



Issue 42

NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Welcome to the first magazine of a new decade. I hope that 2010 finds you well and looking forward to a new year of handbell, handchime and belleplate ringing. I am delighted to have heard from so many of you over the last few months with comments on our electronic newsletter and the autumn events. It is comforting to your committee to know that our efforts are being received positively. Please keep any comments coming, together with news of what your team has been up to. As news has been scant of late, your committee has taken the decision to continue with an electronic newsletter. Members who wish to continue to receive a printed copy just need to let us know and one will be posted.

The experiment in the autumn of running three mini rallies in different parts of the country proved successful. Thank you to The Bells of St Ninians, New Scone Church Belleplates and Broch Bells who acted as hosts. We received wonderful warm welcomes and great hospitality – especially the pancakes at Scone! A total of 130 ringers took part in these Regional Ring-Alongs. This is more ringers than we have seen at an event in a long time. We are therefore going to continue to experiment with events and this coming autumn plan to run two events – one in the north and one in the south. This time it will be a themed event – but more on this later.

The Spring Rally and AGM will be held at Jordanhill Parish Church on the 27th March. If your team is unable to come, why not consider coming on your own – just bring the bells you plan to ring on the day with you. At the AGM voting will take place for a committee for the next 12 months. Please give some thought to joining the regional committee. A nomination form was sent out with the Spring Rally & AGM details.

The National Rally and AGM will be held in Leicester in April. A number of Scottish ringers have signed up to attend and I look forward to seeing you there.

In December you should have received your membership renewal details from the HRGB Membership Secretary. I do hope you have chosen to renew. The membership fee is very reasonable for all the benefits available to you.

I look forward to seeing and chatting to as many of you as possible at the rally in Jordanhill. In the meantime, please do get in touch if there is any help the regional committee or I can offer you.

Happy ringing.

Christine D Reid

Scottish Region Chair

Regional Ring-Alongs

Moniaive



Claire Griffiths conducting



Cumnock & Doon Valley HR



Busy in the kitchen



Bells of St Ninians

Scone



Concentrating hard



Scone New Church Belleplates

Fraserburgh



Preparing to ring



Chapel Chimers



Silver City Chimes

Photographs

Taking photos at an HRGB event.

Submitting photos of team members for the magazine or website.

Ensure you have their permission before you forward on the photos.



News from the Region

Silver City Chimes

On the last Saturday before Christmas Silver City Chimes braved the elements and travelled down to Stonehaven to play Christmas carols at Kirktown Garden Centre. It had begun to snow on the Friday and there was a certain amount of consternation as to the wisdom of travelling on the Saturday especially as the Aberdeen-Stonehaven road can be quite tricky in inclement weather. However we had been looking forward to going and we did not want to disappoint the people who had invited us to play. The roads were quite clear as we set off but it was very cold. Our first stop when we arrived, therefore, was the café where we warmed up with a hot beverage and a 'fine piece.'

We were reluctant to leave our cosy spot and set up our tables, but we were soon in our positions and ready to play. Elaine kept us on our toes by awarding us marks out of ten for each piece. This she did by silently mouthing to us what she reckoned we had deserved. Very seldom did we merit a high mark (she is such a perfectionist) but the fun kept us relaxed and we enjoyed playing while the shoppers browsed around us, stopping from time to time to listen and applaud. One elderly lady was brought a chair by a kind member of staff so that she could sit with us for a while. I think she very much enjoyed Elaine's version of Silent Night. (We really like that one too and I think it was given the highest 'score' of all.)

On the day itself we collected over £60. Instead of our usual practice of handing cards to each other prior to Christmas we had decided to donate money to go to charity. The combined total meant that we could give £60 each to Marie Curie Cancer Care and Cancer Research UK. All-in-all it was a most worthwhile event in a very friendly atmosphere. Even the ice that had formed in the car park while we had been playing did not deter us too much and we were gratified to be invited back next year. Here's hoping next time the Christmas snow will not start falling till the 25th of December.

Anne Smith

Cumnock and Doon Valley Handbell Ringers

We resumed bell ringing in late August after a poor summer weather-wise. It was good to be back, although we had "lost" two ringers and had no recruits. There were fewer public performances imminent, giving us more time to improve techniques, perfect old favourites and get to know new pieces such as the beautiful arrangement by Elaine Duffus of Flower o' the Quern.

In October we travelled down to Moniaive for the Regional Ring-along and thoroughly enjoyed playing new pieces and renewing our acquaintances with other bell ringers. It was good that we didn't have to travel too far this time.

Christmas arrived early as a Church group had requested music of the festive season for their November concert. We entered enthusiastically into the carols, Santa songs and the Ho-ho-ho items of the occasion but had to wait for what seemed ages to enjoy a Christmas lunch together. On the next day the snow came. The picture postcard effect soon wore off as the big freeze disrupted normal life, making travel hazardous if not downright impossible. Consequently bell ringing did not resume until mid- January.

The current problem is scarcity of ringers. Those of us who feel comfortable with a bell in each hand now find ourselves having to juggle with three, resulting in some interesting variations of the printed score at times! It involves lifting, laying, changing bells from hand to hand and generally "getting into a fankle". What is worse is that there is an inevitable day coming when four – in – hand will be the decree.

"It's easy," declare the clever clogs whose razor sharp intellect can cope with bells facing forward and sideways as well as reading multiple notes on the sheet music. Not to mention the fact that the fistful of bells may change from item to item (the stuff of nightmares for some of us.)

Despite everything, we look forward to what is yet to come. The seniors (clever clogs) in the group are patient and supportive. With their encouragement we shall continue to do our best to become proficient ringers for our own satisfaction and the pleasure of our audiences.

Jean McMurdo

Cathcart Old Parish Church Handbell Team

The Handbell team had two interesting "gigs" recently.

In October 2009 our team had the privilege of ringing in the refurbished St. George's Tron Church in Glasgow city centre for the Ladies Fellowship. Their meetings are usually held in the halls complex but for this occasion it was moved to the church sanctuary. I think everyone agreed that this venue enhanced the sound of the bells. The church is now open to the general public and so our audience also included a number of visitors. Our programme included both religious and secular pieces and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone generating a lot of interest in handbell ringing.

Our next challenge was in December 2009 entertaining two groups of around **fifty 3-5 year olds** at a Rutherglen Nursery Centre. This was for us our youngest audience ever and it seemed like a daunting task to be able to keep their attention. As it was early December our short programme included Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells. The children joined in a "singing and ringing" encore of Jingle Bells with percussion bells which they use in the nursery. This turned out to be a most enjoyable experience and the children were a very receptive audience. Maybe some "future ringers" in the offing?????

Jordanhill Parish Church HR

As ever Jordanhill Parish Church HR were extremely busy throughout December. We had been asked to take part in a charity event in St Paul's Church in Milngavie. The congregation had over the previous 18 months raised funds to build an orphanage for the street boys in Kimo, Peru. The money from this event was to fund the upkeep of the orphanage. It was a very successful event hosted by the well-known television presenter Sally Magnusson.

We were also invited to ring in Glasgow Cathedral as guests of the Glasgow Cathedral Choral Society. We accompanied the choir in *Rejoice and be Merry* and the *Coventry Carol*, and we performed a twenty minute selection of carols for handbells. On both these occasions the audience was very appreciative and complimentary about our performance, many having heard handbells for the first time.

Once again we arranged to ring carols at our two local hospitals, but sadly due to the severe weather conditions we were unable to fulfil our commitment at the Western Infirmary.

We are currently planning and rehearsing for our twentieth anniversary and are having a celebratory concert on Saturday 6th March at 7.30pm. Also in March we are hosting the Regional Spring rally and AGM. We look forward to meeting up with many old friends and also to making new friends.



With Sally Magnusson at St Pauls Church, Milngavie

Ruth Cantlay

Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers

In the period since the last issue of the magazine, the Dunkeld ringers were busy with several events which now seem to be regular features in the group's pre-Christmas programme:

- The Opening Night of Pitlochry's Autumn Festival
- Dougie MacLean's Perthshire Amber Festival
- A Christmas event at The National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Santa's Day, Dunkeld
- The Watchnight Service, Dunkeld Cathedral (solos)

The performance in Pitlochry Theatre at the Amber Festival was different this time as it included some group ringing in addition to the usual solo ringing. It was also rather special for Dougie as, for the first time, he watched his mother ringing (Dolly having joined the group the previous year). As in the past, the ringing could be seen worldwide over the internet.

In addition to these regular events, the ringers also entertained at St. Leonard's Church in Perth and for the Headway group. Several ringers attended the mini-rallies in Scone and Fraserburgh. Two days of solo ringing at a Craft Fair in Blairgowrie and a "Carols By Candlelight" service in Bendochy Church raised funds for CHAS, the group's donations to various charities totalling £2028 in 2009.

"Christmas Bells", the ringers' second CD, proved to be popular and "A Journey To The North", their recently released second DVD, is also selling well. This is a record of the group's visit to the Orkney Islands and includes scenes of Orkney together with live recordings from concerts in Dornoch Cathedral, Stromness Parish Church and The East Church, Kirkwall.

After a longer than usual, and well-earned, Christmas break, the first event of 2010 is at Perth Monday Club, followed in February by participation in two morning services at Little Dunkeld Kirk. The summer season of Wednesday afternoon solo ringing from 2.00 - 4.00 in Dunkeld Cathedral commences on 7th April (small ensemble once a month)

Heather I. McLean



Some of The Dunkeld Ringers prior to their performance in Pitlochry Theatre at The Perthshire Amber Festival



Chairman's Report for the Year 2009-2010

I am delighted to report another successful year in the Scottish Region. Membership continues to be strong among both adult and youth members. 2 new teams have registered in the region and there have been several additions to existing teams.

The following Regional events have taken place this year:

- AGM and Spring Rally hosted by Cushnie Handbell Ringers in Aboyne
- Schools Ringing Day in Shieldhill Primary School, Falkirk
- Ring in Praise Seminar hosted and run by Dunblane Cathedral HR
- Regional Ring-Along hosted by The Bells of St Ninians in Moniaive
- Regional Ring-Along hosted by Scone New Church Belleplates in Scone
- Regional Ring-Along hosted by Broch Bells in Fraserburgh.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events successful and enjoyable.

In the summer, the Scottish Region welcomed the International Festival of Handbells, a touring group of Americans under the artistic directorship of Debbie Rice. Eleven Scottish ringers joined this group for a concert in St Giles Cathedral. Celtic Carillon, ably directed by Claire Griffiths, also performed three pieces at this concert.

The Region's website has a new look and feel thanks to the work of Malcolm Wilson of Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers. The website address remains the same as www.hrgbscotland.org. The aim of the website is to promote handbell ringing across Scotland and therefore all Scottish teams are listed with links to team websites where possible.

Teams continue to promote handbell ringing at a variety of different events and venues across the country – garden centres, craft fairs, the National Museum of Scotland, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, country markets, and church services – to name but a few. The Parish of Dunkeld HR undertook a 5 day ringing tour of Orkney raising money for charity and having fun. Jordanhill HR took first place in the Making Music section of the Glasgow Music Festival. Local teams continue to have get together – ringing and socialising together.

Scottish ringers have participated in events up and down the UK. The National Rally in Cirencester saw many Scottish ringers involved in attending and leading workshops, and performing at the Saturday evening concert. 4 ringers attended the National Residential Ringing Week in July.

On your behalf, I would like to thank the committee for their contribution to the smooth running of the Region and the planning of events.

Thank you for your friendship and support over the last 12 months. I look forward to a happy and successful year in 2010/2011.

Christine D Reid Scottish Region Chair.

Secretary's Report for the Year 2009-2010

This year the committee held meetings in May and August in 2009 and in January 2010 discussing and planning events for the ringers in our Region. The ringers of Cushnie in Aberdeenshire hosted our Spring Rally and AGM in March 2009. It was a bitterly cold day and it did try to snow but our hosts gave us such a warm welcome that the weather outside did not matter. Ten teams from up and down the country were represented and we also enjoyed the company of Margaret and Alan Hartley. The massed ringing pieces were Flower o' the Quern, Bourree and variations on Strawberry Fair which were conducted by Elaine Duffus, Judith Frye and Malcolm Wilson. The committee greatly appreciated the hospitality extended by Cushnie HR. At the AGM Elizabeth Anderson of Silver City Chimes retired from committee after serving for a number of years. Elizabeth contributed in many ways to committee business and we have missed her company this year. Two new members were elected to committee---Marge Paterson of Cumnock and Doon Valley HR and Elaine Duffus of Silver City Chimes. Irene Duncan of Dunblane Cathedral HR has been co-opted on to committee at each of our three meetings. There were no other changes to positions on committee.

In May 2009 ninety-three children attended the schools' Ringing Day hosted by Shieldhill Primary in Falkirk. Once again thanks are due to Lysbeth Wilson for organising this event. The children from Aberdeen, Houston, Cumnock, Newton Dunblane, Carron and Shieldhill had a super afternoon ringing handbells, chimes and belle-plates.

After a lot of discussion at committee it was decided to go for a split autumn event in three venues hoping to encourage a bigger number of ringers to participate in massed ringing at a location which did not involve too much travel. Fraserburgh, Scone and Moniaive hosted our Autumn Ring-alongs. In total 130 ringers attended and feedback tells us it was a great success. I attended the event in Moniaive which I thoroughly enjoyed. The committee appreciate the hospitality shown by the host teams—Broch Bells in Fraserburgh, The Bells of St. Ninians in Moniaive and the very new belle-plates team in Scone.

Our next event is our AGM and Spring Rally which is being held at Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow when we hope to meet up with as many of you as possible. The Open Forum is your opportunity to make comment and put forward ideas and suggestions your teams may have for future events. You may even want to consider joining our committee!

I would like to thank the committee for their support and in particular our leader and Chairman Christine Reid.

Jean Routledge Regional Secretary

Treasurer's Report for the Year 2009 -2010

The annual accounts will be emailed or posted to you ahead of the AGM when the Examiner has completed his examination.

The Scottish Region accounts remain healthy. This year we had more individual members in teams and therefore received a larger rebate from the national accounts. This is our main income based on the number of members in the region. It is important, therefore, to have all ringers in our teams members of HRGB.

The success of the Autumn Ring a longs saw many more ringers taking part and thanks to the generosity of the host teams we have extra money to spend providing a variety of different events in the future.

Purchasing music, handbell accessories and gifts from the regional sales team also generates income for the region.

Savings continue to be made by the electronic distribution of the magazine. If you change your email address or acquire one for the first time please let the chairman or secretary know so the committee does not lose touch with you.

I will be attending the AGM in Jordanhill and will be happy to answer any questions relating to the figures. I can also be contacted by phone or email.

Lynda Barclay Regional Treasurer

National Executive Committee Report 2009-2010

- 2009 AGM held at National Rally in Cirencester
This was the first time this occurred and will be monitored next and ensuing years to establish if this is the way to follow.
- Vaughan Evans Memorial Fund sponsored two young ringers to attend the National Residential Ringing Week in Kingston upon Thames.
- Postal Voting. Rule changes may be presented at 2010 AGM to enable postal voting to be introduced hopefully for 2011 AGM
- Reverberations will now be dispatched from the printer. This should speed up delivery
- Membership. Team numbers nationally have dropped, but individual membership has stayed the same.
- National events past and in future
 - 2009 NRRW Kingston upon Thames
 - 2009 National Rally Leicester
 - 2010 UK Bronze Sutton

 - 2011 National Rally Royal Holloway
 - 2011 NRRW Kingston upon Thames

 - 2012 15th International Handbell Symposium Liverpool

Sales Manager's Report for 2009 - 2010

Last year's regional events proved to be successful for the sales table – the rally at Aboyne, the School's ringing day at Shieldhill, the Dunblane Seminar, and last, but definitely not least, the three Regional Ringalongs. We had an outstanding day at Fraserburgh; I wonder if this is because the new team there have not had a chance to shop with us before.

Our new line of socks proved particularly popular, as did the new, and very competitively priced, evening bags. The ever-popular music note scarves continue to sell well in all 6 colours and, of course, the non-slip gloves are always in demand and are available in black or white and in 5 sizes.

We have some Christmas cards left and, if you would like to stock up early this year, you can get a 10% discount if you buy them in March at the Spring Rally at Jordanhill.

Mary McGregor, Sales Manager, Scottish Region

Magazine Editor's Report for 2009 – 2010

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine over the last year. It is good to hear from all our teams what they have been doing. I am sure that a great many of you do lots of things in your teams but perhaps do not think they merit a mention in the magazine, but please let me know what's going on. After all this is your magazine which goes out to all members in Scotland, and indeed reaches England too. So why not make an effort after each event to appoint someone who took part to write down some notes and send it off to me. It need not be a big piece. It does not need to have photographs. It can be serious or it could be a fun story. Look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to say a huge thanks to Christine & Lynda for their help in putting together the magazine, and a particular well done to Christine for getting us onto the electronic version. Thanks also to the Committee for all their support over the last year.

Helen Campbell Magazine Editor



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 27	Regional AGM and Spring Rally Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow
April 16-18	National Rally, Leicester Details in Reverberations
May 13	Schools Ringing Day details from Lysbeth Wilson

June 5 Ring in Praise, Dunblane
Details from Malcolm Wilson at www.ringinpraise.org.uk

August 3-7 14th International Symposium Osaka Japan

October 9 Themed Ring-Along in Haddington

October 23 Themed Ring-Along in Aberdeen

October 27 - 30 UK Bronze - details in Reverberations

Deadline for next issue of magazine – 22nd May 2010

The Annual General Meeting
and
Spring Rally
of the
Handbell Ringers of Great Britain Scottish Regional Association
will be held on
Saturday 27th March 2010
at
Jordanhill Parish Church, Woodend Drive, Glasgow
Doors open 10.30am
AGM 12 noon
Please remember raffle prizes

Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers

20th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, 6th March at 7.30pm

Jordanhill Parish Church Road, Woodend Drive, Glasgow

No admission charge but donations will be gratefully received for Mary's Meals

The One Voice Handbell Choir Pennsylvania

Consisting of 14 teenager ringers visiting in the Spring and performing as follows:

Sunday, 28th March Edinburgh Castle 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 30th March Dunkeld Cathedral 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 3rd April Stirling Castle 1.00 p.m.

During the tour the choir will also be performing at Rachel House, Kinross, New Butterstone Special School near Dunkeld and The Royal School, Dunkeld.

22nd Annual Ring in Praise Seminar

Saturday 5 June 2010

Dunblane Cathedral

"Brilliant event!" "Everyone left enthused and uplifted!" "Sustains such a high standard year in, year out." These were just some of the comments from previous participants. New sessions this year include Praise Band and Bells, Iona Community Music with Bells, Ring the Church Season - Easter, and Bells for Baptism. Much, much more on offer - details and application form from www.ringinpraise.org.uk, or by e-mail from info@ringinpraise.org.uk, or by telephone to (01786) 825387.



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain
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