known as Penny Lane). Very nice easy going bells ideal for the younger members of the group.

Then onto Liverpool Cathedral where we joined the local band practice. Following a guided tour up to see the bells it was on with the ringing. Everyone got to ring on all 12 bells and three of our young people rang the tenor, well done Alex, Luke and Ewan you all made it look quite easy...! Our younger ringers managed rounds and calls on 12 and did extremely well. Thanks to the local ringers for making us so welcome. Time for a quick group photo, then back to snow bound Yorkshire. An excellent trip and one we will no doubt repeat again soon



Tykes Meetings

We meet on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month. Moving around Yorkshire towers. Always advertised on the YACR website and Facebook page. All young ringers welcome please contact Jane Lynch by email or mobile 07807159086.

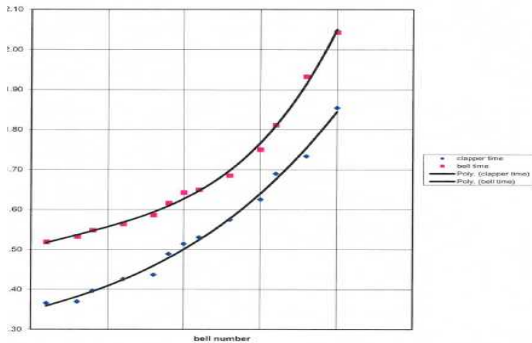
Next Practice Sunday 8th April at
Knottingley 3-5pm

Recent Work at Ripon

by Robert Wood

With any ring of bells, it is best if the swing times of all the bells and clappers are in the correct relationship to each other. At Ripon Cathedral, when the bells were installed in 1932, the hanging was somewhat experimental and, unfortunately, the relationships between the bells were not quite right. Because of this, the front bells have always been quite challenging to place accurately when ringing with the back bells.

A recent analysis carried out by John Taylor & Co. showed that some alterations could be made to improve the swing times and, thereby, make the bells easier to ring well.



Graph showing variation from the ideal swing times
Blue: clappers, Red: bells

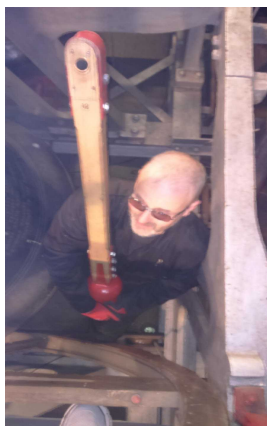
On Sunday 4th March, Steeplekeeper Charlie Brown, with some assistance, removed all 13 clappers and loaded them onto a palette ready for dispatch to Loughborough the following day.

At Taylor's bellfoundry, the clappers were all re-bushed and the worn surfaces rebuilt. Some of the clappers were then re-profiled by taking some metal off either the flight or the shaft in order to improve their swing times.

On Wednesday 10th March, Taylor's bellhangers arrived to refit the clappers. The swing times of all the bells were then checked and some amended by the addition of weights to the wheels.

It is too soon to say whether this work has been successful, but our hope is that the bells will now be easier to ring and, in particular, easier to ring well.

Charlie with the Tenor Clapper



Ripon Annual Dinner

by Anne Wood(Ripon)

Ripon Cathedral Ringers held their Annual Dinner on Saturday 10th March. After some years at Roecliffe, we decided to move back to the city, choosing The Old Deanery as our venue. As its name might suggest, this is the hotel and restaurant very close to the Cathedral! We were pleased that The Dean (an occasional "if I'm not busy downstairs" ringer) and Ripon's Lady Mayor were able to accept our invitations. The presence of The Mayor within the city meant that, shortly after 9pm, the Hornblower came to report to her, with several blows of the horn, that the Watch was set and all was well.

Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening was our Ringing Master, Martin Davies. Next year, he has made it clear that it will be the turn of the Tower Captain! After the Loyal Toast, proposed by Geoffrey Johnson, the traditional touch on handbells was rung by Martin, Simon Ogier and Robert Wood. Martin gave a short, witty speech, looking back at some of our activities and then presented The Brian and Ruth Waines trophy to his daughter Martha, who, in the last few months, has rung her first two quarters on our bells. This was not nepotism – several of us had been consulted and had agreed that Martha was the worthy recipient.

However, we sprang a surprise on Martin by ending the meal with a lusty rendition of Happy Birthday and the presentation of a delicious iced fruit cake, made by Jo Mitchell, to celebrate his recent 50th birthday. The Dean then spoke a few words, thanking us for our contribution to the life of the Cathedral and giving us an insight into possible future plans to enhance the visitor experience (yes, toilets were mentioned!).

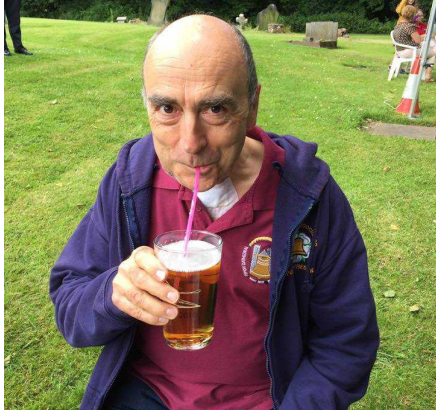
Finally, our Lady Mayor added her thanks for the contribution that the ringers make to the life of the city. She has been to previous dinners when mayor, but she acknowledged that some of our vocabulary is still a mystery!



One of the weights fitted to a wheel at Ripon

From The New Branch Chairman

by Robert Wood



I am flattered to have been elected as the Branch Chairman at the recent AGM, thank you! I thought that, having only lived in the Branch for 5 years, there are probably a lot of members who don't know me and, therefore, I had better introduce myself.

I grew up in Northamptonshire and learnt to ring in 1967 at Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire which was then a 17¹/₂ cwt ring of 5. I went to Bristol University and that is where I made huge progress with my method ringing; I recommend university ringing societies to our younger members!

In 1979 I married Anne, who is also a ringer, and since then we have moved around the country for work, living in Lancaster, Lichfield, London, Surrey and the East Riding. We retired to Ripon in 2013 and we now ring at Ripon Cathedral.

I am hugely grateful to Janet Wadsworth for her work as Chairman over the last year. I supported the idea of forming local clusters and I hope to see those develop during my tenure as Chairman. As a Branch we have over 60 towers and to drive from one end of the Branch to the other would take over 2 hours. For that reason, the sorts of events most association branches around the country organise are seldom well attended here. Local clusters offer the opportunity to organise local events to meet local needs and the Branch officers will do all they can to support such initiatives.

During the next year I hope to get to at least one practice in each cluster and I will liaise with the cluster contacts on that and on what the Branch can offer in the way of help and support.

Clusters Moving Forward

by Ross Weddell and Robert Wood

Our hope is that, by working in informal clusters, towers can cooperate to the extent which suits them. We anticipate that different clusters will work in different ways which suit their individual needs. There are several clusters already where people support each other's

Branch AGM Report

by Ross Weddell

This years Branch AGM visited the wild east of the Branch, namely Saltburn and Marske. Both churches have been celebrating their 150th Anniversaries this year. The day started at Saltburn with a slightly inauspicious manner with the Hastings stay dinger on the 2nd bell coming off whilst the bell was being rung up. Once the bell had been checked over and the dinger bolt located, ringing resumed. The bells provided a suitable challenge but the sound when we rung them well was beautiful.

After ringing at Saltburn, the AGM ajourned to Marske church for lunch. Our thanks go to the Marske ringers for the tasty lunch of sausage casserole and sponge pudding. This was followed by the AGM.

New Members elected:

Richard Lundie of East Witton
Steve Fowler of East Witton
Ruth Town of Northallerton(Upgrade)
David Liddell of Askrigg
Suzanne Wright of Askrigg
Louise Akid of Askrigg
Tony Hutchinson of Askrigg
Claire Jeffreys of East Witton
Jane Laughter of Marske
David Ball of Burneston
Carol Scaife of Burneston
Genevieve Derham of Kirklington
Martha Davies of Ripon
Jack Hanlon of Stockton-on-Tees
Roger Mackintosh of Marske
James Baker of Marske
Carol Bruce of Marske

New Branch Committee:

Chairman: Robert Wood

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Ross Weddell

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: John Welch

Ringling Master: Susan Welch

Our thanks go to all the Committee Members for their efforts over the past years.

The AGM finished with ringing at Marske, a quite contrasting light ring of 8 to the heaviness of Saltburn earlier in the day.

practices and help out for weddings etc.

The cluster reps are one of the channels of communication between towers and the branch. The committee welcomes requests for assistance where help from the wider branch or association would be useful. For example: Special practices, Training events, support on tower issues(eg. safeguarding)

Middleham Restoration: Going To Plan

by Jonathan Couchman(Middleham)

You may recall that we have an ongoing project in Middleham to restore our 8 fine bells, in particular by replacing with sealed ball bearings the worn-out plain bearings that were installed with the bells in 1911. The new bearings are being installed by Taylors, who made and installed the bells in the first place, but a small team of dedicated volunteers is doing an enormous amount of work as well. I shall say more about our wonderful volunteers in a moment, but first I will give a short progress report.

At the time of writing, therefore, I am delighted to say that all is on course for one of Taylors' bellhangers to arrive in Middleham on 26th March to separate the headstocks from the bells and return the former to the Loughborough foundry to mount the new bearings on the gudgeon pins. Our timetable agreed with Taylors will see the bells re-mounted shortly before 1 June, when Middleham has its last First War commemorative peal (and here I say "thank you" to Robert Wood and colleagues for ringing the peals, as such things are way beyond us).



And now let me tell you about our volunteer labourers and their work, and the main thing to say is that they are totally brilliant, dedicated and hard working. The team comprises **Simon Burren, James Lundie, Steve Fowler, Mike Warden, Colin Gouck and Steve Byford**. Of these, only Simon – the team leader – James and Steve are ringers. The team have been working tirelessly since the autumn to clean the frame, then to paint it first with a rust-resistant primer (Galvafruid) and then a beautiful red top coat.

The surface area of the frame is massive and it was extensively coated with oil that had run out of the old plain bearings, and the team have exercised much energy and determination in removing the oil, dust and rust as well as painting on the primer plus top coat. Simon's top tip is that Co-op cat litter is the perfect material for degreasing a bell frame, when applied vigorously with a wire brush.

As the accompanying photos show, excellent progress has been made in cleaning and painting the frame, work which is to be completed while the bells are dismounted. During the course of the work, it was found that dust and grit was cascading from the bare walls of the belfry and, to reduce this cascade, the walls were limewashed (permission having been given by the Archdeacon!). Also during the work, it was found that rain and snow blows through the louvres, and rectification of this problem will be the next stage of the project.



Ringling Remembers in Middleham & East Witton

As a footnote, three Middleham ringers were killed in the Great War and the *Ringling Remembers* target of our joint East Witton & Middleham band is to recruit at least three new "replacements" in 2018.

It looks as if we may meet our target: one new recruit is in training and two potential recruits expressed an interest at our most recent fund-raising event.

Anniversary Quarter Peal at Stokesley

Stokesley, North Yorkshire

SS Peter and Paul

Sunday, 7 January 2018 in 39min (7–2–5 in A)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Paul Hutchinson

2 John Groom

3 David Lester

4 Ashley Law

5 John Hutchinson

6 John G Hallett ©

Rung to mark 40 years ringing on these bells since re-dedication by Clifford Barker, Bishop of Whitby, on 6th Jan 1978. The six Warner bells had been tuned and hung in a new frame with new fittings. Two trebles were added in 1988. 486th quarter on the bells since rehanging.

Im Memorium: Janet Woods of Hurworth

by Chris Enzor (D&N president)



Janet Woods sadly died on 29 December 2017 after a short illness.

Janet was born in 1943 in Darlington, where she grew up the only child of Harry and Norah Warwick. She met Brenda Cooke (now Brenda Davidson), one of Tom Cooke's daughters, at Darlington Girls' High School.

One night, Janet went to a practice night at St Cuthbert's Darlington, to see what ringing was all about, and the rest, as they say, is history. She was taught by Tom, and rang with a strong band which included other well known ringers such as Fred Hodgson, Maurice Stewart and Ernest Pannell. She was to remain close friends with Brenda and later Brenda's husband Bill Davidson.

Double Norwich, a favourite method at the time, was her first peal, at St Cuthbert's in 1961. In 1962 and 1963 she rang a number of peals, mainly surprise major, for the Manchester University Guild, as by then she was at teacher training college in Didsbury. Having qualified as a science teacher, in 1964 she started work at Darlington Central School. In 1968, coinciding with the end of steam on British Railways, she and Sam (a steam enthusiast), who was also a teacher at Central School, began going out much to the delight of some of the pupils who felt that they had orchestrated the liaison! Sam was not allowed to learn to ring, but remembers going on several ringing holidays to different parts of the country, and even being allowed into the belfries.

Neal and Tony, the couple's two children were born in 1975 and 1978 respectively and Janet left teaching to become a full time mother. They were introduced to ringing but never took it as seriously as their mother did. Neal's introduction was on a ringing holiday, at the age of 15 months, to Church Stretton – where Sam enjoyed a week's child minding. Janet also liked to find towers to ring at whenever the family were away on holiday and provision had to be made for Sunday and practice night ringing at local towers whilst Sam and the boys enjoyed going to local parks.

Later, coach holidays included a tour to the Isle of Wight where she rang at Shanklin, and was offered a lift for the next night to another tower while Sam had a ride to Ryde on the train; and another year ringing at Ilfracombe. These interludes always provided very friendly evenings.

A number of holidays at Micheldever (Hampshire) provided very pleasant ringing with the question on leaving "when will you be here again, thanks for coming to ring". In 1979, the family moved to Hurworth, just outside Darlington, and Janet became a regular ringer on the heavy (17cwt) 6 there. Latterly, she always rang the 4th, and those who rang for her memorial service were very conscious that she would be listening for any slight striking errors from that bell.

Janet later returned to do supply teaching and later still returned to full time science teaching at Longfield School in Darlington. She retired from teaching in 1995, but continued to provide strong support to ringing locally. In addition to Hurworth's practice night, she used to attend practices regularly at Heighington and Shildon, providing much needed experience to help bring along other ringers.

She was also a strong supporter of the southern district of the Durham & Newcastle DACBR and would attend meetings and outings whenever she could. She particularly enjoyed joining in with the advanced practices which had been set up not so very long before she died, and was always pleased when Stedman Triples was on the agenda. Despite being ill, she insisted on attending the D&N Carol Service on 18 December 2017 at Heighington, and so it came as a shock to us all to find out that she had been admitted to hospital just before Christmas and that she was seriously ill.

As was so typical of Janet, she wanted no fuss. A memorial service was held at Hurworth on 11 January 2018, immediately after a family service at the crematorium. She had insisted that there be no formal eulogy, so the vicar had to confine himself to a brief 'address' instead. It was a tribute to Janet that the church was full, with many having to stand.

On 11 March 2018, a peal was specially arranged and rung in memory of Janet, by a band mainly from the southern district, but including Bill Davidson. Yorkshire S Major was Janet's most popular method for peals (9 in all), and was therefore the clear choice for her memorial peal. Our thoughts are with Sam and all the members of Janet's family. She will be greatly missed.

Darlington, Durham, St Cuthbert

Sunday, 11 March 2018 in 3h 8m (18–0–14 in F)

5058 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Daniel Brady

1 Catherine H Millar

2 Jack Hanlon

3 Helen L Scott

4 William Davidson

5 Philip M Park

6 Christopher J P Scott

7 Christopher M Mansfield

8 Christopher H Enzor (C)

In loving memory of Janet Woods, 1943 to 2017.

Upcoming Events

April

Sat 14th

D and N AGM – Benfieldside
(<http://dandn.esy.es/new/events.html>)

Sat 28th

Branch Striking
Competition Wath – (See Page 1)

May

Sat 7th

Ripon Cathedral Beer Festival

Sat 13th

Association AGM and
Interbranch Striking
Competition based around
Richmond(See Page 1)

Sept

Sat 8th

BRF Quiz Evening at
Sherburn-in-Elmet

Sat 15th

YACR General Meeting and
final of Sunday Service
Striking Competition in the
Central Branch

Oct

Sat 20th

Snowdon Lunch at Castlegate
House York

Regular Local Practices

Sowerby Monthly Practice

1st Tuesday's: 7:30-9pm

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Neil Irving

neil@neilirving.co.uk

Sunday Surprise

3rd Sunday: 4:45-6pm – Stokesley

What is typically rung?

Standard 8 Surprised Major, including spliced

Contact: John Hallett

jghl35@gmail.com

Barnard Castle Practices

2nd and 4th Mondays

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Helen Scott

helenscott63@hotmail.com

D&N Southern District – Advanced Practice

2nd and 4th Tuesdays – St John's Darlington 7:30

What is typically rung?

Kent Minor, Grandsire, Plain Bob,
Yorkshire, Cambridge, Bristol

Contact: Jack Hanlon

Jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Stockton Monthly Practice

Thursday(1st) 7:00 – 8:30pm

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Jack Hanlon

Jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Marske Weekly Practice

Mondays 7:30 – 9:00pm(Bell Handing from 7:00)

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Peter Sotheran

Peter.sotheran@gmail.com

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