



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2018 Issue 3 – September 2018

Chat from the Chair

What do handbells and pipe bands have in common? You'll have to get your hands on a copy of the 2019 Haddington Pipe Band calendar to find out!

As noted in May's newsletter, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with associate composer Martin Suckling has engaged people throughout Scotland in the composition and performance of a new work exploring themes of celebration, loss, community identity and the legacy of war.

To mark the centenary of Armistice, *Meditation (after Donne)* is a new piece of music for chamber orchestra and electronics featuring the bells of Scotland, the world première of which will be performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in St. Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow in early November.

Holy Trinity Handbells look forward to welcoming you all to the Autumn Rally in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington on Saturday 6th October 2018 when Tim Waugh from the United States will conduct.

Tim is well known as a handbell composer, arranger and conductor both of his own groups and at large handbell events. We look forward to making music under his baton!

Best wishes.

Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers in Oz

In August, Christine, Lynda and I travelled to Cairns to attend the 18th International Handbell Symposium in Cairns, Australia. What a wonderful event it was! We had practised the 9 pieces of music as best we could before the event some of which was quite a challenge! The music was all Level 3 and above. However once we were there and all the other parts were put in place with 300 ringers it seemed slightly easier. All the international conductors were very encouraging and by the time the concert came all the music sounded really great!



Lynda and I decided that we were up for an extra challenge and signed up to ring in the Symposium choir. We had 2 pieces to ring - Beethoven's Turkish March and Mozart's Turkish March – both pieces arranged and conducted by Mr Hiroataka Arai. Four one hour rehearsals was all we had before the concert! It was quite an experience but we rose to the challenge!.

If you haven't done so already it is worth watching the concert on YouTube.



The HRGB ringers in Australia

The Symposium date always occurs around Hiroshima day and during our service of worship paper cranes were made as a symbol of peace. These were then placed in front of the Symposium bell.

It wasn't all ringing. There was time to chat to folk and meet up with friends from previous events. We also had an afternoon and evening off when we were taken to the Karunda Rainforest.

News from the Kilwhang Ringers

At the beginning of June we joined with the Blair Bells at a Songs of Praise service at Dun and Hillside Parish Church. This we enjoyed very much with the ringing of some favourite hymns.

On the social scene we enjoyed an exquisite afternoon tea outdoors in lovely sunshine at Montrose, hosted by a friend of one of our ringers. A few of our members have also celebrated birthdays in recent months and we have had cakes and fizz with a rendering of 'Happy Birthday' played at handbell sessions.

After our summer break we are now looking forward to resuming our weekly practices. The handbells are shining after having been cleaned and polished and with new pieces to play and the resolve to start practising Christmas songs that wee bit earlier we are all raring to ring!

Margaret Godsman, Kilwhang Ringers, Stonehaven.

Collaborative Writing from Castletown Primary School Bell Team

2018

We are a class of twenty-four 9-11 year old pupils at Castletown Primary School in Caithness, which is on the North Coast of Scotland not far from John O'Groats. Most children in our class have only been playing on belleplates since last October. During the summer term we have been very busy indeed.

In May, we played as part of the Scottish Schools Ringing Day in Newtown Primary School, Dunblane. But ... we didn't actually go there, because it is over six hours away in a bus! Instead, we used GLOW which is a secure school website and we participated virtually. We played "Keep the Homes Fires Burning", "Red Yo-yo" and our favourite, "The Submerged Cathedral," composed by Debussy and arranged by Malcolm Wilson. We thought it sounded really magical because of all the bells vibrating at the same time. Although it would have been lovely to be in the same room as the other ringers, it was brilliant that we had the chance to join in using GLOW. The children from the other teams got to hear us play because we sent a recording of our team performing "Boil Them Cabbage Down" and "Bound for South Australia" which had been arranged for us by Katrina Gordon, of the Caithness Handbell Ringers.

A few weeks later, we were delighted and surprised when we received a parcel containing one of the HRGB 50th Anniversary Teddies. The teddy is now living in our school and you can see how happy Belle is with us in the attached photo.



This year our school has been learning about mindfulness and at the start of June we had a [Whole School "Mindful Orchestra" Day](#). Our class played the belleplates in the school orchestra and our favourite tune was "Rowan Tree" because we had to ring and sing at the same time! We really enjoyed the challenge! Why don't you have a go with your team?

Our final performance of this school year came recently when we were absolutely ecstatic to win "The Ferguson Shield" for Music Making at the Caithness Music Festival. We played "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and also "Cheerful Prelude." The judge particularly liked how quietly we could play the belleplates and complimented us on our "beautiful sound." We got a distinction mark of 87 points.

Our class have really enjoyed ringing this year and have learned many different things like reading music, concentrating more, improving our organisational skills and how to be much better team players. We have had a lot of fun and would strongly encourage other classes to give bell ringing a go.

Important Dates for your Diary:

Sat 6th October 2018

HRGB Scottish Autumn Rally in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington

25th December 2018

The flexible deadline for submissions to the next newsletter! ☺
Please email katrinathurso@aol.com any time
or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE

Tuesday 14th May 2019

Scottish Schools Ring is being held at Newton Primary School, Dunblane