



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2022 Issue 2 - October 2022

Chat from the Chair

For the third year in a row the Scottish Regional Association AGM was conducted via Zoom on Saturday 19 March 2022 with 30 people in attendance.

An in-person "Read and Ring" event took place on Saturday 21 May in Bankfoot Church Centre. It was great to be back ringing together.

Six pieces were performed: Claire Griffiths conducted *Entr'acte* by Franz Schubert, Ruth Cantlay conducted Lysbeth Wilson's arrangement of *Prelude on Bunessan* and *Waterwheel* by R Worrall. Judith Frye conducted her own arrangement of *Water of Tyne* while Lysbeth Wilson's arrangement of *The Dark Island* by Iain McLachlan was conducted by Malcolm Wilson who also conducted John Langley's arrangement of the Ukraine national anthem.

Money raised by the raffle was donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Our Autumn Rally takes place on Saturday 8 October, again at Bankfoot. In celebration of the return to face-to-face ringing, a generous grant from HRGB means entry to this event is free to all HRGB members. Doors will be open from 10.00am and tea/coffee will be available, served by Blair Belles. The Rally will start at 11.30am and continue, with a break for lunch at 12.45pm, until approximately 3.30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

The organising committee has been very busy preparing for the 2023 UK National Rally due to be held at the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling from 14-16 April 2023. Application details can be found in the Autumn edition of *Reverberations* and on the HRGB website.

Keep well.

My best wishes to you all.

Funding Far North Preparations for 2023

It's been exciting times here in the north of Scotland since the Caithness Handbell Ringers and the Polteney Bell Ringers from Wick **both** decided to take their **whole teams** to next April's UK National Rally in Stirling – quite an undertaking to organise! The two teams are working in tandem to raise funds so that hopefully no team member will be left behind: 11 ringers from CHR and 14 ringers from PBR. So far, we've applied to local windfarm community funds, the [Baillie Gifford Community Fund](#) and the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund, to try to spread the costs. It's been interesting to research possible funding sources and surprising how many are a good fit for this project - we still have a few more forms to fill in for the Polteney Ringers, who are looking at Highland Council community funding, [National Lottery Awards for All](#) and also some windfarm funds in their area.

If your team is planning to attend the UK rally as a whole team, it's definitely worth looking to see if there is any community funding available in your area to help with attendance and travel costs. Visit the [SCVO website](#) and type in the name of your local area to their search engine to begin to find local funders. Remember that this project ticks lots of boxes for lots of funders: it's educational, inclusive, it brings people together, ringing is good for physical and mental health, your team will be representing your local area at a UK level event, it's "pandemic recovery" and you'll be bringing back lots of new skills, information and enthusiasm to share with audiences and potential new ringers in your local area – so whichever way you look at it, it's an excellent community development project. You can apply for the full costs, but many funders prefer to "match fund" – which means finding another co-funder to share the costs or part-funding the project yourselves.

Remember to keep the FUN in your fundraising – it's not all about form-filling! Any grant funder will be pleased to hear if you've had a bake sale, given a concert, or gone busking to begin to raise funds for the project yourselves. For example, the Caithness Handbell Ringers decided to sell baking at a local 4-day orchestra event in August, and we raised an astonishing £175 which got our project off to a great start, and in a very tasty way! The added bonus was that lots of happily fed orchestral musicians found out that we have a friendly bell ringing team... so fundraising can also raise awareness and help with recruitment – it's a win win. We even managed to find a bellringing team for a visiting violinist from Stonehaven! Similarly, a concert or some busking on the street can raise awareness, enthusiasm and funds at the same time, and this type of activity definitely gives any funding application an edge.

Applications for attending the UK national rally will open on 10th of this month, and the event itself runs from 14th-16th April 2023, so get talking with your team mates now and start planning your team's **trip-of-a-lifetime** to Stirling next year! Attending a big rally like this is SO much fun, and we're really looking forward to seeing you all there. Just get in touch with me if you have any questions about fundraising or fun-raising ahead of the event!

Katrina Gordon (Caithness Handbell Ringers)

Musical Director/Conducting Seminar 2022

On the weekend of 3rd and 4th September, I attended the HRGB seminar for musical directors and conductors. It was held at The Edge in Sheffield; a venue known to many as this is where the NNRW has been held most recently. The focus of this event was on conducting, music preparation and many other aspects of leading a team.

There were 10 participants representing 6 of the UK Regions. The regions and participants represented were: -

Emily - East Anglia; Hilary – East Anglia; Jenny – West Midlands:

Kate – North West; Phil – East Anglia; Pauline – East Anglia; Margaret L – South east; Margaret – North East; Rona – North East; Ruth - Scotland.

The seminar was run very ably by Tim Willetts and Kate Sawallisch.



The program was well planned, interspersing ringing/conducting with input sessions where we were given lots of information and time for discussion.

We had been sent out the music to be used in advance which enabled us to familiarize ourselves with it prior to attending. However, it was known to me as Jordanhill have it in their music library. The music was Second Suite for Handbells by Michael Helman. This suite is made up of 4 sections – Prelude, Soliloquy, Grand March, and Scherzo and is Level 2.

On Saturday we started around 0930 and continued with breaks until 2130 – a long day! Everyone had two 10-minute slots of conducting. You could choose whichever part of the Suite you wanted to use. After your 10 minutes conducting you went to a separate room for a crit either by Tim or Kate. If you had Tim in the morning, you had Kate in the afternoon. After my first session, I chose to use Soliloquy again so that I could try to put into practice what I had been advised to do by Tim which included not looking so nervous!!!

The Sunday program ran from 0900 to just after 1730. The conducting session on Sunday was 25 minutes. For this session I decided to use both Prelude and Soliloquy. I thought it would be useful to make the transition from a quick piece into a much slower piece and get feedback on how it went. Following discussions at the start of the morning, you could opt to have some feedback during the 25-minute period. I thought this was a good idea as this was the only opportunity to conduct.

I think to begin with everyone was anxious. I certainly was!

We had plenty breaks for tea, coffee, cake, chocolate and meals which helped us get to know each other better. This I think helped us become less anxious.

I thought it was great to see how well everyone progressed from the initial conducting session on Saturday morning to the 25-minute session on Sunday. It was also extremely interesting to see the different 'takes' 10 people could have on the same pieces of music, some of which I have introduced on my return.

The various input sessions included: - the role of the conductor including cueing clarity of beat; leading a team; analysing music for interpretation; developing a sense of rhythm and timing; planning a concert; complex rhythms.

We also had two Masterclass sessions – one with Tim and one with Kate which were great. I was happy to sit out of ringing for Tim's one on Saturday, and although not ringing I could learn a lot from watching and listening!

It was a great event and I would definitely recommend it to any Team leader /Musical Director/ Conductor, should it be run again.

Ruth Cantlay

Jordanhill Parish Church HR

Important Dates for your Diary:

Sat 8th October 2022

HRGB Scottish Regional Autumn Rally on Saturday 8 October which in Bankfoot Church Centre, near Perth, PH14BS. 10am – 3.30pm. See you all next weekend!

April 14th – 16th 2023

The Scottish Region is looking forward to hosting the UK National Rally 2023 at the Stirling Court Hotel. The committee looks forward to your support and hopes that **all** of the Scottish teams will be represented in attendance, so please do mark it in your diaries now and start planning for your 2023 trip to Stirling!

Whatever you've been up to, please do send me your article about it for inclusion in the next newsletter. 😊 Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE with all your news and pictures. Thanks!