



Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Autumn 2017 / No.3

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Stanley Ireland of Middleham

It is with great sadness that the branch hears of the death of Stanley Ireland of Middleham, aged 92. He was a most faithful ringer at Middleham over many years and a great character who will be sorely missed.

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A warm welcome from the Editor

A warm welcome to the third issue of the new look newsletter Newsletter from the editor. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, contact the editor.

Events 2018:

Branch AGM: Saturday 20th January 2018

Next years Branch AGM heads to the north east of the Branch, to Saltburn and Marske. Both Churches are celebrating their 150th birthdays in the coming year.

Programme:

11:30-12:30 ringing at Saltburn.

13:00 Lunch in Marske church

Followed by the AGM

Approx 14:30-15:30 ringing at Marske.

The meeting agenda will be circulated with the next issue of the newsletter.

Branch Striking Competition Saturday 28th April 2018

The date has been set for next years Branch Striking Competition. The committee is in the process of sorting out a venue. This will hopefully be in place by the Branch AGM at the latest.

Association AGM and Interbranch Striking Competition Saturday 12th May 2018

The Branch is hosting next years Association AGM and Interbranch Striking Competition. The event will be based in and around the Richmond area and will include a tour of local towers.

Congratulations!

Debbie Georgeson of Pickhill has successfully received her ART accreditation.

Online!

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



Northallerton News

by Jennie Town(Northallerton)

In July, we said “au revoir” to one of our ringers, as Flight-Lieutenant Mark Bradley left us for a six-month tour of duty in the Falkland Islands. There is a tower at Port Stanley which contains bells, although these are only chimed and not turned full circle. Mark hopes that he can raise some enthusiasm to put change-ringing bells into the tower, although we understand that the day job is keeping him very busy.

Two members of the Northallerton band have been very involved with the project to install a ring of bells in St George’s Memorial Church in Ypres. David Town has made the wheels in memory of the two ringers from Northallerton who died in the Great War and Ian Staves has done the sound control with the help of David Gardner, who rings at Ainderby Steeple.

At the end of July there was an Open Day at Taylor’s Bell Foundry in Loughborough, when the frame, bells and fittings were on display. The bells are beautifully decorated with poppies and have inscriptions to denote in whose memory they have been cast. There was plenty to look at, including the tenor bell being installed into the frame via a hoist (the other seven bells were already in place). In the afternoon, Taylor’s demonstrated the procedure of casting bells, one of which was destined for Australia. There was also some hand-bell ringing on bells donated to the project – they had belonged to a ringer who was killed in the Great War – in which David took part.

The bells have now been transported from the foundry to Belgium, via the Great Dorset Steam Fair, using two vehicles which saw active service during the Great War (one a Thornycroft and the other a Dennis), which have been restored to full working order. One of these vehicles belongs to a non-ringing friend of the Northallerton ringers, so it is through contact with them

that this part of the project came into being. The trucks were transported to Ypres on a low loader and were then used to tour round various cemeteries, culminating in arrival at the Menin Gate for the evening commemoration. They will now be installed in the tower ready for the dedication service in October.

Closer to home, we have a busy time on the weekend of September 9th and 10th when it is Heritage Open Weekend and we are doing tower tours at Brompton and Northallerton. I’m not sure how many times we will be climbing the stairs at both places, but it should work off a few calories.

Stokesley Outing 2017

by John Hutchinson(Stokesley)

On Monday 28th August, Stokesley tower had a great day out visiting several towers in the Tyne Valley area west of Newcastle, encompassing almost the full range of towers, from the young and light ring at Ovingham to the longstanding heavyweight of Hexham Abbey. This was in part a celebration of my own success in getting into Selwyn college Cambridge, and indeed the last of our stops (Hexham) was coincidentally my own place of birth. We also had several learner ringers coming along with us, and this was a good opportunity to showcase the range of towers out there.

Our first port of call was Ryton, an interesting start! The 14-hundredweight-odd tenor was certainly quite a weight, and good practice considering what was to come! After this good start we all headed off to The Keelman in Newburn, where much good food and lively conversation was enjoyed. Following that we made our way to Newburn church, a tower which had only recently reopened after a disastrous fire, and as such it was fitted with many mod-cons, including a clever trap-door mechanism, which fascinated the engineers among us! The bells themselves proved to be a rather raucous ring very similar in weight to Stokesley, giving our conductors an opportunity practice their loud voices!

We then headed upriver to Ovingham, by far the lightest ring of the day, and even more recently installed than Newburn. It’s lightness certainly proved a challenge (we even had to stand after I myself lost control of the treble), however we all still enjoyed the experience, and even invited our letter-in for a plain course of Cambridge Major! This was followed by heading over to Stocksfield where we were served a nice tea by Gillian Hallett.

Our last tower, capping off the day, was Hexham. This was certainly quite a change from the 4-hundredweight Ovingham, and good for building up the arm muscles! Unlike the other three towers, which are rings of eight, Hexham is of course a 10-bell tower, so we had much fun trying our hands at Grandsire Caters – twice! We even had extra time to ring on top of the hour we had allocated since the surprise practice which had been due to take place later in the evening had been cancelled. This allowed us an opportunity to ring most of the bells down before a few of us went further upstairs to look at the bellframe. After that we departed, all agreeing that it was a day well spent!



Image of David Town at Taylors Bell Foundry taken by Ray De Graff

Ripon Young Ringers at Thirkleby

by Anne Wood(Ripon)



As well as teenagers and mature learners, we have a number of ringers of primary school age at Ripon. It is not always easy to arrange suitable times with them – even though we now start our Wednesday evening practice earlier, to give learners a bit of dedicated time before the main practice –and a school night is not ideal.

So we tried, over the summer, to give them a bit of Time that was specially for them. We chose a Sunday afternoon in August and were pleased that Thirkleby agreed to our visit. The bells are a light, easy-going six, in a good circle round the font – and they are rung from the ground floor (meaning that we could keep an eye on non-ringers!). In addition, the bells have no near-neighbours, so we knew that first attempts at rounds would not lead to any complaints.

Six ringing adults (parents and friends) were there to “fill in” where necessary. By chance, one family had three youngsters from a Leeds ringing family staying, so they came too. In all, seven youngsters rang. For some it was just at one stroke, others managed rounds, or rounds and call changes and one was able, with a steady band round him and a stander-behind (who only needed to give a little guidance), to plain hunt. We rang for about an hour, usually with two or three learners in at any one time. We were pleased that the afternoon went well. The box of assorted biscuits helped, as did the enthusiasm of the youngsters! We will certainly be trying this sort of event again. We’ve even had an invitation to join the Yorkshire Tykes practices – but our learners are not quite ready for that – yet!



YACR AGM: Subs for 2018

by John Welch (Branch Treasurer)

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

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

Branch Cluster Proposal

by Ross Weddell

Many Thanks to all of those who have had discussions and been in contact with regards Janet's article in the previous issue of the newsletter.

The committee is now approaching the point whereby each Cluster has a named representative. Once the representatives are finalised, it is hoped that each Representative will be able to provide a snapshot of ringing in their cluster, which can then be discussed at the Branch AGM and reported on in the newsletter.

As mentioned previously, the aim of the Cluster Proposal is to move the Branch from a PROVIDER of Ringing to a FACILITATOR ringing, taking advantage of the local links between towers that already present.

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

By Friday 17th
November

Marske Tower Open Day

by Peter Sotheran(Marske)

The Ringers of St Mark's, Marske-by-the-sea threw open the belfry doors to visitors one weekend in August.

Over 135 visitors climbed the spiral staircase to see the bell ringers' room and 125 of them continued the climb to the top of the tower. The weather was perfect with clear skies enabling dozens of visitors to photograph the panorama that stretched from the cliffs of the Yorkshire coast, across the Cleveland Hills and round to Redcar, Teesmouth and the hills of County Durham.



"We received a steady trickle of requests from people wanting to view the town and surrounding countryside from the roof of the tower. This way, everyone could take advantage of the opportunity," said Peter Sotheran who leads the team who maintain the bells. Visitors assembled in the ringing chamber where local ringers answered questions and a non-stop slide show, projected high on the white-washed walls, illustrated the weekly activities. From there, in groups of about a dozen, they climbed through the bell and clock chambers to reach the roof.

Ringers were posted as stewards at each level of the tower and answered questions about the bells and the Victorian church clock while at the same time ensuring the visitors moved safely up and down the stairs and ladders. "This was not primarily a recruiting exercise but more of a promotional opportunity to increase awareness of how the ringers contribute to the life of the parish," explained Peter. "We are lucky in that at Marske it is quite safe and easy to pass through the bell chamber and onwards to the tower roof." The ringers plan to hold a recruiting evening early in the autumn school term.

10 and 12 Bell Quarter Peals at Ripon

Janet Wadsworth is looking to organise a few 10 and 12 bell quarter peals at Ripon over the upcoming months.

If you are interested in being involved. Please email eastfieldwads@aol.com to be added to the circulation list.

Kirklington Ringers visit Middlesmoor

by Janet Wadsworth

After a couple of days of dreich weather the rain stopped, the tarmac dried and the sky brightened. 12 ringers and two sightseers headed off for an evening ring at Middlesmoor. Whatever approach to Middlesmoor is chosen progress is scenic but slow. We rang for an hour from 7pm. Our repertoire ranged from rounds and call changes to a touch of Bob Doubles. We were glad to be joined by one of the local band, Barry Nuttall, who used the opportunity to brush up his touch ringing skills. Two of our Kirklington ringers have strong family attachments to Middlesmoor. Having only learned to ring in the last year it was great for them to have the opportunity to ring in the village.

On leaving the church we were bowled over by the evening view down the dale. We retired to the pub for a meal where we were welcomed by the locals with a wee bit of banter. The food was good, the pub was cosy and the service, efficient.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable trip. Discussion was had as to the suitability of Middlesmoor as a venue for the striking competition. It ticks the boxes for ringable bells and a village hall (and pub). The setting is idyllic but the journey is a bit of a trek. Outdoor enthusiasts could make a day of it but not everyone wants to spend the day in the countryside. The branch committee would be interested to know what people think. If you have an opinion please let me know at eastfieldwads@aol.com.

WW1 Memorial Peals



Plaque in Marske Tower

Marske by the Sea, North Yorkshire, St Mark

Wednesday, 13 September 2017 in 2h 46m

(6–3–21 in B♭)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

1. Sue C Sotheran
2. David A Town
3. Robert M Wood
4. David Lester
5. Ross N Weddell
6. C Barrie Dove (C)
7. Jennifer A Town
8. Alan Regin

Peals have also been rung at Middlesbrough(handbells) and Whitby in Memory of ringers who died during WW1.

Ripon Cathedral Outing

by Theo Kendrick (Ripon)

We arrived at the first tower, which was Grinton, for a 9:45am start! It was a lovely sunny day. There was a tall ladder to climb up get into the ringing chamber. Ellie had to be careful because she was wearing her Heelies! There are 8 bells there and they were really quite nice. Lots of people arrived, some from Ripon Cathedral, John from Richmond and other from towers in the area. Everyone got to ring. There were enough boxes for the children who needed them and some of the adults too ;-)

We rang there for about 40 minutes then headed off in the sunshine to Reeth. We weren't ringing there but Robert and Anne (the trip organisers) had planned lots of refreshment stops in between towers, which was a good idea as it was a very hot day! We all had a drink and lots of people had cake or even an ice-cream! Dean John took photos of us all before we headed back to the cars and set off for our next destination, Barnard Castle.

It was a fantastic drive over the top of the hills. There were hundreds of sheep wandering around, some on the road, which slowed us down. We also stopped to look at some vintage Massey Ferguson Tractors that were parked up in a lay-by. Ethan had a look at them with Charlie and the men driving them said they were taking them out for a day trip to Yarm.



Ringers at Barnard Castle

Barnard Castle was another 8-bell tower up a spiral staircase, which was through a door from outside the church instead of inside. This ringing chamber had a lovely new wooden balcony along one side that meant the children; Lottie, Eleanor, Ethan, Rachael and I got to sit up out of the way and play while the others were ringing. The tower even had it's own supply of Lego and toys too!! I think they were a nice ring and everyone else thought so too.

Next stop on the journey was The Black Bull Pub in Frosterley, which not only was our lunch stop but also a ring. There is a Mini-ring of 12 bells there, which my brother Ethan & I had rung before, as had a few of the other ringers. My Grandma came and joined us too at this point and it was a grab for her. She told me that 'Ethan and I are like Mini-ring experts,' because we'd rung the Durham & Newcastle Mini-ring lots of times with our Uncle Kris (it's a family thing!) We all had great fun ringing on the bells.

We rang lots of rounds on all 12, Andrew & John even rang 2 bells at once (double handling) but I stuck with just one. There was lots of concentration when they rang Grandsire Triples – it sounded lovely while I stood outside with Grandpa listening to it in the sunshine.



Ringers at Frosterley

After a lovely lunch and ring we headed over to Bishop Auckland. Some people didn't make it to this nice 8-bell tower, as it's not really in Bishop Auckland it's in South Church! This was a nice tower with a lovely thick red carpet; the bells were quite nice too! After a ring here it was definitely time to find an ice cream. We couldn't find the café we were supposed to go to so we called into a lovely Garden Centre on the way and got one there!

Gainford was our last tower of the day. They are a heavy ring of 6 bells and are extremely loud inside the tower so it's quite hard to hear the conductor. Everyone had a ring but a few of the younger ones found them a little tricky and there weren't many boxes for us to use.

It was a great day out and a brilliant opportunity to fill up the tower grabs in my Dove's Guide. Thank you Robert for organising it. Can't wait for my next Ringing Trip!

Richmond Bells Ringing Again

The new bells at Richmond have been successfully installed. The first quarter peal after the works was rung by a local band after the Major's Civic Service.

Richmond, North Yorkshire

Sunday, 10 September 2017 in 47 minutes

1344 Plain Bob Major

1 Victoria A L Milne

2 Elizabeth J Foster

3 Graham Rogers

4 Peter N Trewby

5 Helen L Scott

6 Susan E Welch (C)

7 John R Welch

8 Andrew J Slade

First Bob Major as conductor

Practices have resumed on Tuesday evenings from 7:30.

Upcoming Events

October

Sat 8th **Yorkshire Tykes** at Northallerton(3pm) and Brompton (4:30pm) with food at The Parlour Room, Northallerton. All under 18's welcome with an accompanying adult.

Sat 14th **D & N Dinner** at Durham Masonic Hall

Sat 21st **Snowdon Dinner** in York(See attached poster)

Sat 21st **Marske 150 Tower Open Day** - Open ringing 10am-1pm
Contact: sue.sotheran@gmail.com

YACR Training Events

Sat 28 Oct: Belfry and Rope Maintenance

Leader: Brian Saunders
Venue: Cawthorne
Contact: Stuart Holtam
stuartholtam@mac.com

Sat 11th Nov: Handbells for Beginners:

Tune Ringing
Leader: Anne Deebank
Venue: Pickering
Contact: Anne Deebank
Anne.deebank@gmail.com

Regular Local Practices

Sowerby Monthly Practice

1st Tuesday's: 7:30-9pm

Next Practices: 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Neil Irving

neil@neilirving.co.uk

Sunday Surprise

3rd Sunday: 4:45-6pm – Stokesley

Note: No Practice in September

What is typically rung?

Standard 8 Surprised Major

Contact: John Hallett

jghl35@gmail.com

Barnard Castle Practices

2nd and 4th Mondays

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Helen Scott

helenscott63@hotmail.com

D&N Southern District – Advanced Practice

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

What is typically rung?

Kent Minor, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Yorkshire, Cambridge, Bristol

Contact: Jack Hanlon

Jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Thirkleby Weekly Practice

Mondays 7:00 – 8:00pm

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Michael Armstrong

m.armstrong21@btinternet.com

Marske Weekly Practice

Mondays 7:30 – 9:00pm(Bell Handing from 7:00)

What is typically rung?

Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods

Contact: Peter Sotheran

Peter.sotheran@gmail.com

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

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