


The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers



Newsletter Autumn 2014

Issue Number 15



2015 Dates for your diary

- 7 February** General Meeting, Leeds & District Branch
- 27 to 29 March
or 10 to 12 April** The Harrogate Residential
Ringing Course
- 9 May** AGM and Inter-Branch Striking Contest,
Scarborough Branch
- 17 to 19 July** The Storthes Hall Park Residential Ringing
Course, Kirkburton
- 19 September** General Meeting and Final of Sunday Service
Bands Striking Contest, Sheffield & District
Branch

Also in September

The White Rose Shield Striking Contest for 12-Bell Bands.

In November

The Snowdon Dinner

Additionally, the Beverley & District Society is hosting the 2015
Central Council Meeting in Hull, 23 to 25 May.

In 2015, in addition to the two residential Courses, the Education
Committee plans to hold a Ringing Up & Down in Peal Course, a
Tower Maintenance Course, a Conducting Course, a Handbells for
Beginners Course and a Tune Ringing on Handbells Course.

It also plans to hold a Course on Leadership in Ringing,
with the intention of attracting younger ringers.

EDITORIAL

In the last edition about a year ago I said that we hoped the Newsletter might join the 21st Century in its presentation to members. This was discussed by the Association's Standing Sub-Committee in February when it was decided that the Newsletter should continue in a paper format (as well as being on-line) so all members could readily browse through it at tower ringing. So this is what I've actioned.

Holly Webster of York, originally from Easingwold, has very kindly filled the breach left by Jean Doman and has dealt with the layout and the new printing firm.

Holly is a graphic designer and I'm sure you'll all agree that through Holly's work the Newsletter now has a 'more friendly' and fresh '21st Century' appearance. Many thanks, Holly.

The Newsletter, like all previous editions, is also shown on the Association's website, where you can read it perhaps more leisurely.

Robert Cater (Editor)

Robert@thecaters.org.uk

**Can you identify which ringing room our cover picture is from?
See inside back cover for the answer.**

ASSOCIATION AGM - A CHANGE OF PRESIDENT

At the AGM on 10 May at Guiseley, one of a number of small towns to the north west of Leeds which were once united as the Borough of Aireborough, the YACR changed its President.

Barrie Dove had very commendably held the post for the past six years and it was handed over to Andrew Aspland of Ripon Cathedral. Several tributes were paid to Barrie's considerable efforts during his term, revitalising the Association in many existing areas and being innovative in others.

In his inaugural speech Andrew said that on top of continuing Barrie's work he wished to create a fuller appreciation of the Association's history for the benefit of developing ringing in Yorkshire. As he said "... Some of the challenges to our Association are the wider promotion of ringing as a benefit to communities through our team effort and our ability to bring people together, and also educating the general public about bell ringing and raising awareness of our Association's work in Yorkshire".

The Association is fortunate in many ways in that a large proportion of its 1750 or so members are Yorkshire folk, born and bred, with a strong common identity to the County and hence to the Association, even though it is more than 100 miles across.

Barrie Dove (r) handing over the President's Badge of Office to Andrew Aspland.



John Welch (l) receiving the Inter-Branch Contest trophy from the judge Mike Chester of the Coventry DG.

During our meeting we stood in memory of recently departed members: David Fawcett (Bilbrough), Leslie Pritchett (Huntington), Derek Wileman (Hemsworth), Chris Dodds (Ripon) and Jacqueline Cox (Bramley, Leeds).

The latest information about ringing during the eagerly-awaited Tour de France through our County was announced as well as initiatives to commemorate members who gave their lives in WW1.

The Inter-Branch 8-bell Striking Contest was held during the afternoon, with the test piece a Course of Rutland. The band from the Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch was the winner.

RC

Said by Andrew Aspland at his inauguration as President as his plans for the future.

I want to continue the many initiatives which have advanced the Association's work over the last few years: Snowdon Dinner Committee, Snowdon Books, Inter-Branch striking competitions, Life Members' Day, Communication and the development of the website.

The challenges and issues that face us over the next few years include:

Our response as an Association to the centenary of the First World War. We have compiled a list of some 66 Yorkshire ringers who died in the war and, with Christine Parsons and Peter McCoy helping coordinate our response, we hope to commemorate each of these fatalities by ringing a peal, quarter or general ringing on or near the date of their deaths.

Appreciation of our history and heritage as a ringing Association both within our membership and for the general public. I hope that we can digitise our YACR reports and make them available on-line for the benefit of members wishing to research ringing and membership of their tower, as well as being of interest to family historians. I would like to recognise the importance of our individual collections of bell ringing publications and personal ringing records. I would like to raise awareness amongst our members about the history of the bells in their own towers and the significance of their bells in the life of the church and our history of ringing.

Promotion of ringing as a benefit to communities through its team effort and ability to bring people together; educating the general public about bell ringing and raising awareness of our Association's work in Yorkshire.

If we are able to combine our heritage with future community benefit then we will be in a much stronger position to apply for grants from external bodies which need to understand how their grants will impact on public awareness and so forth.

With many successful bell restorations and installations we have a wealth of experience and knowledge within the Association. Our Diocesan Bell Advisors are all active ringers and with their expert knowledge can help with the faculty application process. If we can bring together our best practice and knowledge we can be in a very strong position to support future bell projects.

I would like to explore the Association's recognition of quarter peals – many of our members ring quarter peals yet as an Association we do nothing to recognise this. Perhaps our new website could be a means of recording quarter peals rung for the Association? Could the YACR report be a resource for ringing? Perhaps inclusion of quarter peal compositions and other educational material could expand the interest and usefulness of our report.

LIFE MEMBERS DAY

It generally occurs that when The Peak District National Park is mentioned one's thoughts go to Derbyshire. Whilst the Park is indeed mostly in that County, large parts are however in both South and West Yorkshire and even in Greater Manchester.

Bolsterstone, on the Park's boundary to the north west of Sheffield, is a solid stone-built and weather beaten village high above the valley of the River Don, with extensive views over wide expanses of the Park. It was the venue for this year's gathering of the Association's Life Members on 16 August and about 40 attended, some having come from Yorkshire's north-east coast at Saltburn and Marske, 100 miles away. The 8 bells with their ground floor ring in a solid dark stone tower dominating the skyline as one approaches the village were kept alive all afternoon with hardly a break. The good striking which has come to be expected of ringers who learned their trade 50 or more years ago was in evidence again. Year after year it's the same – the Association's Life members can strike well.

Bands with all ringers aged over 75 rang Surprise Major which would have won a striking contest in most parts of the North. One band of six, all over the age of 80, turned in a well-struck 120 of Grandsire Doubles.

After a Service a splendid tea was consumed and Barrie Dove, the Association's previous President spoke to the party, the current President sadly not being able to be with us. After that it was homeward bound with Members well satisfied with the quality of their ringing, with a good Yorkshire tea and with the long chats they had enjoyed with their long-time friends.

RC



The Octogenarians after ringing well-struck Grandsire Doubles.

L to r: Robin Story (Ranmoor), Revd Giles Galley (York), Doreen Sanderson (Huntington), David Lockwood (Ossett), Cyril Toyne (Sprotborough), David Micklethwaite (Penistone).

Summer Course, 2014.

The Education Committee of the Yorkshire Association arranged its second summer course at Storthes Hall Park, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield between Friday 18th July and Sunday 20th July. A total of 24 Students took part in the course which covered the range of ringing capabilities as follows.

Group A: Rounds Call changes and Plain Bob, tutored by Brian Sanders,

Group B: Plain Hunting and Plain Bob Doubles, tutored by Anne Deebank

Group C: Plain Bob Doubles and Minor, tutored by Barrie Dove

Group D: Stedman Triples, tutored by Chris Bennett

Group E: Cambridge Minor and Major and Yorkshire Major, tutored by Alan Trebble

The aim of the course is to give students as much practical advice at their level of ringing and to give them as much time as practical on the end of a rope to practice their chosen level of ringing. There were four two hour practical sessions backed up with two theory sessions.

On the Saturday evening, all helpers and students on the course were given the opportunity to ring together on the 10 bells at Marsden. On the Sunday morning there was a chance for students to have a break from ringing and take



Back row l-r: Jane Lynch, Anne Deebank, Ben East, Liz Tarleton, Jay Downes, Mark Rowland, Stuart Raggett, Barrie Dove, Jenny Liston, Barry Baxter, James Baxter.

Third row: Claire Bowman, Janine Jones, Marian Thomas, Jonathan Couchman, Jane Pilbin, Rosina Baxter, Alice Baxter, Nathan Cox, Ann Waite

Second row: Ruth Elliott, Laura Elliott, Jo Mitchell, Ann Denison, Sue Willington, Julia Thornley, Gillian Ferry.

Front row: Ron North, Nathan Plowright, Douglas McNicoll, Elaine Scott.

part in ringing related activities. These included Handbell ringing, Listening skills, Rope splicing and an interesting session on the applications for computers and mobile phones to assist ringers. The Wombel was available throughout the weekend and was in constant use.

After a hard day's ringing both students and helpers were able to relax in the bar, where a range of local beers were available and were obviously appreciated, as the bar sold out on the second night!!!

Students have reported back

that they had a very enjoyable weekend and gained a great deal from the experience, which was the objective of the weekend.

Tutors for the course were supported by over 70 helpers in 21 towers. The organising committee would like to thank, most sincerely, all of the tutors and helpers at all of the towers, and the staff at Storthes Hall, that made this weekend such a tremendous success.

Stuart Raggett

Central Council Seminar

Central Council Seminar on the Future of Ringing, York - 8 February

The third in the series of seminars inviting ringers to "Have your Say" was held at the Priory Centre, York with some 40 ringers present. The attendance was primarily from Yorkshire plus interested parties from Staffordshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire. It was described as "a good day", "a useful event" and "very thought provoking"...this is what happened:

Barrie Dove, Yorkshire Association President, welcomed the assembled company and Elva Ainsworth outlined the statistics behind the changing profile of both church attendance and available ringers. Bob Cater spoke of the present activities of the YACR in the spheres of recruitment, training and education. Bob was keen to emphasise the joint aims of ringing for service, and training and fostering friendship between new and existing ringers. A current target is to extend contact beyond existing newsletters through the use of both website and email.

Acting as facilitator, Elva sought views regarding challenges presented to ringing. Amongst topics raised were:

- Leadership - the need for energy, people skills and charisma
- Retention - thought to be more important than initial recruitment with particular need to give a good experience coupled with ongoing motivation
- Networking – overcoming tower insularity whilst respecting limited aspirations
- Teasing out lapsed ringers

Mark Regan gave an inspiring presentation on the achievements in Worcester showing how a tower centred training facility could be a catalyst for wider influence. The key factors were the involvement of both church and local community and welcoming all. The importance of working with non-ringing

groups is a public relations exercise and produces funding opportunities.

As one of the ITTS tutors, Neil Donavon outlined how this training scheme was working locally. The associated "Learning the Ropes" syllabus was described together with the work of the Association of Ringing Teachers. The Yorkshire Association were supporting the ITTS and LRT initiative and were offering places on courses to their members.

Questions at this stage centred on the following key points:

- ITTS and LTR were still not fully understood by many ringers despite widespread publicity
- There was concern that ITTS accreditation would become a formal requirement

Chris Mew gave an overview of the work of the St Martin's Guild, Birmingham who are currently piloting a new recruitment and training scheme using ITTS certified teachers and LTR levels 1-5 for students. One of the most radical elements of the scheme is that a brochure has been sent to all incumbents of churches with bells in their area outlining the scheme and offering to provide training to recruits. The scheme has adopted a "pay for training" approach to learners and there was a clear expectation that, once competent, learners would support a nominated local tower. Those passing the appropriate levels could also plough back experience by assisting with further training.

Overviews were then given of the work of the Ringing Foundation in supporting ART/ITTS and making local grants, and of the role, work and services of the Central Council.

The final discussions drew attention to perceived need for improvement in the following areas:

- Improved communication between all ringers
- Better and clearer spread of information from CCCBR/RF/associations



The CC Seminar at York on 'The Future of Ringing'

- Support for local tower captains in recruitment and training
- Provision of material which could be used in local recruitment drives
- Improving awareness of the public regarding bell ringing
- Better funding comparable to other national activities
- Addressing perceived duplication of activities by central bodies

Feedback from those attending the seminar clarified

that it is this sharing of ideas and experiences that is so useful. There was an acknowledgement of the need for more local initiative and joined-up working across tower boundaries and a keen interest in how the Birmingham/Worcester models might work in other areas. There was also a clear request for a new and tested approach to attracting and training learners that would work in the rural areas badly needing injections of resource and expertise.

Final word about the seminar from someone attending: "More ringers should come".

Chris Mew (CC President) and Elva Ainsworth

ITTS COURSES

ITTS Module 1 Northallerton

I attended the ITTS Module 1 Course at Northallerton on 15 March after some persuasion from Janet, who taught me to ring 14 years ago. Having taught a number of our team since she agreed to be my mentor and help me after the course to successfully train up a new ringer for our little band. After discovering that the cost would be covered by the Yorkshire Association, and that lunch was included (it was fantastic by the way, thank you to those involved!), I merrily agreed and made my way to Northallerton, ready to spend my day learning how to teach.

Upon arrival I duly signed in and stuck on my name badge, which labelled me "Teacher". We then started with a theory session, covering different types of learner we might encounter; visual, audio and kinaesthetic. We also covered the "Whole-part-whole" approach to teaching; trying the whole action together, breaking it down into smaller bits to focus on individually, and then putting it all back together again. We were put into small groups, working with other teachers and mentors, acting as each other's "learners". Numerous trips up and down the tower stairs alternating theory with practical saw us cover teaching the backstroke, the handstroke, putting the two together, ringing up and down and common problems. The day involved returning to a lot of things I haven't had to do for quite some time. A rather tall "learner" meant I had to return to a very large box, not being a particularly tall ringer I fear this may become a common feature of my teaching sessions! I found it very challenging (I'm sure a few of us did!) to return to doing solely one stroke, not something I've done since I was a learner myself. The odd times we both went for the sally, or even when neither of us did, made for a rather authentic learner experience. I was sent home with a folder filled with booklets and teaching aids, all I'm missing now is a willing victim!

I found the course very helpful as a complete novice, although I think even some more

experienced ringing teachers would also benefit from looking at different ways to approach teaching. Before I went on the course I felt nervous about the prospect of teaching bell ringing to someone, but the way each step was broken down made it possible for me to see how I would be able to pass on my knowledge to someone else; and the online and mentor support I can rely on whilst I am teaching my new learner will give me all the backup I need.

I have found it very interesting since the course watching my own teams' style of ringing, and how many different ways there are of doing a simple action. Since I completed the course my team have been fantastic ambassadors for bell ringing in our local area, and one of our members has found an interested party, so fingers crossed I should be meeting my first learner this week!

Debbie Fothergill, Kirklington with Burneston, Wath and Pickhill.

ITTS Module 2 Bradford Cathedral

Module 2 is the second part of the ITTS training course which leads to accreditation to become a member or the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART). It follows on from Module 1-Teaching Bell Handling.

The day started at Bradford Cathedral on 22 February with learning how to develop handling skills. Adjusting rope length to ring faster and slower. Catching the sally higher or lower. Whole pull and stand exercises. We then progressed to exercises which helped learning the technique required for dodging and places. Having learned the handling skills required we moved on to developing rope site and listening skills. Various exercises like trebling to Bastow Minimus (treble makes seconds and leads all the way through) and Stedman Quick Six (treble hunts to thirds place starting with the second each time) were demonstrated.

After lunch we graduated to Bob Doubles by using Bayles system. This allows a learner to repeat the



At the Bradford ITTS Course.

L to r: Iain Scott (Grapenhall, Cheshire); Sue Green (Ilkley); Gillian Parrington (Horton-in-Ribblesdale; Elaine Scott (Ranmoor, S Yorks); Ian Boocock (Giggleswick); Meg Morton (Otley); Joy Till (Messingham, N Lincs); Adrian Moreton (Wakefield Cathedral); Susan Welch (Richmond, N Yorks); Neil Donovan (Tutor); Chris Wright (Skipton); Janet Wadsworth (Ripon Cathedral); Jonathan Wilson (Harrogate, N Yorks); Peter Scott (Ranmoor, S Yorks); Ian Till (Messingham, N Lincs); Peter Tiley (Haworth); Jane Lynch (Bingley); Bob Schofield (Oxenhope).

same dodge each lead until they have mastered it. There was a theory session on running a practice followed by some more unusual methods of teaching which included exercises to learn treble bob hunting and Kent places.

The theme of the day was definitely breaking down the whole into small incremental steps. Amongst the learning materials provided was a sheet with all the steps listed. For those of us whose ability to retain large amounts of information is waning this is likely to prove a useful aide memoire. I was quite relieved to find it in the information pack when I got home.

The other recurring theme was to tailor the teaching to the learner and be flexible. The course supplied a range of tools for the teacher to use.

In some bands progress may be slow because of

lack of experienced supporting ringers. I can see how applying some of the exercises could help even in very inexperienced bands. I suspect the proof of the pudding will be in the eating and I ought to write another article a year on to see if I have managed to a move on our team.

For further information about ITTS consult the website at www.itts.org.uk

Janet Wadsworth.

Cloistered in Bradford – Another perspective

Who says ringers can't organise things quickly? It was only an aside to Stuart Holtam at the January Branch meeting that I wouldn't be able to attend the ITTS Module 2 training course in North Cave, and

behold, up he came with the goods, and it was still only February. Thus, at 9.45 on a vaguely Spring-like morning, seventeen of us from all over Yorkshire and Lincolnshire assembled in the Bradford Ringing Centre, coffee in hand, under starter's orders ready to be led through the potential minefield of learner development by our able tutor, Neil Donovan.

Promptly at ten, the Chapter House, more used to witnessing the weighty matters of diocesan reform and archdeaconry finance, quickly became home to a lively assembly of ringing mentors and teachers, all keen to tackle the problem of learner retention once the first steps of handling have been accomplished. Theory and practical sessions followed in succession and we were quickly into trying out ideas to make learning FUN. Would we make fools of ourselves, we wondered? You bet! Kaleidoscope, "Twinkle, Twinkle", Bastow, Cloister and even Bayle's all had their moments, and the seven hours seemed to pass in no time before we were on our way home to pursue new ideas with our learners.

We all know that developing learners from basic handling into change ringing isn't a new problem, one only has to read in Trollope's *Grandsire* that "the system (or want of system) of instruction generally used in the Ringing Exercise is thoroughly bad" to realise this. Many excellent training manuals have been written since Trollope's day, so how does ITTS break new ground? For a start, it's here and available. But who is making use of it? This course had experience and enthusiasm in plenty, but to be honest, delegates were teachers

who were already putting into practice much of the material without perhaps realising it, not above questioning what they do, and constantly seeking fresh ideas. Also, and this is important, they were blessed with a good number of recruits, for in this part of the world, at least, there seems to be something of a ringing renaissance and very few towers lack a band. It would be easy to say that the two are interlinked.

The ITTS is now coming out of the pioneering stage, in which many highly experienced and enthusiastic teachers have been gathered in. The big question remains, though: how can the inexperienced and unenthusiastic be motivated to take part, and relight the spark they may once have had? This must be down to the local association, guild or district. Dictation is out, captains have every right to go their own way, but every recruit lost is a recruit let down, and if ITTS can help prevent this in any way, the Exercise is on the right track and the associations have a big opportunity to help things along. The YACR does this, paying delegate fees. It's not just the cash that matters, however, but the positive impression that is given of the Association's support to the business of ringer recruitment and retention.

Special thanks go to Neil Donovan our tutor who with boundless enthusiasm delivered this most interesting and focussed day. Also congratulations to Stuart Holtam and Angela Roskelly for so ably and quickly organising the course and liaising with Cathedral staff who provided us with refreshments and the cloistered comforts of the Chapter House.

Bob Schofield, Oxenhope

Young Ringers

On the afternoon of Sunday 23rd March the Young Ringers Group met again. Fourteen young ringers attended along with about ten adult helpers. We started at Cliffe Castle Cafe, Keighley, for some lunch and a look around the Castle Museum. Then it was on to ringing at Silsden and Keighley, where a wide variety of methods and call changes were rung.

At Keighley we were joined by our Chairman, Neil Murray, who presented Associate Membership Certificates to George Thomas

(Idle) and Amy Sagar (Kildwick).

TADCASSTER – AN ITTS SUCCESS

We are pleased to report that Noah Wilson Bell from Tadcaster is believed to be the first person in Yorkshire to have achieved the level 3 certificate, Introduction to Change Ringing, on an ITTS course. Noah started ringing in June 2012 and has made excellent progress, he has rung in three quarter peals and has now completed level 4 and is now working the final level 5 stage. He is a regular member of the Tadcaster Sunday Service band and we have high hopes for him in the future.

We currently have five learners that are training at Tadcaster, two from Acomb in York and the other three are from Tadcaster. They are all enrolled into the ITTS and are at various stages of learning and doing well. It's a scheme we are pleased that we embraced and would highly recommend its adoption to all.

Stuart Raggett



Noah Bell of Tadcaster with his membership certificate as a Qualified Member of the Association, presented at a Selby Branch meeting.

Left to Right: Stuart Raggett (Teacher) Sue Webb (Mentor and Tower Captain)

Barrie Dove (President) and Noah Wilson Bell.

THE WHITE ROSE SHIELD CONTEST

The White Rose Shield Striking Contest for 12-bell bands in Yorkshire – the brainchild of Steve Ollerton of Leeds – drew six entrants from the twelve 12-bell towers in Yorkshire for its sixth annual contest, held this year on 13 September at Selby Abbey.

Roger Riley of the Abbey amply assembled all the customary accoutrements: a beer tent, firkins of real ale, bacon, burger and banger butties and later tea and cakes. The event was well timed, as the next day Roger departed for a six-months stint of teaching physics at an international school in China, the post cropping up at short notice when the teacher scheduled to go there gave backward.



The usual accoutrements, with Judith and Simon Reading of Sheffield Cathedral looking satisfied.



Usefully breaking the tension – Wendy Belsey of Ripon Cathedral.

Phil and Liz Orme of Cambridge were the judges, comparing the ringing of a plain course of Plain Bob Cinques by bands from Sheffield and Ripon Cathedrals, Leeds and York Minsters and from Selby Abbey and Stockton on Tees, the last one not strictly in the County, being on the wrong side of the river, but an honorary Yorkshire tower.

Just ahead of Stockton was the winner, York Minster, perhaps winning because its band is familiar with ringing the method every Sunday and practice night.

Phil and Liz received the customary refreshment to take home with them, thanks were given all round and the imbibers set to consume what remained in the firkins.

RC



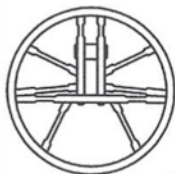
Some of the York Minster winning band:

Back row l to r - Christine Potter, Roddy Horton, Peter Sanderson, Helen Beaumont, David Potter.

Front row l to r – Emma Coles, Tina Walker, Gail Cater with the White Rose Shield.

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Horton in Ribblesdale, Yorkshire



Horton in Ribblesdale Augmentation

Back row l to r: Val Lee (Warden), C Barrie Dove (President YACR), Christabel Hallas (Warden), Revd. Stephen Dawson (Priest in Charge), Revd. Roger Wood (Rural Dean of Bowland).

Front row: Emily Palmer (New YACR member), Charlotte Stewart (New YACR member), Gillian Parrington (Tower Captain).

Completing the Ring of Six

"The bells have arrived at Horton, completing a story that is over 20 years old. It started with a couple of 'likely lads' who stole the lead off the church roof and loaded it onto their van. They didn't get very far before the back axle broke and they had to abandon their vehicle and their load.

What to do with the church? Well, this event sparked off

a remarkable episode in the life of St Oswald's. It was then that David Perry had the vision to refurbish the church tower and put in a new metal frame for six bells, even though the church only had three at the time. Before his untimely death, David managed to acquire a fourth bell from South Petherton through the good offices of the Keltek Trust, who have been of invaluable help in getting the two bells to complete the ring.

It was a number of years later that I and Ian Boocock, who led the ringers, and Bob Cater, the Bradford Diocesan Bell adviser, quaffed a number of Pimms one Summer's evening in Ian's garden and hatched the plot to get the final two bells for Horton.

The Keltek Trust put us in touch with the church in High Wycombe and a million e-mails later we bought the bells from them and Taylors kindly took them to their foundry to get

them ready for hanging, as they are today.

Many, many others have spent time, money, endless print cartridges, muscle-power and quiet determination to bring us to this glorious day today, including the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers by awarding a handsome grant."

— so said Revd Roger Wood, one-time Vicar at Horton and now Rural Dean of Bowland, at the Dedication Service for the completion of the augmentation on Sunday 30 March.

The background

The four bells had been rung by local ringers at Giggleswick and Long Preston for the monthly Sunday morning Service at Horton, but in recent months Gillian Parrington, who returned to Yorkshire after a sojourn in Cumbria, has diligently been teaching a new local band to ring in anticipation of the big

day. Gillian had previously successfully taught many of the ringers in the area how to handle neatly and the basics of ringing.

Horton in Ribblesdale is set on the Pennine Way in spectacular walking country in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It's on the Settle-Carlisle Railway which threads its way between Yorkshire's 'Three Peaks'. Penny Ghent, at 694 m (2277 feet) looms over the village: the sister Peaks, Ingleborough and Whernside, are close by.

Recent work in the Southern Yorkshire Dales

The work at Horton has completed a flowering of bell ringing in the Southern and Western Yorkshire Dales over the past 10 or so years. The bells at Barnoldswick have been augmented to six in an eight-bell frame, the three at Kirkby Malham augmented to eight,

the eight at Settle restored, the threes at both Clapham and Bolton by Bowland augmented to six, the six at Dent restored after nearly a century's silence, the six at Low Bentham refurbished, the six at Slaidburn refurbished and brought back into full-circle ringing, the three at Long Preston welded and restored and the three at Arncliffe refurbished. Perhaps there's only the three at Kettlewell in Upper Wharfedale, sadly now unringable, left to be tackled.

At the time of writing this article, all the above churches are in the Diocese of Bradford. At the time of reading it they will have been split between three dioceses - Carlisle, Blackburn and new Diocese of Leeds, more commonly known as the 'Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales'. This will incorporate the present Dioceses of Wakefield, Ripon & Leeds and most of the Diocese of Bradford.

A snippet from a young learner.

'Why do they keep on saying 'cheese scone'? asked the new young learner. A puzzled tower captain looked on.

Well they say: 'Look to, trebles going, Cheese scone!'

Slip this in anywhere please.

Yorkshire goes to Worcester

They do say that good things happen when you least expect them. This was definitely the case for me as the weekend of 5 & 6 July 2014 will be two dates I will probably never forget. Having rung with the YACR Western Branch team (The Blue Lines) at York last year, I had resigned myself to being absent from the contest this year. Understandably some members of The Blue Lines decided that the Tour de France in Yorkshire was a bigger attraction than ringing. Plus two members had an unavoidable school event to attend. So we were half a band short and unable to enter a team.

Then David Hull contacted Jane Lynch, our team leader from last year and asked if we had any spare ringers? Their team too had suffered as a result of the Tour de France. So it was that four of our team and four of the Yorkshire Puds team combined to form the Yorkshire Tykes. With 6 weeks to go David hastily arranged three practice sessions at Burley, Harrogate (St Wilfrid) and Ossett. On each occasion someone could not make it, so it was not until we arrived in Worcester that the whole team was together at the same time.

Following a 3 hour drive from Yorkshire we arrived at the Cathedral to register just as the food was being put away at 11.00am.....bad timing. We

were issued with our wristbands and team T shirts, and headed to the Teaching Centre for a session on the dumb bells. They took a bit of getting used to but I can see the great benefits of the system, which I hope we can use on our simulator back home.

We did have time before our slot in the 12 bell workshop at All Saints, so decided to walk across to St John in Bedwardine for a quick ring there. It was as we were walking along that I realised we had a ringing celebrity in our team. Ewan Hull seemed to know everyone we met with a "there's so and so from Oxford, and such a body from Cambridge....". It took a bit longer than we thought to get to St John's and back so it was a quick dash to our session at All Saints.

After the workshop at All Saints we made our way to Old St Martin's to sit in the garden and eat lunch, whilst listening to the teams drawn just before us. News filtered down that one of the stays had broken and I feared I may have to ring a 'stayless' bell. I was glad to find that a stay from another bell was being used: however, it was slightly 'spongy' so couldn't be left up and needed to be held on the balance. Thankfully Fraser, one of our more experienced ringers, got to ring that bell. Then it was photo time and into the tower to ring our test piece.

The practice plain course went well and we went straight into the test. Again it seemed to go reasonably well, and when we finished our fanatical supporters could be heard cheering from outside the open window. They all said it sounded really good, but it is hard to compare when you don't hear all the other teams ring.

Perhaps it would be our lucky day? As we walked back to the Cathedral for the afternoon ringing David Hull had an unfortunate incident with a passing seagull, resulting in him having to change his T shirt. Jane did say to me after the incident that this was meant to be lucky. However my thoughts were that bird poo falling on you was more of a misfortune rather than luck. Could I have been wrong? Someone said King John's tomb was in Worcester Cathedral, to which Chris, one of our supporters, replied: "Oh, I didn't know he'd died when did that happen?" News really does travel slowly to Yorkshire..!

Ringing at the Cathedral was a fantastic experience: the ringing room was packed when we arrived so we waited a while to get a go. Then we went up onto the roof to look at the view. When back down in the ringing chamber again Dominic, a fellow team mate, and I rang 10 and 11, before Dominic excelled himself by ringing the tenor. I

was really pleased when Mark Regan asked me to return at 17.00 for the service touch. Three of our team Andrea, Ewan and myself had the opportunity to ring for the service.

Then it was down to the College Hall for the contest results. Somehow all 3 of our team members went down different ways. We nearly lost Ewan who successfully managed to get locked into the Cathedral Café having used the wrong staircase from the ringing room.

The staff rescued him, and we took our seats in the hall. As the results for the method section were read out we were anxiously counting down all the method teams, expecting each time we were going to be next. When they announced we had scored a Grade A and heard our supporters start screaming and shouting wildly, we realised we had won. Unfortunately it was not quite enough to clinch the Whitechapel trophy. Bedfordshire must have done

really well in the call change section. We were pleased to get Gold Medals though, adding to what had been an incredible day. The hog roast smelt delicious, but we could not stay on as we still had a three hour drive home. As we approached Yorkshire it was good to see the familiar rolling hills and dry stone walls. Yet the weekend wasn't over and we all had a massive event to ring for the next day, but that's another story.

Nathan Cox (Yorkshire Tykes)

Education Committee's activities in 2014.

This has been a busy year for the committee with possibly more courses run in a year than ever in the past. Our two residential courses at Harrogate and Storthes Hall Park were both well attended and a great success.

During the year we have run the following one day courses all of which have been well attended and very successful. In April there was a Ringing Up and Down course at St Lawrence's in York tutored by Simon Percy. This was oversubscribed and so we will be running another there in November, which has also been fully subscribed for some time. In May there was a Tower Maintenance Courses at Pickering organised by Anne Deebank at which Chris Bennett was the tutor. In August we had a very successful Handbells for Beginners course at Clifton in York. This was a slight deviation from our normal Saturday courses, as it was held on a Wednesday in the school holiday. The course was well attended and was tutored by Elaine Scott and proved very popular.

At the time of writing this article there are still three courses being organised for this year. The second Ringing Up and Down Course at St Lawrence's, York with Simon Percy, a

conducting course at Cawthorne with Adrian Moreton and a Tune Ringing on Handbells course at Pickering with Anne Deebank. This is another new course which has been introduced this year.

In addition to this, the Education Committee has supported ringers from the Association attending ITTS training courses at Bradford Cathedral, Northallerton, Tadcaster and Macclesfield. The committee also supported the Yorkshire Tykes entering the National Youth Striking Competition by sponsoring their Tee shirts.

The committee is also studying a paper by John Leech on how we can further improve in the future. It is also working on courses for 2015. The Harrogate course will be in April (dates still to be confirmed) and the Summer Course at Storthes Hall will be 17th to the 19th July 2015. (Not the dates announced at this year's course).

It's been a very busy and successful year for the Committee.

Stuart Raggett, Committee Convenor.

JASPER SNOWDON COMMEMORATION

This year, instead of the now customary evening Dinner & Ceilidh, the Commemoration was a Lunch held at The Royal Hotel in York on Saturday 25 October. Some 75 members attended – including, as guests, most of the band of young members who rang in the Young Persons Striking Contest this year. We were delighted that they joined us and hope they found the proceedings sufficiently non-boring to attend again.

Andrew Aspland, our new President, opened the after-lunch speeches by giving a review of the Association's activities during the year. He especially mentioned the ringing done during the Tour de France and the work of the Education Committee. This year the Committee has provided more one-day Courses than ever before, as well as two residential weekend Courses.

Bob Cater then proposed the traditional toast to the memory of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, our first President, appointed 'by acclaim' aged 31 in 1875. He dealt with 'Snowdon – the Man', and told the story of his 41 year life from a Victorian middle class background (son of the Ilkley Vicar), public school, professional training as a mechanical engineer in Leeds, engineering works manager at 31 and Consulting Engineer at 33. He returned to ringing at 26 after a gap of some years and by only 31 was President and the author of several ringing books. Arguably, his greatest single contribution to ringing was the 'invention' of the blue line.

Andrew Slade, now Vice-Chancellor of one of Leeds' universities, proposed the traditional toast to the Association. Although he regretted not having the distinction of being born a Yorkshireman, he did hope his long sojourn in the County might qualify him to be classed as one of us. He regaled the diners with anecdotes of his ringing experiences in Yorkshire, both as a student and later.

GC



Members at the Lunch who rang in the Young Persons Contest.

l to r: Simon Crow (Knottingley), Emily Jones (Longwood), Luke Riley (Selby), Dominic Firth (Idle), Ewan Hull (York), Andrea Pygott (Ossett), Nathan Cox (Guiseley).

Sheffield Branch's Outing

Branch Outing - Saturday Oct 4th

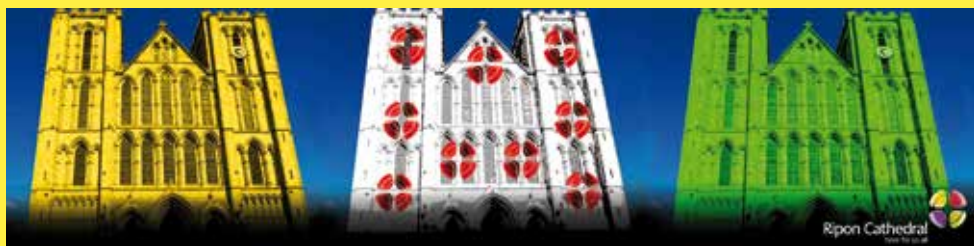
This year Chris Bennett organized the Branch outing to the Grimsby area. There was a good turn out of approximately 25. Ringing varied from Rounds and Call changes to methods selected by the Branch Ringing Master, Pete McCoy, Lincoln S Minor, Double Oxford Bob Minor, Oxford TB Royal and Lincolnshire S Royal to be rung at Grimsby. Lunch was arranged for those who wanted a pub meal at The Haven Inn at Barrow Haven.

The weather slowly improved during the day so that after 3 towers in the afternoon, finishing at Great Grimsby, some of the group went for a fish and chip supper followed by a walk along the front at Cleethorpes. Thanks go to Chris for organizing such an enjoyable day.

What a fantastic
view of The Tour de
France from the top
of York Minter.



Bellringers Herald Cyclists



July 2014 saw the biggest ever event in Yorkshire. Admittedly there have been other things like the Ice Age, War of the Roses and championship winning cricket teams, but 2014 saw Le Tour de France come to Yorkshire. This was the world's biggest annual sporting event, watched by billions of viewers worldwide, riding within earshot of a fabulous array of Yorkshire church bells.

First let me say thank you to the huge number of towers who took part – ringing for the race itself, ringing for the Opening Ceremony, ringing for the 100 Day dinner which kicked it off and ringing for the Yorkshire Festival (100 days of arts and culture) which preceded Le Tour.

And let me specifically thank Derek and Ronald Johnstone for being absolute heroes – hosting events, encouraging towers and being a constant source of support to my wild ideas. Also to Meg Morton and all the band at Otley who are one of the greatest stories of the whole thing. Thanks to Pete Oldfield for sharing news and sorting media content. To the Tykes and all those who got on TV. And to Jean Doman for rustling up a band at exceedingly short notice for ITV to come to Penistone. I could go on and on with thank yous and I sincerely apologise to many more who have helped, but I have to stop somewhere. But thanks also to Mytholmroyd ringers, Michael Orme and the towers who got on Bells on Sunday, Rosalind Martin helping me create a website and Matthew Sorrell, ANZAB President, who was an inspirational contributor from 9,000 miles away.

I'll list out all the towers that I am aware of that took part later in this article and, for those of you who have read my articles in The Ringing World, I'll remind you of the kind support we had from ringers in Australia and New York too. Not to mention the Sheffield band ringing Yorkshire in Dordrecht (The Netherlands) too.

The things that were achieved by bellringers supporting Le Tour were amazing.

We could have done more. But that's always the way. But we've shown what is possible.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers has had an eye on what we have been up to. It would be fair to say that two years ago one could have seriously doubted the credibility of an idea to link cycling and bellringing, and to take church bells to the heart of Le Tour. But doubt no more. Be proud of the parts you played. The feedback relayed to me from Paris is that bellringing was one of the most popular parts of what Yorkshire did in the events surrounding Le Tour. Which, of course, augurs well for the Tour de Yorkshire in 2015....

Anyway, why I am I writing this?

Well, Bob kindly offered me space, many of you kindly shared photos and there's a few questions and requests I'd like to pose if you will bear with me.

1. Capturing the full story for the YACR Archive – please tell me when you read this, the Ringing World articles and my website (www.bellsandbikes.com) is there anything missing? Any ringing you did for Le Tour or for the Yorkshire Festival which is not in my log? Any photos you took which you didn't send in? Please email me at rismay@virginmedia.com
2. Did the communications about it get to you? And did they help?

The Things We Did For Le Tour

- 2013 and 2014 – “Tower Briefings” emailed out to Branch Secretaries and towers on the race route
- 2013 – briefings to YACR meetings
- December 2013 – Welcome to Yorkshire formally invited bellringing for the Festival and Tour
- January 2014 – Wombel training bell features in media launch of Yorkshire Festival in Leeds
- March – Ripon bells ring for the Le Tour 100 Day Dinner in the Cathedral (high profile event with riders, past winners, politicians, global media)
- March – Songs of Praise pre-recorded at Otley with the new band training for Le Tour
- March – Sheffield St Marie's ring a quarter to congratulate Notre Dame, Paris, on the first anniversary of their new bells
- March to July – several radio interviews (BBC Leeds, York, Sheffield) about bells
- March – ANZAB President interviewed live from Australia on BBC Leeds talking about Australian plans to ring for Yorkshire. Liz Green (BBC Leeds) talks up bells
- April – Mytholmroyd bells ring out in a duet with international concert pianist Kathryn Stott as her grand piano is pulled up Cragg Vale by 18

3. Is there anything you would like to have happened differently?

4. Would you like to help get Yorkshire bells ringing for the Tour de Yorkshire 2015 (1-3 May)?

5. For all towers on the race route please could you send me a photo of your church, especially on race day if possible. I have several towers missing still.

6. ITV Calendar would like to run a follow up with the Tykes band. I am in contact with the Editor so please drop me a line and we can sort out a link up

bikes. Tower open day goes down well

- April to July – “Bellringers Herald Cyclists” is one of the 50 headline events in the high profile Yorkshire Festival funded by the Arts Council and blue chip sponsors. Paper and radio PR

- May – Dewsbury Minster Fest attracts large crowds as a fringe event in the Festival. Local press run piece on visitors trying the church bells and ringing the Wombel

- June – Penistone bells feature on ITV Calendar. This was on the day Welcome to Yorkshire announced the “big ring” of church bells across the county during the upcoming Opening Ceremony for Le Tour

- June – open days in several towers

- July – Cawthorne, Masham, Chapel Allerton, Leeds Minster and Tykes at Ossett are filmed for the Opening Ceremony. 10,000 people in the FD Arena Leeds see pre recorded bellringing at the climax of Gary Verity's welcome speech to Le Tour. 70 churches ring out that Thursday evening to welcome Le Tour. Every passer by that I asked in Leeds had heard about it on TV or radio

- July race days – towers all along the route have a fabulous time ringing ahead of the race and some hosted Open Days.

- June, July – Otley shown on BBC Songs of Praise. Chapel Allerton, York St Wilfrids and York Minster feature on BBC Radio 4 Bells on Sunday as a Yorkshire focus before Le Tour

Encore, Encore!
Shall We Do Some Of It Again Next Year?

Now then, I mentioned the 2015 Tour de Yorkshire earlier. The dates have been announced (1-3 May 2015) and likely to repeat for the next 5 years or more. The race will feature many of the same teams as we saw in Le Tour and will be aired on global TV (usually Eurosport and ITV4 for us). The route has not been announced as I write but will very likely feature some highlights of 2014 plus the North Yorkshire Moors, coast and Hull. Imagine the imagery of helicopter TV footage over Whitby with the bells ringing.... Churches in the North Yorkshire Moors.... Our Minsters again.... Even perhaps a mobile belfry roadside somewhere....

I know many of us don't like planning far ahead, but when it came to it the towers that did hook up with Le Tour had a fabulous time and you can see it in their photos that follow. You might just ring rounds for the race, you might do a quarter or a peal, you might do an open day, you might invite TV up the tower. It's up to you. Buses will be running. Trains will be running. Derek and Ronaldal will confirm to you that they were able to use public transport to see the tour in two far apart places on the same day. So don't listen to fears about travel. If you would like to do something for 2015 and have a bit of fun please do drop me a line. We brought a lot of joy to a lot of folk with our ringing this year.

Right. Now I won't repeat what I've already printed in The Ringing World [Issue numbers 5376 (9 May 2014) and 5387 (25 July 2014)]. You can find out more about Songs of Praise, the Mytholmroyd Open Day, ITV Calendar and a bunch of other things there. And you can link to the radio and tv clips from my website. You can even watch a film of the race coming down Coney Street York courtesy of the kind ringers of York who let me join them on the roof before their open day at St Martins.

What I'll share instead for this article is a list of all the towers that I am aware of who rang for the Opening Ceremony or for the race itself. It is a wonderful list of participation on a massive scale. Please do let me know by email or by twitter of any towers I have missed. You could also facebook me but I'm not so proficient on facebook. More of a tweeter.



*Looking down onto the peloton
(the Tour cyclists) from the roof of
St Martins, Coney St, York*



*The post room. A sample of the briefings
I had printed ready to post to YACR
committee and towers all along the route*



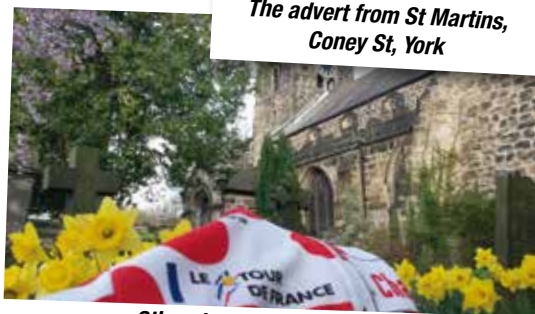
*The day ITV filmed us at Penistone to announce
that church bells would be part of the Tour de
France Opening Ceremony.*



Wonderful yellow jersey as seen on TV hanging off Skipton tower.



The advert from St Martins, Coney St, York



Otley church as we wait for BBC Songs of Praise cameras to arrive



Harrogate St Peters. Virtually overlooking the finishing line for stage 1 and ringing for the race itself.

Towers overseas who rang Yorkshire for us over the race weekend

York, Australia and Wall Street, New York, USA (Quarter Peal)

Dordrecht, Holland (Peal by a band from Sheffield)

Towers filmed by ITV for the Opening Ceremony

Penistone, Cawthorne, Ossett, Masham and Chapel Allerton

Leeds Minster were filmed during the Ceremony by BBC Look North

Other towers who rang for the Opening Ceremony across the county (as many as I know) were:

Mirfield Leathley Aldborough Boroughbridge Barwick in Elmet

Northallerton Almondbury Marsden Tong Richmond

Kirkthorpe Woolley Whitby Ormesby Hightown, Castleford

Hurworth Kirkington Sowerby Cottingham Kirkby Malzeard

Hessle Burstwick Elloughton Nafferton Middleton on the Wolds

Far Headingley Rothwell Filey Northowram Pontefract All Saints

Kirk Deighton Flamborough Wykeham Selby Abbey Brompton by Sawdon

Wetherby Saxton Mexborough Giggleswick Dewsbury Minster

Idle Longwood Meltham Easingwold Thornton in Craven

Acomb Rufforth South Anston Wortley Holmbridge, Holme Moss

Fewston Darfield And..... Bournemouth Whickham, Hampshire

Towers on the Race Route

(R = rang for race. OC = Opening Ceremony. POD = Public Open Day. PQP = Peal or Quarter)

TOWERS ON STAGE 1

Leeds Cathedral: R, OC, PQP

Leeds Minster: R, OC, PQP, BBC Look North and Yfest film crew

Chapel Allerton: R, OC, POD, PQP, ITV for Opening Ceremony + Bells on Sunday

Otley: R, OC, PQP, BBC Songs of Praise

Ilkley: R, POD, PQP

Addingham: R, OC

Skipton (council ban): Jersey on tower shown on live TV

Rylstone: R

Grinton: R, POD

East Witton: R

Masham: R, OC, ITV for Opening Ceremony

West Tanfield: R

Ripon: R, POD, PQP - 100 Day Dinner and Tour weekend

Harrogate St Wilfrid: POD

Harrogate St Peter: R, OC, POD

TOWERS ON STAGE 2

York St Martin: R, POD

York Minster: R, PQP, BBC Radio 4 Bells on Sunday

York St Wilfrid: OC, PQP, BBC Radio 4 Bells on Sunday

Knaresborough: R, POD, PQP

Harrogate:

Blubberhouses: R

Addingham: R, PQP

Silsden: R, OC, PQP

Keighley: R

Haworth: OC

Oxenhope: R

Heptonstall: R, OC, PQP

Mytholmroyd: POD

Ripponden: R

Armitage Bridge: OC

Holmfirth: R

High Bradfield: OC, PQP

Sheffield - CoE: R, Filmed by Yorkshire Festival for school / council film

Sheffield - Cath: PQP

END OF STAGE 2

Does that whet your appetite? Would you like to be involved in 2015?

Have a look at the photos and captions elsewhere in this edition of the Yorkshire Newsletter.

Evidence of a fabulous time for all. Come on. Allez allez allez. Ring ding dong.

Rod Ismay

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www.BellsAndBikes.com

www.twitter.com/bellsandbikes

www.facebook.com/bellsandbikes



Northowram; having a pie and pint to watch the race on TV



St Martins, Coney St, York. They ran an open day for 5 hours on race day. They had loads of visitors and a great selection of cakes



The ringers of Wall St, New York joined in by ringing Yorkshire in New York. We went global!



Northowram ringing for Le Tour



Armitage Bridge ringers needed a good sit down after their exertions



A picture of the Otley band on race day in their best yellow shirts to match the leaders yellow jersey of Le Tour



Bunting and ringers in the churchyard at Oxenhope



Keighley band ringing on the Thursday before the race for the Opening Ceremony



Holmbridge only has 1 bell but they held a "bells and bikes" event on the evening of the Opening Ceremony, got the whole village involved, rang the bell and bike bells and cowbells, and they raised £2,000 for the tower fund and charity. Wonderful story



"Otley – a new band inspired by Le Tour"



On the day that we filmed with BBC Songs of Praise at Otley – the church, the band and Connie Fisher (the presenter). Connie is being taught here by Meg Morton (Otley's tower captain)



Great pictures of the hustle and bustle in York and Ilkley from Helen Green



Todmorden Unitarian's Bells

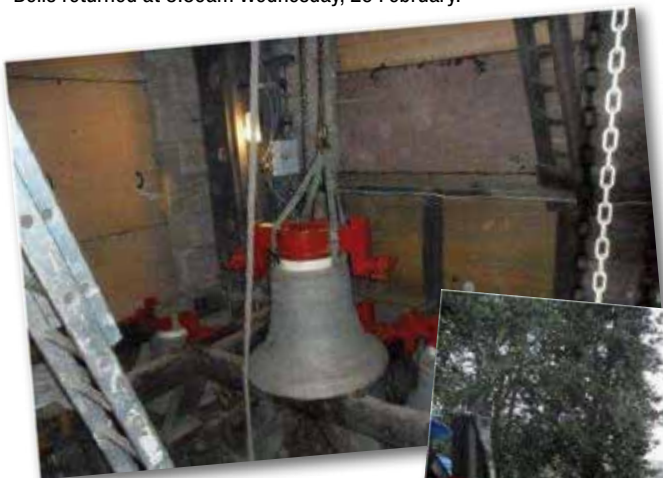
Todmorden Unitarian's Bells are Back from the Foundry

Just a quick update as to progress. Sound control boards have been put in place on all 3 open louvres, with 2'x 2' holes cut at the top. These will be finished with sliding shutters.

Bells returned at 8.30am Wednesday, 26 February.

They were unloaded by 10am and six bells were back up the tower by 5pm.

More news from Helen soon; meanwhile, she sends many thanks to all the helpers - both those who worked in the tower and those in the kitchen! She expects the bells will all be rehung in the next couple of weeks.



Number 6 bell is pictured sitting on the frame, waiting to go in its pit. The 2 tenors were taken up the tower on 27 February.



Helen Rigby and a few of the many helpers, Todmorden Unitarian Church 26 February 2014

Success for Yorkshire's Young Bellringers

While Mark Cavendish, Chris Froome and co were competing for the Yellow Jersey in the Yorkshire Dales on Saturday 5 July, a team of young ringers from throughout the County were engaged in a battle of their own. The "Yorkshire Tykes", all aged 18 or under, were pitted against 15 other teams from across the country in the 4th annual Ringing World National Youth Contest held this year in Worcester.

The band, drawn from Escrick, Guiseley, Halifax, Idle, Knottingley, Longwood, Ossett and York, were gold medalists in their section, called "method ringing", scoring a Grade A, and were only narrowly pipped to first place in the overall contest by the team from Bedfordshire which scored A*.

Conductor of the band, Andrea Pygott, 16, from Ossett, said: "I am so proud of our team and honoured to have conducted this afternoon. Well done everybody!"

The Tykes, who featured in the bellringing footage shown at Leeds Arena during the Tour de France Opening Ceremony, are already planning their assault on next year's contest when they hope to bring the coveted Whitechapel Trophy back to Yorkshire for the first time.

More information on The Ringing World National Youth Contest can be found at <http://rwnyc.ringingworld.co.uk>

David Hull



The Young Tykes at the National Youth Striking Contest.

L to r: Simon Crow (Knottingley), Emily Jones (Longwood), Ewan Hull (York), JAC Richards (Escrick), Nathan Fox (Guidseley), Fraser Murray (Halifax), Andrea Pygott (Ossett), Dominic Firth (Idle). All wearing their gold medals.

Parents have given David permission for showing names and photos – Ed.

LONG PRESTON

Granddad Learns to Ring for Baptism Service

Trevor Shuttleworth set himself the target of ringing a bell full circle at St Mary's Church Long Preston before his grandson's baptism Service which was to take place on February 16th 2014.. Trevor came to the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, to see for first time in his life what happens in a ringing room.

January 3rd 2014 - Trevor had his first touch of a bell rope. It wasn't a very long session to start with, to be honest he spent more time watching but I'm sure he learned from other ringers whilst he was sitting on the bench.

The following Friday he was back for more – a bit like learning to drive a car, ringing a bell has lots of different pieces to fit together. There is a backstroke and a handstroke, ringing bells up and down and gaining full control of a 300kg lump of metal with a length of rope. It all needs lots of practice and skill.

January 11th – Trevor had an opportunity to join the Furness Branch of The Lancashire Association of Change Ringers. He had never been to Cartmel (neither had I), so it was a must. What a fantastic building, and the tower was different from anything I had seen before, set on an angle to the church so you have to walk across the roof to enter the ringing room. It was a good experience for Trevor to ring a different bell. Trevor has continued to join the Friday night practice at Settle each week making more progress towards full control of the bell.

Thursday February 13th – it was time for Trevor to practise on the bells of St Mary's Long Preston. There are three bells and the ropes hang down by the side of the tower wall outside the tower but into the back of the nave, so you can soon gain a bruise or lose skin from your fingers if you are not careful. Trevor rang each bell up in turn and then made bell two his favourite. This being his first time ringing at Long Preston, I let him have his own way for once. Then with the help of another Settle ringer, Julian Shevelan, we proceeded to ring rounds on all three bells. This was the first time that Trevor had rung without me standing beside him in case of an accident. The first few rounds were a bit shaky and my voice was a little raised, but Trevor soon got into a good rhythm. He was like a child with a new toy, smiling from ear to ear. It was great to see everything falling into place.

Gillian Parrington

I understand Trevor has also been receiving tuition at the practices at Skipton – *Editor*.



Long Preston – Baptism of ringer's grandson.

L to r Gillian Parrington, Amanda Jones, Trevor's grandson, Trevor Shuttleworth, Steven Soames.



The Weekly Journal for Church Bell Ringers since 1911



*'cocooh, I see she's still ringing peals
with wots' is name then, even after
all that to-do' NIMST*

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GENERAL MEETING AT SANDAL MAGNA

On 30 December 1460 the Battle of Wakefield took place around Sandal Church, when during the Wars of the Roses the Duke of York was tragically killed by opposing Lancastrians. The Duke was waiting for reinforcements, secure in Sandal Castle, but brought his forces out early and met his death. His head was impaled at Micklegate Bar in York. The site of his death is marked by a monument only a couple of hundred yards from the church.

There was a church on the site in Saxon times, but the present tower, built in the 14th Century, sits on Norman foundations. There were originally four bells, but the present six were cast by Mears in 1812.

After a Service conducted by the Vicar and a hot lunch prepared by the local company at the start of our business meeting we stood in memory of recently departed members: J Colin Ashworth (Heptonstall) who joined the Association in 1944, Vic Dickerson (Keighley), Rev John Graham (Giggleswick) and Ted Thoms (Swainby/Whorlton). We learned later that Colin had left a substantial legacy to the Bell Repair Fund.

A string of centrally organised education events, including the annual two residential weekend Courses, were announced to supplement the educational work of the Branches – three



Jack Enderby (aged 11) from Sandal and Peter Reed from St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds, elected as new members, receiving their membership certificates from C Barrie Dove, Association President.

ITTS Courses, a Ringing Up and Down in Peal Course, a Conducting Course, a Tower Maintenance Course, a Change Ringing on Handbells Course and a Tune Ringing Course.

Preparations are being made for ringing at all churches along the route of the Tour de France in July, which passes through spectacular scenery in the Yorkshire Dales and in the Central Pennines of West Yorkshire. It is hoped the ringing of bells when the cyclists are passing, broadcast worldwide, will provide a tremendous opportunity to publicise English change ringing. Already, at Leeds the previous week, at the official

launch of the Tour in Yorkshire, the Association's Wombel had been present. Quite a number of the public had a go at ringing for the first time: several signed up to learn properly.

The new Diagrams book has already realised a surplus of £11,200 for the BRF. 200 of the 1000 copies of the reprint late last year have been sold.

Before ringing at Sandal, the six bells at Wragby (Nostell Priory) and at Kirkthorpe had been available. The fourteen at Ossett were well used in the late afternoon.

Stuart Raggett

TOWER OUTING 2013

At the end of October the Tadcaster tower band were joined by some friends for our annual long weekend outing, which this year took us to the Vale of Evesham area. Over the weekend we rang at a total of 13 towers with a wide range of towers mostly six and eight or bells of a variety of weights. On Sunday we rang for Service at Evesham tower on the 12 bells: a much enjoyed experience that most of our ringers rarely get. Our penultimate tower was at Pershore Abbey, which I am sure many of you will know you ring from an open platform about 80ft from the ground. This is not an experience for the faint hearted. We were blest with good weather and a good hotel. A weekend with enjoyable ringing and good company.

Stuart Raggett



Members of the Tadcaster Band with their friends on the trip.

Left to right: Clive Whiteley, James Gibb, Angie Gibb, Tony Dawson, Margaret Dawson, Trevor Ledger, Martin Hardgrave, CateOvington, Lawrence Sheard, John Gibb, Margaret Sheard, John Crouch, David Raggett, Moya McNamara, Rita Raggett, Stuart Raggett, Di Gibb with Eliot Gibb.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

YORK MINSTER DISQUALIFIED!

The Association held its last four-monthly meeting of the year on 20 September at West Tanfield, a small village in the lower reaches of Wensleydale, a few miles north of Ripon. In the morning, the Final of the 6-bell striking contest for Sunday Service teams from each of the Association's nine Branches was held at the tower. The teams are usually the winners of Branch contests and this year six teams competed under the careful ear of Kris King from the D&N Association.

Just before he gave the results, our new President, Andrew Aspland, chairing his first meeting, announced that it had been reported that the keen ear of a member of a rival team had detected that the touch rung by one of the contestants was false. The rules have the requirement that the test piece shall be 'A true touch of 240 changes of Minor'. The conductor of the team 'confessed to the crime' and we learned it was York Minster. Andrew announced the team was therefore disqualified.

We never heard their mark from the judge, although everyone recognised they had put on a good performance. Leeds Minster was therefore the winner – and for the third consecutive year. Teams from Wakefield and Ripon Cathedrals, Brighouse and Tadcaster also took part.

During the meeting we stood in silence for members who had sadly died since we last met in May – Catherine Ladd (Leeds Minster), Joanne Townend (Darton), Alex Magson (Helmsley), Bill Hambly (Tadcaster), Chris Dodds (Sharow) and Douglas Kerr (Kirby Malzeard).

Another £3000 was handed to the Bell Restoration Fund from sales of the Snowden Series books, primarily from the sale of the new Diagrams book.

The President led a brief discussion on the question 'Should the YACR recognise quarter peals? As might be imagined with such an open



Wendy Bloom (Leeds Minster) receiving the trophy from Kris King.

question there were numerous answers, which culminated in the conclusion there was a warm reception to the idea, providing it's worked up with a light touch. We shall hear more from Andrew next year.

Finally, Christine Parsons and Peter McCoy, who have been researching members who died in WW1, gave an update on their findings. It appears 66 members gave their lives, the first in 1915. Data have been obtained for each of them from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and now their local histories are being investigated. Christine and Peter received warm thanks for their work, with the hope that local ringers at the members' towers, supported as required, might ring on the Centenary of the members' deaths, in commemoration of the sacrifice they had made.

RC

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YACR REMEMBERS

YACR REMEMBERING MEMBERS FROM THE GREAT WAR

66 of our members went to fight in the Great War and never returned. A couple are buried in Yorkshire but most are at rest in the Flanders and France. It is our intention that near to the date of each ringer's centenary the local band of that tower ring for them.

This could be half muffled or open and in a form of a touch, Peal or Quarter Peal. We would like over the next four years for as many of our ringers to take part.

I will be writing to all the tower contacts and branch secretaries concerned in the near future.

If we have enough interest in the association we can plan a trip to France and the Flanders to see some of the members graves and take part in the ceremonies at the Menin Gate.

Here is the list of our members:

Serjeant John HARE, **Beverley St Mary**, Yorkshire Died 29/04/1915 Age 25

Serjeant George Payne Hill, **Whitby**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 24/05/1915 Age 30

Private Mark Melia, **Holbeck**, College Youths Died 12/06/1915 Age 35

Corporal Frederick William Jones, **Pudsey**, Yorkshire Died 10/07/1915 Age Unknown

Corporal Tom Binns, **Calverley**, Yorkshire Died 26/09/1915 Age Unknown

Private Ernest Robert Stokell, **Felixkirk**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 27/09/1915 Age 19

Private Thomas Edward Raper, **Thirsk**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 03/01/1916 Age Unknown

Private William Moorhouse, **Kirkburton**, Yorkshire Died 14/03/1916 Age 28

Private John William Garbutt, **Tadcaster**, Yorkshire Died 09/06/1916 Age Unknown

Bombardier Frank Poole, **Tadcaster**, Yorkshire Died 26/06/1916 Age 27

Corporal Harry Champion, **Doncaster**, Yorkshire Died 27/06/1916 Age 23

Private Harold Wheatley, **Calverley**, Yorkshire Died 01/07/1916 Age Unknown

Corporal John Sarginson, **Middleham**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 04/07/1916 Age 27

Artificer Engineer Albert Smith, **Oxenhope**, Yorkshire Died 27/07/1916 Age 36

Lance Corporal James Hollinrake, **Heptonstall**, Yorkshire Died 04/09/1916 Age 22

Lance Corporal Charles Edward SWIFT, **Penistone**, Yorkshire Died 18/09/1916 Age Unknown

Rifleman Edgar Bottomley, **Northowram**, Yorkshire Died 17/02/1917 Age Unknown

Private Alfred James Sample, **Ormsby**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 02/04/1917 Age 29

Private Fred Dennison, **Tadcaster**, Yorkshire Died 09/04/1917 Age 24

Private Tom BILLINGHAM, **Beighton**, Sheffield Amalgamated Society Died 23/04/1917 Age 23

Gunner Herbert Gordon Gee, **Ossett**, Yorkshire Died 24/04/1917 Age 30

Private Frank Crossland Billows, **Skipton**, Yorkshire Died 24/04/1917 Age 24

Private Joseph Grimes, **Snaith**, Yorkshire Died 28/04/1917 Age 20

Serjeant Leonard Garrison, **Rotherham**, Yorkshire Died 01/05/1917 Age 27

Lance Corporal Harold Brown, **Drighlington**, Yorkshire Died 03/05/1917 Age 22

Private (Signaller) Robert Barker, **Skipton**, Yorkshire Died 03/05/1917 Age 20

Private Morris Lees, **Drighlington**, Yorkshire Died 04/05/1917 Age Unknown

Private David Ivor Brearley, **Bolsterstone**, Yorkshire Died 14/05/1917 Age 27

Gunner William Mosley, **Kildwick**, Yorkshire Died 03/06/1917 Age Unknown

Private Robert SIMMS, **Howden**, Yorkshire Died 11/06/1917 Age 26

Sapper Richard Duck, **Robin Hood's Bay**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 25/06/1917 Age 33

Private Arthur Ward, **Ranmoor**, Yorkshire Died 01/07/1917 Age Unknown

Second Lieutenant Frederick Gordon, **Laverick**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 23/07/1917 Age 29

Private John Morley, **Selby**, Yorkshire Died 26/08/1917 Age 19

Private William Harland, **Whitby**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 06/09/1917 Age 37

Private Ernest Ruddlesden, **Dewsbury**, Yorkshire Died 09/09/1917 Age 23

Gunner John Thomas Vaughan, **Marske by the Sea**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 13/09/1917 Age 26

Private Mark Ellis Hedges, **Hull**, Yorkshire Died 26/09/1917 Age 27

Serjeant Frank Teece HUMPHRIES, **Eckington**, Sheffield Amalgamated Society Died 28/09/1917 Age 21

Private Bertie Robert Ayers, **Oxenhope**, Yorkshire Died 07/10/1917 Age 40

Second Lieutenant John William Brown, **Northallerton**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 16/10/1917 Age 24

Private Harold Lindley Collinson, **Middleham**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 26/10/1917 Age 30

Private John Camp, **Howden**, Yorkshire Died 20/11/1917 Age 21

Private Arthur WHELPON, **Beighton**, Sheffield Amalgamated Society Died 31/01/1918 Age 27

Private John Henry Watford, **Burley**, Yorkshire Died 27/03/1918 Age 25

Private John William Lowther, **Robin Hood's Bay**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 15/04/1918 Age ?

Private John Thomas TAYLOR, **Dore**, Sheffield Amalgamated Society Died 15/04/1918 Age Unknown

Private Thomas Sarginson, **Middleham**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 01/06/1918 Age 30

Battery Serjeant Major Arthur Norman Addison, **Thornaby-on-Tees**, Yorkshire Died 18/07/1918 Age 28

Serjeant John Bulmer Jackson, **Guiselley**, Yorkshire Died 24/07/1918 Age Unknown

Lance Corporal Robert Hornby, **Thirsk**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 28/07/1918 Age Unknown

Private William Thorpe, **Ripon**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 23/08/1918 Age 35

Corporal Alfred Rayner, **Scarborough**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 29/08/1918 Age 22
Gunner James Metcalfe, **Northallerton**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 30/08/1918 Age 37
Gunner William Dobinson Hansell, **Ormsby**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 28/09/1918 Age 23
Lance Corporal Frank Robert Cundale, **Holbeck** (St Matthew's), Yorkshire Died 30/09/1918 Age 34
Private John Stather Sherburn, **Howden**, Yorkshire Died 11/10/1918 Age 22
Private Frank Brown, **Ormsby**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Died 28/10/1918 Age 20
Private Ernest McWilliam, **Rothwell**, Yorkshire Died 03/11/1918 Age Unknown
Private Stanley Spence Duffield (Duffill), **Kildwick**, Yorkshire Died 13/11/1918 Age 19
Driver Ernest Thornton, **Bramley**, Yorkshire Died 05/01/1919 Age Unknown
Private Lewis Harold Lumb, **Dewsbury**, Yorkshire Died 04/02/1919 Age 34
H Ferguson, **Scarborough**, Cleveland & North Yorkshire Currently Date and details unknown
If you would like to go to visit some of the graves and/or think there is anyone else not on this list then please tell contact me:
Peter McCoy. Tel: 0114 2864724 Email: rncov5040@btinternet.com
Two websites of interest:
Central Council Rolls of Honor: <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/rools/>
Commonwealth War Graves Commission website <http://www.cwgc.org/>

News from the Branches

Northallerton

Trains and Boats and ... Buses

A recent ringing tour in West Yorkshire had as much planning around the transport as there was for the towers. Our American visitors were in for a treat, although details in advance were rather vague. They may have been used to this, since they first got to know us in 2012 when they had a tour in North Yorkshire. Hearing that they had a free day, Ian Staves told them to gather at Reeth in Swaledale and he would provide transport for the day – he refused to specify what this would be, but assured them: “you won’t be disappointed”. Imagine their surprise when a London Routemaster bus drove up to collect them.

Ian Staves is well-known in the local area around Northallerton for his Routemaster buses, but he also owns a narrowboat, so this year’s visit was definitely going to be a ringing tour with a difference. Also staying with him were his son and two other young ringers from Northallerton who seemed to gain a lot from the amount of ringing they did during the week.

Excitement mounted as visitors flew in at various times from New York, Boston, Minneapolis and Bosnia and we were joined by friends from London and Bristol. The first full day began with morning ringing



at Heptonstall and there was debate as to whether or not RML2678 would make it up the hill. The result was never in doubt, although the long line of cars behind the bus may have regretted their journey that morning. Ringing continued at towers along the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, so naturally some of the travel was by steam train, with Martha Partridge lucky enough to get a footplate visit.

As the week wore on, the red double decker became a familiar sight in Hebden Bridge, which was where we were staying. However, the morning traffic plus many temporary traffic signals made for an early start for our driver, Paul Jenkinson, who did a superb job of manoeuvring the bus in all sorts of difficult situations. In addition to the good rings of bells visited over the week, the handbells were

put to very good use on all the journeys, since most of the ringers on the tour were also handbell ringers. In the evenings this ringing continued in the cottages, with one quarter peal being rung.

Monday was the first time that the American visitors had encountered Yorkshire tail-ends, but they had plenty of practice on them as the week passed. We received a traditional Yorkshire welcome at all of the towers, too numerous to mention individually, with many of the locals providing welcome hot drinks and cakes, plus tours of the churches to point out items of particular interest.

At Ossett, we were very grateful to be invited to join the local practice night, where change ringing on 14 was a first for many. Throughout the week, ringing ranged from call changes for the youngsters, to Little Bob,

Grandsire, Stedman, Double Norwich and spliced surprise.

Friday brought a change in the routine and, instead of climbing aboard the red bus, everyone piled onto two narrow boats for the journey to Mytholmroyd. Ian's friend, Frank, had kindly agreed to come along with his boat, so that everybody could spend at least part of the time on board. There was plenty of help at the locks, but time was still pretty tight at times – you can't hurry these things. We were very lucky to have the best weather of the week and so people could relax on the boat or take their turn walking on the towpath and working the locks.

Needless to say, handbells were still a prominent feature and at one point James Holdsworth was torn between crashing the boat to save the Kent which was foundering before his eyes, or concentrating on steering and letting the Kent fire out (he chose to save the boat). Kathy Carter meanwhile was showing her incredible baking skills and provided us all with freshly-baked scones for which Chapman Knott prepared the toppings.

At Sowerby Bridge we transferred back to the Routemaster for a visit to Halifax to ring on the lovely 12 bells there. We were interested to see the name Holdsworth on many of the peal boards and also to hear that James' family had made the material for the upholstery on the Routemaster bus.

Then back onto the boat to travel

to the last tower of the tour at Elland and the inevitable drink in the Barge and Barrel. Frank was overheard giving a report to a friend on the phone: "it all went well – we only lost one!" Fortunately this unplanned dip into the canal resulted in nothing worse than a shock and a thorough soaking, so a shower and change of clothing was all that was required. We had a final meal together with presents distributed and thanks given to everyone who had helped make it such a memorable trip.

Next morning there were sad farewells as Dave Bassford, Kathy Carter, Lian von Wantoch and Kris Fowler all headed south, ultimately to completely different destinations. The rest travelled across Yorkshire to Northallerton where we did eventually get everyone sorted into the right houses with the correct luggage. Two quarter peals were rung at Northallerton and then we enjoyed drinks and an evening meal at the Tithe Bar.

Sunday service ringing next day was at Northallerton, Ainderby Steeple and Brompton with Elaine Hansen setting off on her journey back to Boston. After brunch, a different Routemaster bus (RML2338) was collected for a trip to Stockton where we made good use of this excellent ring of 12, with the band supplemented by friends from Darlington. There was also a trip to a local farm to see David Town's workshop, with bell wheels on the wall and tools all neatly arranged according to size and use. We petted newly-

born lambs and chatted to the farmer about the prisoners of war who worked on his farm during the Second World War. We also saw Ian's London taxi and his WW2 Auster plane, thus completing the viewing of all his modes of transport!

After evening ringing, there was the traditional trip to the local pub for handbell ringing with the addition of some Longsword dancing. Rebecca Gingell had to leave at this point, but everyone else went to Ian's house where a fantastic meal had been provided by some of the locals, with hand-pulled beer from the "War Office" in the cellar. Here the visitors learned to do sword dancing and proved to be very good at it! We also watched a short film in Ian's home cinema ("Dinner for One" – yet another Northallerton tradition).

On Monday morning there was more ringing, this time at David and Jennie Town's house with handbells and the mini-ring being put to good use. Lunch on the patio in the sunshine brought this excellent tour to an end, with sad goodbyes on the station platform and promise of more meetings in the future.

We are grateful to all the towers and incumbents who allowed us use of the bells and who made us so welcome. Thanks also to Paul Jenkinson for bus driving, to Frank Auffret for use of the boat and most of all to Ian Staves for masterminding such a fantastic tour.

Jennie Town

Brompton and Northallerton

Congratulations to Hayley Bradley from Brompton and Northallerton towers, who has recently been awarded Slimming World's Diamond Award. Hayley lost 9½ stone in total and has kept to her target weight since 2010. She featured in the Daily Mirror on Tuesday September 16th, although ringing only gets a mention in the last paragraph.

Although Hayley didn't take up ringing until after she had lost the weight, she cites ringing as a positive influence helping with exercise and keeping her busy. There will be some filming at Northallerton tower during evensong ringing on Sunday September 28th, which will be shown at the presentation of Hayley's award and cheque in November. The article on the website can be viewed at: www.slimmingworld.com/success-stories/hayley-bradley.aspx

Sheffield Branch

Branch Striking competition: Unfortunately there were only 4 teams taking part in this year's competition at Ranmoor, one of which was a scratch band made up of ex Sheffield University ringers. The other bands competing were Sheffield Cathedral (Change ringing band), Sheffield Cathedral (Call changes band) and Walkley. The judge, Simon Smith, gave a clear and concise appraisal of the ringing before announcing

the winners of the John Gilbert Trophy as Sheffield Cathedral (Change ringing band) and the David C Munday Cup to Sheffield Cathedral (Call changes band). Thanks go to him for his time and comments and to the local ringers for providing light refreshments throughout the event.

100 Club winners:

£50 May – Danuta Harrap

£100 May – Ecclesfield Tower

£50 June – Rotherham Tower

Scarborough Branch

The Branch Striking Contest in April attracted seven entrants, Middleton, Scarborough, Kirkbymoorside, Scalby, Brampton/Wykeham, Helmsley and Pickering, with the team from Middleton making its debut in a Contest. Pickering triumphed on home turf, despite setting themselves the tricky task of Carlisle Surprise. About 30 stayed for an excellent Service and tea and an uncontentious meeting.

Ripon Cathedral

Tour De France:

100 Day Countdown

Anticipation for the visit of the Tour De France is noticeably building and on 27th March the spotlight was firmly on Ripon as the start of the 100 Day Countdown was celebrated with a gala dinner in the cathedral.

The event organised by Welcome To Yorkshire saw the Cathedral floodlit in yellow with Tour De France race car and carnival acts on the forecourt. Inside the building looked amazing with special lighting, wicker artworks on a Tour De France theme, trapeze artists swinging from a gantry high up in the vault and the nave assuming the role of luxury restaurant for the evening. The organisers contacted the ringers a couple of months ago to investigate the possibility of having the bells ringing whilst the guests arrived for the pre-dinner champagne reception. Of course we agreed, it was obvious at this stage that the event was going to be very special.

On the day pressure gradually built up as we were notified that the media, including the BBC, intended to broadcast live from the cathedral and wanted to know our ringing times so they could potentially use the sound of the bells in their programmes. In the event we scored a good quarter peal of Grandsire Caters with a small snippet of the ringing making it onto "Look North".

Martin Davies

Pickering

Ringers and Friends Visit York Minster

"Give the hand-stroke a good pull and hold up the back stroke. Always pull the sally". These sagacious words seemed innocuous enough after 'catch

hold' but with the adrenaline running high any advice was registered. "Otherwise they are just like any other bells and go nicely". Well, a bit of an understatement, they are not like any other bells I've ever rung! They are quite glorious – even if you are just ringing rounds and call changes.

For those who are familiar only with six or eight – there are a lot of ropes! When ringing 10 or 12, there is an unusually long pause at the top of both hand and back strokes to give the tenor time to turn. Ringing that is not for the faint hearted either, having quite a high box and lots of rope. Martin Tubbs found out 'it quite took his breath away', or rather he was grasping for air after ringing for five minutes. More exercise ay Martin?

Congratulations to the house keeper of the ringing chamber. The space is beautifully kept with its red carpet and oak timber looking like new. An unusually large amount of daylight streams in through large windows on three sides and the windows on the forth wall look down onto the minster pews.

Thank you to Simon Percy for fixing it for us all and to his fellow Minster ringers who filled in. It was an experience not to be missed and your running of the ringing was a good balance of call changes and cinques which were all executed without fault, although perhaps not to the standard that the Minster band themselves achieve. Any more adventurous a method might have been a Bridge Too Far. So I

think everyone left with a sense of achievement.

If you get a chance to ring at York Minster, take it, it is well worth the climb up the 100 or so steps and the strain on heart and mind, nothing less than a great experience.

Ian Burrows, Pickering

Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch

Branch Striking Competition, Whorlton in Cleveland, 29 March

This year's Branch striking competition was held at Whorlton in Cleveland (better known as Swainby to some). Ten bands entered in the Sunday Service competition and four in the fun. To qualify for the Sunday Service competition all the ringers in the team have to ring regularly on Sundays in that tower. The fun competition allows towers who haven't got enough ringers to enter a team to join forces with other ringers and enter the competition.

The combination of a warm sunny day and a very pleasant 7cwt six made for a very enjoyable morning. Tea and coffee were supplied throughout the competition in the light airy church hall behind the church. Most bands mingled in the churchyard listening to the bells, enjoying the refreshments and soaking up the sun.

The competition was followed up by an excellent ringer's lunch and results.

Ripon Cathedral were the winners. Teams from Northallerton, Brompton, Boroughbridge, Stokesley, another Ripon team, two teams from Richmond and two from Swainby also took part.

A big thank you to Karen Maughan for judging the competition. Striking competitions can be very intimidating. Karen's benign delivery and encouraging comments hopefully put everyone at their ease and made the experience a positive one.

Thanks also to Christine Parsons for organizing the event, to all who contributed to the fantastic lunch and to Betty in the kitchen and Fred up the tower.

Congratulations to Nathan Plowright (age 12) from Boroughbridge on being made an associate member of the Association and ringing in the winning team of the Fun Competition all on the same day!

Janet Wadsworth.

Branch Meeting and Barbecue - 19th May

More barbecue than ringing meeting. Ringing at Easingwold was attended by 5 branch members and kindly supported by Chris Leese of Easingwold who let us in. Time was usefully spent using Bastow to teach Nathan how to make seconds and John how to use Bastow. Ringing at Boroughbridge was no better supported. Thanks to Andrew Aspland for his courageous effort to ring during his post op convalescence.

It really didn't look as if it was speeding his recovery.

The barbecue was well attended by 19 adults and 7 youngsters, some of whom were non-ringing family. The turnout was predominantly from Ripon accompanied by a couple from Richmond and some from Boroughbridge. The sun shone and we relaxed into summer. Thanks to John and Jo Mitchell for their hard work in hosting the event. An enjoyable evening, redeeming a disappointing afternoon.

Janet.

Midweek half-term meeting – Wednesday 19th February

Attendance was enhanced by some “younger” elements, with both teachers and schoolchildren swelling our numbers. At a time when the ringing exercise is concerned over the number of youngsters taking up ringing, it was heartening to see these schoolchildren ringing rounds and call changes, drumming the tenor and hunting the treble to doubles and minor. Both our towers were 6-bell, with Kirklington in the morning and Pickhill in the afternoon. On a previous occasion, we had rung at these two towers in the opposite order – causing confusion to a couple of ringers over where we were planned to start the day!

Around a dozen towers (including one from the Peterborough Guild) were represented at some point during the day, with over 20 ringers present for some or all

of the time. For some, it was an opportunity to do something that they do not normally get the chance to do in their own tower, be that calling changes, conducting (and then failing to make the bob when you have called it!) or ringing a touch of Stedman with silent singles (managed by the conductor arranging beforehand “when we meet at the back, we will make the single”). For others, it was simply an enjoyable trip out, with some good ringing as a bonus.

Good organisation meant that we ordered our lunch during the ringing at Kirklington, so that when we arrived at The Woodman at Burneston, service was speedy and efficient. A brief business meeting after the meal was well-run, giving us time for coffee and, in some cases, pudding as well!

Anne Wood

Wortley

The ringers at Wortley have been very active this raising money for the Wortley Bells Appeal.

In April the Gamebirds gave a concert at the church. The group sings both unaccompanied and incorporating instrumental harmonies with the Beekeepers, a group of musicians from folk and classical backgrounds, creating a fusion they refer to as ‘Chamber Folk’.

In June the Sheffield Folk Chorale gave a Concert featuring traditional folk music from other countries, times and cultures. The Chorale, singing in four

part harmony, presented a wide ranging repertoire.

Also in June, Vega Shepley and Roger England opened their walled garden at Avenue Cottage. The garden had a lovely collection of plants that brought delight to visitors and gardeners alike. Some plants were on sale.

OBITUARIES

J Colin Ashworth

31 January 1928 – 27 October 2013

John Colin Ashworth – Colin to all who knew him – was born on 31 January 1928 and lived all his life (and indeed died) in the same house, 8 Church St, Heptonstall, just a stone's throw from the magnificent ring of 8 bells in St Thomas' church, which he looked after with total dedication for over 50 years.

He was educated at Heptonstall Grammar School. In 1946 he began his National Service, initially at Richmond, North Yorkshire and later at Shoeburyness, Essex. Returning to Heptonstall, he went to work for the Halifax Borough Parks Department, from which he gained a knowledge and interest in all things horticultural which stayed with him throughout his life. A spell working for the family business, Gibson Brothers of Hebden Bridge, followed, assisting first his father and later his uncle, until the business was sold in the mid-1960's.

At that point Colin found himself in the fortunate position of not needing to continue working and embarked upon a retirement which lasted for 47 mostly very active and happy years.

Colin first learned to ring, at Heptonstall, immediately after the wartime ban on ringing was lifted. Initially progress was slow. As Colin noted in the personal records he kept meticulously for over 60 years of ringing: "Wilbert Southwell, Arnold Bowe and Jim Firth were my tutors and they were not competent change-ringers. All the old band of ringers were dead or beyond regular ringing. I could only ring a plain course of Grandsire Doubles off by heart for a long time". In due course he was encouraged to travel to neighbouring towers to gain experience and gradually he made further progress, attending practices at Mytholmroyd and Todmorden. This eventually led to his first peal, rung "at the first attempt" as Colin's records proudly note, at St Paul's Cross Stone, Todmorden on 28 July 1956.

By this time, Colin had developed an interest in visiting other towers and from 1957 he was adding 100 or more new ones to his list each year. This aspect of ringing remained a strong focus for Colin for well over 50 years, each new tower carefully recorded in his note books, often with interesting footnotes:

7 September 1959, East Witton, Yorks (6): "Flies in the dandelion wine offered by vicar's wife. I would not touch it"

26 July 1960, Southampton, St Michael (10): "Met Rev KWH Felstead and saw his filing system"

12 March 1961, New Mill, Yorks (6): "I rang cartwheel Oxford TBM with the locals. They did not know I was an open-lead ringer"

13 October 1993: Westminster Abbey (10) - a proud moment – "It rained all the way down, but fine in London. Parked near Russell Square underground (£10). 422 miles there and back. Touch of Stedman Caters and a course of Cambridge Royal. Had a drink after with Stan Mason and Jim Prior".

28 December 1993, Church Brompton, Northants (4): "At the first pull RJP's (Richard Parker) rope caught on a knob of a motor mower and it was thrown up in the air towards me and JK (Jeffrey Kershaw). It hit me on both legs and took some skin off my right leg below the knee". But, typically, Colin took it all in his stride and



he recorded: "We had a good laugh about it afterwards".

1998 saw over 60 new towers, including number 5,000, and the pace only slackened after 2002, when the long-cherished ambition of 5,000 towers excluding fours was achieved. Colin's final total was 5,180, including 5,011 with five or more bells.

Reading these note books tells you a lot about the man: meticulous record-keeping and attention to detail of course, but Colin's notes, spanning more than 60 years, also give a real insight into other aspects of his personality: the enthusiasm, the camaraderie, the perseverance and commitment to eventually reaching the goal, the respect for tradition and achievement, the keen appreciation of an interesting fact or an amusing episode and, above all, the sheer fun of it all.

Collecting new towers was perhaps the aspect of ringing that Colin most enjoyed, but he was also a very competent and, at various times, very keen peal ringer. After the struggle to progress from plain courses of Grandsire Doubles "by heart" to his first peal in 1956, he rang peals more or less regularly from then until 2000, when he decided not to ring any more as he "might mess things up" (which of course he wouldn't have done). In all, he rang 356 peals, mostly locally in Yorkshire and Lancashire, including 305 for the Lancashire Association and 70 peals at his home tower, Heptonstall. He was a diligent method ringer, always careful to strike his bell as accurately as possible and he rang peals on all numbers from 5 to 12. The list includes Glasgow, Belfast and 62 peals of Spliced S Major; London and Redcliffe Royal; and Stedman and Cambridge on all numbers, including 22 peals of Cambridge Maximus, his leading individual method.

He was a proud member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and would have achieved 50 years' membership in 2014. His first peal with the Society, Stedman Triples at Heywood in 1965, has a characteristic Colin footnote in his records: "1 ASCY" in red ink.

Colin was also committed to maintaining and developing local ringing, establishing Tuesday night practices at Heptonstall, from which ringers at all levels have benefitted over many years and also supporting the local Rochdale Branch of the Lancashire Association, regularly attending meetings and serving as Branch Bell-inspector for many years.

Away from ringing, Colin had many other interests, notably shooting, which dated back to the 1950's when he was one of the Founder Members of the Todmorden Gun Club. Over the years he spent many happy hours on the local moors around Hebden Bridge, but as with his ringing, he was also keen to travel, to take up new challenges and develop his skills. In 1998 (aged 70!) he was admitted to the exclusive Woodcock Club of Great Britain. This is a rare and revered achievement in the game shooters' world and, as might be expected, his certificate was proudly displayed on his living-room wall at 8 Church Street.

Which brings us to the parties. Dating back to the late 1950's Colin was always a strong believer in enjoying the social opportunities offered by ringing (and indeed also by shooting). For 50 years he hosted Christmas and birthday parties for a group of up to 30 ringers and other friends, initially at Higher Greenwood, adjacent to Heptonstall Moor, but from the 1960's onwards at 8 Church St (or more correctly 8-10 Church St, as it had become, following Colin's purchase and conversion of the neighbouring cottage).

The word 'legendary' could be applied to various aspects of Colin's life, but to none more so than the parties. Typically, Colin developed a winning formula and then stuck with it: a barrel (or sometimes two) of real ale, a plentiful supply of wines and other alcoholic refreshment and a four course meal, prepared by Colin himself, with only the minimum of assistance from others, even well into his seventies. The menu varied little: soup, roast pork or beef with all trimmings, trifle at Christmas and a splendid cheese board. Colin never really appreciated the vegetarian way of life and was proud of the fact that a few vegetarians were "cured" aftertasting his roast beef or pork. After the meal, traditional pub games were played (no darts, though – our aim wouldn't have been up to Colin's standard!) and songs were sung, the words of some of which may

well have surprised any late-night passers-by! The trifle deserves special mention: Colin had a stock of trifle sponges at various stages of hardening, the purpose being to maximise their potential for absorption. Many have been the newcomers to the parties who felt that they were coping well with the beer and wine only to be rendered shaky on their feet by the trifle. What they hadn't appreciated was that Colin had taken the traditional sherry trifle concept on to another level.

And finally the stories. No account of Colin's life would be complete without reference to his story-telling and his one-liner observations on people and life in general. Over the 30 plus years that I knew him, he always seemed to have a new story (or if not, a good old one) to tell and, like many others, my appreciation of Heptonstall past and present has been greatly enhanced by Colin's tales. My favourite one liner has to be Colin's response to the 11 year-old trainee ringer who arrived for Christmas Day ringing at Heptonstall a few years ago, unable to contain his excitement with the new-fangled wrist-watch he had just received as a present. Eager to tell Colin all about it (and Colin was of course eager to listen), he said; "And the best thing is it will work 100 metres under the sea". Quick as a flash and with the customary twinkle in his eye, Colin observed: "Ee, that'll be useful".

The affection and the esteem in which Colin was held were reflected by the attendance at his funeral on 8 November. Ringers from far and wide, shooting friends and parishioners and neighbours joined Colin's few remaining family members, for a simple service in Heptonstall church, culminating with the singing of Jerusalem. The bells were of course rung before and after the service and as the coffin left the church, the tenor bell was rung for 85 strokes, as a final tribute before Colin was laid to rest in the family grave, a few feet away from the tower and bells he so dearly loved.

George Campling - Heptonstall

Jacqueline Cox

Jacqueline Cox of St Peter's Bramley, Leeds sadly died in early May. She had suffered a stroke recently but had been expected to recover.

Jackie was the wife of David Cox, tower captain at Bramley for many decades. She was elected an Associate member in 1971, probably following one of his recruitment drives. She never made it to Qualified status but contributed to ringing at Bramley in a big way, supporting David in his role, both in and out of the tower.

Catherine Ladd

Vic Dickerson

Anyone who has rung at Keighley will have been aware of Vic's handiwork. As tower captain he took on the role of steeple keeper and many hours were spent in the ringing chamber and among the bells.

Although he wasn't a greatly accomplished ringer, Vic kept ringing alive in Keighley for many years until the band dwindled down to three due to members passing away or moving to other climes. Nevertheless, he still retained a presence in the tower and as a skilled joiner his handiwork can be seen in the beautifully made wooden tools and fittings in the ringing chamber. He also rigged up a comprehensive collection of electronic gadgets, not least of which was CCTV set-up so ringers could follow the progress of weddings.

When the Olympic Torch came through Keighley, the church took it as an opportunity to have an open day and the tower obviously was a prime attraction. There was no existing band but with Vic's help we got the remaining members of the old band together and, with some additional ringers, we welcomed over 80 people

up the tower. From this effort, Keighley gained a few recruits to form a revived band which is now up and running, with attendances sometimes into double figures. Without Vic's help and support this wouldn't have got off the ground and fortunately he was able to see regular ringing again in his beloved tower. May he rest in peace.

Bob Schofield

Chris Dodds

Chris Dodds died on May 8th 2014 after a short but severe illness. He had not been in the best of health for many years, but rarely commented on how he was feeling. Chris learnt to ring at Sharow in the early 1980s – probably initially taught by Betty Chester, who was tower captain at the time. He was elected to the Yorkshire Association in 1986 when he rang his first peal, covering to doubles at St Wilfrid's Harrogate. In all he rang 14 peals, all for the Yorkshire Association, with the most complicated methods being Grandsire Caters and Yorkshire Surprise Major. He rang all his peals in the Ripon/ Harrogate area and was a member, at various times, of the bands at Ripon Cathedral and Sharow.

Chris was not afraid of controversy and would often pick the opposite side of the argument just for fun, to see what would happen. When there was a split in the band at Ripon, he started to ring with the Ripon Renaissance ringers, who were something of a splinter group at the time, with peripatetic practices.

Chris also visited other practices regularly – Knaresborough, Ainderby Steeple and Northallerton come to mind. His last membership of the YACR was in 1993, after which time he did little ringing, mostly because of work commitments. He ran a business, Dales Water, which took up a lot of his time.

However, this was far from the end of his contact with ringers. Chris will probably be remembered more for his personality and generosity than for his ringing ability. He was famous for organising “thrashes” as he called them; he would phone us up and say: “what's occurring?” He would turn up to the pub after Northallerton practices for beer and curry and delighted in the “après-ringing” crack with plenty of amusing anecdotes, many of them told against himself.

One of his favourite stories came from a general meeting at Thornaby, where a former President of the Association was conducting bob major. Chris missed his 5-6 down and was bawled at “dodge now” – this was followed by a perfectly audible “you stupid b*****” which Chris always reckoned he had not been supposed to hear!

Chris's funeral was at Sharow where many ringers gathered to ensure that he had a good send-off with the bells being rung open before and after the service at the family's request. He lies in the churchyard there, very close to Betty Chester and also in the same graveyard as another larger than life personality: Ted Hudson, former Vice-President of the Association. I miss him. May he rest in peace.

Jennie Town

William Hambly “Bill to everybody who knew him”

Bill was born and lived his early life in Devon. His father was a farmer and bellringer but Bill did not take up bellringing then, he was more interested in things mechanical and joined the RAF as an engineer. Bill was a quiet man and kept things very much to himself, but a good friend to all who knew him. It was only in conversations in the pub after ringing that you could glean any information about his past life. He did serve in many RAF bases around the UK and abroad and reached the rank of Warrant Officer. He was the engineer

in charge of a squadron in Iceland and served for some time in Malaya. He was awarded the MBE and BEM for his services.

Bill's last posting was to Church Fenton and this is when he moved to Tadcaster. In 1986 the bells at Tadcaster had been silent for more than 20 years and Roger Riley decided to train a new band and get the bells back into service again. Bill was one of the volunteers who joined this new band.

Bill was quite content to just be a regular Sunday Service ringer and never rang any peals although he did achieve some quarters. He was dependable and was always there for Sunday Service ringing both morning and evening and for practice on Wednesday nights. He had been a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1990. Sadly about three years ago, when he reached the age of 90, he found it increasingly difficult to climb the steps to the tower and had to give up ringing. He did however keep in contact and attended tower social evenings such as our annual tower dinner.

Bill will be sadly missed by all in the tower at Tadcaster. As a final tribute to him a course of Reverse Canterbury Doubles was rung on the back six as his coffin arrived at the church. This was his favourite method as there is no dodging in it. A quarter peal of Bob Major was rung directly after the funeral.

Douglas Kerr

I only met Major Douglas Kerr once, in his capacity as key holder for Kirkby Malzeard. He had been tower captain there for some years. Now Kirkby Malzeard is one of those villages which doesn't have house numbers – just names. I was already under pressure trying to find the right house, and nervous too about what to expect a “Major” to be like. On my second lap of Kirkby Malzeard's long main street I did find the right house but still had to face this military man.

I was still nervous but shouldn't have been. Major Douglas Kerr was a charming gentleman who put me at my ease. He clearly had a love the St Andrew's Kirkby Malzeard and for its bells and bell ringers.

Andrew Aspland

Catherine M Ladd (1954-2014)

Catherine learnt to ring in 1968 on the 3cwt six at Christ Church, Radlett, Hertfordshire along with several other members of the church youth group. By the time she arrived as a Theology student at Durham University in 1973, she was a useful ringer of the standard six bell methods. She joined the Durham University Society and made quick progress on higher numbers of bells, under the attentive eye of her future husband, Jeff, who was the current Master. Her first peal was of Plain Bob Minor, on the back six at the University tower of St Brandon's, Brancepeth, conducted by Jeff.

She completed her studies with a teaching certificate in 1977, and she and Jeff married that summer. They settled in Leeds, joining the then flourishing band at St Michael's Headingley. In 1980 they decided to start a band at the silent tower of Christ Church, Upper Armley. Some ten years later, Catherine took over from Jeff as tower captain and maintained a steady Sunday Service band there until changing circumstances led to the decline of the band in the early years of the new century. Armley bells were rung for just one service each Sunday, so this allowed Catherine and Jeff to join the band at Wakefield Cathedral too. They rang at the Cathedral for several years before leaving in 1999 to help form the new band at Leeds Parish Church. Their three sons, Alan, Philip and Jonathan all benefited from early exposure to 12-bell ringing and all three went on to become very capable 12-bell ringers.

Catherine was for some time a driving force behind the Leeds Branch of the Yorkshire Association, holding the posts of Secretary and Ringing Master, carrying out her duties with her trademark dedication and efficiency.

She was a member of the Royal Society of Cumberland Youths and was very proud to be one of a relatively small number of members in the area, steadfastly refusing to defect when another society decided to admit women to its ranks. She rang 9 peals with the Cumberlands, but her leading Association was the Yorkshire Association with 253 peals, with a further 52 being for the Durham University Society. In total, she rang 381 peals with almost exactly a third being on 10 or 12 bells. She was a member of the Leeds Branch band which rang a peal of Newgate S Maximus in 1981, no mean feat for a branch band over thirty years ago. More recently, she took part in several notable peals by the Leeds Parish Church band, including Yorkshire S Maximus at Worcester Cathedral, Stedman Cinques at York Minster and the 'all the twelves' peal at Escrick: 5012 12-spliced Maximus on 12th December 2012, commencing at 12:12 pm.

Sadly Catherine was unable to ring in Jeff's 1000th peal at Southwark Cathedral in August 2011 because she had recently undergone an operation for the cancer that was to end her life three years later. That made her utterly determined to ring in his 1000th tower bell peal on Boxing Day that same year. The 3cwt 5 of St James, Seacroft provided a more realistic challenge than the 48cwt 12 at Southwark, but she nevertheless needed to hang on bravely through 42 Doubles methods on a day when she should instead have been in hospital, suffering badly as she was from the effects of her chemotherapy. The band was completed by her sons Alan, Philip and Jonathan, making the peal perhaps her most special, since it was the only time that the family rang a peal together on their own.

Catherine rang four handbell peals, the first, conducted by James Holdsworth, on 4th September, 2013. She was unaware that her second grandson, Aaron, was being born at the same time. Her final peal was of Plain Bob Major in hand, less than a month before she died.

Catherine's final tower bell peal was Pitman's 6-spliced Surprise Major at Augusta, Georgia on 8th July 2013, and this same composition was rung by the Durham University Society in her memory at St Lawrence, Jewry in the City of London on 31st August.

Catherine's last ever tower bell ringing was at All Saint's, Gosforth for morning service on Father's Day, Sunday 15th June. The family had congregated at Jonathan's house the night before for a World Cup party, and it's entirely fitting that her last blows should have included Jeff and the three boys. It's a massive testament to the quiet courage and determination with which she faced her illness that she was able to ring at all that morning. Sixty steps to the ringing room would have proved an insurmountable barrier to virtually anyone else operating on just one diseased lung.

Catherine wouldn't let anyone use words like 'battle' or 'struggle' in connection with her cancer. She faced her illness with a quiet acceptance, decided what she wanted to do with her final eighteen months and got on with it, fitting in trips to the USA and France and remaining active until just over two weeks before the end. She was on holiday in Ireland when the disease entered its final stages. With characteristic determination, she improved enough to be flown back to Leeds where she died in Wheatfields Hospice on 6th August.

A service of Thanksgiving for Catherine's life will take place in Leeds Minster on the day which would have been her 60th birthday: Monday 29th September. The service starts at 2pm and is built around the readings and music which Catherine chose a few months before her death. We hope that many, many members of the Association will be there that day. Anyone attending is invited to ring before the service, from 1pm. Anyone who enjoys baking is asked to bring a homemade cake for the refreshments after the service. Any singers are invited to join the scratch choir for the hymns and for the anthem 'Thou wilt keep him in Perfect Peace'. It would be most helpful if you could please let Jeff know beforehand if you would like to sing in the choir.

Alex Magson

Alex passed away on the evening of Friday 13th June 2014, aged 82.

Some may be aware that he had had an operation for cancer, surgery for which was only partially successful. Over the following months, he retained his good humour - but became more frail. He was admitted to York hospital, but was discharged a week later since there was little more they could do for him.

Alex Magson was a vigorous, lovely and deeply faithful man, who applied his energy and enthusiasm to every task he undertook. As Tower Captain of Helmsley he taught dozens to ring, both young and old; some were to the manner born, some weren't - but with all he was gentle, patient and encouraging. He cherished the tower, its fabric, its bells, the people who came and went. He was a very loyal churchwarden at All Saints, and led a successful restoration of the ring of bells in the 1980's, doing a fair bit of the manual work himself to save money.

The 15cwt Tenor at Helmsley was recast by Taylors in 1987, including his name:

*Alexander Magson
Churchwarden*

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Rejoice and sing praise"

Although Alex didn't quite qualify time-wise for Lifetime Membership of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, an exception was made for him. This photo, displayed in the ringing chamber, shows Alex proudly holding his certificate.

Ringers from around the area rang half-muffled for Alex's funeral on Thursday 19th June at All Saints, Helmsley. When it was called into Tittums, everybody knew that it was Alex's favourite change....

Paul Harris

Leslie Pritchett

Huntington

Dad grew up in Beeston, Nottingham and was a server at Beeston Parish Church where he learnt to ring as a teenager. Mum did also and they married at the church in 1950. During their busy working life running a shop in Beeston I don't remember them being able to get much time off for ringing. However, they took it up again after they sold the shop in the early 80's. They then attended Attenborough church and rang there.

I came to University here in York in 1973 and stayed on, marrying in 1978. Mum and Dad would come up to visit, especially after they retired: Dad would always get along to ring at Huntington whenever he was visiting, but it wasn't until they moved here in 1999 that Mum went along too. Both of them rang numerous peals and quarters in Nottinghamshire.

One of my vivid memories of Dad when we visited their home in Beeston with my children was him sitting with his bellringers diary memorising the various changes and dodges etc. of the different ringing methods.

Shirley Roberts

Albert Edward Thoms

1932-2014

Ted, as he was known, was a ringer at the church of the Holy Cross Whorlton (Swainby) for many years, along with his wife Frances. They both learnt to ring at Ripon Cathedral some thirty years ago and a few years later, when they moved to the village of Potto in Cleveland, they joined the band that rang regularly at Swainby and Carlton. He was not only a dedicated ringer, but also very involved in the life of the church, and the communities of Potto and Swainby.

Ted was a Chartered Engineer, working in many countries throughout the world, and various locations in the UK. He was a man who had many interests throughout his life - tennis, badminton, singing, walking, skiing and not least of all, his bellringing. He rang a number of peals and many more quarters, and was very involved in the project to rehang Swainby bells. Ted always gave a warm welcome to everyone with a smile and often a little joke. In 2013 he and Frances celebrated their Diamond Wedding in church with their family of two sons and two daughters, Stephen, Jocelyn, Clive and Wendy. A quarter peal was rung to celebrate this momentous occasion, with Wendy and her husband Colin among the ringers. A further quarter peal was rung on the day of the funeral to celebrate Ted's life. He is a man who is sadly missed.

Joanne Townend

Joanne was what we have come to know as a 'Millennium' ringer. She was born on the 2nd April 1970 and was one of the original group of ringers who I started teaching to handle a bell at Wragby church in 1997 in readiness for the eventual restoration of the long time unringable 6 bells at All Saints, Darton. She joined the band along with her husband Ian and they were both elected as Associate members of the Association that same year. During the time that she was learning to ring, Joanne was also actively involved in fundraising activities for the restoration appeal.

Ian and Joanne were the kind of couple who enjoyed sharing many interests and when Darton church was looking for volunteers, learning to ring was a new activity they decided that they would both like to try.

In what was to turn out to be quite a brief ringing career, Joanne rang at Wragby, Hoylandswaine and for a short time at Darton. In terms of her ringing progress, I think it's fair to say that she didn't get much further than being able to ring rounds. Unfortunately, she had a fear of spiral staircases and although she fought to overcome this for some time, eventually this fear got the better of her and by 2001 she decided to give up ringing. To those who suffer from this fear, it's very real and I can particularly recall witnessing an episode at Knottingley where she just couldn't get up what many of us who have rung there would consider to be a wide and easy to climb staircase.

She continued to pay her subs to the Association for several more years, as although she wasn't actively ringing herself; she wanted to continue to support the work of the Association.

Joanne suffered from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy from 2003, although she was only actually diagnosed in 2007. Sadly, she passed away on the 9th July this year as a result of complications resulting from her heart condition. She was just 44 years of age.

Our thoughts are very much with Ian and Joanne's family at what is a particularly sad time for them all.

Trevor C Ledger

Our cover picture is from the ringing room at St Wilfrid's, York.

