



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2019 Issue 3 – September 2019

Chat from the Chair

This time last year I asked you what handbells and pipe bands had in common! Those of you who bought their 2019 calendar will have spotted members of the Haddington Pipe Band ringing handbells on the balcony at the west end of St Mary's Parish Church.

I was very pleased that Celtic Carillon was able to represent Scotland at this year's National Rally at Old Windsor. I understand that their ringing was very well received.

Lysbeth and Malcolm Wilson organised another very successful Scottish Schools ring on Tuesday 14 May at Newton Primary School, Dunblane, with over 200 participants. The 2020 Scottish Schools Ring event (the 21st) will be held in Newton Primary School, Dunblane, on Tuesday 12 May. If any of you know schools local to you who could be encouraged to take part, please bring this to their attention. There is the option to take part via Skype through Glow for schools too far away to travel, and there is also a contribution to the cost of bus travel for those which do make the journey. Music will be sent out in January.

Malcolm and I represented HRGB Scotland at the SAME conference at the Stirling Court Hotel on 5-6 September. We were thrilled to hear Nicola Benedetti speak passionately about the influence music making can have on the lives of young people.

The 2020 Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally will be held at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth on Saturday 21 March 2020 where Blair Bells have very kindly offered to do the catering.

Everyone is warmly invited to the Scottish Region Autumn Rally which will be hosted by Silver City Chimes at Ruthrieston West Church Hall on Saturday 12 October 2019 in celebration of thirty years of handbell and handchime ringing in Aberdeen. Conductors will be Elaine Duffus, Ruth Cantlay and Malcolm Wilson. I look forward to seeing you there.

With all good wishes for the new ringing season!

John

National Residential Ringing Week 5th -10th August

I recently attended the NRRW which was again held in Sheffield. It was a pleasure to be part of it once again. It was a bit nostalgic, as in 1997 when it all began in Dunblane , Malcolm and I wondered if anyone would come and support this new venture. It was our great delight when over 60 people signed up from Deep South of England to the North of Scotland. We had conductors from Japan and Canada that year so it was indeed gratifying that so many people came.

This year was no exception and we had guest conductors from Hong Kong and USA as well as our home-grown Aidan Fozard. Each conductor gave us a great deal to think about with regards to their plans for every piece of music. Each day we were put through a general workout to ensure we were as physically and mentally fit as possible. Over the week we were guided through some really tricky parts, but by the end of the week we were ready to perform to our concert audience.

There were 10 rows of bells with 5 octaves in each row so the sound was BIG but we could also achieve very tender, soft playing as well, which was wonderful. This was greatly enhanced by 2 of the rows being Hong Kong Elite youth Ringers. Their solo pieces in the concert were absolutely stunning. The whole concert was greatly appreciated by the audience, some of whom hadn't seen handbell ringing before.

We all had great fun and we were in excellent accommodation and the university catering was superb. Everything was within easy reach and Aidan had done a great job of planning the event: his attention to details ensured that everything ran very smoothly. It is very gratifying to know this event is still running and is encouraging the showcasing of youth groups. Many thanks to Aidan Fozard for his hard work.

If you haven't attended a NRRW before then start saving to go to the next one. You will not be disappointed!

Lysbeth Wilson

My Very First Musical Experience

I couldn't believe my ears. Did someone actually invite me to be part of a musical group? How did Elaine know that I have secretly longed to sing or play an instrument nearly all my life, but never had the courage to pursue it? I was so excited that I was sure I must have misheard the invitation; I had to make sure that I had heard it right. I decided to put my cards on the table.....

"I can't read music!"

If I had misheard Elaine, then her response to this would help clear things up!

“It doesn’t matter as long as you are willing to learn. I can help you with that.”

So this was for real. I was beside myself with happiness.

For most of you, my pondering may seem exaggerated. What you have to understand is that I come from a family of musically acclaimed people and mediocre isn’t something that is tolerated. It’s all or nothing. Music gives me such happiness and comfort whether I am singing along (badly!) or listening to it; taking a trip down memory lane. I have been in awe of my own two girls when they learned to play the cello and oboe from a very young age and later performed at events in the Music Hall, Aberdeen. So here was my opportunity to be part of a musical experience. I was honoured to be invited to be part of the Silver City Chimes group. For obvious reasons, I accepted!

I had two weeks to observe the other ringers before the group went off to perform at the Scottish Region Spring Rally 2018. My first session of playing the chimes was on the 19th April 2018. I must confess, it was much harder than I thought it would be. There was a lot of counting involved and who knew there would be 2 beat, 3 beat and 4 beat bars! I got so lost that I had to keep interrupting to ask where we were in the music. It wasn’t funny; how could something that sounded so beautiful be so difficult to play?

I persevered. Partly, because I was having the time of my life! Partly, because of the lovely group of ringers that I was getting to know. Every one of them made me feel welcome and helped me in innumerable ways. They taught me, patiently, how to put up and fold away a music stand, how to organise my music in a folder, how to mark my music and most importantly how to read the music.



A year later, I am still learning to read music and I still need lots of help. However, the awareness that it is possible to teach an old dog new tricks is comforting! Learning to play the chimes and be part of a group has given me renewed confidence. It has given me the courage to try other activities like learning to play the piano and even flower arranging (composing with flowers!)

I am grateful to Elaine. I don't know what she saw in me that prompted her to extend an invitation. I never made any effort to pursue my dream; she just made it happen.

This year handchime ringers in Aberdeen are celebrating their 30th Anniversary and I get to join in the fun!

♪♪♪♪ Happy 30th Birthday handchime people - and wishing you many more happy years together. May you continue to inspire and instil confidence in your ringers, fill their hearts with happiness and make their dreams come true ♪♪♪♪♪

Lakshmi

P.S. Lakshmi is doing so very well with her handchime ringing and is holding her own alongside others who have been ringing for a number of years. She has been a great addition to our group. I know a good one when I see it!

Elaine Duffus (musical director of the Silver City Chimes)

Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers

Jordanhill Parish Church HR had a busy summer. We concluded our session in May with our annual charity concert with the Jordanhill Community Choir, this year in aid of our organ restoration fund.

In June we had an invitation from Anne Goodall in Boat of Garten to do a workshop with the Inverness Handbell Ringers on Saturday and to take part in worship on Sunday. We split the workshop into two parts – in the morning we worked on some ringing techniques and in the afternoon we worked on the three pieces that had been used at the Spring Rally. The afternoon concluded with a very informal concert with donations going to Christian Aid.

On Sunday morning, worship was in the Boat of Garten Church. We rang Morning Prayer and Vespers for the introit and exit voluntary respectively and for the offering as it was Pentecost we rang Come Holy Ghost our Souls Inspire.

In the evening we rang the Celtic blessing by Sandra Winter. As there were only three of us for this we created bell trees and managed to ring and speak the blessing.

Five of the Jordanhill ringers went to the National residential Ringing Week in Sheffield. We had several rehearsals in the run up to this and we were delighted to welcome some of the Dunblane ringers to our final rehearsal.



We had two international conductors, Kevin Mazimas Ko from Hong Kong and Timothy Waugh from USA and our own Aidan Fozard. Some of the music was quite challenging but we were encouraged throughout and by the Friday evening we were concert ready!

Kevin brought his Hong Kong Elite team to the ringing week and what a wonderful addition that was. They gave us a pop up concert which was amazing and their playing of 007 and Thunderball theme was fantastic. Do check them out on YouTube.

Our non-bell event on the Wednesday evening was great fun as always! Jordanhill and some of the other Scottish ringers kicked off proceedings with a rendition of the Jeely Piece Song, complete with 'See You Jimmy' hats and tartan scarves. Linda had written out the chorus so that everyone could join in.



We are looking forward to a busy season with lots of engagements and anticipate many of us being at the autumn rally.

Ruth Cantlay

Successful September Highland Gathering

Ringers from four teams from Caithness, Orkney and Inverness came together at the Baptist Church, Thurso on September 7th to play together for the first time under the musical direction of Susie Dingle. We're very lucky in Caithness to have a resident professional conductor to help us!

Repertoire included "Polaris and the Northern Lights" by Brendon Bevan and Handel's "La Rejouissance". The Caithness Handbell Ringers were delighted to welcome their visitors from Orkney and the South, and some firm new friendships were forged. Members from each team will be represented at the Autumn Rally in August, where we are looking forward to ringing together once again.

To see and hear our first Highland Gathering after just three hours of rehearsal together, please visit the [caithnessmusic.com YouTube](https://www.caithnessmusic.com) channel. 😊

Obituary for Myrna Corrie, MBE – founder member of the Kirkcudbright Handbell Ringers

Myrna Corrie, MBE, who died in March 2018. Born in 1938 at Park of Tongland Farm near Kirkcudbright, educated at Kirkcudbright Academy and at Atholl Crescent Domestic Science College in Edinburgh.

Myrna ran her own Agricultural Secretarial business in Kirkcudbrightshire.

She was the first lady Chairman of the Stewartry Young Farmers, and went on to become the first lady Chairman of the Young Farmers in Scotland. Myrna also had a spell as national President of the Scottish Association of the Young Farmers in the 1990's.

Myrna served 19 years as Secretary of the Stewartry Agricultural Society, and has written a full history of the Society since 1946.

In 1997 she was awarded an MBE for services to agriculture.

She worked for the Galloway Cattle Society for a number of years, and was appointed Secretary of the Belted Galloway Society from 2000 until 2010.

Away from her work, Myrna was a founder Member of Kirkcudbright Handbell Ringers which was formed in 1989.

Editor's note: Myrna's sister-in-law Sandra is now looking for a good home for Myrna's personal set of handchimes as detailed below. Please contact Sandra directly to make a reasonable offer:

25 piece set of Malmark chimes in case. In perfect condition, very little used.

Contact Sandra Corrie

j.corrie126@btinternet.com

02557 820232



Important Dates for your Diary:

- Sat 12th October 2019** HRGB Scotland Autumn Rally, Ruthrieston West Church Hall, Aberdeen. Hosted by the Silver City Chimes and including their 30th Anniversary celebrations!
- 26th October 2019** "Aberdeen Rings" - a concert celebrating 30 years of Handchime ringing in Aberdeen with Silver City Chimes, Chapel Chimers and guests Mannofield Belleplates and Kilwhang Handbell Ringers. Mannofield Church, Aberdeen at 2pm.
- 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!
- 25th December 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 21st March 2020** Scottish Region AGM and Spring Rally will be held at the Bankfoot Church Centre, Bankfoot, Perth, hosted by Blair Bells
- Tues 12th May 2020** The 21st Scottish Schools Ring event will be held in Newton Primary School, Dunblane