



October 2013

Newsletter Issue 53

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Hello Ringers

Once again this issue is photo heavy. I asked some time ago if any of you would like to write an article about your team. There have been no replies so here are a few questions to get you going..

When was your group founded? What is the age range of your group?

How long has the senior member been playing? Who is the newest member?

Where and when do you practice? Do you do public performances?

Bells, Belleplates or handchimes? Whereabouts in Scotland are you?

How many members do you have? What is the group's favourite piece of music?

Please think about answering these questions for the next issue. Sue.

Chat from the Chair



"Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits." - Samuel Butler

Many people look upon Autumn as an end. Here in the world of ringing, it is most certainly a beginning! After the long Summer break (for most), teams are coming back together again for a new session of music, fellowship and fun. New pieces of music to learn, perhaps new team members to welcome, new places to visit for ringing events and performances, new experiences. Yes, we lose the flowers of Summer – and what a spectacular Summer we had here in Scotland! – but the fruits of Autumn are just around the corner. Most definitely a beginning!

Many of our Scottish Ringers continued ringing interests throughout the Summer months both locally and nationally. Some entertained Summer visitors; some participated in the 25th – and final - Ring in Praise day in Dunblane; some – including two of our enthusiastic young Scottish ringers -travelled south of the border to Sheffield for the National Residential Ringing Week.

The Scottish Regional Association Committee met on Saturday 24th August to reflect on recent events and to start planning for the new ringing year. One project we have been pursuing is the production of a stand-up Banner to advertise ringing in Scotland. I am delighted to say this has finally come

to fruition and a most attractive Banner was on display for the first time when Celtic Carillon – our regional Handbell team – performed for the Church of Scotland Guild at the Caird Hall, Dundee, on 7th September. It will take pride of place at our Autumn Rally in Cupar on 26th October.

It is good to see ringers from around the world “checking in” to our regional Facebook & Twitter pages. Along with our magazines and website, these are a means of linking with others, sharing news about teams and events. Please keep in touch with *your* news!

During a visit to Gigha this Summer, I found myself

waiting in the hotel one evening for a few people I thought I did not know. We were all on the island to join Gigha Church's minister for her final service prior to her retirement and had been invited out for a meal with her. Imagine my surprise when I found one of the “strangers” to be a ringer from Dunkeld Handbells! It is a small world – particularly a handbell world! I have lost count of the number of friends I have made through this activity, the links that have been established, the places I have travelled to as a result of it. I cannot think of another hobby that has enhanced my life so much.

May the fruits of this Autumn enhance your lives.

Elaine Duffus
Chair

Our New Banner!



The new HRGB Scottish Regional Association promotional banner used for the first time in Dundee's Caird Hall entrance foyer which all delegates at the national Church of Scotland Guild event walked past on their way into the main hall in which Celtic Carillon performed.

Fun Corner

Leader's Lament

We're a group of fifteen ringers
Who have practices each week,
But for entertaining purposes
Our prospects are quite bleak.

Last month a spate of illnesses
Hit four of us and then
Some unexpected visitors
Reduced our team to ten

But we can still ring twenty bells.
So with my music planned,
I was not pleased when five turned up.
Much use of four-in-hand!

Then four were off on holiday
And one must babysit
And five were ill with viruses
Enough to make me spit.

Last week I planned to use ten bells
Expecting just a few.
The whole fifteen turned up again
So what am I to do?

SW



The Final Ring in Praise

If you were thinking of going in the future you are too late.
There will be no more.



25th Ring in Praise Seminar Dunblane - 8th June 2013

Two weary travellers from Aberdeen arrived in Dunblane just in time for coffee and scones before the start of this year's Ring in Praise seminar. We had left home in good time but the main road south was closed which meant a lengthy diversion and extra time on the road. So, the coffee pot was a very welcome sight!

Delegates from around the country were welcomed by Rev. Colin McIntosh, minister of Dunblane Cathedral, who spoke very movingly about the passage of time. This was - quite unbelievably - the 25th year of "Ring in Praise". Time does indeed fly when we are having fun!

Delegates had the option of Ringing All Day - on five pieces of ensemble music to performance standard - under the baton of Sandra Winter, of Solo Ringing All Day (also to performance standard) with Alan and Gay Cooper or selecting four different workshops led by experienced ringers from the Scottish Region HRGB.

After the first workshop session we were treated to a concert by Gay and Alan Cooper and Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers accompanied by the Cathedral organist, Matthew Beetschen. It was a real feast of music from film themes to classical favourites. This was followed by another feast in the hall where we were faced with tables groaning under the weight of a sumptuous buffet.

Full of fabulous food, everyone made their way back to ringing activities for the afternoon which included "Baton Beating Basics and Beyond", ringing pieces suitable for a Celebration, Processional Ringing, "Beautiful Belleplates", "Terrified of Twitter and Fear of Facebook" and "Cue Sheets and Chord Charts for Praise Band and Bells". With a delicious afternoon tea also served we were truly full of both music and food!

Before departure at 6pm we were treated to a performance from those who had selected the All Day ensemble or solo ringing. They did so well that it was difficult to believe they had just started the pieces that morning! All credit to their hard work and the expertise, good humour and patience of their leaders.

All too soon it was time to hit the road again for our journey North. Thankfully, the main road was now open so in two hours we were back home, tired but enthused after another superb Ring in Praise seminar. Thank you Malcolm and Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers for this event and, of course, for the other twenty four!

Elaine Duffus & Jackie Watson
Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen.

Kilwhang Ringers



At the beginning of July the ringers joined with the Blair Bells at a Songs of Praise service in Dun Parish Church where they played a few pieces together before the Blair Bells led the congregation in praise. This was a lovely evening and enjoyed by us all.

Towards the end of August we met after our summer break and very soon we had Christmas in mind. Not the shopping list or what would be on the festive menu but an early start to our Christmas music. As the summer sunshine streamed through the stained glass windows of Dunnottar Church where we practice we were attempting to 'Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly.' We are also engaged in weekly exercises to ensure that those quirky notes in the catchy Christmas songs are played at the right time in the correct tempo! Our Christmas programme shall surely be note perfect!!

As we enter into our Autumn/Winter session we look forward to our handbell ringing every week and the friendship of each other.

Margaret Godsman
Kilwhang Ringers
Stonehaven

Are you good at the four Ss?

Namely— Sourcing
Stocking
Storing
Selling

Do you regularly attend rallies and regional events?

See page 9 >>>>>



Bells of the Tay



“Bells of the Tay” is the group formed last year by ringers from Blair Bells, Scone Belleplates and The Parish of Dunkeld HR. The members rehearse once a month and enjoy ringing three octave music, some of which is perhaps slightly more challenging than they would ring in their separate groups. Early this year it was decided that, rather than just enjoying ourselves, we should aim to give a concert. It was realised that preparing a full programme to an acceptable standard when only rehearsing once a month wasn't going to be easy. So it was thought wise to have a full day's rehearsal just prior to the concert.

“Handbells in Harmony” was duly arranged to take place on August 23rd in The Abbey Church, Coupar Angus with the Minister, Bruce Dempsey, adding variety as guest singer.

A week beforehand we had our full day rehearsal which was much enjoyed (especially the delicious cakes brought along by some of the ringers!) The final run through of the complete programme towards the end of the day went well and gave us confidence for the forthcoming concert.

The Church began to fill early on the

night, many members of the audience knowing they would enjoy the Minister's singing but, judging from comments received afterwards, many not being sure what to expect from the bells. The acoustics in the Church made life difficult for the seventeen ringers – the bass ringers at one end of the double row of tables being unable to hear the treble bells at the other end – but the ringers coped well and the audience obviously enjoyed our music, many saying during the interval and afterwards that they hadn't expected the bells to sound so lovely. (Something to consider for the future though: In order for the ringers to hear each other better, should we set up in a U formation, where possible, instead of two straight lines? Be interested to hear what others in the region think.)

The concert raised £483 shared between The Abbey Church Development Fund and Bells of the Tay. A successful night both financially and musically. Following a break in September, Bells of the Tay resumes in October with a new programme of music to enjoy. Anyone able to travel to Dunkeld for the rehearsals which are held in the evening is welcome to join us. Contact me for details.

Heather I McLean



Jordanhill Parish Church HR

Over the summer months Jordanhill hosted the rehearsals for Celtic Carillon in preparation for their participation at the Church of Scotland annual Guild meeting in the Caird Hall, Dundee. The ensemble was ably directed by Malcolm Wilson and had ringers from Dunblane, Dunkeld, Scone, Callander, Blair and Jordanhill.

4 of the Jordanhill Ringers (Christine, Laura, Lynda and Ruth) took part in the National Residential Ringing Week in Sheffield working under Michael Glasgow (USA), John Hooper (Canada) and our own Malcolm Wilson who was a sight to behold as he led us in Coldplay's Viva La Vida! See photographs on our Facebook page.

We have a busy season ahead with plenty of bookings to keep us out of mischief and are looking forward to participating at the rally in Cupar.

Ruth Cantlay

Jordanhill Parish Church HR.



Michael J Glasgow and the Glasgow Girls.

National Residential Ringing Week 29 July—3 August in Sheffield



The Scottish
delegation



Christine , Lynda, Laura and Ruth with conductors Michael Glasgow, John Hooper and Malcolm Wilson



Christine , Lynda, Ruth and Laura.



Malcolm on percussion



Michael conducting

For more information about NRRW, see Ruth’s article in Reverberations.

Parish of Dunkeld Ringers



A busy summer, as usual, for the group. The 12th summer season of weekly performances (solo and group) continued from Easter to the end of September. These are very popular with visitors to the area, many of whom come back year after year saying, "Wednesday is Dunkeld Day to hear the bells!" Sales of our DVDs and CDs do well. The group makes only a small profit from these sales as the cost of materials and licences for recording copyright music is high and 15% from each sale is donated to Macmillan Cornhill in Perth. However, we feel that the DVDs and CDs are good for promoting the art of handbell ringing to a wider audience. Many visitors make purchases for themselves and as gifts for family and friends.

Also in the Cathedral this summer were two performances, one of solo ringing and one by the group, during the Cathedral Flower Festival.

A concert of "Musical Bells" was given by the group in The Birnam Arts Centre at the beginning of August. This was well supported and raised £210 for The Arts Centre Development Fund and for The Fountain and Well Appeal (the Fountain in the centre of Dunkeld having been damaged during the festive season last year). The group is always keen to support local fundraising initiatives.

Dunkeld ringers took part in the "Bells of the Tay" concert, the "Celtic Carillon" performance for the Church of Scotland Guild (see reports elsewhere) and are looking forward to attending the Regional Rally in Cupar on October 26th. The following day, October 27th, sees the ringers making their annual appearance at Dougie MacLean's Perthshire Amber Festival in The Wee Festival Hall at Dunkeld's Royal Hotel. The performance starts at 12.00 and is free. Why not visit Dunkeld for the day? The ringing is followed by an afternoon Open Mic session, usually well worth hearing and also free.

A new Christmas event for the group, in addition to the usual Christmas events, will be to entertain in Aviemore on December 7th for the Strathspey Railway's Santa Express – weather permitting us to travel that distance to ring and enjoy a day out and a Christmas meal together. The group should have been on tour again in 2013 but plans had to be put on hold due to illness. Hopefully, we'll be on our travels again in 2014.

Heather I. McLean



Dolly, Margaret and Heather at Dunkeld cathedral

Dunkeld Banner



Closing Date for Issue 54
25th January 2014

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 26th October 2013 HRGB Scottish Region Autumn Rally, Cupar, Fife
hosted by Eden Handbell Ringers



Saturday 5th April 2014 Spring Rally and AGM at Fetteresso Church Hall
Stonehaven, hosted by Kilwhang Ringers

Wanted

Sales Manager

Are you outgoing and persuasive?

Checked out the four Ss on page 4?

**Contact Elaine Duffus who will be delighted to
hear from you**

2013/2014 Committee

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on the website www.hrgbScotland.org.uk

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Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

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