



# Newsline – February 2017

## A Mini-Christmas

One of the features of ringing is that, however much noise they make, the ringers themselves tend to remain hidden and out of the way. Not so the MiniRingers of Kildwick! Our weekly practices are based out of the tower, with handbells, handchimes, and a single "Belgaria" as featured in the October Newsline.

While we don't frighten the neighbours with our noises on Thursdays, we are learning party pieces that we can take out and display. Christmas provided an ideal showcase!



Our first public outing came as the school filed into Church for the regular monthly Collective Worship service. This was our own take on normal Sunday Service ringing and we rang Plain Hunt on 5 with our new sixth member covering. We do this by physically moving as the bells hunt up and down, using mats as markers. They get kicked about though – it will be good when we can do without them! I do, though, think that we need to progress to double-handed change ringing. At least it will keep Fraser's hand out of his pocket!

It's not all about change ringing. George wrote:  
*I really enjoy bellringing as it is a new experience. My friends and I have a good time. We have looked in the church tower while the bell was ringing. Performing in Kildwick Church at Christmas time was exciting. We rang Jingle Bells and Good King Wenceslas. We had practised every week so we knew what to do. We had to make sure we kept on time with each other. My family thought the performance was great. We ring in the church by doing plain hunting; this is good because we move places after we have rung our bell.*



Jane (Lynch) is a regular helper, bringing her handchimes. In a church, full for the Carol Service, the ringers gave a splendid rendition of two carols. to great applause. We are now working on pieces for the Skipton Music Festival in March. Mind you, when they all wrote about their Christmas ringing, two of them both chose the most significant part of our meetings: "Eating biscuits"! Other comments included; "So much fun" - "Social" - "New friends" - "Fun going up the church tower" - "After we finished each song, the audience gave us a round of applause. We all enjoyed the ringing very much." "I joined the MiniRingers late but caught up thanks to the teachers and other members."

It won't last ... but so far not a single member has avoidably missed a session. Perhaps it just means they like the biscuits. **Chris Wright (Kildwick)**

## Membership Matters!



### At Branch Carol Service 10 December 2016

#### Advancing to Qualified

Marsden Debra Garside  
Armitage Bridge Mia Stanley

### At Association General Meeting 4 February 2017

#### Advancing to Qualified

Meltham Alistair Storey  
Kirkheaton Helen Ahmad

#### Re-joining as Qualified

Meltham Adrian Coward  
Skipton Peter Fisher

#### Joining as Associate

Horton in Ribblesdale Fiona Durham  
Horton in Ribblesdale Andrew Blackburn  
Barnoldswick Sheila McKane  
Barnoldswick Margaret Gill  
Oxenhope Amelia Rankin  
Mirfield Roger Davison

#### Re-joining as Associate

Mirfield Rachel Walker

A warm welcome to our new and returning members.

Congratulations to the newly Qualified members.



The collection for the Bell Repair Fund at the Branch Carol Service realised £100, which, with the associated tax relief, was a benefit to the Fund of £125.

**Tony Stamp. Membership Secretary**

## Tour de Yorkshire 2017

The third edition of the race takes place between **28 - 30 April 2017**. It encompasses all four corners of the county and takes in Yorkshire's **two UNESCO World Heritage Sites** at Fountains Abbey and Saltaire.

Stages 1 and 2 are outside the Western Branch area, on the Friday and Saturday.



### STAGE 3 : Sunday 30th April 2017

#### Bradford to Fox Valley, Sheffield

Total stage length: 194.5km

**8 King of the Mountain Climbs:** Silsden, Haworth, Leeming, Shibden Wall, Deepcar, Wigtwizzle, Ewden Height & Midhopestones

**2 Sprints:** **Brighouse** & Stocksbridge

On **Stage Three** -The riders roll out of **City Park in Bradford** and take in **Salts Mill (Saltaire)** before the start flag is lowered. The action then briefly joins the 2014 Tour de France route at **Burley-in-Wharfedale** before passing into the **Yorkshire Dales**. **Skipton** is the next town on the agenda, with the first of eight categorised climbs being contested on the **Côte de Silsden**. The next ascent comes on the cobbled rise up **Haworth's** picturesque main street and another climb at **Leeming** must also be tackled before they face the infamous **Côte de Shibden Wall**. This cobbled brute could see splits form before the final intermediate sprint in **Stocksbridge**. The riders then embark on a torturous 22km finishing circuit that features no less than four categorised climbs at **Deepcar, Wigtwizzle, Ewden Height** and **Midhopestones** before the race reaches its climax at **Fox Valley**.

[www.BellsAndBikes.com](http://www.BellsAndBikes.com) is a dedicated website created to support bellringing for Le Tour de France the Tour de Yorkshire. It includes summaries of ringing for the bike races in 2014, 2015 and 2016 plus some other related news and further tour details on [www.letour.yorkshire.com](http://www.letour.yorkshire.com)

## *Chairman Calling*

Once the Christmas rush is over we've entered the season of dinners. At least it seems like it. Last week we held our Keighley Dinner, and then on Friday we set off north to the Thornton Dinner, and in a couple of weeks it'll be the Haworth Lunch. What strikes home is the way in which we're attracted to social events. Not only that, it's a time when ringers gather with non-ringing partners and neighbours in convivial surroundings and the conversation turns away from ringing to things of more general interest, though tower anecdotes do surface from time to time! We also gather friends from adjacent towers and the whole cluster idea takes off.



There were approaching fifty of us at the Thornton dinner, a mammoth feat of organisation that has grown and grown over its eighteen years of existence; in fact it's so wide ranging that they might rename it the West Craven dinner in the future. And perhaps this is the way forward for us all, with more emphasis on clusters than branch-wide activities. We'd like your views on this.

Dinners and joint activities, of course, are ways we can relate to each other, but if non-ringers are invited they can be harnessed into our recruitment drives. But once the recruit comes through the door, how welcoming are we? First impressions mean so much, and perhaps it's time we looked with an outsider's eyes on the state of our ringing chambers. Are they bright and tidy? Are they warm? Or are they filled with junk from years past and do we spend winters huddled round a totally overwhelmed portable fire? Here's a checklist: how well does your tower match up?

1. Access: is it obvious? What are the stairs like? Is there a handrail? What about lighting? Are there any bulbs out? Is there emergency lighting? When were the walls last painted? How many cobwebs on the window sills?
2. Ringing chamber: Is it warm (or cool in Summer)? What is the lighting like? Dim? Glaring? How much paint is flaking off the walls? Do we really have to have a carpet and curtains from someone's front room thrown out in 1962?
3. Notice boards and pictures: how many flyers have you got from 2016 or even earlier? Do we really need ancient newspaper cuttings we daren't archive for fear of upsetting the person who brought them in?
4. Portraits and pictures: have pictures, but they must mean something, and be titled, preferably with ringers' names and the date. In Keighley there are two very old pictures, one of the band in 1914 together with names; all very relevant, we can put faces to the records. The other is of a YACR meeting in Bradford at the turn of the twentieth century with well over a hundred faces (including three very stern looking ladies), but no names. How I wish there were, we could put a face to so many names in the reports, how sad we can't.

So look to your facilities, start buying paint, and scrap your old curtains. And don't forget, decorating is as much a social activity as the dinner!

**Bob**                      **Bob Schofield, Oxenhope**

## Notes From The Ringing Master - January 2017



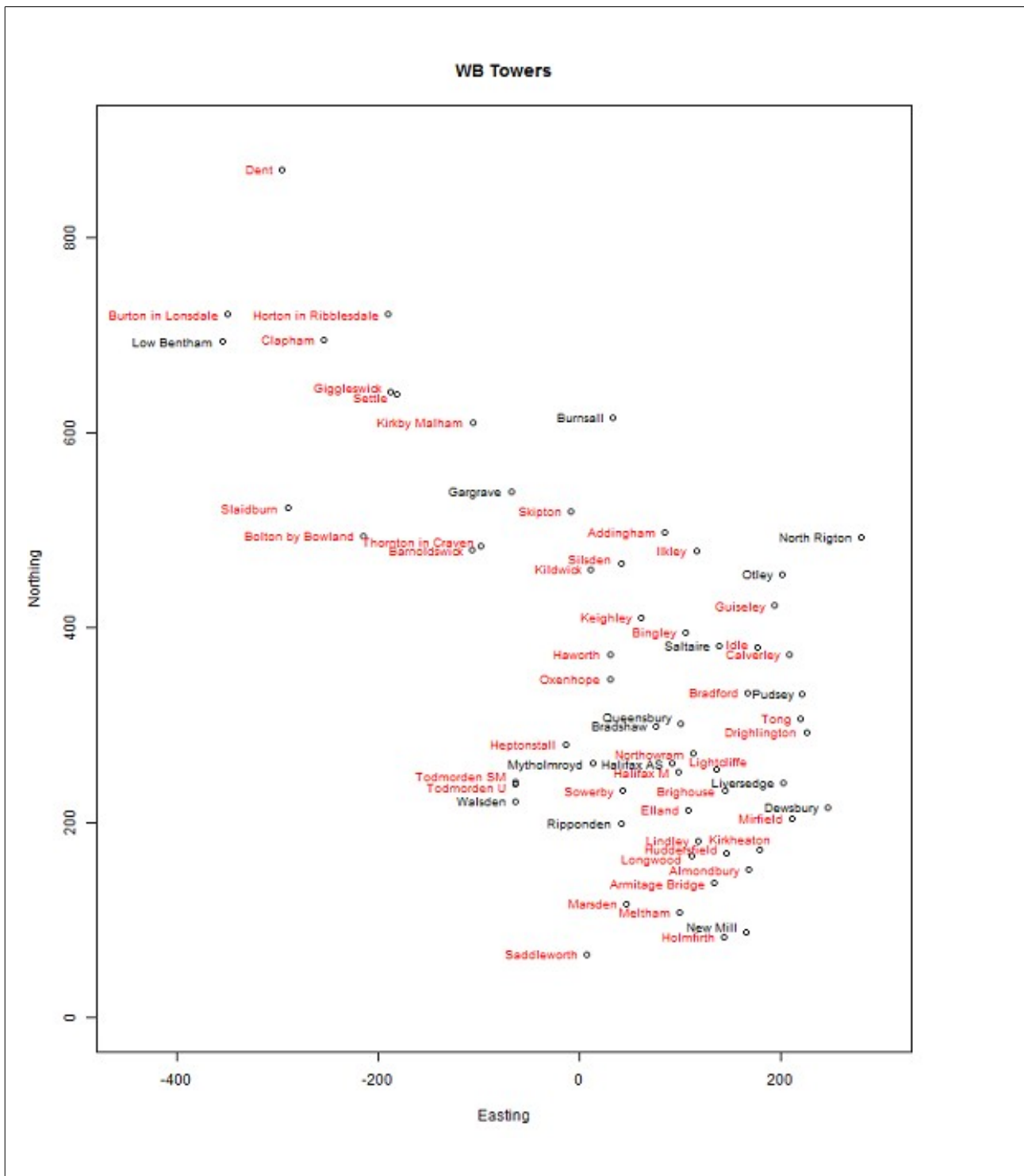
Happy New Year! That means that 2016 is finished and I can summarise the quarter-peal and peal activity in the year. I've updated the map, which shows that (at least as recorded on Bell Board) one or more peals or quarters was rung at 46 of the 62 towers with 5 or more bells – those marked red on the map. I've also summarised the activity in the table, so you can see that a total of 40 peals and 150 quarters were rung at our towers over the year (not all, of course, by Branch ringers). Well done to Kirkheaton and Heptonstall, who win the activity league by some distance!

Last issue, I mentioned the "Bell ringers strike back against blood cancer" initiative. Congratulations to the bands at Northowram, and at Saddleworth, who rang, respectively, the minor and triples versions of the Julie McDonnell methods. The initiative is still live so I'd encourage anyone wanting an interesting challenge to have a go – see <http://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=5445>

Finally, if you like Bob Doubles but are bored with the standard touches, you can try ringing a touch of 100 changes – call a plain lead, a bob, two plain leads, another bob and repeat the whole thing (that is PBPPB PBPPB – 10 leads in all). The 2 and 5 repeat the work in each set of 5 leads – 2 makes long 5ths at the first bob and runs in at the second bob in each set of 5 leads, the 5 runs out at the first bob and makes long 5ths at the second bob in each set of 5 leads. So it may be easier to start with calling from one of these.

Thanks to those who have sent back tower development questionnaires – more on the results next time.  
**Andy Sutherland**

Tower	Peals 2016	Quarters 2016		Tower	Peals 2016	Quarters 2016
Addingham		8		Kirkby Malham		2
Almondbury	1	1		Kirkheaton		23
Armitage Bridge	2	4		Lightcliffe		6
Barnoldswick	3			Lindley		1
Bingley		3		Liversedge		
Bolton by Bowland		1		Longwood	1	1
Bradford	2	1		Low Bentham		
Bradshaw				Marsden		1
Brighouse		6		Meltham		1
Burnsall				Mirfield	1	
Burton in Lonsdale		2		Mytholmroyd		
Calverley		4		New Mill		
Clapham	1	2		North Rigton		
Dent	1	1		Northowram	1	4
Dewsbury				Otley		
Drighlington	1	2		Oxenhope	1	6
Elland		1		Pudsey		
Gargrave				Queensbury		
Giggleswick		1		Ripponden		
Guiseley	1	4		Saddleworth	4	1
Halifax M	5	2		Saltaire		
Halifax AS				Settle		1
Haworth		1		Silsden		5
Heptonstall	9	9		Skipton	2	11
Holmfirth		2		Slaidburn		2
Horton in Ribblesdale		1		Sowerby		2
Huddersfield	1	12		Thornton in Craven	1	
Idle	1			Todmorden SM		2
Ilkley		5		Todmorden U	1	
Keighley		3		Tong		3
Kildwick		2		Walsden		



### Offer to help set up a website for your tower

"Free" website for your tower or club In exchange for a donation to Parkinson's UK Roger Pollard is prepared to set up a simple website for your tower or club and show you how to maintain it. Using One.Com the all inclusive cost per year (for them) plus the domain name is £25. The cost includes unlimited email addresses. Examples he has set up are [saltaireurcbells.co.uk](http://saltaireurcbells.co.uk), [seniorwayfarers.org.uk](http://seniorwayfarers.org.uk) and [bingleyhandbells.org.uk](http://bingleyhandbells.org.uk). For further information **email [rogpollard@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rogpollard@blueyonder.co.uk)**.



## *Tykes go to Brummy.....!*

On Saturday 11th February the Yorkshire Tykes hit the rails again and set off early from Leeds Station to travel to Birmingham for a day of ringing organised by the St Martin's Guild Young Ringers. The trains were running to time and we arrived in Birmingham at 10.30am with ample time to take the short walk up to St Philip's Cathedral, which has a lovely set of 12 bells. These bells were nice and easy to ring and are regularly rung to peals. Everyone managed rounds and calls on 12, and some did Plain Hunting and Grandsire Caters.

Then it was on to the 16 bells (yes that really is 16...!) at St Martin, The Bull Ring. For most of the young ringers this was the first time they had rung on so many bells, but everyone managed really well and again Call Changes and Plain Hunting on 16 were successfully accomplished by them all. This tower is also the home of the famous Birmingham 12 bell team, and we were able to touch the famous Taylor Trophy.... don't be surprised to see some of the Tykes with their hands on this trophy for real in the future...!



Then it was on to lunch at a local pub, followed by a quick dash back to the train station to catch a local train out to Aston. Here we walked along to the church with hundreds of Aston Villa football fans heading to their stadium, which is only a stone's throw from the tower. Aston is another 12 bell tower and by now everyone was used to 12 bell ringing, so a good standard of ringing was achieved.



That was the end of the ringing, but we still had time to go for a quick hot chocolate and cakes before heading back for our trains home. Many thanks to the St Martin's Guild for organising the trip, it will be our turn to host a return visit later in the year. **Any young ringers interested in joining the Tykes please contact Jane Lynch on 07807 159086.**

## *Special Quarters*

### *Remembering Gill Flynn – Dewsbury*

Gill – One of the nicest people one could ever hope to meet. Strong opinions, without personal attacks, uncompromising accurate advice, perhaps uncomfortable to hear. Supporter of the less fortunate, a great friend to Stuart Mills, supporting him while he lived locally.

Gill moved to Dewsbury in the early 1990s and started to ring in 1994, taught by Wynford Carter. In 1996 she rang a quarter peal to become a qualified member of the Yorkshire Association.

Gill became tower captain at that time, being the only local ringer, and organised ringing, specifically maintaining the tradition of the Devil's Knell that goes back over 600 years to 1434, toiling the year number every Christmas Eve, taking part until 2015.

Gill fell ill with leukaemia around ten years ago, but still made efforts to ring whenever possible. Sadly Gill died on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

I have lost a great friend.

**Derek C Johnstone. Dewsbury Minster**

### **Archdeaconry of Halifax Guild of Change Ringers**

Dewsbury, West Yorkshire,  
Minster Church of All Saints  
Monday, 30 January 2017 in 46m  
(13–1–6 in F)

#### **1260 Plain Bob Triples**

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Philip Brown,      | 2 Sharon Kelly,        |
| 3 Wynford Carter,    | 4 Patricia M Kefford   |
| 5 Derek C Johnstone, | 6 Christopher M Jones, |
| 7 John Spencer [C],  | 8 Stuart Mills         |



**Rung in memory of Gill Flynn, a fellow ringer and Tower Captain at Dewsbury Minster for over 20 years.**

## *Strike Back Against Cancer -*

### *Dr Julie McDonnell (of Hastings)*

**Yorkshire Association, St Matthew,  
Northowram**

Saturday, 24 December 2016 in 45 mins (8-0-0 in G#)

#### **1260 Julie McDonnell Slow Course Minor**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Paul H Wilkinson,  | 2 Graham P Adamson  |
| 3 Rebecca Kirby,     | 4 Carole Kirby      |
| 5 Margaret E Perrott | 6 Peter C Kirby [C] |

A joint Northowram (1,2,5) and Lightcliffe (3,4,6) QP.

First QP of Julie McDonnell (at any stage) in West Yorkshire



#### **Julie McDonnell Slow Course Minor.**

Those of us who read the comic (and I don't think there are enough of us) will know that this bell-ringing lady has leukaemia and has set up a charitable campaign (SBABC) Bell Ringers Strike Back Against Blood Cancer. She has managed to get sponsorship for every quarter or peal rung in one of her named methods. Since July 2016 (to the date of our quarter) 461 quarters or peals had been rung and a total of £6.25 million had been raised. We had just rung the first in West Yorkshire. The method was easy, the calling nasty, which might explain why only 17 of the quarters were minor. Most people had rung doubles.

**Margaret Perrott, Northowram**

**By the end of February 2017 bell ringers had raised over £7m for Julie McDonnell's attempt to raise awareness of the 137 known blood cancers.**

## *We will remember them ..*



**Peter McCoy and Christine Parsons have kindly produced this list of this year's centenary dates for the Yorkshire members killed in action during 1917:**

<b>Rifleman Edgar Bottomley, Northowram</b>	<b>Died 17/02/1917 Age Unknown</b>
Private Alfred James Sample, Ormsby, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 02/04/1917 Age 29
Private Fred Dennison, Tadcaster	Died 09/04/1917 Age 24
Private Tom Billingham, Beighton, Sheffield Amalgamated Society	Died 23/04/1917 Age 23
Gunner Herbert Gordon Gee, Ossett	Died 24/04/1917 Age 30
<b>Private Frank Crossland Billows, Skipton</b>	<b>Died 24/04/1917 Age 24</b>
Private Joseph Grimes, Snaith	Died 28/04/1917 Age 20
Sergeant Leonard Garrison, Rotherham	Died 01/05/1917 Age 27
<b>Lance Corporal Harold Brown, Drighlington</b>	<b>Died 03/05/1917 Age 22</b>
<b>Private (Signaller) Robert Barker, Skipton</b>	<b>Died 03/05/1917 Age 20</b>
<b>Private Morris Lees, Drighlington</b>	<b>Died 04/05/1917 Age Unknown</b>
Private David Ivor Brearley, Bolsterstone	Died 14/05/1917 Age 27
<b>Gunner William Mosley, Kildwick</b>	<b>Died 03/06/1917 Age Unknown</b>
Private Robert Simms, Howden	Died 11/06/1917 Age 26
Sapper Richard Duck, Robin Hood's Bay, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 25/06/1917 Age 33
Private Arthur Ward, Ranmoor	Died 01/07/1917 Age Unknown
Second Lieutenant Frederick Gordon Laverick, Middlesborough, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 23/07/1917 Age 29
Private John Morley, Selby	Died 26/08/1917 Age 19
Private William Harland, Whitby, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 06/09/1917 Age 37
<b>Private Ernest Ruddlesden, Dewsbury</b>	<b>Died 09/09/1917 Age 23</b>
Gunner John Thomas Vaughan, Marske by the Sea Cleveland & North Yorkshire	Died 13/09/1917 Age 26
Private Mark Ellis Hedges, Hull	Died 26/09/1917 Age 27
Sergeant Frank Teece Humphries Sheffield Amalgamated Society	Died 28/09/1917 Age 21
<b>Private Bertie Robert Ayers, Oxenhope</b>	<b>Died 07/10/1917 Age 40</b>
Second Lieutenant John William Brown, Northallerton, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 16/10/1917 Age 24
Private Harold Lindley Collinson, Middleham, Cleveland & North Yorks	Died 26/10/1917 Age 30
Private John Camp, Howden	Died 20/11/1917 Age 21

Peter hopes the towers concerned can ring on the right days. As with last year it does not matter if it is a Touch, Quarter, Date Touch or a Peal. It is up to towers whether they ring half muffled or Open.

Please contact Peter with any questions on: [mccoy5040@btinternet.com](mailto:mccoy5040@btinternet.com)



## *The Tour de Yorkshire*

\* Rod Ismay wrote the book "Bells and Bikes" which is on sale in many places. Check retailers on [www.bellsandbikes.com/books](http://www.bellsandbikes.com/books)

\* Get in touch with Rod Ismay by email at - [rismay@virginmedia.com](mailto:rismay@virginmedia.com), or by phone 07913 909787 to share tour photos with Rod and the YACR. Rod has had 6 articles published in The Ringing World (with photos) over the course of these tour events.

**Please send contributions for Newsline to the Newsline Editor (as below)  
and let the Branch know your news and events, share ideas and hints.**

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