



Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

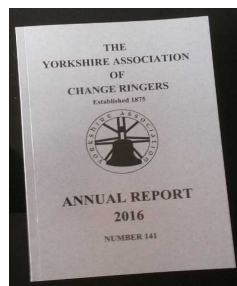
Summer 2017 / No.2

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YACR Annual Reports Now Out!

Annual reports are now out in towers around the branch. The majority of reports have been delivered. If you haven't yet got your copy get in touch with your tower captain or the Branch Secretary.



Ringling World Available free online For 1 edition only!

The 12th May issue is available free online. It has coverage of CRAG (See Page 4) (including an article by Steve Coleman and response by Phil Barnes), York Minster and recruitment in schools plus a lot more. The issue can be found at: <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/>

Kirklington: Change of Practice Venue

From May to October, the 4th Thursday practice at Kirklington will be at Pickhill.

A Date for the Diary

Next years Branch AGM will be held on Saturday 20th January at Saltburn and Marske. Both churches are celebrating their 150th anniversaries in the coming year. At Saltburn, there will be a display charting the building of the tower and the installation of the bells in 1902.

Online!

The new Yorkshire Association Website is now up and running and can be found at www.yacr.org.uk. Contact the Branch Secretary to add events and get tower pages updated.



Branch Committee:

Chair:

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A warm welcome from the Editor

A warm welcome to the second issue of the new look newsletter Newsletter from the editor. The formatting has been tweaked since the last issue, thanks to your feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, contact the editor.

Middleham Project Update

by Jonathan Couchman(Middleham)



I am very pleased to report that Middleham has raised sufficient money to pay for Taylors to undertake their restoration work as well as to purchase the necessary consumables and equipment for de-rusting and painting of the frame by voluntary labour. The money includes grants from the Branch and YACR restoration funds.

The money was raised before, during and after a concert and buffet that we organised as a launch event for our public appeal. We are delighted that the event, which I found exhausting to put on, and its associated publicity succeeded beyond our hopes, in that this one event was enough to fund the crucial restoration work itself, though our ambitions don't end there.

We have obtained formal PCC approval to engage Taylors and an Archdeacon's Certificate from the diocese, as a faculty is not required for like-for-like replacement of bearings and pulleys. We have just one remaining hurdle to overcome before we can engage Taylors, which is some insurance issues whose occurrence I find baffling, as Taylors and Ecclesiastical Insurance are surely used to each other. The insurance delays are frustrating as we had penciled in a timetable with Taylors which would just enable the restoration work to be completed in time for a peal to be rung (or at least attempted) on 1 June 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the death in the First World War of Middleham ringer Thomas Sarginson, and it is now unclear whether Taylors will be able to keep to that timetable.

As I have said, raising of the funds has not fulfilled all our ambitions: we are continuing with low-level fundraising, as there are additional works that we wish to carry out in the tower, in particular to improve health and safety. We had hoped to improve access to the bell chamber but, with very little room to play with, it regrettably seems likely that the present awkward arrangement will have to remain, where one has to turn round by 180° at the top of a ladder in order to step onto the floor of the ringing chamber.

I have some further very good news to report, which is that the ringability of the bells has been hugely improved by the work of Middleham's talented Simon Burren, who has removed, cleaned and re-profiled the pulleys of bells 6 to 8. We are particularly pleased that Richmond tower were able to take advantage of the improved bells when they practised at Middleham whilst waiting for their lovely new bells to be installed.

Northallerton Tour to Northumberland

by Jennie Town(Northallerton)

On Sunday 26 February the bells at All Saints Northallerton were silent before the morning service. This is most unusual, but many of the local band were away for the weekend and we couldn't be sure of getting enough ringers, so thought it best to cancel.

The absentees had traveled north to Alnmouth on the previous Friday, as we had been invited by Flight Lieutenant Mark Bradley to stay on the RAF base at Boulmer.

We were given a description of work on the base and then spent a convivial evening in the bar which included some hand-bell ringing.

On Saturday, we set off on a tour of some of the bells in Northumberland. We started at Morpeth, where the bells are in the clock tower rather than a church. This is a listed building, constructed sometime between 1604 and 1634 out of recycled Medieval stone, giving it its much older appearance. The stone is likely to have come from the nearby ruined

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newminster_Abbey which was dissolved in 1537. The bells go very nicely and were a good start to the day.

The next tower was Rothbury, where the Bell-ringers were recently featured on "Countryfile" in an item detailing how hard it is to attract new ringers in a rural setting. The bells here are quite challenging and extremely loud in the ringing room, so they tested our muscles and our lungs.

This meant it was a good time to stop for lunch in Embleton before ringing the bells there. This belfry is reached via a wrought iron staircase, with somewhat un-nerving views down to the church floor and the bells are not the easiest to ring. Embleton is the nearest tower to RAF Boulmer and so Mark rings there when his duties permit.

The final tower was Bamburgh, with stunning views of the castle and across to Holy Island. The steps to the belfry are interesting here, in that they are positioned in a square formation, three steps to each side of the square, rather than the usual circular spiral staircase. The ringing here was a fitting finish to an enjoyable day and then it was back to the RAF base for supper, followed by socialising in the bar and more hand-bells, including teaching some of the interested by-standers.

On Sunday, we were given a tour of the "Bunker" on the Operations Site, where Mark and his colleagues carry out their surveillance work. The general public are not allowed access to this, so we did feel very grateful that we had been allowed this visit. Many of us felt much more secure after seeing all the work which goes on to monitor everything in our air space. The return journey went to plan and so ringing at Northallerton resumed as normal for the evening service.

Branch Cluster Proposal

By Janet Wadsworth(Chair)

At the AGM a proposal was accepted to divide the branch into clusters with a representative nominated to report on the activities of each cluster annually. The representative will also act as a point of contact for communication with the branch committee. In practice this would mean towers within the branch seeking assistance for training, bell maintenance or other advice first approach the representative. If the issue cannot be dealt with locally the representative consults the branch committee. The aim is to encourage towers to work together locally supported by the branch.

It would seem sensible to follow the lines of natural division which already exist. A lot of towers are already working together in their local area

The proposed Clusters are as follows:

Northallerton:

- Northallerton
- Brompton
- Ainderby Steeple
- Kirby Wiske

Nidderdale:

- Pately Bridge
- Middlesmoor
- Fewston

Saltburn:

- Saltburn
- Marske
- Ormesby
- Whitby
- Guisborough
- Skelton

Thirsk:

- Thirsk
- Sowerby
- Thirkleby
- Felixkirk
- Cowsby

Ripon:

- Ripon
- Sharow
- Boroughbridge
- Aldborough
- Kirby Hill
- Kirklington
- Wath
- Burneston
- Pickhill
- West Tanfield

Wensleydale:

- Bedale
- Masham
- East Whitton
- Middleham
- Askrigg
- Aysgarth

Stokesley:

- Stokesley
- Swainby
- Carlton
- Hutton Rudby
- Thornaby
- Stockton

Richmond:

- Richmond
- Catterick
- Grinton
- Bolton on Swale

It would be great if each area nominated a representative for themselves. Please discuss this amongst yourselves and inform Ross Weddell, branch secretary, of your choice. If clusters find difficulty doing this the branch may approach individuals and ask them if they would be willing to take on this role. It should not be arduous. The aim is to support ringing in the branch for the benefit of all.

YACR AGM: Subs for 2018

by John Welch (Branch Treasurer)

The Association AGM on 6 May adopted a resolution to increase subscriptions from £10 (£5 for full time students) to £12 (£6). The resolution also amended the percentage of subs going to the Association Bell Repair Fund (BRF) from 25% to 40%, so all the extra money (plus a bit more) will go to the BRF. Together this will mean almost twice the amount per member will go to the BRF as currently happens (£4.80 from £2.50).

The feeling at the meeting was that the BRF was seeing increased demand for donations and that there is a need to increase resources to enable this demand to be met. Recent donations to our branch have included £11,000 to Richmond and £8,024 to Thirkleby. For more details of the work of the BRF, please see the Annual Report.

YACR AGM: Interbranch 8 Bell Striking Competition Result

- 1st York – 53 Faults
- 2nd Leeds – 75 Faults
- 3rd Cleveland – 84 Faults
- 4th Selby – 119 Faults
- 5th Scarborough – 138 Faults
- 6th Tykes – 151 Faults

Ripon and Friends Outing: Saturday 17th June

The Ripon Ringers outing this year will be to: Grinton, Barnard Castle, Frosterley, Bishop Auckland, Gainford, Richmond on Saturday 17th June. For more information contact Robert Wood: robert-m-wood@hotmail.co.uk

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

By Friday 1st
September

Branch Striking Competition Report

By Ross Weddell(Editor)

This years Branch Striking Competition was held at Sowerby on Saturday 22nd April. The day started with the draw taken in the very pleasant surroundings outside the church. There were 9 competing bands, 5 in the Sunday Service competition and 4 in the Fun competition. Whilst the competition ringing was in progress, we adjourned to the church hall for tea and coffee and maybe a biscuit or two!

A soup filled lunch then followed by cake. Our thanks go to Janet Wadsworth and Liz Fothergill for making the soup and all those who contributed a delectable desert!

The Meeting



After lunch, the more formal part of the day then began.

Janet Wadsworth opened by thanking the caterers, the judges and all who took part! This was followed by a moment to remember 2 members of the branch who have recently passed away: Stafford Crossman of Aldborough and Brian Johnson of Hurworth.(See Page 5 for Obituaries).

The following new members were then elected and welcomed into the association:

- **Keith Hildred** - Richmond - qualified
- **Karin Hildred** - Richmond - Associate
- **Dorothea Butcher** - Skelton - associate
- **Chris Carruthers** - Bedale - qualified
- **Anne Witty** - Bedale - Associate
- **Phillip Witty** - Bedale - Associate
- **Jonathan Dewhirst** - Bedale - Associate
- **Jennifer Ferla** - Bedale – Associate

A chocolate filled raffle then followed in aid of Branch funds.

The Results

The results were then read out by the judges Colin and Wendy Belsey. They made comments on the bells being not easy to handle and strike, that all ringing was perfectly acceptable sunday ringing and that the leading was generally good!

Sunday Service Competition:

- 1st Place: Ripon A - 54 Faults
- 2nd Place: Stokesley - 85 Faults
- 3rd Place: Ripon B - 94 Faults
- 4th Place: Richmond A - 98 Faults
- 5th Place: Northallerton - 104 Faults

Fun Competition:

- 1st Place: Richmond B - 88 Faults
- 2nd Place Swainby 1 - 135 Faults
- 3rd Place: Swainby 2 - 142 Faults
- 4th Place: Kirklington - 203 Faults



Presentation of the Sunday Service Competition Trophy - Left to Right: Martin Davies(Conductor of winning Ripon Band), Wendy Belsey(Judge), Colin Belsey(Judge) Image courtesy of John Welch

CRAG: Central Council Review Action Group Report

The Central Council Review Group have produced a report into the work of the council and how it can be evolved in light of the current trends within the ringing community. The report can be found at:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/review/final/>

The report will be discussed and voted upon at the Central Council meeting on the weekend of 27th May. If you have any thoughts or comments, please email Susan Welch (susan@slaycock.plus.com), who is one of the Yorkshire Association representatives on the Central Council.

Kirklington Outing to Middlesmoor: Thursday 29th June 7pm

By Janet Wadsworth(Chair)

The Kirklington ringers have arranged a trip up the dale to Middlesmoor on 29/06/17. The plan is to ring for an hour and then adjourn to Crown Hotel for a meal. We would welcome any ringers who would like to join us. If you would like to eat please contact Janet Wadsworth at eastfieldwads@aol.com because the pub would like numbers.

In Memoriam:

Stafford Crossman of Aldborough

by John Mitchell (Aldborough)

The branch is sorry to learn of the death of Stafford Crossman, who was 74. Stafford learnt to ring at school, and came back to ringing when he had more time. He was admitted to the Yorkshire Association in 1999 and rang at both St Wilfred's and St Peter's at Harrogate, and latterly at Aldborough and Boroughbridge.. He was always cheerful and reliable, and very ready to ring for both general and special services, even though it may have meant rejigging his very busy diary. He had wide interests – golf and bridge to name a couple, but that did not stop him coming to ring!



Brian Johnson of Hurworth

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Brian Johnson of Hurworth. He died peacefully after a sudden illness on April 19th 2017, aged 80 years. He was a wonderful husband and best friend of Anne, devoted father of Christopher and Catherine, beloved grandfather of Bechan, Harri, Mabon, Alexander and Hannah, best friend of Millie and Rosie.

He was a loyal member of the Hurworth band for many years and was involved in the ringing activities of both the Yorkshire Association and the Durham and Newcastle Association.

Ted Hudson Remembered

by Bridget Taylor-Connor (Sharow)



On 11th March 2017, after nearly 2 years of gathering information and learning about Ted Hudson, a newly cleaned and inscribed flower vase was placed on Ted Hudson's grave at St John's Sharow. "I knew nothing about Ted" writes Bridget Taylor-Connor Tower Correspondent at St John's, "when I was handed a plaque, originally presented to Ted in thanks for his years of service to bellringing. I now know he was a dedicated bellringer at St John's, Ripon Cathedral and further afield.

Remembered with affection and as a committed member of the local and national bellringing fraternity, Ted is buried at St John's. His grave shows the names of Isabella Margaret Hudson 1907 - 1933 and Euphemia Mary Hudson 1913-1939. Ted was born in 1909 and died aged 70 in 1979, but his name did not appear on the headstone. Though we were unable to find information about Ted's family, I like to think he may have put flowers in the vase in remembrance of his relatives.

The generosity of Green's the Stone Masons, Ripon and donations from bellringers who knew him, has now enabled his burial place to be marked.

WW1 Memorial Peal: Private Alfred James Sample

Entry from the Ringing World. Thanks to Alan Regin for the picture of his grave and the Entry

Died 02/04/1917 age 29. Yorkshire Regiment 2nd Bn. Service No.26614. Commemorated at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France, Grave VI. N. 10. Born 13/07/1887 and Baptised 08/08/1887 at Ormesby. Son of Edward James Sample and Phoebe Sample of Ormesby, Yorks. He worked as a Domestic gardener before enlisting. Born: Ormesby, Yorks. Enlisted: Middlesbrough. Resided: Ormesby, Yorks. Association



Yorkshire Association
Ormesby, North Yorkshire
St Cuthbert
Sunday, 2 April 2017 in 2:55
(18–0–14 in E)
5088 Bristol Surprise Major
Composed by David G Hull 5088 No.4
1. Robert M Wood
2. Andrew R Aspland
3. Martin S Davies
4. Jennifer A Town
5. James W Holdsworth (C)
6. Katherine L Town
7 Simon D Ogier
8 Alan Regin

Richmond Update

by Peter Trewby(Richmond)

Serious work began on 18th April 2017 with the insertion of lifting beams high above the frame and the beginning of the dismantling of the two tier oak frame. We had previously cleared the ringing chamber, removed the clock and Ellacombe hammers, had a reflective sad last ring on the bells and held an open day for present and previous ringers and members of the congregation.

Day 1 saw our many and willing volunteers make light work of demolishing the ringing chamber ceiling, but removing the 2 tier oak frame proved a much greater challenge. When the frame was eventually removed we found that the primary 2-foot square oak beam of the Mallaby frame was rotten due to water ingress at both ends and would have failed in the near future.

Two weeks' hard work saw the belfry empty of oak and bells and another week saw the lead from the belfry floor removed and the fragile belfry floor replaced and a new trap door inserted ready to receive the new steel frame and bells.

The old bells were taken to Taylor's bell foundry for a clean-up; the 3,4,5,6 and 7 bells of historic interest to be returned for hanging in the belfry above the new peal of 8 bells. For those athletically inclined these bells will be accessible via a walkway high in the belfry. For those without such lofty aspirations, webcams will allow the bells to be viewed from the ringing chamber and/or the Church.

After a brief pause the stone work started on May 3rd to make pockets to accommodate the new primary and secondary beams. Fourteenth century masons certainly knew how to make their towers durable but after 2 weeks work the holes were dug and the new beams arrived together with 5 refurbished bells and our 8 sparkling new bells from John Taylor Bellfounders. The new beams were hoisted and concreted in and at the time of writing the old and new bells are in the belfry although we are still awaiting the steelwork to hang the old bells. Much remains to be done; particularly replacing the ringing room ceiling, renewing the lime plaster in the ringing room, putting in sound control and redoing the clock mechanism and clock chimes. But we are at least midway in the project and if all goes well we should be ringing by late June.



The new Richmond Bells: Image from the St. Mary's Church Richmond Facebook Page

What of the remaining 3 Warner bells? We are hoping that Keltek has found a home for the two trebles in Dorstone in the "Golden Valley" of Herefordshire to increase their 4 to a 6.

And the tenor? It is going to Chemmalunga a rural village in Kerala Southern India to ring solo in their church. To us it is so exciting that a bell that has rung in North Yorkshire for 150 years will continue its life in southern India. We just need to raise the £910 transport costs! If anyone would like to contribute do let me know (trewbyp@gmail.com).

Our thanks for the work to date go to Andrew Ogden and Martin Jones and apprentice Alex from John Taylor, to our volunteers and our generous donors especially the Yorkshire Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Ripon Dinner

by Anne Wood(Ripon)

On Saturday 18th March, the Ripon Cathedral Guild of Bellringers gathered at The Crown Inn, Roecliffe for our annual dinner. This was the third year that we had been to the award-winning pub. Twenty of us enjoyed a convivial evening in the private dining room overlooking the garden area.

Once again, we had a good choice of starters, mains and desserts with clear favourites being Wensleydale soufflé to start, followed by daube of beef (with, of course, Yorkshire puddings!) for the main course. There was, however, no clear winner when it came to desserts, with berry Pavlova, lemon tart and sticky toffee pudding all getting plaudits.

We were pleased that the Mayor and Mayoress of Ripon were able to join us – especially when the Mayor told us that in the 1980s, early in their marriage, they had been taught to ring at the Cathedral by Ted Hudson! Speeches were kept to a minimum and were pleasingly informal. The Ringing Master, Martin Davies, was keen to inject fun into the proceedings and so we entered into the spirit by playing "Tom Swiftly" – a word game in which there is a punning relationship between an adverb and the statement to which it refers. We decided that ringing was an ideal hobby for this – with appealingly, surprisingly and quarterly all being used. The worst groan came after this little gem..... "I keep going wrong on the 5th" said the ringer, forthrightly! The Dean (also a ringer – although he doesn't get much time to visit the ringing room at the moment) showed his prowess at wordplay when he thanked the ringers for all that they do, employing a Tom Swiftly into practically every sentence. We are indeed fortunate to enjoy harmonious relationships with the Dean and Chapter.

After coffee, the Cathedral handbells were rung (well, in truth, most of us just sat and watched in awe!) and the assembled company spent the rest of the evening putting the world to rights – some might even have enjoyed a pint or two.

Upcoming Events

June

Tues 6th: Sowerby Monthly Practice
8-9pm

Sat: 17th: Ripon and Friends Outing
To Richmond/Barnard
Castle Area(Page 3)

Sat 17th: D&N Southern District
Outing to the Tyne Valley
Contact: Jack Hanlon
jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Thurs 29th: Kirklington visit to
Middlesmoor(See Page 4)

September

Sat. 16th: YACR Meeting in the
East Riding Branch
Location: TBC

YACR Training Events

Sat 8 Jul: Introduction to Conducting

Leader: David Hull

Venue: TBC

Contact: Stuart Holtam

stuartholtam@mac.com

Sat 28 Oct: Belfry and Rope Maintenance

Leader: Brian Saunders

Venue: Cawthorne

Contact: Stuart Holtam

stuartholtam@mac.com

Sat 11th Nov: Handbells for Beginners:

Tune Ringing

Leader: Anne Deebank

Venue: Pickering

Contact: Anne Deebank

Anne.deebank@gmail.com

For more information: See the 'Training Courses
Leaflet(sent out with Newsletter)

Regular Local Practices

Sowerby Monthly Practice

1st Tuesday's: 8-9pm

Next Practice: 6th June

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Michael Armstrong

m.armstrong21@btinternet.com

Sunday Surprise

3rd Sunday: 4:45-6pm - Stokesley

What is typically rung?

Standard 8 Surprised Major

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

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

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

Have a Practice/ Event?
Contact The Newsletter
Editor

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