



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2017 Issue 2 – April/May 2017

Chat from the Chair

I was very honoured to be asked at the AGM to stand as Chair of the HRGB Scottish Region. Handbell ringing has been a big feature of life in our household since we moved to Haddington from Surrey some 29 years ago. My wife and I formed Holy Trinity Handbells in 1988 with a two-octave set of second-hand English handchimes bought from the Plymouth area. The band now possesses 38 American Malmark handbells which we ring from staff notation and we have hosted regional rallies on a number of occasions.



It is at these rallies that ringers of all abilities can come together to make music, meet new friends and generally have a good time. So I encourage you all to try to get to a rally or two, especially the Scottish Region Autumn Gold Ring at Bankfoot Church Centre on Saturday 7th October when Teddy McRing will be there to tell you about his travels! And make sure you get your completed entries to the Gold Quiz to Elaine by Saturday 30th September. The first correct solution drawn will receive a small prize!

Can I also encourage you to join the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain. Being a member of HRGB (only £12 per annum) will ensure free entrance to the Autumn Gold Ring, saving you the admission fee of £20!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elaine for all her hard work as Chair over the last five years. Her contribution to handbell ringing cannot be underestimated. And thanks to Katrina for editing this newsletter.

Let's bring people together by ringing together.

Best wishes to you all.

John

The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers

As usual the group began the year by ringing during Morning Services at Little Dunkeld Kirk in February when the choir takes its annual break. This year we rang from stands instead of tables, which limited our choice of music to a certain extent. We decided to do this as the area is used for serving tea/coffee after the service and, in the past, we've found it difficult to remove all the equipment out of the way quickly enough. For some of the music we used belleplates and handchimes instead of handbells and many members of the congregation commented on how much they had enjoyed the different sound.

The Spring Rally in Glasgow was the next event. As only four members would be able to attend we chose a bell tree solo (bit apprehensive about that!) plus two pieces from Sandra Winter's book of music for eight bells - one of which was "Can Can". After seeing Ant & Dec's performance on television with orchestra and dancers we decided that the four of us on eight bells couldn't compete with that and chose another piece only to hear that another group would be ringing that – back to square one!

The Summer Season of weekly handbell performances in Dunkeld Cathedral on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 -4.00 commences on April 19th, continuing until the end of September. These performances normally take the form of solo ringing with small ensemble ringing by group members once a month. This will be the 15th year these performances have taken place during which time many visitors from all over the world have enjoyed the music, their freewill donations amounting to nearly £8000 all of which has been donated to The Cathedral. If you are in the area do come and listen to the music for a while and encourage friends, relatives and visitors to do the same. Any ringers would be welcome to join in the ringing with us – we usually have spare bells but, if you are thinking of coming, it might be an idea to let us know beforehand and we'd make sure there would be bells available for you.

Heather McLean



The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers ringing in Little Dunkeld Kirk.



Dunkeld Cathedral at Eastertime last year prior to the start of the solo ringing performances. Please come along this summer to enjoy this year's performances every Wednesday afternoon from 2.00 - 4.00, donations to the Cathedral funds.

News from the Kilwhang Ringers, Stonehaven

Over the past few months, around St. Valentine's Day, the Kilwhang Ringers entertained at a local W.R.I. meeting and a sheltered housing complex. Elvis featured in our programme at both events to suggest a dash of romance and was well received.

We now have a few more engagements ahead including our annual 'cake, coffee and concert' morning in May. Some new pieces of music are being practised for those events.

We were delighted to welcome Elaine Duffus and Teddy MacRing to a practice session one morning at the beginning of April. Elaine took part in our ringing and gave us good feedback on how to enhance our music. 'Do not hesitate on happy notes' we will remember and as always we will try harder to 'dampen' - a popular word which features often at handbell practices!!

Teddy MacRing attired out in highland dress seemed to enjoy his time with the Kilwhang Ringers and we did note that he played bagpipes! However, he did have a gleam in his eye when he spotted our nice shiny bells and we are sure that he will soon be progressing from bellows to bells!

Margaret Godsman,

Come and Try Ringing Event, and other exciting plans, in Caithness

On 11th March, the Caithness Handbell Ringers hosted a “Come and Try” event in Thurso Boys Brigade Hall. As you can see from the picture, the event was very well attended. The team welcomed eight visitors, some of whom had read music before and some who were complete beginners. With the support of our experienced ringers and with highlighted music for the beginners, we played through a number of tunes and learned a few techniques. Our new ringers were delighted and surprised by the speed of their own progress and their ability to slot into the team and contribute to the musical outcome, and fun was had by all.



The Caithness Handbell Ringers with happy visitors of all ages and ability levels.

The Caithness Handbell Ringers are now looking forward to playing at the local music festival in June. We're also planning an unusual event for June 25th, sharing the main stage at Lyth Arts Centre with the Pulteney Bell Ringers and the Castletown Primary School Handbell Ringers. The Arts Centre is celebrating 40 years of serving the community and CHR is 18 years old this year, so we plan to celebrate our birthday together by raising funds to help to ensure Lyth Arts Centre's next 40 years!

Katrina Gordon

Important Dates for your Diary:

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

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

Glorious 12th August 2017 the memorable deadline for submissions to the next newsletter! ☺ Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE