



February 2013

# Newsletter Issue 51

Happy New Year everyone!

Keep warm in our cold winter. Stay in and read our bumper issue 51 instead. Sue

## Chat from the Chair



As I write this, Christmas seems all but a distant memory but for many teams it was clearly a very busy ringing time. Thank you to those who have posted snippets and recordings on our Regional Facebook page for us all to see and hear. With the Scottish Region of HRGB covering such a vast geographical area, such methods of communication bring us all a little closer. Following the successful launch of our Facebook page, we can now be found on Twitter too. A big thank you to Malcolm Wilson who has tapped into his technological talents to enable us to join the world of "Social Networking", helping us to reach out to ringers in our own country and across the world.

Representatives of ten of our Region's ringing teams travelled to Bankfoot on 27<sup>th</sup> October for our Autumn Rally, with a chocolate theme, ably hosted by Blair Bells. It was a very "sweet day" and on

behalf of the Scottish Region Committee I take this opportunity to thank members of Blair Bells for their super organisation, warm welcome and generous hospitality.

As we have no Regional Spring Rally this year (in lieu of our hosting of the National Rally in April) our AGM will be held in Dunblane Cathedral Halls on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 at 2pm. As well as looking back over the past year, this is an opportunity to look forward and to select a Committee to lead and guide us as a Region. Do consider playing some part in this.

Our Treasurer, Lynda Barclay, is stepping down from her post, having given "sterling" service to our accounts for 5 years so we require nominations for a new Regional Treasurer. **Could you do this for us?** Please ask around your teams. Don't wait for someone else to volunteer – they may be waiting for you!

Christine Reid is also stepping down as one of the NEC Representatives on the Committee to move on to pastures new so we are also looking for a replacement for her. **Could you do this?** Don't be shy – you will be made most welcome and it is always good to have new ideas to share around our meeting table.

I take this opportunity – on your behalf - to thank both Lynda and Christine most sincerely for all their hard work over many years. Both have held numerous posts on our Committee and have willingly given a great deal of their time and talents to HRGB Scotland.

It hardly seems possible that it has almost been a year since I took up post as Regional Chairman. I am grateful to the Committee for putting up with me since I was elected in March 2012 and thank them for their continued support,

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assistance and co-operation.

One of my lasting ringing memories of Christmas 2012 is of a Class of Primary 3 pupils performing on their coloured Handbells at the school End of Term service. The children performed brilliantly – the notes were all in the right places! – but best of all, every child played with a big smile on their face. They were clearly proud to be standing in front of the school, their parents and members of the community playing their handbells. Shouldn't that be the same for all of us?

Perhaps a new aim for us when we go out into the world and ring - Proud and with a smile!

Elaine Duffus

# Chairman's Report 2012-2013



I am delighted to report it has been another successful ringing year for the Scottish Regional Association, HRGB. Teams from throughout the country continue to promote and share their music on handbells, handchimes and Belle-plates with others in their home areas and in the wider community. This has been further enhanced this year by our new Facebook and Twitter pages.

Events organised for Scottish ringers of all ages this year were:

Spring Rally and AGM hosted by Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen

13<sup>th</sup> Schools' Ringing Day organised by Lysbeth & Malcolm Wilson, Dunblane

24<sup>th</sup> Ring in Praise Seminar organised by Dunblane Cathedral Handbells

Autumn Rally hosted by Blair Bells at Bankfoot

My thanks to all who have organised and hosted events. Your efforts and time are greatly appreciated and you make a big difference to our ringing lives, helping us to come together as a Region.

Summer was a busy time for many ringers. Teams from around the country rang out for the start of the Olympics. Fifteen ringers from Scotland attended the International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, many playing a very active part taking workshops, composing music and conducting massed ringing, leading Scottish Country Dancing, Tower Bell Ringing and one young ringer, Eleanor Wilson, had the honour of carrying the UK flag. We have a lot of talent in our region. Some who could not attend the Symposium were able to catch up with the enchanting Japanese ringers in touring concerts after the event in Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Dunblane.

Scottish Ringers continue to attend National Rallies and Residential Ringing events, sharing their expertise with others, learning new music and enhancing their experiences.

Two teams in Scotland were celebrating "notable" birthdays this year. Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers celebrated 35 years and Dunkeld Handbell Ringers 10 years.

Teams generously continue to raise money for Charities throughout the year with their ringing activities and give their time willingly to entertain people in their areas and beyond. Dunkeld Handbells have raised over £12,787 in their ten years of ringing; Jordanhill Handbells supported the Beatson Pebble Appeal with their annual concert; Dunblane Handbells rang for the Strathcarron Hospice annual Service of Remembrance; Callander Chimes participated in their Community Christmas Concert; Holy Trinity Handbells, Haddington, and Caithness Handbells were out and about performing Carols at Christmas, Cushnie Handbells rang for Inch WRI and Silver City Chimes rang on a lorry at a Vintage Working Weekend in Aberdeenshire for local charities...the list is endless but we should be very proud of all of our Regional ringers and everything they do for others.

At last year's AGM, Christine Reid of Jordanhill Handbells stepped down as Regional Chair but remained on the Committee as one of the NEC Representatives. Anne Duncan of Silver City Chimes joined as a Committee member. The other Committee Officers and members remained in post for another year. It was at this AGM that I was elected as Chairman and I thank the Committee – and ringers from teams around Scotland – for their support, assistance and co-operation in my first year.

I am honoured to be Chairman of a Region we can all be proud of; a Region that has led in many ways; a Region with a great deal of talent. Let's go forward into another successful ringing year with our heads held high.

Elaine G Duffus

## A Plea from the Editor

If you are sending me articles for the newsletter please do not include fancy bullets, logos, photos or boxes in the text. They do not transfer to the desktop publisher and create a lot of work re-formatting. If you wish to have a logo or photo included please send it as a separate jpeg. If you want something in a box tell me in your email and I will do it. Thanks.

## Secretary's Report 2012-2013



At the 2012 AGM Christine Reid stood down as Chairperson. Elaine Duffus (Silver City Chimes) was nominated and accepted the post of Chairperson. Lysbeth Wilson paid tribute to all the work that Christine had done during her time as Chairman. In addition to attending Scottish events, Christine has attended international events as well. She will continue to represent the Scottish Region on the NEC. Anne Duncan was nominated onto the committee and accepted the position.

The next event on the calendar was the 13th Scottish Schools' Ringing Day held at Newton Primary School, Dunblane on Thursday 17 May. Four schools participated in this event while Castleton Primary School in Caithness participated by means of the Scottish Schools' Secure Intranet Service GLOW. An enjoyable day was had by everyone. For some schools, this is the highlight of their bellringing year!

Scotland was represented at the National Rally and AGM at York at the end of March. The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers represented Scotland at the concert.

15 members from Scottish Region attended the International Symposium at Liverpool from 31 July to 4 August.

Following on from the Symposium a Japanese Touring Group gave concerts in Edinburgh on Aug 6, Linlithgow on Aug 7 and Dunblane Cathedral on Aug 8.

The next event in our calendar was the Ring in Praise Seminar in Dunblane on Saturday 8 September. Participants could choose from a variety of workshops ranging from the A to Z of bell techniques to playing a variety of

music suitable for ringing in church. In addition to these workshops, there was the opportunity to ring a selection of music all day, either as a group or as solo ringers, with a view to 'performing' the pieces to the rest of the participants at the end of the day. There was something for everyone. Our thanks go to Malcolm Wilson and Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers for organising and hosting this very popular event in our calendar. A great day was had by all.

Our Autumn Rally on Saturday 27 October was again held in Bankfoot Church Centre and hosted this year by Blair Bells. We were very pleased to have Alan and Margaret Hartley join us for the day. This event had a Chocolate Theme. Both conductors were impressed with the standard of ringing achieved in such a short time.

Two members attended UK Bronze in Sutton from 31st October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The HRGB Scottish Committee meets 3 times a year in Dunblane. At these meetings, we plan the HRGB events for the year ahead and we have the chance to learn what has been discussed in the National Executive Committee(NEC). Being on the HRGB Scottish Committee certainly gives you a wider view of what goes on in the world of handbell ringing.

It has been another busy but productive year for the Scottish Region!

Marge Paterson

## Treasurer's Report 2012-2013



The annual account statement will be emailed to you or posted to your team contact ahead of the AGM when the Examiner has completed his examination.

The Scottish Region accounts remain healthy and with membership staying the same we held our own and we were able to make a contribution to travel costs for the school teams to attend the Schools' Ringing Day.

As our main income is from a rebate from membership fees, it is important to have all team members belong to HRGB. Members benefit from a much reduced rate at regional events.

The region has a very active sales team and purchasing music, acces-

sories and gifts from Mary and her helpers also benefits our funds.

Please remember to inform the regional committee of any address or email changes as we would like to continue to see savings in our postal bill, particularly with the recent large jump in postage costs.

Once again we are indebted to our rally hosts this year, Silver City Chimes and Blair Bells for their kind hospitality at the events.

Through your generosity and participation in the raffles we have been able to make a donation to the following charities: The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust and Cornhill Macmillan Centre Perth.

Following the superb concert given by a Japanese touring team in St Mi-

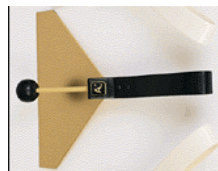
chael's Linlithgow in August, the Kirk Session has donated half the proceeds to support the Ferguson family from Linlithgow, who are Christian Education Missionaries in Japan. The remainder, at the request of the Japanese visitors will be used for community projects in the town.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the accounts and will be attending the AGM in Dunblane on Saturday 2 March 2013, or you can contact me by email.

I should like to thank the other officers and committee members for their help in keeping such good records of events they have organised this year, making my job easier.

**Lynda Barclay Treasurer**

# NEC Report 2012



Christine Reid and Lynda Barclay, as elected representatives from the Scottish Region have travelled to Birmingham 3 times this year to attend the National Executive Committee meetings. Lysbeth Wilson as an Honorary Life member has also attended when able.

At the AGM, Anthony Hayes was elected National Treasurer and Diane Holt, Membership Secretary.

National membership numbers have decreased slightly. This is an on going concern. There continues to be a need to encourage all ringers in teams to join the association.

The William Hartley Memorial Fund (WHMF) continues to lend bells to teams around the country and to give out loans for refurbishment/repairs and to purchase new bells and the VEMF funds 2 young ringers to attend the National Residential Ringing Week.

HandbellRinging has received a great deal of media coverage this year. "All the Bells", Martin Creed's Work No. 1197, saw bells all over the UK ringing to celebrate the start of The Olympics. The International Symposium in Liverpool attracted local TV and press coverage and resulted in a sizeable audience attending the final concert in the Echo Arena. All of which helps to promote the art of handbell ringing. A promotional DVD was produced and copies are with the Regional Secretary.

HRGB music is now available to download from the website.

A credit card facility to accept payments was agreed in principle and will be set up initially for HRGB sales.

A new National Secretary and editor for Reverberations are required.

The major event of the year was the 15<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool. This attracted over 450 ringers from around the world, all of whom enjoyed 5 days of challenging ringing, a variety of workshops and meeting friends old and new.

National events – past and future:-

National Rally 2012	30 March -1 April York
15 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium	31 July-4 August Echo Arena Liverpool
UK Bronze 2012	31 October –3 November Sutton
National Rally 2013	12-14 April Renfrew
National Residential Ringing Week	29 <sup>th</sup> July – 4 <sup>th</sup> August Sheffield
National Rally 2014	Newport Shropshire
16 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium	JejuIsland South Korea

Lynda Barclay& Christine Reid, NEC representatives



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Diary Dates

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013</b>	Regional AGM – 2pm – Dunblane Cathedral Halls
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	National Rally – Normandy Hotel, Renfrew
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Scottish Schools' Ring – Newton Primary, Dunblane
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Ring in Praise Seminar – Dunblane Cathedral Halls
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013</b>	Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensembles Presentation Evening 7.30pm





**Handbell Ringers of Great Britain  
Scottish Regional Association**



**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
**Scottish Regional Association HRGB**  
will be held on  
**Saturday 2nd March 2013**  
in Dunblane Cathedral Halls

**Nomination of Committee Members  
For AGM 2013**

Can you spare the time to join our Committee?

We are looking for:

A Treasurer  
A representative to the HRGB National Executive Committee  
Committee Members  
People like YOU!

**Please also help us by noting the following....**

Nomination Forms to our Secretary by  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Any item(s) you would like added to AOCB of our AGM Agenda must also be sent to the Secretary by  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

Only items sent in advance will be added.

It would be helpful if you could let us know if you intend joining us at the AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Numbers to the Secretary by  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February



Thank you.  
**We look forward to hearing from you**



# News from Dunkeld



“Caledonia” by Dougie MacLean, arranged by Elaine Duffus, was rung for the first time in public by the Dunkeld ringers at the Regional Rally held in Bankfoot in October. Comments aired afterwards indicated that listeners had enjoyed the performance but we, the ringers, were disappointed with our ringing as we knew we had made quite a few mistakes. We realised that we’d have to do better the following day when we were due to ring it again at the Perthshire Amber Festival with Dougie in the audience. Determination and absolute concentration paid off and our ringing of Elaine’s beautiful arrangement for the second time in public was probably the best it has ever been. Dougie loved it and we received a standing ovation. How we wished Elaine had heard us that day instead of the day before at the Rally!

Then it was into the usual pre-Christmas routine: entertaining in two Nursing Homes, a Care Home, an Over 50s Christmas Party, Dobbies Garden World and a Day Centre.

Margaret Davidson and I were also delighted to take part in “A Grand Christmas Concert” with Billy Anderson and his accordion band plus fiddles and percussion at Hope Park & Martyrs Church, St. Andrews. We rang several solos and duets, two of which can be seen on the following youtube links:

<http://youtu.be/J81lcz-1wtg>

<http://youtu.be/jBas3mXf2UI>

After Christmas ringing events we take our one and only break of the year only resuming practices in mid January when preparation begins for ringing in morning services at Little Dunkeld Kirk during February.

Heather I McLean

Playing at the Amber Festival



Heather and Margaret play a duet



Closing Date for Issue 52—  
Tuesday 21st May 2013

# It's Snow Chime!

The snow has a habit of catching up with members of Silver City Chimes each time they take to the road for a performance. Although it hasn't quite reached us during the Summer months (yet), any time we are performing from October to April, there is always a possibility we will see some "white stuff" around.

So, it was no surprise when we woke to a very white world on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012 –the day of the Scottish Region Autumn Rally at Bankfoot, hosted by Blair Bells. Thankfully we had decided to hire a small coach to get us there and back but some of us had to dig our cars out very early that morning to drive across town to our pick-up point. Despite the weather, everyone was on time and in very good spirits. Finally, the bus arrived and we were on our way. Before we had covered half of the journey, the snow had disappeared. I am sure many of the other ringers at the rally thought we were making up the snow story!

The theme for the rally was "Chocolate and Sweets" so we had spent many happy hours of rehearsal time chomping our way through yummy favourites so we would have sufficient wrappers to make decorations for our music stands. It certainly added a delicious touch of sweetness to our Thursday nights but alas, it did not continue after the event!

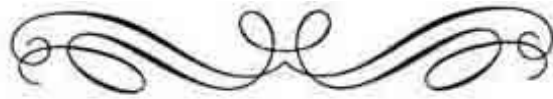
The teams who attended the rally had really used their imaginations in selecting pieces to suit the theme and it was great to listen to such a wide variety of music throughout the



Silver City Chimes

day, performed on Handbells, Handchimes and Belleplates. Much laughter and fun filled the spacious and comfortable venue both in the team performances, massed ringing sessions and refreshment breaks. We were delighted to have Alan Hartley, National Chairman of HRGB, and Margaret Hartley with us for this event.

I, along with Malcolm Wilson, had the pleasure of conducting the massed ringing pieces ("A Jubilant Processional", "Love Chocolate" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth") and we were most impressed with what was achieved in a rela-



Music stands decorated with sweetie wrappers!

As two of our team were unable to make the rally, we gratefully enlisted the capable, willing, assistance of Malcolm Wilson and Ruth Cantlay for our two performance pieces – "Variation for Charlie" and "Tenacious Gigha". We were joined by Susan Allan of Gigha for the massed ringing pieces - attending her first rally for some time. Good to have her "back in the fold".

tively short time. Everyone worked hard on the three pieces and by the end of the day, they even looked as if they were enjoying it!

Blair Bells ensured everyone was warmly welcomed, well fed and watered throughout the day and their diligent organisation was greatly appreciated by all who attended. If you didn't make it, you missed a very enjoyable day of ringing.

All too soon it was time to pack up and head in all directions as teams set off for home. By the time we arrived back in Aberdeen, the snow had disappeared – till next time!

Elaine Duffus

Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen



Aberdeen and Gigha join forces

# Fun Corner

## A Handbell version of 'Mary Mary Quite Contrary'

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go.  
They ding and dong  
And make a song  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go.  
They have a ring  
And make folk sing  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go.  
They play in key  
Sometimes a 'C'  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go  
When they go bong  
Then it is wrong  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go.  
They like to play  
On rally day  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Mary, Mary quite contrary  
How do your handbells go.  
They have a shine  
And sound just fine  
With pretty maids all in a row.

Inspiration for this poem came after playing 'Mary Mary' at a concert.

Margaret Godsman

Kilwhang Ringers

Stonehaven 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012



# Bells of the Tay

A Twitter account is now set up  
[www.twitter.com/HRGBScot](http://www.twitter.com/HRGBScot)  
Username@HRGBScot

Whilst "Bells of the Tay" ringers are members of HRGB through their own groups (Blair Bells, Scone Belleplates & The Parish of Dunkeld) The "Bells of the Tay" group was not initially registered with HRGB. After some discussion at the rehearsal on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 it was agreed unanimously that the group should apply for membership.

One bright spark then said, "Why don't we ring at the Rally in Bankfoot?" Bear in mind that this was just over a week away with no possibility of a rehearsal beforehand! No wonder I took a deep breath before asking what everyone thought of the idea! All were agreed that we should give it a go. Frantic searching

through the music in the folders followed with various suggestions regarding the piece to be played. Eventually it was narrowed down to Linda Lamb's 3-octave arrangement of "Morning Has Broken". This is a beautiful arrangement which incorporates singing bells, random suspended malletting, handchimes and handbells all combining to produce a haunting quality to the sound.

As the group's director I was delighted that the ringers were keen to give their first public performance at a Regional Rally and, whilst I realised that I'm a little biased, I thought they rang well. We continue rehearsing, once a month, in preparation for a concert later in the year .

Heather I McLean



Singing bell technique





Bells of the Tay



## Jordanhill News

In October Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers were represented at the October rally in Bankfoot which was hosted by Blair Bells. The theme being chocolate we had to rack our brains to find something suitable. We came up with part of Take a Break by Sandra Winters, which she very kindly adjusted for us by putting in more Bass and treble bells, and the William Tell overture. The very tenuous link to chocolate being the apple which as it was near Halloween you could buy chocolate apples in the shops!!

We have had our usual busy December and have several engagements over the next few months.

Some of us will be attending the National Rally at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew which we hope will be as great a success as it was when Scotland hosted it in 2004.

As always our up to date information can be found on our Facebook page and we are in the process of setting up a Twitter page.

Ruth Cantlay

### Celtic Carillon

Celtic Carillon, Scotland's national handbell ensemble, has been asked to ring for the Church of Scotland's Guild meeting in the Caird Hall, Dundee, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The event is from 10.30 - 3.30 and there are 2 musical interludes - one in the morning and one in the afternoon with time for 2 pieces each time. The team will once again ring under the direction of Malcolm C Wilson. This is a prestigious event and it will lift the profile of ringing in Scotland.

To be part of Celtic Carillon, ringers need to be confident music readers, be competent in all aspects of ringing techniques and feel confident to ring to concert standard after only 3 rehearsals. All rehearsals will be held in Jordanhill Parish Church, Woodend Drive, Glasgow G13 1QT and will run for most of the day.

The rehearsal dates are:-

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013, July 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

The performance is on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the Caird Hall. Dundee

The level of music will be level 3.

If you would like to commit to this, please get in touch with me (preferably by email).

Please let me know which bells you are most comfortable ringing, however there is no guarantee that these bells will be allocated to you.

Ruth Cantlay

See contact page on [www.hrgbScotland.org.uk](http://www.hrgbScotland.org.uk)

## 2012/2013 Committee

### Chairman

Elaine Duffus

### Secretary

Marge Paterson

### Treasurer

Lynda Barclay

### Sales Manager

Mary McGregor

For contact details visit the contacts page on <http://www.hrgbscotland.org.uk>

## Committee Members

Ruth Cantlay

Christine Reid

Anne Duncan

Irene Duncan

Lysbeth Wilson

John Elcock

Liz Jamieson

### Newsletter Editor

Sue Wilson

### Honorary Life Members

Lysbeth Wilson

Malcolm Wilson—Website Administrator

### NEC Reps

Christine Reid

Lynda Barclay

### Ex-Officio Member

Anne Smith—Archivist



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

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