



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2021 Issue 1 – February 2021

Chat from the Chair

On Saturday 10 October 2020, the Region enjoyed a fantastic virtual Autumn Rally on Zoom with over 30 ringers attending. A report on the event is included in this newsletter.

Because of her increasing commitments in Callandar, Anne Docherty has stood down as newsletter distribution manager. I am very grateful to her for all her hard work in this capacity. The committee is therefore looking for a new distribution manager (details below).

I look forward to seeing you all at the 2021 Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally which will be held via Zoom on Saturday 20 March 2021. Registration details are enclosed with his newsletter

The UK National Rally which the Scottish Region was to host this year is now scheduled for the weekend of 14-16 April 2023 at the Stirling Court Hotel on the University of Stirling campus. There is a huge amount of work to do in the preparation and delivery of such an event so please make every effort to help your committee out.

My very best wishes to you all. Stay well and stay safe

Autumn Rally

Over 30 ringers joined the Scottish Region via Zoom on Saturday 10 October 2020 for the first ever virtual ringing rally to be held in the UK (see screenshot below).



Screenshot of those taking part in the virtual Autumn Rally on 10 October 2020

In planning this online event, the committee sought to incorporate the elements of a face-to-face event: making music together, time to chat and some less serious activities.

Words of welcome from the Chair were followed by an outline from Laura of how Zoom would work during the afternoon. Malcolm then guided us through the first of two air-ringing sessions (aided by some awesome technology!). This was followed by a thought-provoking bell-themed Powerpoint quiz compiled by Ruth.

A 'bio-break' allowed us to enjoy some informal chat with ringers up and down the country. Malcolm then consolidated our air-ringing with a second session. This was followed by a text chat box session with the Chair prompting conversation by asking silly questions such as 'If you were reincarnated as a musical instrument, which would you like it to be?' and 'What does your perfect sandwich have in it?'

The Rally concluded at 4.00pm with a final round-up and votes of thanks and the Chair wishing that everyone would stay well.

Here are some of the comments received following the event:

'Air-ringing was so much fun.'

'I'd like to say thank you to all the committee members who made it look so easy. You are all great.'

'Just wanted to say that I think it all went extremely well and amazing that folk got in with minimal help.'

'It was great to see so many taking part.'

'Good choice of programme.'

'10/10. Well done.'

'You were brilliant! I thoroughly enjoyed it.'

'Being held online brought its own opportunities.'

'Already looking forward to the next time...'

The committee looks forward to welcoming you all to the Spring Rally on Saturday 20 March with more of the same, only better!

John Elcock



HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN
SCOTTISH REGIONAL ASSOCIATION



2021 AGM and Spring Rally

You are warmly invited to the HRGB Scottish Regional Association online AGM and Spring Rally which will be held via Zoom on **Saturday 20th March 2021** from 1.30-4pm.

Following on from the success of the Autumn Rally, this event offers another opportunity to experience a range of different activities such as 'air ringing', quiz, chat rooms and virtual massed ringing with a 'bio-break' in the middle! All you need is your computer/ tablet/smart phone. No ringing equipment is necessary.

The aim is to try to encapsulate the essence of what ringers taking part might hope to get out of an event: enjoying the company of others from around the country and working on musical activities together.

The AGM will commence at 1.30pm with the Spring Rally getting under way at 2.00pm.

There will be no charge for this event.

To sign up for this event, please contact Laura Buist by email (laura.buist@btinternet.com) or by post (16 Priorwood Gardens, Academy Park, Glasgow, G13 1GD) **by Saturday 28th February 2021**.

Access details will then be sent to you nearer the time.

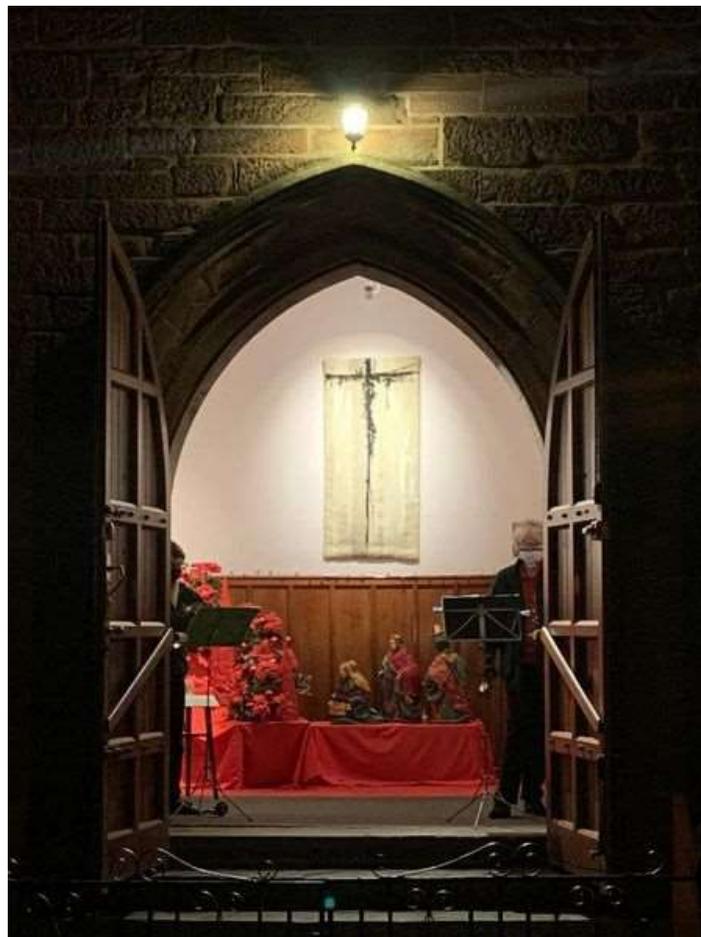
We look forward to your company!

JORDANHILL PARISH CHURCH HANDBELL RINGERS

Jordanhill Ringers are continuing to meet via Zoom every two weeks. Although it is not the same as ringing, we are able to look and listen to music as we 'air ring'!!

On Christmas Eve Lynda and Ruth took part in the Christmas Eve Jingle at 6pm. We were allowed to ring in the church vestibule socially distanced, wearing our handbell masks. We rang some well-known carols for about 10 minutes. This was a slight challenge for us as the 4 bells we each rang were one bell out from our normal four. We did, however, have some positive feedback from those in the community who heard us.

We are hoping that 2021 will allow us to ring together at some point.



Ruth Cantlay

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Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensembles Autumn and Christmas activities

As with many other groups around Scotland we have had a very different programme from the usual Autumn and Christmas round of concerts and performances. Since lockdown we have continued to rehearse online and this involved a great deal of planning as to how to first work without equipment at home, and then later how to get the equipment safely out to everyone and make sure that all parts were covered.

In the Autumn we created a video and shared on YouTube with the title and theme "Raindrops on Roses" being inspired by the scene in



the Sound of Music where the children are shown how to lift their spirits in dark times by thinking of their favourite things when there is a storm. So in this video <https://youtu.be/nLqLonyzfu0> we shared selected previous performances interspersed with hearing from some of our group sharing things they reflect on when times seem tough - "What We Do to Get Us Through."

At the same time we rehearsed Scottish music and made a short video of entirely virtual performances where all the music had the theme of Scottish Coasts and Waters <https://youtu.be/003C6VJXNgU>. This was produced for St Andrew's night and our three groups performed 3 items each and we also had solo ringing, violin duet and violin solo. The accompanying background views were all relating to the area of Scotland represented in the music. This was all skilfully created by our Musical Director Malcolm Wilson. This was quite a challenge to all concerned as we found our way round recording and filming ourselves.

A number of our ringers took part in the HRGB Scottish Regional Association Autumn regional rally online. This was a fun event even allowing for the fact that we had no instruments but did air ringing instead. It's great to know that if you pick up the wrong "bell" then it won't be heard anyway so we could ring mistakes and laugh to ourselves. It was good to see ringers from around the country and have chats in the breakout rooms. This is a great way to keep contact and I would encourage more people to take part in our next regional rally on 20th March - you will not be disappointed - stay cosy in your own home, switch on your chosen device iPad, phone or computer and have your favourite refreshment ready and you are set to join the afternoon activities. The instructions are very straightforward to follow.

We were invited to take part in the TV recording "A Very Country Christmas" which was shown on BBC1 throughout the UK (and is available on BBC iPlayer here





<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000q6q0/a-very-country-christmas-series-1-episode-1>) and we hope some of you were able to see this. Because of the restrictions of numbers being able to gather together only 3 ringers from 1 household took part in this but presenter Angellica Bell was very interested in the art of handbell ringing and in fact had a lesson and took part

in the ringing which was filmed inside Dunblane Cathedral.

Our team was invited to take part in a worldwide live completely online concert organised by the MOB Ringers in Singapore and shared for Christmas viewing. Ringers involved were from Hong Kong, Singapore, America, Canada, Australia, South Korea and Scotland. This was a very exciting concert to take part in.



Once again Strathcarron Hospice invited us to be part of their "Light up a Life" annual remembrance service which this year was held online and can also be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/483131725/cdd380def5>.

Strathcarron Singers also include us in their Christmas Concert alongside, Broxburn and Livingston Brass Band and Clifton Hall Choir for

a virtual performance of 'A Christmas Carol' - a new retelling of the classic Dickens' tale through words and music <https://youtu.be/WCtKdm19E3A>

Dunblane Cathedral Choir invited us to join them in performing for the Nine Lessons and Carols online service which included the Scottish Carol "Christ Child's Lullaby" which was arranged for 4-part choral voices and handbells by Malcolm <https://youtu.be/jRau7p9tquo>

Worldwide Santa's Christmas Eve on our doorsteps saw many of our ringers out with their bells "giving it laldy" as the old saying goes at 6pm on Christmas Eve where we joined more than 270 thousand people around the globe to stand on their doorstep and ring bells to support Maggie's Forth Valley cancer care charity (we also shared virtual carol playing performance video for this <https://youtu.be/gkwmLPDEZ2Q>).

Interestingly this idea originally came from 2 ladies in Carronshore near Falkirk, and so Malcolm was interviewed for an article relating to ringing for an article which was published in

https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/employees/news/article.aspx?aid=6727&r=4626&fbclid=IwAR2c0m4Kh-dcBslM26l1PoWGM5vsDlCe1qTOW_RTxBnso4uU1OutpEhh8U



At no time is our group allowed to sit back and do nothing because no sooner had we finished the Carols but we were into



Hogmanay when we produced another YouTube recording this time of Auld Land Syne, A Guid New Year and Alex Muir's Reel which you can see here: <https://youtu.be/M12KWn6oUvA>

This has kept us together as a team each week as we practise towards our next goal which is to have a video of virtual performances of music for Valentine's Day.

This has been a huge amount of work for our leader in pulling this all together but we as ringers have very much appreciated the fact that we have been kept active and kept in touch with one another. Of course we are all looking forward to being back together again and planning for our usual concert programmes but in the meantime I am so glad we have been able to keep going in this way.

Lysbeth C Wilson

Important Dates for your Diary:

Sat 20th March 2021

"Virtual" Spring Rally and AGM, 1.30-4pm in the comfort of your own home, with time for a cup of tea in the middle, and FREE to join. Please email laura.buist@btinternet.com as soon as possible to express your interest and she'll send you the Zoom meeting details and instructions about how to sign in nearer the time. See you there!

April 1st 2021

Whatever you've been up to, please do send me your article about it for the next newsletter. 😊 Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE with all your news and pictures. Thanks!

April 14th – 16th 2023!

The Scottish Region is looking forward to hosting the UK National Rally 2023 at the Stirling Court Hotel. The committee looks forward to your support in helping to organise this event and hopes that **all** of the Scottish teams will be represented in attendance, so please do mark it in your diaries now!