



HRGB Scottish Region



Newsletter

2017 Issue 1 – January/February 2017

Chat From the Chair

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” - Helen Keller

As I write this, Christmas Day is just a week away and many of you are coming to the end of what has been another very busy festive season of ringing. Much of this is done to help raise funds for a variety of charities or to provide some festive cheer for those who may be in hospitals, Care Homes and hospices at this time. I know it is greatly appreciated by all who are fortunate to hear and enjoy your music and by those who benefit from funds raised. It has been great to see photos of a number of performing groups on Facebook. My thanks to all Scottish ringers who have once again given freely of their time and talents in this way. In doing so, you have also helped considerably to raise awareness of our kind of music making.

My thanks also to Muckairn Ringers of Taynuilt who hosted our Autumn Ring in Connel on 8th October. Fifty ringers, representing nine Scottish teams, enjoyed a great day working on three pieces under the caring, charismatic, baton of Sandra Winter. The venue, catering and weather were all fabulous too! This was a new venue for us in a beautiful part of the country.

HRGB Membership time is round again as we step out into another ringing year – a very special “golden year”. 2017 brings a celebration of 50 years of national HRGB and a number of special events and activities are planned for members to join in the fun. Don’t miss out! Make sure you renew your annual membership and encourage everyone in your team to do likewise. Being a member of HRGB ensures you receive copies of our National and Regional magazines, are kept up to date with HRGB news, allows you to advertise your ringing events for free on our Scottish Region website, Facebook page and Twitter, offers support from experienced ringers and provides opportunities for you to meet up with fellow members and receive considerably reduced admission rates for Regional events. One-member teams only get one member admitted at this reduced rate. At only £12 per annum, it really does pay to join HRGB.

One of the highlights of my busy school Christmas music schedule this year was a performance by a small group of Primary 1 & 2 pupils on coloured handbells for their school concert – a first for them. We had twelve pupils ringing, with most P1s “doubled up” with a P2. On the day of the performance, one P2 ringer was ill and unable to perform. Her P1 “double” assured me it would be okay “because her bell would remember to ring the notes”. The others then reminded me they would also be ringing and helping. What an amazing attitude for such young children and they did indeed rise to the occasion, showing concentration, accuracy and ringing style way beyond their 4 and 5 years. It brought tears to my eyes!

Helen Keller was indeed right – together we CAN do so much, which proves that being a member of a ringing team, of a Region, of a National Society can help us achieve so much more than just going it alone.

I know some of our Scottish teams are celebrating their own special anniversaries this year and look forward to hearing more about these in due course. Best wishes to you all for a happy, successful, 2017 and do join us as we celebrate HRGB’s Golden Year.

Elaine Duffus

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain – Scottish Regional Association
Registered Charity numbers 298945 (England) and SCO38918 (Scotland)

The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers

2016 has been a difficult year for our group. One ringer fell and broke several bones in her wrist which had to be pinned in a long operation, another needed more treatment following a serious head injury she had sustained last year, a third suffered with a neck and shoulder problem which meant she couldn't ring for most of the Summer and I broke a kneecap and spent three months with one leg in a brace from groin to ankle! Needless to say all these unfortunate individuals were out of action for a large part of the year. The good news is that those who were fit managed to carry on. A few ringers had a go at conducting, coping very well, and all bookings were honoured. They are all to be congratulated for soldiering on in difficult circumstances.

Since the last newsletter the group has provided entertainment for The Cathedral Manse Garden Party, Perth Baptist Church, The Church of Scotland Guild in Pitlochry, Fossoway Kirk, Crieff 50+, two Nursing Homes in Blairgowrie and on three occasions at "Taste Perthshire". They also gave their usual monthly performances for visitors to Dunkeld Cathedral on Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer. The weekly solo performances had to be cancelled following my accident but, hopefully, these will resume after Easter next year. I am now back to solo ringing having entertained at Perth Probus and participating in the Carol Concert held in The Cathedral on Dunkeld's Santa Day. So things are gradually getting back to normal.

Three sociable events were very much enjoyed by us all: Afternoon Tea at Bankfoot Church Centre, Christmas Lunch at "Taste Perthshire" and Dougie MacLean's big concert in Perth Concert Hall during the Perthshire Amber Festival. In 2016 the festival was reduced from 10 days to just a weekend and so we didn't take part. As a "Thank-you" for all our performances during the past nine years Dougie, very generously, gave us tickets to his big concert which we much appreciated. It is good to get together, without a handbell in sight, for social events now and then.

The number of ringers remains the same. Judith, a talented musician, has joined us and although she hadn't rung handbells before was soon ringing like an old hand. Sadly, however, Dolly has decided that the time has come for her to stop ringing. We shall miss her greatly. She has been a dedicated member of the group since joining many years ago and she rarely missed a practice or performance. We thank her wholeheartedly for the valuable contribution she made to the group's activities.

We are looking forward to 2017 and hope that it will turn out to be "accident free".

Heather I. McLean



The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers, still smiling, at a "Taste Perthshire" event

Kilwhang Ringers, Stonehaven

At the end of yet another year we look back on the fun and friendship enjoyed together whilst making music ringing handbells. Not forgetting those endless cups of tea and coffee!!

We have played at various venues in and around Stonehaven and beyond sharing our music for all to enjoy. Our final performance was at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve in Dunnottar Church where we played the well known, familiar songs of the festive season.

We look forward to the year ahead, the weekly practices, new pieces of music to master, those endless cups of tea and coffee with friends and also a year in which the Kilwhang Ringers will celebrate ten years of handbell ringing.

Margaret Godsman

Aberdeen goes West!

Our trip to Connel for the 2016 Autumn Ring started on Friday 5th October when we loaded the car (a big load!) and set off from Aberdeen. We had decided to spend two nights in Connel – as an opportunity to spend a little more time enjoying our surroundings – so booked a B&B overlooking Loch Etive and the Island of Mull. So often we go to rallies and just see the actual venue. This time we hoped to see more! Our journey down was straightforward and uneventful. Finding the B&B was a little more difficult but with the help of a local, we got it in the end. The setting was stunning and our accommodation first class. Once settled in we set off for a stroll along the shore to find some food. We hadn't far to go before finding what looked like a good place – clearly busy – and found a table. It was great to discover members of Cushnie Handbells and Jordanhill Handbells had found this hostelry too. After a delicious meal, we opted to walk a little further to explore our surroundings (in the dark – with a torch!) and find out where the venue was for the Autumn Ring next day. Dark or not, we found it!

After breakfast with a view on Saturday morning, we set off with our music and chimes. First stop was the village shop for something for our packed lunches. What a great wee shop, with fresh bakery and everything else anyone could ever need! Then it was setting up time in the village hall where members of Muckairn Ringers were waiting to welcome us and host the event. The other half of our Aberdeen contingent – Anne and husband Alan (who did a great job of taking photos) – also arrived safely with foams and music stands. We had invited Marge from Cumnock and Ros from Kilwhang to join us rather than ringing on their own for the day and greatly enjoyed their company.



*Listening, learning
and ringing!*



The hall was soon filled with ringers and after a warm welcome from the local minister (also Musical Director of Muckairn Ringers), Sandra Winter's baton was ready to start. The three pieces she had selected for the event, "Behold a New Joy" by Malcolm Wilson, "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" arr. by Cathy Moklebust and her own arrangement of "Silent Worship" were all beautiful and very playable pieces. She coaxed us, encouraged us, pleaded with us, persuaded us and by the end of the day – thanks to her sterling efforts - we were able to record the three pieces.



Ringers gather for a photo at Connel

At lunchtime we all headed along the road to the church hall for a feast of soup and homebakes. What an amazing spread and all served cheerfully to us at tables by ladies of the church. The day passed very quickly (it does when you are having fun doesn't it?) and in what seemed like no time at all, everyone was busy packing their equipment back into cars. Some were heading off home again and some of us were lucky to be staying on a little longer, rewarded by another stunningly sunny day on the Sunday.

After breakfast we attended the morning service at St Oran's church which stands proudly in an elevated position overlooking the Loch – another warm welcome and a fine cuppa afterwards. Then it was back to the car and on to the second part of our adventure. Fiona had longed to visit Gigha so as we were so near and just the two of us in the car, we headed south on a very winding road. In a few hours we were safely on the Gigha ferry (Fiona very excited!) at the start of what turned out to be a brilliant week of wall-to-wall sunshine. A week of local ice-cream, no jackets, miles of walking, a quick paddle in the sea and breath-taking scenery. October in Western Scotland!

Elaine and Fiona – Silver City Chimes

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Scottish Regional Association HRGB

will be held on

Saturday 25th March 2017

In Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow

at 12 noon

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An Exciting Opportunity for experienced ringers to join Celtic Carillon

At a recent Scottish Region Committee meeting it was decided that as part of the celebration of HRGB's Golden anniversary, Celtic Carillon, Scotland's national handbell ensemble, would perform on October 7th 2017 at our Regional event in Bankfoot.

To be part of Celtic Carillon, ringers need to be

- **confident music readers**
- **competent in all aspects of ringing techniques**
- **confident to ring to concert performance standard after only 3 rehearsals.**

All rehearsals will be held in Jordanhill Parish Church, Woodend Drive, Glasgow G13 1QT and will run for most of the day.

The rehearsal dates are all Saturdays:-

20th May 24th June 2nd September

The level of music will be **level 3**. For those of you unsure what is required for level 3 music this link will assist you: <http://handbellmusicians.org/music-resources/agehr-music-2/notation-guide/>

If you would like to commit to these three rehearsal days and the performance at Bankfoot on Saturday 7th October, please get in touch with me ASAP (preferably by email).

Please let me know which bells you are most comfortable ringing. However, there is no guarantee that these bells will be allocated to you.

Ruth Cantlay

Tel: 0141 956 2496 Email: ruthcantlay@gmail.com

Ringers from Caithness Spread the Word Overseas!

This summer the Poltney Bell Ringers from Wick & the Caithness Handbell Ringers from Thurso collaborated on a project to take handbell ringing across the Pentland Firth to Orkney. After an initial enquiry from Lynne Collinson of the Shapinsay Trust, a plan was hatched with Lyn Ball, musical director of the Poltney Bell Ringers.

Members of both mainland teams were consulted, and a visit to Orkney with our bell ringing gear was arranged for 30th July 2016. Andy & Anne, husband and wife ringers from the Poltney Bell Ringers offered to take the bells & related essentials in their car via the drive on drive off ferry from Gills to St Margaret's Hope, a 55 minute crossing to Orkney. The rest of the joint team opted to travel on the foot passenger ferry from John O' Groats, a 45 minutes crossing to Burwick. We all met up in Kirkwall. We had plenty time to stroll around the Capitol City of Orkney and enjoy the shops and restaurants before heading to the King Street Halls where we met the would-be Shapinsay Ringers.

This is a super venue with a lift to an upper floor hall, which by chance was flood lit by sunshine through stunning stained glass windows.

In a short time an introduction to handbell ringing was presented by Katrina Gordon, musical

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director of the Caithness Handbell Ringers. Almost immediately we all realised the Shapinsay Ringers had been born. We rang through a collection of familiar tunes including Bobby Shafto, Aura Lee & Ode to Joy conducted by Susie Dingle of caithnessmusic.com.

All too soon it was time to pack up and head for our return ferries. We agreed to lend the Caithness Handbell Ringers' Belleplates to the Shapinsay Ringers until they had funds to buy their own. The CHR were delighted that the set of Belleplates that had launched them 17 years ago is now doing the same for the Shapinsay Ringers. (Lyn Ball)



In Kirkwall, Orkney: the brand new Shapinsay Ringers with some Poltney Bellringers (in purple), some Caithness Handbell Ringers (in green) and conductor Susie Dingle (far left)

A recent update from Lynne Collinson: The Shapinsay Ringers are thinking of applying for a set of actual bells right after Christmas - we have TWO engagements now at Christmas - one at the Kirk and one at the Tree lighting ceremony! You will love this link - it's the juniors playing handbells on the Shapinsay School website Twinkle Twinkle Little Star!

<http://www.shapinsayschool.org/handbells.aspx>



The brand new Shapinsay Bellringing team at their second rehearsal

Important Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 25th March 2017 Scottish Region AGM & Spring Rally - Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow.

Monday 1st April 2017 The "memorable deadline" for submissions to the next newsletter! Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE

Wednesday 17th May 2017 Scottish Schools' Ring - Newton School, Dunblane

Saturday 7th October 2017 Scottish Region Autumn Gold Ring - Bankfoot Church Centre

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Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

Scottish Regional Association Annual General Meeting



Saturday 12 March 2016 at Victory Hall, Aboyne

Present:

Elaine Duffus(Chair), Marge Paterson (Secretary and NEC Rep), Laura Buist (Treasurer), Ruth Cantlay (Acting Sales Manager), John Elcock, Anne Duncan and Fiona Strachan (Committee Members) Lysbeth Wilson and Malcolm Wilson (ex-officio members of the Committee) along with representatives from the following Teams— Cushnie HR, Holy Trinity Handbells Haddington, Dunblane Cathedral HR, Jordanhill Parish Church HR Glasgow, The Parish of Dunkeld HR, Blair Bells Blairgowrie, Silver City Chimes Aberdeen, Cumnock and District HR, Kilwhang HR, Inverness HR, Mannofield HR and Chapel Chimers, Aberdeen.

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from Callander Chimes, Elspeth Smith & Eden HR, Christine Reid (National Secretary, Jordanhill), Mary McGregor (Blair Bells), Judith Frye (Dunblane Cathedral HR), Heather McLean (The Parish of Dunkeld HR)

Welcome:

Elaine welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that it was almost, by a few days, 20 years since the inaugural Scottish AGM held in Aberdeen on 23rd March 1996 .

A total of 12 teams were represented today, several of whom attended the first AGM. Elaine thanked the members of Cushnie Handbell Ringers for hosting this event and for their warm welcome.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM was proposed by Ruth Cantlay (Jordanhill HR) and seconded by Beryl Snowden (Blair Bells).

Matters arising from the 2015 minutes: None

Chairman's Report for 2015/2016:

Elaine began her report with a quotation from Henry Ford:

'If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got'

Elaine's report had been sent out to members with the Regional magazine but she did want to highlight the main points:

- **Communication:** It is important that we are able to keep in contact with all our members. To that end, there is a sheet to which e-mail addresses should be added, especially if there has been a change from last year.
- We were delighted that our **National Chairman**, Tim Willetts was able to share in the leading of our successful Autumn Ringing Event in Bankfoot on 10th October.
- A number of ringers from Scotland will be flying the flag for our Region at **National and International events** this year and they go with our good wishes.
- Elaine thanked the **2015-2016 Committee** for their contributions to the smooth running of the Region and for all the support they had given her over the past year as Chairperson. Thanks were also expressed to the team leaders, Musical Directors, and last but not least to the ringers who are the people to take the art of ringing forward.

Secretary's Report for 2015/2016:

Marge's report had also been circulated. Everything in it had been covered in Elaine's report.

- Two new Scottish teams registered with HRGB in 2016 are Blackford Bells and Celtic Carillon. Celtic Carillon is the Scottish Region Team – comprising ringers from many teams.

Treasurer's Report for 2015/2016:

Laura's report was also sent out in advance. She issued a revised statement of accounts. An error had been picked up by the National Treasurer, Anthony Hayes, which has now been rectified.

- Vivien Clement has been appointed auditor.
- Laura was pleased to inform members that a slight profit was made at the Spring Rally. We broke even at the Autumn Ringing Event.
- Members were encouraged to provide an email address for their newsletter to be sent, thus saving in postage.
- The number of HRGB members is falling. All members of teams should be encouraged to join HRGB.
- Laura was thanked for her work in preparing the accounts.

NEC Representative's Report for 2015/2016:

Marge & Laura have been the representatives on the NEC for the past year. Marge's report was circulated prior to the AGM.

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Sales Manager's Report for 2015/2016

Jordanhill HR have been managing the Sales table over the past year. Ruth reminded everyone that the Region gets a small profit if members purchase direct from HRGB Scottish Region. Lynda Barclay was thanked for supporting Ruth in looking after the Sales.

Elections to the committee: Nomination forms had come in to the secretary as follows:

Chair: Elaine Duffus nominated by Marge Paterson (Cumnock & District), seconded by Margaret Cowan (Cumnock & District)

Secretary: Marge Paterson had tendered her resignation. As there were no nominations, this post is currently vacant.

Treasurer: Laura Buist nominated by Ruth Cantlay (Jordanhill), seconded by Mary Wilson (Jordanhill)

NEC Reps: Marge Paterson nominated by Margaret Muir (Cumnock & District), seconded by Pam Walker (Cumnock & District) and Laura Buist nominated by Lynda Barclay (Jordanhill), seconded by Christine Reid (Jordanhill)

Magazine Distribution Manager: Fiona Strachan (Silver City Chimes) nominated by Doreen Gray, seconded by Jackie Watson and Anne Duncan (Silver City Chimes) nominated by Irene Criggie, seconded by Mary Rodger. This post will be jointly held by the two ladies.

Ruth Cantlay and John Elcock were nominated to remain on the Committee for the forthcoming year.

There were **three new nominations** for the Committee – Claire Griffiths (Jordanhill) – proposed by Mary Wilson, seconded by Laura Buist; Reta Mitchelson (Blair Bells) nominated by Elizabeth Thomson, seconded by Irene Tait; Mary McGregor (Blair Bells) nominated by Irene Tait, seconded by Elizabeth Thomson.

Lysbeth Wilson and Malcolm Wilson are Ex-Officio members of the Committee.

Forthcoming Events 2016:

April 1 – 3 HRGB National Rally, Newton Rigg College, Penrith (hosted by NW Region)

May 12 17th May Schools' Ringing Day, Newton Primary School, Dunblane

26th -30th July 17th International Symposium, Vancouver, Canada

Autumn 2016 Autumn Regional Ringing Event – It is hoped this will be held somewhere on the West side of the Region. Details to be confirmed later.

AOCB

- Contact details: Elaine reminded everyone to let Membership Secretaries (Regional and National) know if any individual team members cease to be members of HRGB.
- HRGB Golden Anniversary: The actual date is 7th October 2017. Elaine has a "Golden Board" on which people could write an idea for an event for the Golden Anniversary ("Golden Nuggets") on a sticky note and append it to the Golden Board.
- Scottish Region Newsletter: Members were encouraged to have their copy of the newsletter sent electronically. A paper version is still available for those who have no email access but in black & white print. AGM information may be emailed out separately. If anyone has any ideas about how the magazine can be improved, please email the Editor, Katrina Gordon. Members indicated they were happy with both versions of the newsletter.

There being no further business, Elaine thanked everyone for their attendance and interest. Elaine thanked Marge Paterson for the five years she had served as Regional Secretary – for her commitment and good humour. She was presented with a gift as a token of the Committee's appreciation and suitably replied.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Adoption proposed by-----

and seconded by-----

Signed-----(Chairman) Date-----

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