



October 2012

# Newsletter Issue 50

Hello Ringers  
 So here we are approaching a good ringing autumn after a miserably wet summer. Who can forget the drenched choir in the Queen's flotilla?  
 I hope you enjoy this, our 50th newsletter and how nice that in this year of celebrations we can add our own bumper Golden Issue to the throng. Sue

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## Chat From The Chair



I read in a local newspaper recently that there "has been a lot of celebrating in the UK this Summer – the Queen's diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics....." What a pity the reporter hadn't known to include the International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool and, earlier in the Summer, the Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers' 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert too. In all of these events, people of all ages came together to share, promote and celebrate common interests and to give 100%. I am sure that many people made new friends too. When we make friends we promote harmony in our often divided world

Music makes friends. That is a well known fact to us in the ringing world. When we attend ringing events we have the opportunity to meet up again with friends from near and far and to meet new ones, to hear them play with their teams, to learn from each other, to support and help each other, to exchange ideas, even to share the odd moan or

two! When we attend ringing events, we are reminded that we are not alone with our handbells, handchimes or Belleplates in our own little corners of the world. That is why it is so important to take the opportunity to attend these events – regional rallies, national rallies, International Symposiums, workshop days, Schools' Ringing Days, all organised by HRGB for you and your teams.

I am fortunate to see the sheer joy of ringing together every Tuesday at 11.45am when sixteen Primary 5 – 7 pupils come bounding into the music room at Strathburn Primary school for their weekly "Handchime fix" (their words, not mine!) Their enthusiasm, determination, concentration and teamwork can only be described as inspirational. Their interest in and concern for others in their own team and even my Thursday night adult team ("Your other boys and girls") is

heart warming. One girl told me she loves coming to Handchimes so much that she would willingly stand with the chime that never needs to ring a note if it meant keeping her place in the team. It is a joy to work with these young people – possibly adult ringers of tomorrow – and to know how much they get out of the experience. At a recent performance to pupils and staff of the local Secondary School, the audience was totally blown away by the high standard of playing demonstrated by our Primary School pupils. We have much to learn from young people of today who strive for success and can achieve it while having a great time.

The world of ringing is a happy world if you care to take that step and share it with others. For many teams, the 2012-13 Session has just started and perhaps new members have joined you. Encourage and support each other, work to-

gether and look out for ringing events to attend to allow others to hear your team perform, to learn something new, to hear new pieces of music, to meet friends old and new. Join HRGB and enjoy the benefits of regular communication, information on what's going on, events to attend and of being part of a national musical body with a lot to offer-join to celebrate the art of ringing.

HRGB Scotland is here for you and your team. Come and join us. Share your experiences and activities on our Scottish Region Facebook page; write an article for our magazine; check out events on our website. Come to our next event, the **Autumn Rally at Bankfoot on 27<sup>th</sup> October.** We look forward to meeting you. Remember, music makes friends.

Elaine Duffus

# 'Olympic' Ringers



## Kilwhang Ringers

Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup> was a special date in the calendar for the Kilwhang Ringers when the Olympic Torch Relay passed through Stonehaven. Our members were up bright and early to take up our stance outside the local supermarket and as we decorated our area with bunting the crowds were gathering for this special event.



Soon we were entertaining the crowds with our renditions of 'The Bells' and 'Bells for Springtime' arranged by our own conductor along with some well known favourites. 'Men of Harlech' never sounded so good as it did on that morning when we gave it our all!

With the friendly Metropolitan policemen we struck up a great rapport and as they passed by on their motor cycles acknowledging us we in turn shook our handbells with great enthusiasm and delight - handbell ringing technique swept aside!!

The Olympic Torch Relay entourage cheered and encouraged us

to ring and as the torch bearer approached we were poised to play our signature tune 'The Bells' our finale of the morning. All too soon we were packing up elated after our memorable 'Moment to Shine.' The morning was complete with tea and coffee at the home of one of our ringers where we relived the whole experience.

Since then we have joined with the 'Blair Bells' in July ringing at a service in Dun Parish Church and one lovely summer's evening in August we enjoyed a performance by the Kobe Handbell Ensemble from Japan in Dunblane Cathedral.

After a break of a few weeks during the summer months we are now looking forward to the autumn session and entertaining locally.

Margaret Godsman

Kilwhang Ringers



## Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers

When I saw a request for all the bells throughout the UK to ring for 3 minutes at 8 o'clock on the morning of July 27<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the start of the 2012 Olympics I knew that The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers had to join in!

We decided that we would actually ring for longer (wasn't worth travelling to Dunkeld and unpacking all the bells just for 3 minutes!).

So- 9 of us set off from the gates of Dunkeld Cathedral at 8.12 (the time having been changed to accommodate the BBC News Bulletins). We processed down the rather narrow Cathedral Street, with some people, still in their dressing gowns, watching from their doorways and cheering us on. Then into The Cross (Dunkeld's central square) and along one side of that into the main street (we've only one).

We continued processing and ringing along Atholl Street until we reached The Royal Dunkeld Hotel and there we

finished, packed up and made our way into the hotel to enjoy a hearty breakfast together. Altogether we rang for about 25 minutes.

We felt that we really were part of the Olympics, that it was a unique opportunity to take part even though we were up in the highlands of Scotland, far removed from London where all the action was to take place.

I have to admit that there were fewer people watching than we'd hoped - 8.12 in the morning was obviously too early for most of the population of Dunkeld. Those who did turn out to watch clapped us and said afterwards that they had thoroughly enjoyed it and congratulated us for taking part. Several joined on at the end of our line of ringers - one with a ship's bell and some children with smaller bells. It was a very joyous occasion for us all, although I have to admit that Malcolm's "Jubilant Procession" didn't sound quite as good as it perhaps should - a ship's bell can play havoc with ringers' rhythms!

Heather I McLean

## Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensemble Hedge their Bells



As a precursor to the Olympic Games Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensemble performed as part of Martin Creed's Work No. 1197 "All the Bells" project - joining with many, many other participants around the UK ringing bells for 3 minutes from 8.12am on the morning of Friday 27 July - marking the start of the day of the opening of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensemble rang handbells at the side of the yew tree cut into the shape of a giant handbell in the garden of Lysbeth and Alex Wilson (who crafted this tree into this shape over several years) in Dunblane.  
Malcolm Wilson



## International Symposium—Liverpool



The Echo Arena on Liverpool's waterfront was the venue for the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium held between the 31<sup>st</sup> July and the 4<sup>th</sup> August. Every two years handbell musicians from around the world gather together for five days of music making. Amongst the 450 attending this year were 15 ringers from Scotland, many of whom were involved in the running of the event. Lysbeth Wilson, Dunblane Cathedral HR, and Lynda Barclay, Jordanhill Parish Church HR, were members of the organising committee. Lysbeth ran classes

on how to stitch a Celtic knotwork card, while Beryl Snowden, Blair Bells, together with Lynda and myself led a session on Scottish country dancing.

The opening ceremony began with tower bell ringing in which Judith Frye, Dunblane Cathedral, took part. Eleanor Wilson, our youngest member, proudly carried the Union Flag in the Parade of Flags. Malcolm Wilson composed and conducted 'Festivamente', one of the two pieces chosen by HRGB to be rung at the Symposium. The other, 'Olympic Gold' by Robin Benton, was a very apt piece as while we were ringing it, our athletes were winning gold medals – to great cheers when this was announced.

Malcolm also conducted the Symposium Youth Choir. Their rendition of Lady Gaga's 'Just Dance' received rapturous applause at the final concert. All the Scottish team were pleased to see many well kent faces at the concert on the Saturday afternoon.

As always at a Symposium, it is good to meet up with friends from around the world and also to make new friends. It was five days of intensive, but thoroughly enjoyable, ringing. Luckily it is only two years until the next one in South Korea.

Christine Reid  
Jordanhill Parish Church HR



Celtic Carillon



Photos from  
Liverpool

## A Young Ringer at Liverpool

My first ever handbell symposium was in 2000 in Birmingham. Considering I was only 10 months old, I don't remember it that well! However this year I attended my second symposium, but this time as a participant. It was definitely a memorable experience. I was lucky enough to be asked to carry the British flag at the opening ceremony. I loved every moment of it. I also got to work with my dad in the youth symposium choir (we performed *Celestial Charm*, *Spirit of Freedom*, and *Lady Gaga's Just Dance*). The choir was my favourite part of the week. Ringing with people my age from different parts of the world is something I will never forget. The mass ringing was very interesting. The first day was tiring, but after that I got used to it all. It was really nice to see people that I had met a long time ago from Japan and America. But of course it was lovely to meet a lot of other people that I hadn't met before and I hope to keep in touch with them all. Over all it has made me enjoy playing handbells more. I would absolutely love to go to another symposium. It was one of my best holidays I have had in a long, long time.

Eleanor Wilson  
Dunblane Cathedral Youth Handbell Ensemble

## News from Jordanhill

In the early summer months JPCHR hosted 3 rehearsals for Celtic Carillon's preparation for the International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool and we were delighted that Malcolm Wilson of Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers was able to come and lead us through the challenging music.

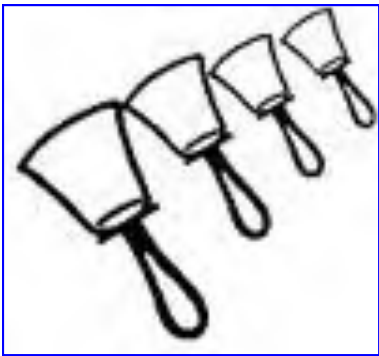
Our session started back on the 26<sup>th</sup> August and our ensemble group was out ringing on the 31<sup>st</sup> August! We continue to have bookings right through till March 2013 after which it will be full steam ahead for the National Rally in Renfrew.

Our annual charity Craft Fair and Book Sale this year was in support of the Beatson Pebble Appeal Jordanhill Parish Church and our own funds. Although numbers attending were lower than previous years we were pleased that we raised £450.

We are looking forward to participating at the October Rally with its chocolate/sweet theme and delighted that we are going back to such a lovely venue.

Ruth Cantlay

- Reading this in print rather than by email?
- A member of HRGB? It's only £10 a year.
- Have an email address?
- Then let us have your email address and you too can get your newsletters on line, in colour and any size you like.
- You'll also get Reverberations.



## Release Your Creative Talent!

Our Region is looking to purchase a stand-up banner to display and promote the art of handbell/handchime/Belleplate ringing in Scotland. This will be on display at events around the country.

We are looking for assistance from people with :

- The creative expertise to design this banner for us
- The talent and equipment to take photographs of high quality suitable for large print.

Could this be you or someone you know?

If so, please get in touch with a Committee member as soon as possible.

We would like to have the banner ready to display at the National Rally in Renfrew in April 2013.

We look forward to hearing from you!



## Handbells in Harmony



Following the International Symposium in Liverpool, the Handbell Ringers of Japan organised a ringing tour for their 100 ringers. This culminated in a fabulous concert in St Michael's Church, Linlithgow on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>

August. The group consisted of 5 handbell teams including Seibo Gakuen Handbell Choir, Shoei Girls' Senior High School, Hakuoh University Handbell Choir and The Handbell Ringers of Japan Teams A & B. They were accompanied on the tour by Mrs Sun-Joo Shin, Executive Secretary of the Handbell Ringers of Japan.



The programme featured a wide range of music including The Silk Road, Sukiyaki, In a Persian Market and concluded with Bizet's Farandole expertly played by the Hakuoh University Choir who earlier in the day had performed in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. The ringers were welcomed by Jack Adair, Provost to the Court of the Deacons of Linlithgow and the vote of thanks given by Tom Kerr, Provost of West Lothian. Also in attendance and speaking to the ringers was Consul General Tarahara and Mrs Tarahara.

St Michael's Church is next to Linlithgow Palace and all were able to explore the palace and surrounding loch on a beautiful warm summer's afternoon. The ringers left Edinburgh for home the following day.

Christine Reid

Hukoah University Handbell Choir

# Aberdeen's Summer Visit To Dunblane

In the afternoon of 8th August, two Handchime Groups from Aberdeen (Silver City Chimes and Chapel Chimers) and some friends set off for Dunblane. The purpose - to attend a Summer evening concert in the Cathedral.

We set off at 2.30pm on a First Bus which the driver informed us was normally used to transport Aberdeen

Football Club players to and from matches. It was sheer luxury! In no time at all, it seemed (for there was much Summer news to catch up on) we were in Dunblane. We lingered in the glorious sunshine in the car park of the Indian restaurant where we were to eat until the doors opened at 5pm. The staff there were very well prepared for

the influx of people as we had sent our orders in advance.

Fully replete, it was a short walk to the cathedral past the GOLD post-box where we had the inevitable photo shoot!

Taking part in the concert were Kobe YMCA Handbells of Japan, Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensemble and Celtic Carillon, all just north from the International Symposium in Liverpool.

Among the many enjoyable pieces played were "March Olympic Gold" by Robin Benton, "Jupiter" from Holst's Planet Suite and Sibelius' Finlandia.

These were the ones that stuck in my memory.

All too soon it was over and after a vote of thanks from the Chair, it was time for us to board the bus and head back north again, but not before waving goodbye to the Kobe team who were keen to get to their hotel as they had an early flight from Edinburgh to Holland the following day - a busy schedule! Altogether a wonderful day.

J. Watson



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## Closing Date for Issue 51— 25 January 2013

Thank you for all your contributions to this, our Golden Issue. Can I please remind contributors to not embed photos but send them as a separate attachment. And please put your name at the end of an article. You deserve the credit.

### Ten successful years of ringing by The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers October 2002 – October 2012.

Having to produce a summary for The Cathedral Magazine of the group's activities since its formation, our records show how busy we've been. Whilst it may seem to be boasting, we are proud of all we have achieved during our first 10 years and reproduce some of the statistics below:

602 performances

£12,787 donated to charities

Purchased a wide range of equipment now valued at over £33,000

Undertaken 3 tours to Scottish islands - Iona, Mull & Orkney

Produced 3 CDs & 3 DVDs selling worldwide

Featured in The Scots Magazine

Recorded for Hospital Radio, Perth

Represented Scotland at The National Rally of The Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

Rung, by invitation, for 6 years in Perthshire Amber Festival

**The group's Constitution states its objects as being to "use the handbells for the greater glory of God and for the enrichment of church and community and to promote the art of handbell ringing....".** The ringers take this seriously and, to this end, have performed far and wide in Nursing Homes, Day Centres and Garden Centres, for

Rurals, Guilds and Disability groups, at Flower Festivals, Edinburgh's Winter Festival, in many Churches and, during the summer months, provided weekly entertainment for visitors to Dunkeld Cathedral. Notable venues in which the ringers have performed are Iona Abbey, St. Giles' Cathedral, The National Museum of Scotland, Pitlochry Theatre, The Birnam Institute, Perth Concert Hall, Scone Palace, Falkland Palace, Dornoch Cathedral, and Duart Castle.

When we perform anywhere we are invariably invited to return, which we sometimes do, but feel that to promote the art of handbell ringing as widely as possible, we should ring for new audiences.

As already mentioned, the above record is one of which the ringers and I, as Musical Director, are proud. It has not been achieved without much hard work and dedication, has considerably increased the number of visitors to the Dunkeld area and, we feel, has promoted the image of handbell ringing into the wider community. We do not claim to be the best team of ringers there is but we enjoy ourselves and people seem to enjoy our music. Isn't that what it's all about? We now look forward to the future.

Heather I. McLean



After Wii bells now we have:-

## Virtual Handbell Ringing

**DAYTON, OHIO**—Handbell musicians from around the globe will combine their ringing skills over the next five months as they collaborate on a unique musical creation, and they invite you to join them.

Inspired by the many virtual choir projects for vocalists, Handbell Musicians of America has teamed up with San Francisco handbell conductor and composer James Meredith to create the first ever Virtual Handbell Ensemble. In the virtual choir projects, individual vocalists from around the world make videos of themselves singing one part of a choral work written specifically for the project. All the videos are compiled to virtually create the effect of a mass choir performing the piece.

For the Virtual Handbell Ensemble project, Meredith has composed a work titled “Misterium,” which he has deconstructed into 135 individual segments to be recorded separately by individuals and small groups of players from around the world. Musicians are invited to download the work from the project website ([virtual.handbellmusicians.org](http://virtual.handbellmusicians.org)) and record themselves playing any one or a number of the individual segments, which will be assembled by the editing videographer and the composer. There are pieces of the music which can be performed by beginning handbell players as well as pieces which will challenge the most seasoned players. And no one will know what the actual music sounds like until it is compiled and premiered next July at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Portland, Oregon, after which it will be uploaded to the website and YouTube.

Musicians are encouraged to be creative in how they record their segments. Meredith said, “Find a place as quiet as possible indoors or out. Choose a background which does not detract from you. You may film very close up, at a distance, from the side, front or overhead but make your performance interesting. The more interesting, the more likely your clips will be prominent in the final video collage. In other words, don’t look like robotic automatons! Let’s show the world how exciting handbells can be to watch and listen to.”

After the online premiere, the score will be published so that any groups interested can perform the work, which is written for double ensemble.

( If anyone tries this I’d love to read about it! If you have problems downloading the music email me for a copy. )Ed.

### NEW! WHITECHAPEL HANDBELLS WOODEN JIGSAW PUZZLE

This is a familiar picture of part of the Woodroyd Handbell Ringers’ refurbished competition set now used by HRGB to introduce new ringers to the art of handbell tune ringing.

Wentworth puzzles make an excellent gift. They challenge those who enjoy jigsaws that intrigue, frustrate and confuse! There are straight edges inside the puzzle and a set of specially cut musical “whimsies” (so-called because Victorian puzzle cutters included them ‘on a whim’).

This wooden puzzle contains 250 pieces and measures 250mm x 360mm (10” x 14”). It costs £22 (plus £3 p+p within the UK).

Please send your details  
and a cheque made payable to HRGB to:  
John Willis, Lyndhurst, Prospect Hill, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1JD  
email: [sales@hrgb.org.uk](mailto:sales@hrgb.org.uk)



Artwork by Andrew Taylor. Photos by the author of [www.bellshower.co.uk](http://www.bellshower.co.uk)  
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8 in hand by Danny Lyons

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b0fkfO\\_bvs&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b0fkfO_bvs&feature=related)

Flight of the Bumble Bee by Raleigh Ringers  
at Lakeland Florida

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzwwk0isgu\\_U&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzwwk0isgu_U&feature=related)

Gay & Alan on Britain's Got Talent

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5WeBV92IrY>

**YouTube Worth  
Watching**

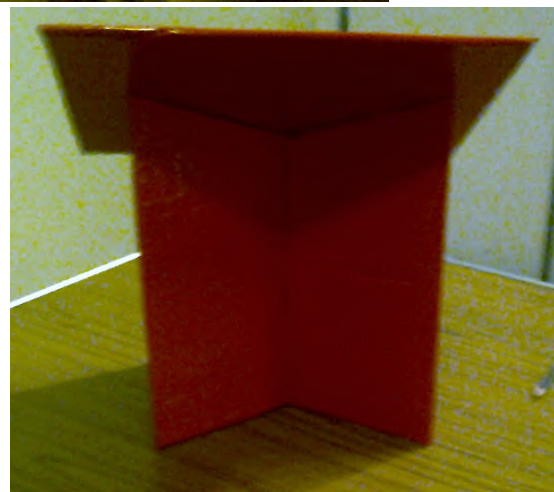


## Cheap New Stands



Border Bells Belleplate team is affiliated to the Galashiels U3A so by its very nature has older members. That's why we play Belleplates. They're a third of the weight of proper bells and easier for weak or arthritic hands to lift.. As time has gone by we have got fed up with carrying our Perspex raised stands to performances. They are cumbersome and extremely heavy. So we decided to make our own and with this in mind we gathered on 13<sup>th</sup> September to have a craft session using heavy duty cardboard ,sticky backed plastic and a plan by Tim Coombes.. In an hour six of us made twelve sturdy cardboard stands. We then spent some time puzzling over the best way to cover our stands. They might not last forever but we have a stack of cardboard left over to make new ones as and when needed and all our stands cost less than a single purchased stand.

Sue Wilson



If any impecunious groups would like a copy of Tim Coombes' plan let me know and I'll put it in issue 51. Ed.

## 2012/2013 Committee

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Marge Paterson

### Treasurer

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