



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2019 Issue 1 – Feb 2019

Chat from the Chair

It is with regret that I have to report the resignation from the committee of Reta Mitchelson who is very unwell. Reta, of Blair Belles, had only recently undertaken the task of looking after the Sales for the Region but because of continuing ill-health is no longer able to do so. Please remember Reta in your prayers.

On Saturday 6th October 2018, the Region enjoyed a great Autumn Rally in Haddington under the baton of Tim Waugh who joined us from the United States. Tim conducted his own compositions *Recollection* and *Shades of Forest Green* and Arnold Sherman's *Laudation*. It was disappointing that there were fewer participants than had been expected. The committee would be interested to hear of any possible reasons for this. Thanks are extended to Holy Trinity Handbells for hosting the event.

You will be pleased to hear that Scotland will be represented by Celtic Carillon at the UK National Rally at Old Windsor in April. And the 2019 Scottish Schools Ring will be held at Newton Primary School on Tuesday 14 May.

The Region has received £200 from HRGB by attaining the Chairman's Challenge of recruiting more than 20 new members during the Golden Anniversary year. Welcome to you all!

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2019 Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally which will be held at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth on Saturday 23 March 2019.

My very best wishes to you.

Jordanhill Parish Church HR

After the summer break, rehearsals resumed in September and we have had a very busy autumn and Christmas and on one day we were giving a concert in the afternoon and one in the evening! We once again took part in the Milngavie Churches bi-annual Christmas tree festival which raises significant amounts of money for various charities, this year supporting Glasgow Street Pastors, East Dunbartonshire Women's Aid and the Milngavie Youth Centre.



We all thoroughly enjoyed the autumn event ringing under the direction of Tim Waugh and although the music was a challenge for some everyone agreed that they had benefitted from it.

Four of the Jordanhill ringers will be performing with Celtic Carillon at the evening concert during the National Rally in Windsor and we are looking forward to hosting the rehearsals for that.

We are now preparing for our spring events and in particular our annual charity concert with the Jordanhill Community choir on May 23rd in the church sanctuary. Do come along in you are able! Further details of this will be posted on our Facebook Page along with our other activities.

Ruth Cantlay

HRGB Scotland 2018 Autumn Rally

Saturday 6th October was a perfect autumn day, just right for enjoying a drive with friends through sunlit countryside. The destination was Holy Trinity Church, Haddington, the venue for the HRGB Scottish Region Autumn Rally with Tim Waugh (USA) as conductor and coach.



The first challenge, when going out with bells, is finding the destination and parking somewhere convenient for offloading the bells. In this case the task was easily achieved, leaving lots of time to enjoy the freshly made (real) coffee and delicious cakes before the work of the day started.

The bell ringers who attended the rally knew they had some challenging music to get through and some may have been more than a little apprehensive about this. However Tim Waugh is a very experienced coach and conductor and soon showed that he knew how to break down and analyse the difficult areas of the music into easily managed sections.

Tim had a great many tips on improving technique, which he was happy to pass on to us. He encouraged us all to think of the body as the musical instrument, not just the bell in our hand. When we play it's from a place of balance and energy, with an awareness of time and space in our movements. As a warm up exercise Tim got us to try doing coordination exercises, firstly conducting 2 beats in a bar, with a simple up and down movement. Then, keeping that going in one arm we had to add in a 3-point movement with the other, so conducting 2 beats with one hand and 3 beats with the other. Then we tried 3 beats against 4. It's not easy!!

As we worked through the music Tim had plenty of insights and advice to help us improve. His advice for playing to achieve a loud sound was to "use more fingers". Rather than just use the arm and wrist to give energy to the bell, involve more finger movement to get more weight and you get a fuller sound. It's true. We all tried it and could hear the difference. Another idea was that faster finger movement would give a softer sound.

He talked about giving shape and tonal variety in a bar of repeated notes by playing from near to far; start with the bell close to the body and move a little further away on each bell strike. He likened this to a ladder, which is a good picture to have when using this technique.

There were many more pearls of wisdom passed on, in between which we were steadily working at learning the pieces of music, and all with much good humour and enjoyment. We may not have been his most able or polished students but we all

learned a great deal and achieved a good level of performance for our final play-through.

Thank you Tim, for passing on so many good ideas and making this a really enjoyable day, and thank you Holy Trinity Handbells for your welcome and excellent hospitality throughout the day. My only regret is that there weren't more people attending as it really was a very worthwhile experience.



Enjoying the Autumn Rally 2018

Singleton Bells

Anne Singleton from Amber Bells, Ashover, Derbyshire, has donated a range of bells to HRGB which have been allocated to Regions so that they are available for short-term loans to enable bands to 'double up' or to augment existing sets. The bells (owned and insured by HRGB) that have been allocated to the Scottish Region are B^b6, B6 and C7. If you are interested in borrowing these bells please contact John Elcock (Chair) on john.s.elcock@gmail.com.

HOLY TRINITY HANDBELLS HADDINGTON

After a few weeks of steady practice, there was a sudden flurry of activity in the weeks before Christmas. There were visits to two Scottish Women's Institute meetings, both warmly received, and half an hour of carols at the Lights to Remember Service at the Marie Curie hospice in Fairmilehead, Edinburgh.



Refreshments at Pentlands Women's Institute

Two days later saw us playing a supporting role at the Siancio Singers Christmas concert in Holy Trinity Church. Carols again at the local Abbeyfield House and at the beginning of the Haddington ecumenical carol service, also at Holy Trinity. Finally we entertained the departing passengers at Edinburgh Airport and succeeded in raising over £200 for Marie Curie. That was a long stint, just opposite a food outlet, and by the end a late lunch was definitely on our minds. One of our members suggested changing the name of the carol we were playing to "I Saw Three Chips...!"



Holy Trinity Handbells at Edinburgh Airport

Rosemary Brannan



The Get Creative Festival shines a light on all the great cultural activity that takes place right across the UK on a regular basis and encourages people to try their hand at something new and creative. This huge national celebration of creativity aims to give everyone the chance to get actively involved in a creative event in their local area.

From Saturday 11th - Sunday 19th May 2019 hundreds of organisations and community groups will be putting on events to help people get creative. Might you be one of them?

Important Dates for your Diary:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 23rd March 2019 | HRGB Scotland 2019 AGM and Spring Rally at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth |
| April 2019 | Please send me your news around this flexible deadline for submissions to the next newsletter which will not appear until after Easter! ☺ Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE |
| 12th-14th April 2019 | HRGB National Rally – This is being held at Beaumont Estate, Old Windsor |
| Tues 14th May 2019 | Scottish Schools Ring is being held at Newton Primary School, Dunblane |
| Sat 7th December 2019 | Highland Gathering of Ringers at the West Church, Thurso, Caithness – a day of festive massed ringing on the far north coast with musical directors Susie Dingle and Katrina Gordon. All welcome. Limited overnight accommodation available on a first-come basis for early bookers so please do get in touch! |