

Handbell
Ringers of
Great Britain
(Scotland)

Dates for
your
diary

Saturday
10th October
Autumn
Workshop
Day in Bank-
foot Centre,
Near Perth,

Saturday
12th March
2016 AGM &
Spring Rally
in Aboyne,
Royal Dee-
side, hosted
by Cushnie
Handbell
Ringers.

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HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2015/16 Issue 1

August/Sept 2015

Chat from the Chair Elaine Duffus

Even after many years in the music class-room, the simple logic of young children never fails to make me smile! Picture, if you can, a music room full of excited Primary 1 children with coloured handbells. It's amazing the lengths some will go to in order to play their "favourite colour" despite my efforts to persuade them it's good to try different ones.

This particular day, one little boy was really disappointed to have a green bell and was leaving everyone around him in no doubt about this. The little girl next to him – becoming noticeably annoyed – turned and said to him,

"Can you make a nice sound with it?" Somewhat surprised, he looked at his bell, rang it, and said to her,

"See? Of course I can!"

"Well," she replied, "It's the sound that matters, not the colour. Stop moaning and have some fun!"

That wee girl could be a future handbell team leader! But, she has a point. Sometimes we do spend so much time moaning that we miss all the fun (even, perhaps, at our own team rehearsals). Sometimes we think only of what's on the outside and don't take time to explore what is really on offer.

We all know our Region has a very wide geographical spread of ringers of different levels of experience and abilities. The Regional Committee takes this into account when organising events and tries hard to accommodate everyone some of the time. Looking back over the past four years, there have been ringing events in Aberdeen, Perth, Renfrew, Cupar, Stonehaven, Moniaive, Inverness and Haddington, covering most areas of Scotland or, at least, within reasonable travelling distance of most areas. We invite teams in different parts of the country to host events – most take up this offer very willingly – and try to

offer some variety between rallies with massed ringing and team performances and workshop type events where ringers can try new music, ideas, techniques, skills. If your team would like to host an event and we haven't asked you yet, please do get in touch. It could save you some

travelling. And do give our events a try – it could be more fun than you think!

As we look back over the past 2014/15 ringing year, I must thank members of Kilwhang Handbell Ringers (Stonehaven), Bells of St Ninian's (Moniaive), Inverness Handbell Ring-

ers and Holy Trinity Handbells (Haddington) who hosted our Spring and Autumn events so willingly and so well. The organisation prior to and on the day of each event was excellent and the welcoming, happy, atmosphere was greatly appreciated by those who attended. We definitely did have fun and not a moan in sight!

Now we look ahead to a new ringing year. The Committee had their first meeting on 23rd May and have already started planning future events. The Autumn event, on 10th October in Bankfoot, will see two gentlemen from south of the Border "taking up the baton" to lead us in workshops. Tim Willetts, National Chairman of HRGB, and Aidan Fozard, of Belleplate fame, are looking forward to meeting Scottish ringers. Do consider joining us for this event!

We are delighted to welcome Katrina Gordon of Caithness Handbell Ringers as the new Editor of our Regional Magazine. Please support her by sending articles, short or longer, with or without photographs, for publication.

Remember, this is YOUR region! If you have ideas or views, please make some sound. Only then will we hear what you are really saying. Remember..."It's the sound that matters"!



Scottish Schools' Ring 2015

“We had a great day participating in the Schools' Ring event from our own classroom in Caithness!”

Susan Watson,
Castletown
Primary School
Bellringers

Greenmill Primary School in Cumnock, Ayrshire attended the Annual Scottish Schools' Ring at Newton at Primary School in Dunblane on Thursday 14th May. It was a well attended event with 7 schools attending.

Castletown Primary School in Caithness was able to participate

via the schools' secure intranet service GLOW.

The massed ringing pieces were 'The Sun has got its hat on', 'Will ye go to Sherriffmuir?' and 'Taste of Scotia'.

Schools were also given the option of playing a piece on their own. Greenmill played 'The Rising Moon', a piece especially com-

missioned for them by the composer Sir James MacMillan.

A great afternoon was had by all. A special thanks was given to Lysbeth and Malcolm Wilson for arranging and running the event.

Marge Paterson

Greenmill Primary School Bellringers



Greenmill Primary School Bellringers performing at the Scottish Schools' Ring

News from the far north



Poltney Bell Ringers in St John's Church, Wick

Poltney Bell Ringers performed for Trinity Sunday at St John's Scottish Episcopal Church, Wick.

At the invitation of the Reverend Wendy Knott we joined the congregation at St John's in Wick for their Trinity Sunday morning service on the 31st of May. We accompanied three

hymns, rang during communion and played voluntaries before and after the service.

We were enthusiastically welcomed by the congregation and even received a round of applause and a demand for an encore at the end of the service. We were delighted to oblige and rang again

the spiritual My Lord, What a Morning arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson.

We have been invited back for Michaelmas to ring at the service for St Michael and All Angels at the end of September.

Lyn Ball, Poltney Bell Ringers, Wick

News from Jordanhill



This year Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers (JPCHR) are celebrating their Silver Jubilee.

The group was formed in 1990 after a legacy of £1000 was left to the church. With that we bought our first 12 bells, the case for them and a few books of music - the Nazeing collection from Mayola.

Once the bells arrived, the congregation was invited to come along to a workshop led by Malcolm Wilson of Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers. Our first leader then was Anne Thomson and when she left for Aberdeen we were led for a short while by David Henry. When he left I was asked to take over and I can hardly believe that was 21 years

ago!

Over the years we have fund raised and been gifted money to purchase more bells. We now have 3 chromatic octave of Malmark bells and 3 chromatic octaves of Malmark chimes.

We attended our first rally in Dunblane when Scotland was still part of the North West Region. I can still remember ringing The Ash Grove – 12 of us with 1 bell each! I think we can say that we have progressed from that!

Over the years we have attended Regional rallies, National Rallies, National Residential Ringing Weeks, UK Bronze and International Symposia.

Jordanhill has always played an active role within the Scottish Region holding various posts on the committee. As such we have been involved in the organising the two National Rallies that have been held in Scotland and Regional Rallies and Workshops.

We continue to ring for church guilds, care homes etc and in

Church as part of worship. Like most handbell ensembles we are extremely busy in December.

We have supported many charities in our 25 years including Quarriers, Mary's Meals, Childline, Arthritis Care, Motor Neurone Disease, Dr Graham's Homes and St Margaret's Hospice to name but a few.

We were delighted when Elaine Duffus very generously gave us an arrangement to mark our Silver Jubilee. It is a beautiful arrangement of The Rowan Tree called Rowan Berries. We are holding a concert to mark our Silver Jubilee on **Friday 30th October** and we do hope that Elaine might be able to hear us perform it then.. The concert will be held in Jordanhill Parish Church at 7.30pm. Please come and support us if you can. Reminders will be put on our Facebook page nearer the time.

Ruth Cantlay

Your newsletter - YOUR news!

I hope you've enjoyed catching up on the news from bell-ringing teams from all around Scotland? I've certainly had fun putting this newsletter together!

I'm hoping to make another newsletter to go out in January 2016, so please send me some news from YOUR

team before Christmas. I'll be happy to receive your stories, photos, pictures, puzzles, jokes or links to your website or youtube performances - anything at all which is related to handbell ringing in Scotland.

You can send me material at any time, preferably by email

to katrinathurso@aol.com. If you **really** don't do email then you can send me your article by post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, Caithness KW14 8AE

Looking forward to hearing your news! ☺

Katrina Gordon (editor)