



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2018 Issue 2 – May 2018

Chat from the Chair



My huge thanks go to Anne Thompson and her team for all their hard work in hosting a very successful Spring Rally and AGM at Mannofield Parish Church, Aberdeen on Saturday 24th March 2018. Projected images of the conductor and table service at lunch made the day even more special!

The wintry theme of the music (Walking in the Air from The Snowman, Sondra Tucker's arrangement of The Skaters Waltz and Largo from Winter in Vivaldi's Four Seasons) hardly reflected the glorious sunshine outside! Our conductors Ruth Cantlay, Claire Griffiths and Malcolm Wilson brought out the best from the many enthusiastic and compliant ringers present.

I am very pleased that Joyce Beattie of Blair Bells will attend the next Regional committee meeting with a view to taking on the rôle of Secretary. I am also happy to report that Blair Bells have offered to look

after the Sales for the Region with Reta Mitchelson being the contact person in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their continued support and their commitment to regional and national ringing activities - Laura Buist, Ruth Cantlay, Anne Docherty, Katrina Gordon, Claire Griffiths, Mary McGregor, Reta Mitchelson, Lysbeth Wilson and Malcolm Wilson.

Subscription to the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain, remains at £12.00 a year. Please encourage members of your team to join if they haven't already done so!

Holy Trinity Handbells look forward to welcoming you all to the Autumn Rally in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington on Saturday 6th October 2018.

Best wishes to you all.

John



Members of the Silver City Chimes enjoying a coffee break at the Spring Rally

Scottish Region Spring Rally 2018

After all the snow and rain we have had in the North East over the past six months, it was fantastic to have a beautiful sunny day on 24th March for the 2018 Scottish Region AGM & Spring Rally hosted by Mannofield Ringers in Aberdeen. This was the first time they had hosted a Rally and they did themselves – and us – proud. Mannofield Church was a superb venue and a number of members of their congregation provided first class assistance prior to and on the day, serving refreshments, selling raffle tickets, operating the sound system and adding up-to-the-minute information on screen for us all to follow.

Before the start of our AGM, we gathered in a few minutes silence to remember Heather McLean, Musical Director of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers, who passed away very suddenly on 23rd December. Some members of her team were in attendance and it was good to have them with us on what must have been a difficult day for them without her.

Ringers from eleven teams from around Scotland came together for an afternoon of ringing starting at 1.15pm. We enjoyed playing three massed ringing pieces together – “Walking in the Air” arr. by John Mitchell and conducted by Claire Griffiths, “Largo from Winter” arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson and conducted by Ruth Cantlay and “Skater’s Waltz” arr. by Sondra K Tucker and conducted by Malcolm Wilson. Seven teams performed a wide variety of

pieces on handbells, handchimes and Belleplates. A few had carried the Winter theme into their team performances.

All too soon the day came to an end and it was time to load up the cars again and say “farewell” to our ringing friends from around the Region – till next time! For some of us, the homeward journey was a short one this time. For others, it took several hours – the result of having a Region with such a wide geographical area. It’s good to have these days to bring ringers together, even for a short time, to meet up and to catch up.

Elaine Duffus

Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen.



The beautiful stained glass window at Mannofield Church

Highland Gathering of Handbell Ringers

On Saturday 7th April, Inverness Handbell Ringers hosted a day of ringing, and enjoyed the company of Caithness Handbell Ringers from Thurso and Polteney Handbell Ringers from Wick. Under the leadership of Susie Dingle and Katrina Gordon we learned new repertoire and had a really fun day which everyone enjoyed.

Rena Beaton,
Inverness Handbell Ringers



Our gathering of the ringers of the Highlands of Scotland – we did have fun! 😊

Beautiful set of English Bells looking for a new home...

My American family had a handbell group in the 70's and 80's. The Tayloe Family of North Hollywood. We were tightly aligned with the Thurlstone Bell Orchestra. Alec Dyson was a friend and the group came to America to perform. Thing is, my mother, Marjorie Tayloe, passed away last year, and left us children the bells. It's a 66 piece set of J. Shaw bells. They are unappreciated here in the States, as the guild represents Schulmerich and other American makers. Our set is 140 years old and exquisite tone. The Americans are obsessed with shiny objects and not at all impressed by the tone and quality of these bells. We need to sell them per the family trust and hope they return to their home in England. Do you know anyone who would be interested in them? They are currently listed on eBay at \$17,000 USD [approx. £12,500]. The family would be willing to lower the price for the right buyer. Incredible tone.

Regards,

Susan Tayloe susieloveselvis@yahoo.com

25 Excuses for NOT playing your notes at the right time

(All heard by Margaret Godsmann at Kilwhang Ringers Handbell Practices...)

1. My handbell didn't ring because it was cold
2. My handbell didn't ring because I was cold
3. Sorry, handbell's in the wrong hand
4. I was playing the wrong music
5. My music is upside-down
6. I do not have the correct specs with me
7. I was playing the wrong line
8. Wrong note, lost my place
9. I was distracted, mobile phone rang
10. Disorientated, should watch the conductor
11. There are two versions of this song and I'm playing the wrong one
12. Sorry, my friend has lost her bell, I have picked it up in error
13. Sorry, should have played F#
14. Sorry, I forgot to lay out my B^b
15. Sorry, music scattered on floor due to wobbly stand
16. My clanger has stuck – no sound from bell
17. Oops, I wasn't listening for when to come in
18. I did play my note, the conductor didn't hear it
19. I am playing B^b and B natural together – sounds awful
20. I did try to play my bell, but it didn't ring
21. I am lost but carry on playing, conductor won't notice
22. I try to dampen but my bell plays on, it has a mind of its own
23. Ringing a bit behind and I need to skip a few notes to catch up
24. Tea time – I cannot hear the music as the kettle is boiling
25. To sum it up: it wisna me, it wis the bell!!!!

Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Borealis Bells of Orkney** into membership of HRGB Scottish Regional Association and wish them many years of happy ringing within the Association. They can be contacted on borealisbellsoforkney@gmail.com.

WHMF Bells

3 octaves of bells from the William Hartley Memorial Fund have been lent to Shapinsay Handbell Ringers in Orkney.

Jeff and Anne Singleton's bells

At the NEC meeting on Saturday 17th February, the Scottish Region was allocated the following bells – B^p6, B6 and C7. These bells will be owned by HRGB and insured by HRGB. If any handbell team can make use of these bells, please contact a member of the committee. Use will be on a temporary basis and the bells will become available to other teams.

Ring Your Bells

As part of a new commission for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish composer Martin Suckling is creating a ringing soundscape to mark the centenary of Armistice. *Meditation (after Donne)* for chamber orchestra and electronics will feature the bells of Scotland, contributed by the people of Scotland. You are invited to record your bells for inclusion in the electronics part; visit www.armisticebells.com to find out how you can add your own recording. Martin Suckling's work will be heard at concerts in Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews to mark the Armistice centenary in November 2018.

Important Dates for your Diary

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| 16th May 2018 | Scottish Schools Ring is being held at Newton Primary School, Dunblane |
| 12th August 2018 | The Glorious Twelfth is the memorable deadline for submissions to the next newsletter! ☺ Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE |
| 6th October 2018 | HRGB Scottish Regional Association Autumn Rally in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington |
| 24th – 27th October 2018 | UK Bronze at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Sutton, Surrey |
| 12th – 14th April 2019 | HRGB National Rally, Beaumont Estate, Old Windsor, Berkshire |