

SPRING RALLY & AGM 16th March 2024

HRGB SCOTLAND
SPRING RALLY



16 MARCH 2024
THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS
WICK, CAITHNESS

The Caithness Handbell Ringers and the Poltney Ringers are *so excited* to welcome you to the first regional rally to be held in Caithness!

We hope you'll enjoy your stay but please just get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about travel or accommodation.

Because many of you will be travelling so far, the format will be slightly different from usual. We'll have more time ringing together, an informal but public performance and the option of an evening meal together. But some things will stay the same: bring your own packed lunch to go with the delicious soup & home baking provided, and there will be rally ringing as usual, so if your team would like to give a performance, just let us know!

Also, please bring a raffle prize with you: 50% of the proceeds from the raffle will go to a locally selected charity, and the other half to HRGB Scottish Regional Association to support young ringers.

Please return your application form as soon as possible and by 29th February at the latest!

Venue: Wick Assembly Rooms, Sinclair Terrace, Wick, Caithness, KW1 5AB has free parking!

Doors open: 10am

Introductions and Ringing session 1: 10.30am – 11.20am

AGM with optional coffee & cakes: 11.20-12 noon

Ringing session 2: 12-12.45

LUNCH: 12.45- 1.30 (soup & home bakes will be provided)

Ringing session 3: 1.30-2.30

AFTERNOON COFFEE: 2.30-3pm

Final practice session: 3.30-4pm

Doors open to the public at 4pm

Final performance of massed ringing pieces & a local musical treat 4.10-4.30

Bonus possibilities (please let us know if you're interested in any of these – details are on page 3)

- Free instruction session on conducting technique with professional conductor Susie Dingle
- Social Dinner in Wick on Saturday evening
- The local heritage centre has offered to open especially for us on the Sunday, if enough people are interested (see <https://www.facebook.com/WickHeritageMuseum>)

Katrina Gordon
26 Grove Lane, Thurso
Caithness, KW14 8AE

Email: katrinathurso@aol.com



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Saturday 16th March 2024,
Wick Assembly Rooms

Massed Ringing

The massed ringing sessions will all be conducted by Susie Dingle. Susie is an orchestral and choral conductor who trained at the State Conservatory of St Petersburg and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Recent projects have included conducting a 120-strong orchestra of young musicians in East Lothian for NYOS Engage for a concert at St Mary's, Haddington in May. Some of you may have met her at the HRGB National Rally last year in Stirling, where she enjoyed conducting the Far North Ringers.

For the massed ringing sessions at this rally, we are offering three new pieces, written and arranged by Katrina Gordon (musical director of the Caithness Handbell Ringers). These pieces will form part of the informal performance which will be open to the public at 4pm on Saturday.

All three pieces are available as free pdf downloads and hear audio files by clicking this link:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AhzdSyCbQZhYgbNdfYxfuoiki8grdw?e=sorFgo>

In the unlikely event that you are unable to access the free downloads to print your own copies, it is possible for you to order printed copies from us at a cost of £5 per ringer – please request this on your application form and include the payment with your rally fees.

Judy Gees Goes Overseas by Katrina Gordon

This brand-new piece has been inspired by the infectious enthusiasm of Judy Gees, a ringer from south of the border. We are honoured that Judy has decided to celebrate her special birthday and her retirement by joining us for this rally. This is light-hearted piece is a sea-shanty, dedicated to our intrepid adventurer!

Reflective Contemplations by Katrina Gordon

Also written especially for the rally, this more serious piece is a musical picture of a meditation session. It features a ground bass on the lower bells which represents the eternal stability and compassion of universal intelligence, while the business of the upper bells' part represents the relative instability of the human mind. This piece offers a unique opportunity for some ringers to have an experience of improvisation without any stress!

Over the Ord by Donald Sutherland, arr. Katrina Gordon

We so much enjoyed performing this arrangement of a favourite local folk song at the HRGB National Rally in Stirling last year, that we thought you might all enjoy ringing it too. We guarantee that our Caithness audience will sing along heartily at the performance!

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Hall and Table layout

Wick Assembly Rooms is a BIG SPACE so there will be plenty of room for everyone. The venue can supply as many six-foot folding tables as we could possibly need, so please draw a diagram below to show how many tables you will require and how you wish them to be positioned. Please indicate the position of the ringers and the ringing direction in order that we can allocate the space in advance and ensure that you can all see the conductor for the massed ringing sessions.

We have a very limited number of spare foams in Caithness so, if you are coming as a team, please bring your own bells, music stands and foams if you possibly can. Individual ringers should bring the bells they plan to ring, a music stand and a foam if you can carry one. (If not, please let us know!)

Additional Opportunities

Conducting tips: If you'd like to spend some time with Susie Dingle discussing and practising conducting technique, please email susandingleconductor@gmail.com to indicate your interest. Let Susie know when you'll be arriving in Wick and when you're leaving, and if there are enough interested people, we may be able to organise a workshop session. Otherwise, Susie will be willing to spend time with individuals to discuss any aspect of their conducting experience.

Saturday Evening Social Dinner: Please indicate on the application form how many seats you will require if you wish to attend this dinner in Wick. (The cost of this is not included in the rally fee.)

Opportunity to visit Wick Heritage Museum on Sunday morning: If you would like to join your fellow ringers and partners in a trip to the museum, please email Lyn Ball at lyn.skirza@gmail.com. We will require a small cohort of interested people for the museum volunteers to justify this special opening, as the museum is usually closed on a Sunday.

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Application Form for whole teams or individuals

Are you filling in this form for your whole team or just for yourself as an individual ringer? (please circle)		Whole team	Individual
Team name			
Name of main contact or individual ringer			
Address (incl. postcode)			
Email (please supply so we can acknowledge your application)			
Phone			
Would you (as a solo ringer) or your team like to give an informal performance at the rally? (no more than 6 minutes in total – tell us on the day what you’ll be playing)		YES	NO

	Number Attending	Cost per ringer	Total
HRGB Adult Members		£6.00	£
HRGB Junior & Youth Team members		free	£
Adult non-HRGB members		£20.00	£
School-age non HRGB members		£8.00	£
If you require us to post printed copies of the music to you, please add £5 per ringer-set of music.		£5.00	£
		Total	£
Saturday Social Dinner – to be paid by individuals on the night. Please indicate how many seats you will need at the dinner. Partners and friends are welcome to join us and please include them in this number.			

Please return your completed form with payment (cheque payable to “HRGB Scottish Region” or you can make an arrangement to pay cash on the day) to:

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