

## Presidents Blog – September 2021

Hello all fellow YACR Members,

I trust that that you are all well and are starting back into ringing at your own towers and with your Branch and meeting lots of your ringing colleagues again.

It is good to report that the “Yorkshire Day” (1<sup>st</sup> August) open day was a great success. About thirty-five towers were opened for sessions which saw many interested members of the public visit our belfries and hopefully some will be attracted back to learn our “Art”. Simon (our General Secretary) is carrying out a review of the numbers at each tower, which will be shared with you all in due course. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank those on the small committee who made it all work so well. Jane (Lynch) for having the idea, and getting the Yorkshire Society involved, Roger (Pollard) for organising and getting the banners printed and delivered, Deborah (Thorley) for all the posters and leaflets that she designed and had printed, Simon (Plows) for carrying out the PR work with TV, Radio and the Press, David Spaul for paying the bills, and to the YACR for its substantial subsidy to ensure that towers only paid £10.00 each. We are hoping that this will become an annual event.

On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> September our young ringers are attending the RWNYC in Worcester, we wish them “good luck” in the striking contest ringing against nineteen other teams. Do your best, and hopefully bring the Trophy back to Yorkshire, we would very much like to see it at the General Meeting in York the week after.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, which is the date of the YACR General Meeting in York, it has been decided that the Inter-Branch Striking Contest is to be postponed until next year and that we will now hold an open striking contest, aimed at ringers of all levels of ability. This will be a “Hat” contest. What is that?? There will be four levels which ringers will be divided into, and on the day two ringers from each section will make up the teams, which should be of similar ability. The test piece will be call changes on eight bells at St. Lawrence York. You will have seen more details about this via your Branch Secretaries. We want less experienced ringers who have never been in a contest to come along, participate, and enjoy themselves. Other towers will be open during the afternoon as well.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, we are holding a “12 bell open day” at Selby Abbey with ringing from 2.30 until 4.30pm. This is aimed at our young ringers and less experienced ringers to take their first steps at ringing on 12 bells. There will be experienced ringers there to help you on this step forward. I remember that ringers helped and aided me in my initial efforts on 12 bells, and I and others want to help you on yours!!

I have had confirmation this week that the “Snowdon Lunch” will take place as usual on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Castlegate House, Castlegate, York, (near Clifford’s Tower). This is a “low key” Lunch at a wonderful venue with all the amenities. We have one Guest Speaker this year, being the Dean of Ripon Cathedral who is himself a bell ringer. The price for this three course meal in the centre of York is amazing (around £21.00) and the young ringers’ price will be subsidised to encourage them to attend with their friends as well as mentors. Details will be with you shortly via your Branch Secretary.

I do hope you will attend some if not all of these events. I do look forward to meeting and welcoming you, and I know that you will enjoy them all.

Looking further Into the future 2025 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Association, we need to start thinking now about how we might celebrate this momentous occasion.

Best wishes,   Barrie Dove -- President -- Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers