



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2019 Issue 2 – July 2019

Chat from the Chair

I was very sad to hear from Joyce that Reta Mitchelson had lost her battle against cancer. Reta had been in the Cornhill Cancer Care Centre in Perth and was kept very comfortable and well cared for. Her son, daughter and eldest brother were with her. Please remember Reta and her family in your prayers.

My huge thanks go to the Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers for all their hard work in preparing and serving the refreshments at the Spring Rally and AGM held at the Bankfoot Church Centre on 23 March. It was great to hear handbells accompanied by voice, oboe and percussion. Thanks also to Alan Thomson who looked after the raffle and to Claire, Ruth and Malcolm for conducting. The day was very enjoyable.

Preparations are well under way for the UK National Rally which will be held in Scotland in April 2021. 2021 also marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Scottish Regional Association!

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their continued support and their commitment to regional and national ringing activities – Joyce Beattie, Laura Buist, Ruth Cantlay, Anne Docherty, Katrina Gordon, Claire Griffiths, Mary McGregor, Lysbeth Wilson and Malcolm Wilson.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Autumn Rally which will be hosted by Silver City Chimes on Saturday 12 October 2019 in celebration of thirty years of handbell and handchime ringing in Aberdeen.

Best wishes to you all.

A Fairy-tale Wedding in the Highlands

The Poltney Bell Ringers went right in at the deep end with their first wedding gig in April, this year, at the iconic Eilean Donan Castle. The bride's parents, who are members of the PBR, extended the invitation from their daughter last year. The planning and rehearsals began and on the 12th of April a mini bus full of handbells and Ringers set off from Wick for the biggest gig in the history of the team. Various other members of the PBR and a member of the Caithness Handbell Ringers made a holiday of the trip and met up at the Eilean Donan Apartments with the rest of the team.



The beautiful Eilean Donan Castle

On the big day, the 13th April, our timescale for access to the castle and the time of the wedding was very neat to say the least. Entry to the castle was at 6pm and the wedding ceremony was 6.30pm. There was no time for a rehearsal or even a warm up. At 6.30pm on the dot we rang the bride and her Father down the aisle to Aura Lee, the tune used by Elvis Presley for his famous song Love me Tender. During the signing of the register we rang Silent Worship by Handel and rang the bride and groom out after the ceremony to Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel. The Registrar had never heard handbells before and commented how wonderful they sounded and in such an amazing venue. We had a very quick dash to the reception venue where we rang the newly-weds in to the Arrival of the Queen of Sheba.



The happy couple and their merry handbell team

After the wedding feast and speeches the real fun began as all the guests tried their hand at Handbell Ringing. This was all planned and highlighted music had been prepared. The merriments and enjoyment was overflowing and the guests remarked on how they had genuinely never been at a wedding quite like it before. "So much better than a disco" remarked one guest.

It's now official, the PBRs are available for weddings. Give us a ring.

SINGIN' THE BLUES

Oh, I never felt more like singin' the blues,
For I never thought that
I couldn't choose,
A blouse dear,
You got me singin' the blues.

The blouse doesn't fit, it's maybe not right,
The colour is pale
And not very bright,
A blouse dear,
You got me singin' the blues.

Oh what can we do, please do not frown,
Take a trip on the bus
And go into town, - for
A blouse dear,
You got me singin' the blues.

The bells are ringing and the ringers shine,
Attired in blue and
'Dressed up to the nine,' - in
A blouse dear,
No more..... singin' the blues.....

Margaret Godsman,
Kilwhang Ringers.
Stonehaven.
5th, March, 2019.

Inspiration for these lines came after the group had difficulty
in choosing a blouse to suit all!

Celtic Carillon in Windsor

Celtic Carillon were delighted to be able to perform representing the Scottish Region in the evening concert at the National Rally in Windsor held in the De Vere Beaumont Estate Hotel.

There were seven ringers in the ensemble under the direction of Malcolm Wilson of Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers. The teams represented were Borealis Bells of Orkney, Inverness Handbell Ringers, Blair Bells and Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers.

We rang a selection of Scottish pieces on 2 sets of 12 bells. Due to the distance between ringers we had very few rehearsals so it was really good to receive so many very positive comments at the end of the concert.

Ruth Cantlay



The Celtic Carillon at the National Rally with musical director Malcolm Wilson

Important Dates for your Diary:

12th August 2019

Please send me your news before this somewhat flexible deadline for submissions to the next newsletter. ☺ Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE

Sat 7th Sept 2019

Overseas visit from the Borealis Bells of Orkney – meeting up with ringers from the mainland Highlands for a rehearsal day in Thurso, venue to be confirmed. Repertoire to include "Polaris and the Northern Lights" by Brendan Bevan. All welcome for this informal ring.

Sat 12th October 2019

HRGB Scotland Autumn Rally, Ruthrieston West Church Hall, Aberdeen. Hosted by the Silver City Chimes in celebration of thirty years of ringing in Aberdeen!

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!