



# Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Spring 2017 / No.1

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## Branch Committee:

### Chair:

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### Committee members:

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

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Jo Mitchell [jo@manorhouse.co.uk](mailto:jo@manorhouse.co.uk)

## A warm welcome from the new Newsletter Editor

A warm welcome to the new Newsletter from the new editor Ross Weddell. The Newsletter will now be published quarterly and with a new look to boot. Please let me know what you think of the new look.

## A Series of Thanks

OUR THANKS and appreciation go to Jo Mitchell and Christine Parsons, who both stepped down at the Branch AGM from their posts, respectively as Newsletter Editor and Branch Secretary after many years of service to both the Branch and the Association.



*St. Andrew's, Aldborough*

Our Thanks also go to Jo, Christine and their helpers for organising the very successful YACR AGM meeting on 4th February, at towers around Ripon and Aldborough

## Farewells at Richmond

RICHMOND SAYS goodbye to Bishop James Bell on Sunday 12th March at 6.30 p.m. We are also saying goodbye to the Richmond bells in preparation for the new frame and bells. There will be open ringing from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

## Coming Soon!

The new Yorkshire Association website is nearly ready and it is anticipated that it will come online in the next few months. The web address will remain unchanged at [yacr.org.uk](http://yacr.org.uk).



## Northallerton Ringers in The Big Smoke

by Jennie Town



*L to R back: Dot Salmon, David Town, James Town, Alwyn Shaw, Gabriel Bradley (with halo), Stephanie Pattenden, James Belshaw, Mark Bradley.*

*L to R front: Jennie Town, Hayley Bradley, Heidi Bradley*

A FEW OF the Northallerton, band ventured south by train on a mini-outing on Saturday 21st January.

St Dunstan in the West was the first tower and the instructions for access ran to two pages of A4 and proved as difficult in the execution as they looked on paper! We eventually started ringing rather later than planned. All went well, although Heidi and Gabriel were horrified to be pitched into their first ever touch of Stedman Caters,

At St James Garlickhythe where the keys had be collected from the key safe at St Magnus the Martyr and the padlock proved more than a match for Jennie, who had to admit defeat and hand over to somebody with more finesse and patience. Once up in the tower, our ringing was good on these lovely bells, which had a very 'positive feel' to them. After this it was definitely time for a pub lunch, although there was the small matter of returning the keys and *that* padlock again . . .

The final tower was St Clement Danes, the RAF church. Our former ringer Martin Kirk would have described this as 'sole purpose of visit'. Mark Bradley, an RAF Flight Lieutenant had visited the church previously, he had never rung there. The plan was to ring a quarter peal but first there was a short ring for our 'extra person'. We had a rather nervous and unsuccessful false start then sailed through the quarter peal confidently.

After goodbyes to James and Stephanie, who had been adopted members of the band for the day, we headed back to King's Cross for some much needed refreshment before the journey home.

### Yorkshire Association

Westminster, Greater London

St Clement Danes

Saturday, 21 January 2017 in 50m (21-1-23 in E)

### 1259 Grandsire Caters

- 1 Hayley Bradley
- 2 David A Town
- 3 Gabriel C Bradley
- 4 Dorothy Salmon
- 3 Heidi A Bradley
- 6 Stephanie J Pattenden
- 7 James W Belshaw
- 8 James P Town
- 9 Jennifer A Town (C)
- 10 Mark R Bradley

Organised so that Flight-Lieutenant Mark Bradley could ring at this tower.

## Northallerton Ringers' Dinner

by Jennie Town

NORTHALLERTON RINGERS held their annual dinner at the Golden Lion Hotel in the High Street on 14<sup>th</sup> January. The first Northallerton dinner was held in 1967 at the Buck Inn at Maunby so this was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Can any other tower in the branch match or better this?

Earlier in the day we rang two quarter peals of doubles. In the morning Graham Errington rang his first quarter for a few years, as he has been in the USA and moved to Northallerton last year. In the afternoon, Olivia Stockdale rang her first quarter by trebling to Plain Bob Doubles without any correction until distracted by the tenor ringer asking how far we had to go. The teeniest bit of guidance brought her back to the lead at the right time! Unfortunately a quarter of PB Major was lost in a bit of controversy over where the lead end was but we will try again at some point.

There were 63 people at the dinner, comprising Northallerton ringers past and present, non-ringing friends and partners, clergy plus ringers from other towers. Some were attending the dinner for the first time, some were new learners and others were ringers from neighbouring towers who had come for extra tuition. Since our Vicar is also a ringers, we feel very fortunate to have such an understanding team 'downstairs'.

The dinner was followed by handbell ringing. This year it was three leads of Kent TB Major rung by: James Tow, Jennie Town, David Town and Heidi Bradley. Thee the socializing continued until the bar closed. A good time was had by all.

## **Branch AGM at Swainby and Hutton Rudby 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017**

By Janet Wadsworth

THE DAY GOT OFF to a somewhat inauspicious start with a lock out at Hutton. After several attempts at phoning the contact numbers on the notice board we succeeded in finding someone to that could let us in. Our thanks to that gentleman who came very promptly and apologised for the confusion.

We rang for 45 minutes, allowing all 15 ringers present to have a ring. It was very refreshing to welcome new faces from Thornaby, Guisborough, East Witton and Grinton. Ringing ranged from Rounds and Call Changes through lots of Plain Bob to Cambridge Minor.

A leisurely lunch at Swainby consisted of bread and soup followed by a plentiful array of cakes. Our thanks to the Swainby ringers for providing the soup, to Christine Parsons for orchestrating the catering and to all the washers-up.

### **The AGM**



The AGM followed. Colin and Wendy Belsey stood down from the committee because they have moved to Cumbria. Christine Parsons stood down after 21 years as Secretary. Thanks were expressed to Christine for her many years of service. Jo Mitchell stood down as newsletter editor and thanks were recorded to her in her absence.

The new committee was elected – details of the new officers and committee members are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

### **Improving communications**

The proposal to divide the branch into clusters was discussed. Thank you to all those who were unable to attend the meeting but responded via email... The overwhelming consensus was that the proposal was a good idea.

In a nutshell the aim is to improve communication within the Branch. To achieve this, Ross is updating the e-mail contact list. *Tower contacts please send an updated list of the email addresses of members of their tower to Ross as soon as possible.* Anyone who is not currently receiving the newsletter can contact Ross to be included on the list just in case they have not been included on the tower list.

Each cluster will be asked to nominate a representative whose duties will be to produce a short annual report on the ringing activity in the cluster (which towers are ringing regularly, when and to what level). The representative will be the first point of contact for help with ringing matters – not necessarily to deliver but to communicate need. If help is not available locally the representative will liaise with the committee. It is more important that the representatives have communication skills rather than ringing skills. Ringers who ring min more than one tower would be one tower would be good candidates.



### **Share your news!**

There is a lot of activity in the branch and the aim is to share it. Please use effort to report events, initiatives and achievements. If your tower is staging an event such as a dinner, outing or a fund-raiser, please advertise it in the newsletter and encourage involvement. It is very unlikely your event will be overwhelmed by ‘outsiders’ but isolated ringers may welcome the opportunity to participate.

For the moment the aim is to get a comprehensive contact list. The rest will evolve in due course.

### **An impromptu challenge match**

The meeting was followed by ringing at Swainby with rounds and calls, lots more Plain Bob (some with Little Bob) and Norwich. The day ended with a lads team ringing a touch of Stedman Doubles followed by the lasses ringing Grandsire Doubles. Far be it for me to judge which was the better but there was a certain toe-tapping quality to the Grandsire.

Thank you to all for making this a thoroughly enjoyable meeting.

## **Subs and Report Tower Contacts**

by John Welch (Branch Treasurer)

MANY THANKS to those who have paid already. For the handful left who haven't paid, the rates are the same as last year, which are £5 for full time students and £10 for everyone else (including those over 65). Cheques made payable to YACR should be sent to John Welch, 8 Maple Road, Richmond DL10 4BW. Also, if the tower contact for subscriptions has changed, please email John [jrwl47@gmail.com](mailto:jrwl47@gmail.com) with details of the new contact.

## **Membership Forms – John Welch**

PLEASE ENSURE that membership forms are sent in promptly, including those of previous/lapsed members who are rejoining and those moving from Associate to Qualified membership. Don't wait for a Branch meeting, submit details by email to post – details above.

## **Ted Hudson Memorial**

by Bridget Taylor-Connor (Sharow)



A PLAQUE found at the bottom of a drawer, led to the hunt for information about Ted Hudson. Edward Hudson started bellringing at St John's, Sharow and became a member of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers in 1929.

He is fondly remembered as a stalwart of the Ripon bellringing community and the plaque came from a bench donated to Ted when he retired as Secretary to the Northern District of the Yorkshire Association (later the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch). The bench remained at St. John's and the plaque, long outlasting the bench, was passed to the Church Warden.

For over 40 years Ted had been a committed committee member of his local ringing association and a bell ringer at both St. John's and later at Ripon Cathedral. During this time he taught and encouraged many people including a group from the old Ripon St John College. He traveled the country, ringing bells and recording his exploits.

Following his death in 1979, an appeal was launched in the Ringing World in Ted's memory to buy a bell for Hutton Rudby. In 2017 another appeal was launched, this time to mark his grave which lies adjacent to St John's Church Tower. There is a lot of support to recognise Ted's work and to record his burial place. We are hoping to clean up and engrave a flower vase from his grave. At the YACR meeting at Aldborough, £90 was raised towards the appeal. If you would like to donate to the appeal, please contact Bridget at [b.connor7621@btinternet.com](mailto:b.connor7621@btinternet.com)



Ripon ringers – courtesy of Ripon ringers website

## **In Memoriam:**

### **Alan Ball**

by Kevin Soresby (Askrigg)

ALAN BALL died peacefully on 9th April 2016, at the age of 88. At his request, he was cremated at Darlington in what was a private service followed by a small gathering at Stalling Busk where he had lived. A widower, he left a daughter and a son.

Alan was a regular ringer at St. Oswald's Askrigg, becoming tower captain back in 1994, in the footsteps of Jack Metcalfe. During his 20 years as tower captain, Alan trained a number of local people to ring, some of whom have gone on to form a successful band that rings regularly at Aysgarth. Alan had a love and passion for bell ringing, yet in his later years as his health deteriorated he continued to ring for as long as he possibly could. He was that kind of character. A regular ringer of the 4th and with a style that paid attention to detail, Alan reluctantly gave up ringing in 2014. He will be long remembered for his dedication to the tower at St. Oswald's Askrigg.

### **Pat Everest of Masham**

by Brian Linscott

Pat passed away in October 2015 and is survived by her husband David and their three sons. Pat and David came from North London 29 years ago and moved to Fearby following a long association as penpal of a local farmer's wife, Pat soon became a very active member of several local organizations and continued her job as company secretary until her retirement. She was a member of the WI and Fearby Village Hall and rang tower and hand bells. Pat became a qualified and North Yorkshire Association in 1988. Pat was tower secretary and arranged Masham Bell ringers' annual dinner for many years. More importantly Pat was a very conscientious service ringer and rarely missed a service.

For the last few years she suffered from generalized arthritis and gave ringing tower bells only a few months before her death but continued with the hand bells until a week before she died. Pat was a valuable member of the team and will be sorely missed.

## **News Hounds wanted!**

**Email your stories, coming events, pictures and local achievements to:**

**[ross2weddel4home@gmail.com](mailto:ross2weddel4home@gmail.com)**

*We accept text as:*

*Plain text, Word.doc(x) Libre Office.ODT  
Pictures as 100dpi JPEGs please (max 1 meg)*

## **Branch Striking Competition Sowerby Saturday 22nd April • Time: 10am-2pm •**

### **Format:**

- Competition ringing
- Tea & Coffee served in Church Hall
- Followed by Soup Lunch (*each band staying for lunch is asked to bring an item of baked goods such as a cake or biscuits*)
- Short meeting including competition results

### **Competitions:**

- **Sunday Service:** band has to be regulars ringers at their church
- **Fun:** Band made up of ringers drawn from several churches.

**Full rules** – see attachment to email

**Entries by 17 April with lunch numbers to:** [ross2weddell4home@gmail.com](mailto:ross2weddell4home@gmail.com)

*Not got a band? – join a Fun Team on the day*

## **Middleham Restoration Project:**

*The Story so far . . .*

*by Jonathan Couchman*

MIDDLEHAM is part of a cluster of four churches of which two have bells - Middleham and East Witton. A single band of ringers covers both churches. The band was started from scratch 15 or so years ago at East Witton by Tom Oakshott. It now has significant membership at both churches.

The eight bells of the Church of St Mary and St Alkelda, Middleham were installed in 1911 by John Taylor Co., at a cost of £757. They are of outstanding tone and are widely recognised for their fine quality. Taylors told us: "The bells are amongst the finest ever cast in our foundry.

The ringers felt that the bells were not as easy to ring as they would have liked and arranged for Taylors to inspect both belfries. There is nothing wrong with the East Witton that would not be cured by replacing them entirely! And at Middleham, Taylors reported that there

were issues concerning the clappers and bearings.

To our delight, there stepped forward a (then) non-ringer, Simon Burren, absolute expert at anything to do with construction. Simon not only became our head of engineering but he learned to ring bells, progressing at a speed that astonished me.

Three others, a ringer and two non-ringers, were also enthusiastic so we had a committee of five. We contacted Robert Wood of the Branch and Andrew Aspland (YACR President) who gave us great encouragement and support.

### **Planning the work**

With indispensable Andrew, we uninstalled the clappers, took them to Loughborough, retrieved then re-installed them. Robert Wood got us thinking about replacing the 1911 plain hearings.

It may have helped our thinking when Robert suffered a horrible accident while lubricating the current bearings for a peal. We contacted the CCCBR, we Googled, we talked to people, we obtained quotations and finally sought and obtained PCC approval.

Now we have to raise money £25,000, of which we have £3,310. We have applied for grants from the Branch and YACR restoration funds and are preparing to **launch the public appeal at the church on Friday evening, 24th March**. The choir and the ukulele band are booked, and the local publicity is out.

We have learned much so far, and still have much to learn. We learned that the Branch is hugely supportive and, again, I must single out Robert Wood for his all-round help and encouragement.

### **How can you help?**

A simple way to donate is through BT's mydonate website but at the time of writing, we are waiting for BT to satisfy themselves that the church is a charity before we go live on the site.

*Join us on 24th March – it'll be a great evening!*

*Don't worry about tickets – pay at the door!*



*Middleham clappers back from the foundry*

## 5(QM) Lessons and Carols

by Martin Davies (Ripon)

MY YOUNGER DAUGHTER Martha is a pupil at Queen Mary's School Baldersby Park near Thirsk. Known amongst parents and pupils as QM, like many schools in the area it holds its annual '9 Lesson and Carols' at Ripon Cathedral.

In October I and the Head of Religious Studies, were arranging a visit to the cathedral bell tower as part of QM's GCSE studies. I was more than a little surprised when I received an email inviting us to arrange something for the Christmas service.

'I was thinking it would be quite nice to have a selection of girls to ring at the start and end of the service. We would have just 6 weeks to teach the volunteers. My first inclination was to pen a polite reply declining the offer but given that we were being handed potential recruits on a plate I fired off a couple of emails seeking permission to hold additional practices for QM. We had 5 weeks to teach four volunteers to ring for the Carol Service.

The QM practice used the dumb bell and simulator so no additional noise to annoy the neighbours. We were pretty sure we could get the girls ringing rounds for the Carol Service perhaps with a little assistance. The girls worked exceptionally hard and we decided to play it safe and just ring backstrokes for the big day. They also chomped their way through the tower's stash of chocolates at an alarming rate but made amends by giving us a Christmas present of a tower tin to be kept under lock and key next year!

The girls were thrilled to be nominated *Women of the Week* at school also school for their efforts which they were thrilled about, it also meant that the whole emails the week before the carol service made sure everyone attending the carol s ringing. Suddenly there was a lot of expectation and just a little bit of pressure.

We met at 9:15am for the Carol Service at 10:00am. The cathedral was pretty full even at this early hour. Mrs Cameron (Headmistress) greeted us with Christmas Cards and thank you bottles of wine for the' Tutors. In the ringing chamber we were joined by members of the school teaching staff who had come to see what the girls had been up to. The girls rang rounds on 8 extremely well and we enjoyed some great striking. An excellent result after five lessons, only 1 of which was ringing with the team.

The girls left the tower 5 minutes early whilst we rang the bells down and were greeted with lots of congratulations and high-fives as the made their way to their seats.

*All four of the girls Abbie, Evie, Hattie and Martha should be very proud of their achievement.*



Items for the next  
Newsletter to  
Ross Weddell

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

by  
Friday 12th May  
please

## Upcoming Events

### March:

Sun. 12th: Richmond Farewells –  
*see page 1*

Sat. 18th Ripon Ringers' Dinner –  
Crown Inn - Roecliffe  
all welcome. £26 for 3 courses  
Contact:  
[anne-valerie-wood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anne-valerie-wood@hotmail.co.uk)

Fri. 24th: Middleham Bell  
Restoration Project - Launch  
Concert – *see p.5*

Sat. 25th: D&N Southern District  
Meeting Location TBD  
Contact:  
[jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk)

### April

Sat: 22nd: Our own Branch  
Striking Competition at  
Sowerby for Sunday Service  
& 'Fun' teams. *See page 5*

### May

Sat. 6th: YACR AGM and  
inter-branch 8-bells striking  
competition at Birstwith

## Regular Local Practices

### **D&N Southern District – Advanced practice**

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

*What is typically rung?*

Kent Minor, Grandsire, Plain Bob

Yorkshire, Cambridge

Contact: Jack Hanlon: [jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Sunday Surprise**

3rd Sunday 4:45 – 6:00pm - Stokesley

*What is typically rung?*

Standard 8 Surprise

Contact: John Hallett: [jghl35@gmail.com](mailto:jghl35@gmail.com)

### **Sowerby monthly practice**

Every 4 weeks, 7:30 Start

Next practice: Wednesday 15th March

*What is typically rung?*

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Michael Armstrong

[m.armstrong21@btinternet.com](mailto:m.armstrong21@btinternet.com)

### **Thirkleby weekly Practice**

Mondays 7:00 - 8:00pm

*What is typically rung?*

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Michael Armstrong

[m.armstrong21@btinternet.com](mailto:m.armstrong21@btinternet.com)

### **Barnard Castle Practices**

2nd & 4th Mondays

*What is typically rung'?*

Rounds and Call Changes Simple Methods

Contact: Helen Scott

[helenscott63@hotmail.com](mailto:helenscott63@hotmail.com)

**Have a Practice/ Event?  
Contact The Newsletter  
Editor**

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