



Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers
W e s t e r n B r a n c h

Newsline

Happy New Year



Bea ringing in the New Year at Oxenhope

Newsline Editor – Pat Kefford

Welcome to our new and advancing members

Kildwick	Alfie Swinton	Joining as A
Kildwick	Oliver Goodwin	Joining as A
Kildwick	Otis Brooks	Joining as A
Kildwick	George Rees	Joining as A

Advancing to Qualified

Saltaire	Finley Kemp
Otley	Jamie Ross
Bingley	Julie Warren

Western branch meeting on 14 December at Idle

Gargrave	Alison Lucas	Joining as Q
Gargrave	Jonathan Trimble	Joining as A
Gargrave	Les Hatfield	Joining as A

Key A – Associate Member
Q – Qualified Member

Tony Stamp,
Membership Secretary



Obituary

Ann Waite joined Saltaire as a complete learner during 2011. She quickly became a competent ringer of rounds and call-changes, and progressed to be able to ring Plain

Bob Doubles on inside bells. Her ability was actually better than her self-confidence, but she never quite mastered the intricacies of calls; nor did she like the treble, so she never progressed beyond Associate Membership of YACR.

Ann enjoyed the ringing, and became a regular and reliable member of the band. Sadly she became ill during the early summer of 2019, and much to the dismay of us all it transpired that her condition was terminal, and she died within a few weeks. She is much missed.

Robert Appleby, Tower Captain, Saltaire

Obituary



Canon Bruce Grainger
24th January 1937 –
2nd September 2019

When, in 1988, a new vicar was to be appointed for Oxenhope, the normal sentences about the need for the incumbent to be supportive of ringing went into the statement of requirements. Little did we know we would get Bruce, a member of a ringing family, (his sister is Angela Newing, a Central Council member who writes the brain teasers in Ringing World). Not only was he supportive but he was an active ringer and member of the band, regularly running down the stairs on a Sunday morning to don his vestments with only five minutes to go!

Bruce had rung as a young man at university in Nottingham, then after ordination in Canterbury, rolling up quite a number of quarters and peals, which obviously decreased as he took up the Ministry in parishes without bells. So he arrived at Oxenhope with plenty of enthusiasm for the exercise.

Over the next twenty years or so he managed to balance his love of ringing with his other hobbies, choral music, mending clocks and riding his vintage motor bike and car. But not least, his vocation as a priest, not just for Oxenhope but as a Canon of the Cathedral and Director of Ordinands in Bradford Diocese, combining his talents by writing many Thought of the Week columns for the Ringing World, and, possibly his favourite passion: directing the annual Carol Train on the Worth Valley Railway. Bruce rang his last quarter in September 2015 at Bingley to celebrate his 50 years of ministry. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bob Schofield, Tower Captain, Oxenhope

Chairman's Chat



New Year, time to look backwards and forwards. 2019 saw a lot of advances in the bands around the Branch, and some pretty well-attended meetings. I'm bound to miss some milestones, but some that come to mind are the

Quarter Peal Fortnight with loads of scores in both the north and south, the really successful joint trips with Lancaster and Rochdale branches, the well attended Association meeting at Pudsey, expanding bands all over the place, coming last in the Treasure Hunt at Saltaire, a new wheel being hoisted up the tower at Queensbury, a couple of memorable quarters of Bob Maximus at Halifax and Bradford with a host of first timers, an increasing number of young ringers, especially at Kildwick, the fully booked "Beyond Bob Major" course introducing ringers to Surprise Major, and, not least, first peal congratulation to Julia Thornely and Emily Bennett.

So what for 2020? We've now got a Facebook page, so join it if you're not averse to Social Media. It forms yet another outlet for the Branch and allows for quick comment and news to filter out, especially the sort of thing I wouldn't want to take up the space of one of my emailings. Use it for telling us of cancelled practices, need for wedding ringers and so on. The emailing which comes via Mailchimp takes a bit of composing and is best left for formal announcements of meetings, attachments and flyers for tower notice boards. Newline is the permanent record, articles, pictures, reports and training hints, browsed in the tower when you're sitting out! There'll be duplication between all the media, but that's not a bad thing, the message will get out one way or another.

And what of training and development? Do have a look at Pathways in the next column.. It won't suit everyone, but the wish to develop beyond Plain Bob is a critical point, and a point of frustration which can cause disenchantment and eventual loss of interest in ringing. It may be that there are only two or three in a band who are at this stage, in which case their development may be best served by combining with others nearby, and that is where the Branch can assist. I've advocated clustering in the past, it serves us well in and around Keighley, and the knock-on effect of both experience and enthusiasm to help more basic learners has proved invaluable.

Ringling Pathways

Don't know where to progress after Bob Doubles, or Cambridge Minor? Well, the Central Council has devised a pathway to follow called Pathways.



Your band should subscribe to it in Bellboard and, whenever you complete the challenges, submit your success, to be displayed in the listings.

There are three pathways, **Blue, Red and Yellow.**

If your band members are OK with Bob Doubles and want to go further, join the Blue pathway:

if Cambridge minor, join the Red:

and some surprise major, join the Yellow.

At Oxenhope, we have people ready for both the Blue and Red pathways, so we've joined both.

So what are the challenges? Basically, methods to ring and if possible complete by ringing a quarter, but that's not essential.

There are six stages, not necessarily in increasing order of difficulty.

In the Blue path, the first is Grandsire Doubles, then in March and April, a Doubles Variation, like April Day, which is Plain Bob Doubles, but with a Grandsire Single instead of a normal Bob; quite good fun.

The Red route starts with Beverley and Surfleet, moving on to Single Oxford Triples or spliced plain minor, such as St Clements and Buxton.

If there are only one or two of you in a band at these levels, find or ask us for others who you can join and make up a special practice group and then subscribe using whatever name you wish!

There's a full description in Bellboard and you can access it via bb.ringingworld.co.uk/pathways.

Happy New Year See you on the road!

Bob (Bob Schofield, Western Branch Chairman and Tower Captain at Oxenhope)

Notes from the Ringing Master

Happy New Year!

As you will know our annual Quarter Peal Fortnight ran from 1-17 November 2019. We managed the excellent total of 31 quarters in this period – well done and thanks to everyone who joined in. You can see all the details on Bell Board at this link: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=11883>



The quarters included many firsts:

First quarter: Julie Warren

First inside: Tony Wilson

First minor: Roger Davison

First treble bob: Jean Walters, Emily Bennett, Ed Mallen

First minor inside: Jenny Liston

First minor as conductor: Julia Thornely

First on 8: Tony Wilson

First on 8 not covering: Claire Bowman

First Stedman: Zoe Bennett

First surprise inside: Zoe Bennett

First on 12: Peter Tiley

First Maximus: Daniel Calvert

First Plain Bob Maximus: Dale Barton

First on 12 as conductor: Andy Sutherland

First Lessness: Rebecca Kirby, Kevin Haseldine, Carole Kirby, Dale Barton

First Deva: Sally Austin, Lorraine Trebble, Andy Sutherland, Rebecca Kirby, Alan Trebble, Neil Murray

Congratulations to all, and to Rebecca Kirby, who rang her 100th quarter during the fortnight. Congratulations also to Emily Bennett, who, not content with ringing a quarter of treble bob then rang her first peal at Halifax on 27 December, ringing the treble to Cambridge Surprise Minor. It is good to see all this activity and I hope we can continue to build on it over the coming year.

The Branch has a Conducting Club, which has been running since April 2017. This supports conductors, with a particular focus on developing people to be able to call Plain Bob Minor. Achievements by members over the period include first quarters of PB Minor as conductor for Andrew Drury, Paul Clark, Julia Thornely, Phil Brown, Solna Burnham, Tom Morton, Ve Walker; first quarters of PB Doubles as conductor for Sue Neal and for Julia Thornely, first quarter of Grandsire Doubles as conductor for Andrew Drury, most doubles methods (3) as conductor for Jenny Robinson. Well done all! The Club continues to run – if anyone is interested in joining please contact me. It also provides a forum for discussion of conducting questions, if anyone has any questions please let me know. There was also a Club Christmas Quiz. Congratulations to Chris Wright and Sue Neal, who achieved the highest scores (19/20). The quiz is printed in this issue – if you are interested, have a go. Answers are later.

Andy Sutherland

Sutherlandandy686@gmail.com

Andy (Andrew Sutherland, Ilkley)s

YACR WESTERN BRANCH – CONDUCTING QUIZ

10 questions in approximate order of difficulty.



Remember

- coursing orders are cyclic, so the coursing order 23456 is the same as 34562 and 45623 etc.
- when you describe a call as e.g. a Home you need to say which bell is at the Home position (this is called the "observation bell" and is often the bell you are ringing). So for example 3 homes with the 6 as observation means call the 6 three times in 5-6 down.
- A "lead end" is the row where the treble is leading at backstroke so the first lead end of a plain course of plain bob minor is the row 135264. [note that this definition is not universally agreed].
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Two points for each of the 10 questions. Good luck!

1. What is the coursing order for the plain course of Plain Bob Minor?
2. If you call a bob at the end of the first lead of PB Minor, what is the lead end [i.e. the row just after the call with the treble leading at backstroke]?
3. If you call a single at the end of the first lead of PB Minor, what is the lead end?
4. What is the shortest possible touch of PB Minor? [say what the calling is and how many changes].
5. I am ringing a touch of PB Minor with the 6th as observation bell and, from the plain course, call a bob at home [that is, when the 6 is in 5-6 down]. What is the resulting coursing order?
6. I call a single every lead. How many successive singles must I call before the touch comes round?
7. The coursing order is 54326. I am ringing the 6. What is the easiest way (that is, with fewest calls) to bring the touch round?
8. Observe the video at this link (<https://youtu.be/T3dRTm9TbS4>) You are looking at the ropes in a touch of PB Minor (in order, treble at the left). What is the coursing order?
9. I am ringing the 6. I call myself to run in, and then at home (a bob). What is the resulting coursing order?
10. (difficult). A "sequence of calls" in PB Minor is a set of successive leads each called bob (B), single (S) or without a call (plain lead, P). Such a sequence of calls can be of any (finite) length. So for example the sequence of calls BBP is 3 leads long (36 changes) called bob, bob, plain and at the end of the 3rd lead the lead end is 134256. Three repetitions [by which is meant "ring the whole sequence 3 times"] of this will come round, that is bob, bob, plain, bob, bob, plain, bob, bob, plain.

Statement: "Any sequence of calls will come round if enough repetitions are rung". Is this statement True or False?

- a. If it is true, at most how many repetitions are needed and why?, or
- b. If it is false, give a sequence which does not come round with repetitions.

(END OF QUIZ)

Branch Games and Quiz Night

The quiz was held on the 16th November 2019 at Lightcliffe

The games and food were organised by Peter, Carole and Rebecca Kirby, who kept everyone entertained and well fed throughout the night. All in all they did a brilliant job in organising what turned out to be a successful event, so thanks to them.



There were six teams who took part on the evening, representing towers across the Western Branch. The quiz consisted of four rounds - multiple choice, a

map of Europe which really threw a spanner in the works, a general knowledge round and a final round of identifying the tower by the pictures.

Needless to say, as I've come to find with bell ringing, this hobby attracts a wide range of people from all walks of life with a wide variety of skills and knowledge. Everyone did very well, so well that at one point the quiz master was slightly concerned that it was a little too easy. The map of Europe though really helped mix things up a bit and started to level out the playing field.



The vast majority of teams did really well at identifying the towers, however hats off to Stuart who managed to identify every single one. In the end the teams representing Haworth and Otley/Ilkley tied. This then led to a tie break question being given which resulted with Otley/Ilkley winning, so well done to them. Overall feedback has been positive and it seems that a good night was had by all.

Rob Harwood - [Committee member](#)

CONDUCTING QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1) 53246 | 2) 123564 | 3) 132564 |
| 4) BBB 36 changes | 5) 52436 | 6) 6 |
| 7) Call a bob at home | 8) 24536 | 9) 23456 |
| 10) True. 6 repetitions. | | |

For the gory details underlying the answer to Q10 please contact Andy Sutherland.

Coffee Morning Quarter Peals at St Barts, Meltham



Over the past few years we have had complaints from the noisy minority who do not like the sound of our bells, though most local people we meet say how lovely it is to hear the sound of bells drifting over the valley. Following our ringing being monitored by Kirklees Environmental department, they said it was not done at unreasonable times and is part of village life, so we may ring at special times as well as practices and church services. So in September a 'wicked plan' was devised to ring a quarter peal every time the church has a 'special' coffee morning, approximately every month or so. This decision has the benefit for the less experienced ringers to gain confidence in ringing simple quarters and to progress to more challenging methods. So far we have been successful in ringing three quarter peals of Plain Bob Minor. The coffee morning benefits by having a pleasant accompaniment to their refreshments and the people of Meltham are getting used to hearing the bells more, so everyone benefits. It has also been an opportunity to dedicate the quarter to special things, such as the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem, in which one of our ringer's father took part; cheering on our Rugby team who were playing at the same time as us (they won) and to celebrate the 18th birthday of the grandson of one of our ringers.

Long may the bells of Meltham ring out and perhaps inspire people to want to learn how to ring.
Jean Walters, Meltham

Twelve Days of Kildwick

Looking back over 2019 during That Time after Christmas, a tune was running through my head...

On the First day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

A warm tower heater..

In true Christmas spirit, the tower resembles a draughty stable. The right wind plasters the door with snow. Inside. An updated heater makes a '11`1`11qwsswwgreat difference.

On the Second day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Two quarter peals.

Only two quarters in the tower this year – and one by a visiting band. But our “own” had four Kildwick ringers plus Jane (who’s an honorary member) and included Richard who rang his first quarter

On the Third day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Three ringer trainers

Bob and Pat and – particularly – Jane have continued to provide vital help and support to our young and evolving band.

On the Fourth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

A lowly striking contest place

I don’t think Kildwick has ever entered a band for the branch striking contest before. The caller didn’t help by ringing for too long – but we didn’t disgrace ourselves.

On the Fifth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Five Young ringers

Last year’s MiniRingers included six Year Six lads. They rang together for their Leavers’ Service in July – but five of them have stayed on to become full and very valuable members of the band.

On the Sixth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Six quarter-pealers

We’ve got six ringers who’ve rung in quarters this year though, to be strictly accurate, only five were successful. Through no fault of Angus. Next time we’ll score it!

On the Seventh day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Seven working bells

Yorkshire tail ends bring their own joys and limitations. We’re proud to maintain that heritage. Our learners prefer them to plain ends! It does mean, though, that we will always tend to ring with a cover bell.

On the Eighth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Eight warmed-up ropes

(See the First Day) Kildwick’s not an “easy tower” at the best of times – but rock-solid ropes make ringing nearly impossible for new(er) ringers. A warming tower, powered by a couple of light bulbs makes all the difference.

On the Ninth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Nine handbell patterns

Contrived, that one. Actually, there are four octaves of them. Borrowed for now, the hope is that the Kildwick Foundry which has successfully turned out several dozen small untuned bells will eventually produce a ringable set. A work in progress.

On the Tenth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Ten tower visitors

A look at the Visitors Book reveals ten individuals who have dropped in to practices or service ringing. Always welcome, they bring much-appreciated expertise to a session. A ground-floor ring means long ropes but it does allow an Open Door policy which results in lots of interested passers-by as well as members of the church congregation.

On the Eleventh day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Eleven helpful ringers

There are lots of folk around who feed in to what we do at Kildwick. Mostly, they are members of the “Worth Valley Cluster”. Some visit us, others welcome us as visitors. All of them (far more than eleven, I guess) make a huge difference to the development of our team. Thank you!

On the Twelfth day of Kildwick the tower brought to me:

Twelve MiniRingers.

Twelve small stars to finish with! This year’s batch are younger than we’ve had before. Only one Year Six, so we’ll not repeat last year’s performance. They are a great bunch and are ringing tunes (a carol, performed at the Candlelight service) as well as a variety of changes on our change ringing mat. Plain hunt on 12 is awesome! We don’t do tower bells in our standard sessions – and the bell casting comes during the summer term.

Chris Wright, Tower Captain, Kildwick

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers – Training Programme January to October 2020

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To register interest in any of these courses please contact John Leech -  
johnsleech@outlook.com

| Course Title                               | Brief Description                                                                                                | Who For                                                                                                 | Syllabus           | Location                                   | Tutor                | Date                | Suggested Reading                                     | Related Courses             |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ORDER CHANGES</b> | The theory behind call changes, Plain Hunt and treble dodging, enabling a student to understand what is expected | For those now confident in Rounds and needing to move on                                                | YACR - EC          | Pickering - part of Scarborough Branch AGM | Elaine Scott         | 23/11/2019          |                                                       |                             |
| <b>HOW TO LEARN A NEW METHOD</b>           | What you need to know when learning a new method                                                                 | For those comfortable with Plain Bob / Grandfire, and wanting to move on                                | YACR - EC          | Chapel Allerton                            | Elaine Scott         | 18/01/2020          |                                                       |                             |
| <b>SAV GO WITH CONFIDENCE</b>              | What to do when asked to call a touch for the first time                                                         | For those competent in basic methods and wanting to (or needing to) take the lead in a method           | YACR - EC          | Tadcaster                                  | John Leech           | 22/02/2020          |                                                       | First steps in conducting   |
| <b>ART M2F</b>                             | How to teach basic methods (Plain Hunt, Grandfire Doubles etc)                                                   | Tower captains with learners capable of ringing call changes well, and needing to move on to Plain Hunt | ART                | Sheffield area                             | ART                  | March 2020          | Access to a lot of supporting materials after the day |                             |
| <b>TOWER MAINTENANCE</b>                   | Learn what you can on a day-to-day basis to make sure the bells are running smoothly and safely                  | Anyone responsible for the bells (from fitting new stays to checking for frame movement)                | Yet to be prepared | Central Branch                             | Brian Sanders        | Spring 2020         | "Tower Maintenance Schedule"                          |                             |
| <b>ART M1</b>                              | How to teach bell handling                                                                                       | Those who are expected (or need) to teach                                                               | ART                | Central Branch                             | Neil Donovan         | Spring 2020         | Access to a lot of supporting materials after the day |                             |
| <b>LISTENING SKILLS</b>                    | How to recognise good and bad striking, and what to do about it (yourself and the band)                          | Everyone who want good ringing                                                                          | Whiting            | Flamborough                                | Andrew Aspland (tbc) | 16/05/2020          | "Listen to it"                                        |                             |
| <b>TOWER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP</b>           | What the roles and responsibilities are for a Tower Captain or Ringing Master                                    | New or aspiring leaders                                                                                 | ART                | Tadcaster                                  | John Leech           | Wednesday 03/6/2020 | Access to various materials after the workshop        |                             |
| <b>RINGING UP AND DOWN IN PEAL</b>         | How to ensure that you fit in with others during a raise or lower.                                               | Those who can ring up and down on their own, and now need to do so with others                          | YACR - EC          | York                                       | John Leech           | 18/07/2020          |                                                       | Leading up and down in peal |
| <b>LEADING UP AND DOWN IN PEAL</b>         | How to get a raise or lower right                                                                                | Those who have a need to lead a raise or lower                                                          | YACR - EC          | York or Selby Branch                       | John Leech           | 18/07/2020          |                                                       | Leading up and down in peal |
| <b>ART M1</b>                              | How to teach bell handling                                                                                       | Those who are expected (or need) to teach                                                               | ART                | South Cave (tbc)                           | ART                  | September 2020      | Access to a lot of supporting materials after the day |                             |
| <b>FIRST STEPS IN CONDUCTING</b>           | For 'Bob Callers' to move on, by learning how to understand what is happening in the method                      | For those confident in calling basic methods                                                            | Yet to be prepared | Sheffield Area                             | Chris Bennett        | October 2020        |                                                       |                             |