



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2022 Issue 1 – March 2022

Chat from the Chair

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the committee decided to hold the 2021 Autumn Rally online. Ringers from the length and breadth of Scotland joined in a very successful event hosted by Caithness Handbell Ringers, enhanced by live handbell ringing and Katrina Gordon's expert guidance and musicianship. The event gave all those present a huge amount of encouragement as we recover from the pandemic.

It was another opportunity to experience a range of different activities such as some new ringing techniques, a quiz, lots of chat and virtual massed ringing for which Katrina chose *Prelude on Bunessan* by Lysbeth Wilson and *Alleluia* by Josie Willmer.

A number of ringers continue to meet in person. Indeed, my own team Holy Trinity Handbells made three appearances over the Christmas period. But with continued caution being advised by the Scottish government, face-to-face ringing may well be curtailed for the time being.

The Scottish Region AGM will be held via Zoom on Saturday 19 March 2022 at 1.30pm, and an in-person "Read and Ring" event is planned for 21st May in Bankfoot.

The committee is also busy preparing for the 2023 UK National Rally due to be held at the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling from 14-16 April 2023.

My best wishes to you all.

Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers

What a delight it was to start back in person ringing in September 2021! Following a risk assessment for the church and for ringing it was felt we were safe to resume. We limited our numbers initially and rang from music stands. As restrictions eased we set the tables up in a different format to enable social distancing.

We have not had many engagements. However we were delighted that our first engagement in 20 months was for our own church guild. We also rang for a guild Christmas party.

We were delighted to ring the Hal Hopson piece 'Prepare the Way of the Lord' with the Jordanhill Community choir for the service of Lessons and Carols.

We had three engagements in February and are looking forward to in person ringing in May at the Bankfoot Church Centre. Fingers crossed that can still go ahead!

Ruth Cantlay



Putting on a concert when restrictions made it seem well-nigh impossible

At a time when pandemic restrictions were in place making planning a concert seem nearly impossible, Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensembles managed to present a successful concert at Christmas time with measures put in place to follow all advised safety mitigations.



All rehearsals leading up to the concert also had mitigations in place - including using a much bigger hall to provide space for social distancing between each ringer, handbells only handled by each ringer whose notes they were (each taking them home each week and bringing to each rehearsal), no shared equipment or music, one-way system in the hall, doors open at all times to create continuous flow of air (it was cold so ringers wrapped up warm!), masks for all, and hand sanitisation entering and leaving the hall. Music was made available digitally for ringers, along with audio recordings, so that in the event any rehearsal had to be cancelled or individual ringers had to miss rehearsals then they could practise their parts at home. Then, in planning for the concert, the audience numbers were restricted so that seating could be spaced out. An online ticket booking system was set up to cut down on handling cash, and a facility set up for accepting cashless payments on the night of the concert. And after all of that, and the risk that even at the last minute the whole concert could be cancelled, we were delighted to be able to present a concert of Christmas music to an appreciative audience. We had gained 8 new ringers since the outbreak of the pandemic and so it was really great the new ringers had their very first successful performance in the concert. And also one of our high school ringers presented two solo pieces on Belleplates to the delight of the audience. We also had two pieces in which all groups performed together, along with other instrumentalists. And to add to the fun for the evening we had the audience join in with different pieces adding jingling percussion or clapping and stamping on cue. We also made available online on our [YouTube channel](#) some of the recordings from that concert so you too can enjoy a flavour of the concert. Here's to the next concert – hope we can see you there!

Malcolm Wilson

Music for Sale

Here's a selection of music that HRGB Scotland has available for teams to buy – please contact ruthcantlay@gmail.com for more information.

Shades of Forest Green	arr Tim Waugh	3 - 5 oct
Laudation	Arnold B Sherman	3 - 5 oct
Recollection	Tim Waugh	3 - 5 oct

A Grand Celebration	Derek Hakes	3 - 5 oct
Walking in the Air from Snowman	arr John Mitchell	2 octaves
Break Thou the Bread of Life	Matthew Prins	2 - 3 oct
Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	arr Cathy Moglebust	2 - 3 oct
Variations on a Welsh Tune	Ellen Jane Lorenz	3 octaves
Behold a New Joy	arr Malcolm C Wilson	2 - 3 oct
Morning has Broken (Bunessan)	Malcolm C Wilson	3 - 5 oct
The Crystal Fountain	arr Kevin McChesney	3 octaves
Andante Grazioso	Mozart arr Malcolm C Wilson	2 - 3 oct
The Skater's Waltz	Waldteufel arr Sondra K Tucker	3 - 6 oct
Caprice Viennois	Fritz Kreisler arr Douglas Wagner	3, 5 oct
Reflection on Kelvingrove	Malcolm C Wilson	2 - 3 oct

Important Dates for your Diary:

Sat 19th March 2022

HRGB Scottish Region AGM, hosted on Zoom at 1.30pm. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85793796085?pwd=ZXdrUFdzNU5KeitzMEITZnlQSsmNOZz09>
Meeting ID: 857 9379 6085 Passcode: 658079
See you all there!

Sat 21st May 2022

A live, face-to-face, in-person "Read and Ring" session in Bankfoot, near Perth, on Saturday 21 May from 2pm-4pm. Come and enjoy playing through a selection of music, alongside participants from around Scotland, under the direction of multiple conductors. This will be the first in-person event held by HRGB Scottish Regional Association since Covid restrictions first came into place two years ago! Note that individuals will be welcome to take part with no need for your whole team/group to be taking part - just bring the handbells, handchimes or Belleplates which you need for your part! Details for signing up will be sent out soon.

Sun 12th June 2022

Music with a Tale: A concert of music celebrating stories which are inspired by, written or created in Scotland, performed by Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensembles at 7.30pm in Dunblane's Victoria Hall. This event is part of Scotland's Year of Stories.

Sat 8th October 2022

HRGB Scottish Regional Autumn Rally on Saturday 8 October which will be held in Bankfoot, near Perth. More details will be available nearer the time. Please pop the date in your diary now!

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 in helping to organise this event 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!