



June 2012

Newsletter Issue 49

It was cold, wet and windy. The central heating was still coming on. We had been to Torridon in May before and expected snow. We packed all our thermal clothes and scoffed at the idea of packing t-shirts. How wrong can you be? We sweltered for a week in Gairloch in an unprecedented heatwave! When I got

back there were lots of contributions for the newsletter. Many thanks to those of you who sent something for this **biggest ever** issue in which we welcome Elaine Duffus as our new Chair. Note Elaine's choice of a new title for her remarks. Great start! Sue.

Inside This Issue

Rally Rookie	2
York National Rally	2
Border Bells	3
Facebook	4
Jordanhill PCHBR	5
Schools Ring 2012	6
Lorry Load of Laughs	7
Dunkeld	8
Fun Corner	8
Dunblane on BBC	9
Dates for your Diary	10
Hale & Farewell	11

Chat From The Chair

It never struck me when I took my first faltering steps into the world of "ringing" back in 1989 that I would, sometime in the distant future, become the Chair of the Scottish Regional Association of HRGB. The Chair that is of a Region which did not exist back then as Scottish ringers were affiliated to the "North West Region" of HRGB – based in the North West of England. With all due respect to the NW Region, who always made us most welcome, I feel it is good we have sufficient membership and interest north of the border to have our own Regional Association a bit "closer to home" since it's official formation in January 1996.

The event which inspired me to form a Handchime team was the first **Ring In Praise seminar** in Dunblane in 1989. The 24th seminar is coming up on **8th September** this year so if you have never been to one of these before, please give it a try. If you have already been, you will know there is

always something new to learn, old friends to catch up with and new ones to meet.

My own team had the honour of hosting the very first Scottish Regional Association Rally in Aberdeen on Saturday 23rd March 1996. It was good to welcome teams from the length and breadth of Scotland to that event and it was great to be welcoming some of them back, along with some "younger" teams, to Aberdeen for this year's AGM and Spring Rally on 17th March. The **Autumn rally** is to be hosted by Blair Bells in Bankfoot Church Centre Near Perth on **Saturday 27th October 2012**.

Get your team on board and come along. I look forward to seeing you there! If you have never hosted a Regional Event before and would like to bring ringers to your part of the country, do think about it. The Regional Committee are always looking for teams to

host and they will support you in any way they can.

There are a lot of "ringing events" going on in the UK this year – check these out in national & regional HRGB magazines, websites and on Facebook (our region now has its own page) - and be sure to catch up with some of them. Fifteen Scottish Ringers are to fly the flag for the region at the International Symposium in Liverpool from **31st July – 4th August**. We wish them well and I know they will make us all proud. If travelling to Liverpool is difficult, be sure to catch up with the touring teams who are coming to Scotland following the Symposium.

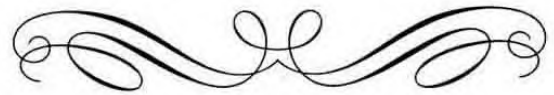
The Scottish Regional Association Committee is busy planning the next National Rally to be held in Renfrew during the week-end of **12th – 14th April 2013**. If you are unable to come for the weekend, please consider coming for the Saturday which will

include workshops and a concert. Look out for further information coming soon!

So, here I am in "The Chair" – stepping out tentatively with the confidence of those who nominated me. All the good wishes I have received from the Region and beyond since my appointment at the AGM are greatly appreciated. I agreed to take on the post knowing we have an excellent group of talented people who make up our Regional Committee. We are here for all ringers in Scotland. If you like what we are doing, tell your friends – get them involved, bring them to events – and if you don't like what we are doing, tell us. Your views and your ideas matter to us and to the future of ringing in Scotland. We are listening!

Elaine Duffus

Rookie at the Rally



The date was set – Saturday 17th March - and we were hosting the 2012 HRGB Scottish Region AGM and Spring rally. Lots of planning to do and my very first rally. Rehearsals leading up to the big day were good fun, but I did wonder how the “Massed Ringing” would work

The big day arrived and we reported for duty! Ten teams from around Scotland had signed up to join us. As the first teams arrived the sun was out and we were ready to host. Everyone seemed so friendly.



Jordanhill Parish Church Ringers at the Rally

gessed the individual performances were fantastic. The Massed Ringing was really good fun and I loved hearing all the sounds of Handbells, Handchimes and Belleplates together.

What a brilliant day! I went home very tired but with a great feeling of our participation (shepherded excellently as ever by Elaine) and appreciation of a great group of people.

I am really looking forward to the next rally, and not as the rookie at that one

Mary Rodger
Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen

As the afternoon pro-

A Bold Decision at York



30th March and six ringers from The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers set off, with mixed feelings, to attend the HRGB 2012 National Rally in York. Four were attending a “National” for the first time, having been tempted by the north of England venue (not too far to travel) and the lower than normal cost. Admittedly, the organisers (north-east region) had kept the cost down by offering fewer workshops, therefore fewer rooms required, also cutting out Sunday ringing. This perhaps deterred some from attending, which is a pity as there was plenty on offer and people missed a well-organised, really enjoyable rally.

Friday evening was spent in the bar area joining in ad hoc ringing, chatting to friends, testing our brains with various quizzes and, great fun, having a go at wii handbell ringing which none of us had seen before and at which we scored badly – zero, zero, zero.....



Wii ringing!!

Saturday – an early start and a busy morning. So much on offer, all sounding interesting!

There were six different one hour “Drop in & Ring” sessions (all repeated) and three one hour Rally Ring sessions of team performances. The six of us attended Sandra Winter’s “Drop in & Ring” ringing the latest additions to the Aardvark music catalogue. As always with Sandra, this was fun. We loved her new arrangements and, on our return home, placed an order for seven pieces.

After coffee, rather nervously, we hurried to the Central Hall where we were to perform in the second Rally Ring. There were five teams and one soloist participating and we enjoyed listening to the varied selection of music and seeing the different styles of ringing. The first piece we’d chosen to ring was “Oh When the Saints” arr. by Sandra Winter for 12 bells and mallets, an easy piece which we knew well (better not to be too ambitious!) Margaret and I then

rang the duet “Majesty” arr. by D. Wagner and, to finish, I rang two solos arranged by C. Anderson - “As the Deer” and “It’s a Small World”. We were happy with our performance and glad to have had the chance to ring as a team in the big hall before the evening concert (more of that later).

Whilst there were other “Drop in & Ring” sessions we could then have attended we decided to relax and the six of us split up, some staying to watch the

third Rally Ring session and some visiting the trade stands.

Saturday afternoon – Massed Ringing.

Three pieces which were quite demanding for some of us.

Celestial Charm, M. Wilson. Salut d'Amour, Elgar arr. J. Singleton and Symphony No 6 (The Pastorale) part 1, Beethoven arr. V. Cox.

Each of the composers was very patient and I think all the ringers felt a sense of achievement and satisfaction after the final performance of the three pieces before the HRGB Annual General Meeting.

Then a rushed dinner, a quick change and a dash back to Central Hall for a lighting check in readiness for the Gala Evening Concert. This was the reason for our earlier mixed feelings.

Prior to the Rally, John Atkinson, Chair of the organising committee, invited The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers to represent Scotland in the Saturday Evening Concert. Thanking him I declined, pointing out that only six ringers were attending (one being our newest ringer) and saying that I didn't think we could ring to the high standard expected at such an event. John didn't accept this so I replied saying I would ask the ringers how they felt, that it would be entirely their decision with no pressure from me either way. Much to my amazement they said, "Let's give it a go!"

A bold decision. Listening to the excellent ringing before we were led back-



Duet by Heather and Margaret

stage, we questioned that decision. Nothing else for it though but to take deep breaths and walk out into the spotlight.

As before we rang in different formats: two small ensemble 12 bell pieces – "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" arr. S. Eithun and "Brother James' Air" arr. B. Ingram.

A duet "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Heather I. McLean

D. Wagner and a solo "Annie Laurie" arr. L. Lamb.

What a relief to get through the programme without any problems and to hear the applause.

Backstage John Atkinson joined in our group hug and, knowing how we had felt beforehand, said words which brought tears to

our eyes, "Never again compare yourselves to others and think you are not as good. You well deserved your spot in the programme."

Many members of the audience told us afterwards how much they had enjoyed our performance with comments such as: a fine mix of different ringing styles from one team, a lovely choice of music, well-presented, accurate and beautiful, musical ringing. You can imagine how pleased we were to hear such comments! We realise that everyone who makes the effort to come and speak is going to be kind in what they say. We also realise that we were probably invited to ring in the concert because we were the only ringers from Scotland attending the rally as a team. Nevertheless, we came home happy and, as leader, I am proud that the ringers made that bold decision and carried it through so well.

Heather I. McLean



Performing at the Gala Concert in the Evening

Getting Known

We at Border Bells played at our U3A party and a Guild Christmas Party in December but have kept a fairly low profile recently owing to illness of members and therefore low numbers. (We are not yet proficient at three in hand but we keep practising.) Then we were invited to take part in The Big Event – a day of exhibitions and stalls for adult learners on Thursday 17th May. We decided that rather than give an actual concert we would do a demonstration practice session and invite people to have a go at playing. If we made a mistake we played the piece again to get it right and thus 'practiced' our current repertoire. It was rather difficult with all the noise around us and to be honest, we didn't think anyone was listening which was discouraging, although two people had a go with the

Belleplates at the end. However, when we finally stopped we got a round of applause from the stall holders in the room where we were playing. We were then told that the stallholders in the main hall had loved it too.

After the event we got two further requests to play and a letter from the Big Event Committee saying how much everyone enjoyed our playing and hoping we will do it again next year. In the meantime we will be playing at an old people's home, a day centre for people with learning difficulties and a local Guild party. As the only handbell group in the Scottish Borders it's about time we put ourselves about a bit

SW.



In addition to the website for the Scottish Regional Association of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain there is now an integrated Facebook page. This can be found at www.facebook.com/hrgbscotland. You don't need to have a Facebook account to view the page, but if you do then you can add information about events in which your group will be involved. You can add comments, add photographs of your group and just show that you like any items shown by clicking on the "like" button.

Are you wondering why have a Facebook page as well as a website? One complements the other. The website provides structured pages full of information, where information is uploaded by nominated individuals, though you'll only know what's new if you go there and view it. Many people have a Facebook account, and many look at

their Facebook timeline every day to follow what is shared by their family and friends. By simply clicking "like" on our new Facebook page then every time new content appears on the Facebook page you'll automatically see that information on your Facebook timeline.

So, in other words, the information gets to you without you having to go to the website. If you're looking for information about a specific event, to read newsletters, or contact committee members or another group, then the website is still the place to go. If you want to see news shared by others as it happens then the Facebook page is where you'll find what you want. Both are linked and both work together. So do please browse and "like" our new Facebook page!

Malcolm Wilson



News from Jordanhill PCHR



Playing at the Spring Rally

Since the last Scottish magazine, some of us made our way north to the fair city of Aberdeen, to Ruthrieston West Church where Silver City Chimes were hosting the Spring rally and AGM. We had a glorious day for the journey and we were made very welcome with lots of home-baking tea and coffee and home-made soup at lunchtime. There was massed ringing conducted by Claire Griffiths and Malcolm Wilson. As always it was good to have time for individual teams to perform and to see chimes, Belleplates as well as handbells represented on the day.

On 10th May we had our annual charity concert with the Jordanhill Community Choir and we chose to ring pieces that covered the topics being celebrated this year. Among the pieces we performed were My Heart Will Go On from the film Titanic, Chariots of Fire with the Olympics in mind and Royal Fireworks for the Queen's Jubilee.

Christine, Lynda and I are looking forward to attending the International Symposium in Liverpool.

Please continue to follow our activity on Facebook!

Ruth Cantlay
Jordanhill Parish Church HR



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.

Closing date for the October issue
24th September 2012

This will be our
50th Newsletter
so lets make it a good one!

13th Annual Scottish Schools Ring 2012

The Scottish Schools Ring 2012 was hosted by Newton Primary School in Dunblane on 17 May. This was the 13th annual event of its kind and the third year in which the event was broadcast live across the Scottish Schools secure intranet, Glow, using video-conferencing. This meant that the pupils of Castle-town Primary School from Caithness could take part in the event without the need for a 10-hour 500-mile round trip! And of course pupils and staff back at the schools of those groups taking part could also take time out in their classes to watch their peers performing, while remaining in their own classrooms.

There was a comprehensive mix of instruments during the event with belleplates, handchimes and handbells all in use. Everyone worked together on 3 pieces of music for massed ringing, all of which had been provided in advance - the music is provided in three versions to best suit the abilities and experience

of schools - there is a simplified chords version, a melody-only version and a full version combining the accompaniment and melody. The music comprised "Leaving Lismore" and "Sur le Pont" arranged by Lysbeth Wilson, (principal organiser of the event) as well as "Hey Ho" arranged by Lois Samis Lund. Malcolm Wilson also conducted massed performances.

Individual schools were given the opportunity to perform their own music on their own if they wished to do so, and this year everyone was able to enjoy performances by Shieldhill Primary School from Falkirk and Greenmill Primary School from Cumnock, Ayrshire. This is always a hugely enjoyable and rewarding afternoon of music making and we are very grateful to the headteacher of Newton Primary School, for kindly making the school premises available for the event.

MW



A Lorry Load of Laughs



A few months ago, in the depths of a North East Winter, we were invited to ring our Handchimes at a Vintage Working Weekend Event at BA Stores, Skene, in aid of local charities on Saturday 19th May. A few months on, still feeling like we were in the depths of a North East Winter, the day duly arrived. After weeks of rain we awoke to a beautiful sunny day – Hooray! As it still felt quite chilly (for May!) we knew to “layer up with thermals” under our performance uniforms. We had on so many extra layers in fact that we felt the group had almost doubled in size overnight!

We had been assured our “stage” (the back of a lorry) would easily accommodate our u-shaped table formation but we quickly established this not to be the case so a quick change of set up plan followed. Tables, stands, music and bodies in position, we opened our one hour long programme with Barbara Kinyon’s “A Joyful Ring” and what a laugh it turned out

to be! With music pages flying madly backwards and forwards in the wind it was a challenge to work out what we had played and what was still to come. The determination and concentration on all our faces as we battled to keep going must have been quite something. We all burst into laughter following the final chord – truly a “Joyful Ring”. Clothes

accompaniment of the passing Vintage Train, a gentleman on a tannoy system extolling the virtues of farming methods and two cute Westies who clearly did not share our love of Handchimes. We almost cheered when, for the first time in weeks, we succeeded in achieving a perfect ending to



“Flower o’ the Quern”. Maybe the wind had blown away the dust too!

We all agreed it was certainly our most unusual venue to date and an experience we will never forget. Next time we should perhaps practise with a big fan blowing at our rehearsals. As they say, “Have Handchimes/ Handbells, will

travel”. Let’s just not do it on the back of a lorry in the cold May wind next time!

travel”. Let’s just not do it on the back of a lorry in the cold May wind next time!

Silver City Chimes, Aberdeen.

We rang a wide variety of pieces to the

Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers DVD

Tour of the West

Records the group’s 2012 visit to Oban, Mull and Iona.

Includes stunning scenery and excerpts from each of the four concerts which raised £1028 for charity.

£10.00 plus £1 p&p

For more details email Dunkeld Handbell Ringers

Dunkeld's trip to Aberdeen

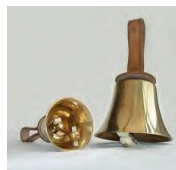


On Saturday the 17th of March I left Perth at 8.00am and drove to Coupar Angus where I met up with Margaret one of the Parish of Dunkeld Handbell ringers group. Her husband took us to Alyth to meet up with the other three members, Gertrude, Caroline and Dolly who were driving to Aberdeen to the spring rally hosted by the Silver City Chimes. We had been 'let loose' on our own for the day as our musical director Heather had to be elsewhere. It was a beautiful day and we had a lovely drive to Aberdeen enjoying the scenery with it's red soil ploughed ready for planting. On arrival at Ruthrieston Church Halls we were warmly welcomed by the hosts and shown our spot in the hall. We set up our stands and were then told where to go to get a very welcome cup of tea/coffee also lovely home baking yum! yum! We quickly had a practice of our pieces which is none too easy as others were doing the same. Everyone assembled for the AGM and lunch and then it was back to the main hall for our performance. As a relative newcomer to the rallies I was feeling both excited and a little nervous. Margaret was our leader for the day and kept us right and we played as well as we could. Phew! It was all over and it was time for another cuppa and lots of goodies to eat. It was great to listen to the various groups not all playing bells but chimes too. We took part in the massed ringing although I must admit I lost a bar here and there but just kept on smiling. All in all it was a great day meeting other ringers and playing together. It was then time to go so we tidied up and set off for home. We stopped at the Ashvale Restaurant Portlethen for a meal. While there we heard a telephone that kept on ringing and we all looked over to the desk and they were looking at our table when Margaret realised it was hers and we all laughed and said 'Heather' as we all knew that our musical director would want to know how we got on. Margaret phoned back to tell her. It was time for a happy group to get home after a great days ringing. To complete our day we were treated to a beautiful sunset, all reds, yellows and oranges in different shapes changing each time we looked.

We would like to thank all those who made the day so enjoyable and memorable

Anna Finlayson

The Parish of Dunkeld Handbell Ringers



Fun Corner

Address to a Handbell- written on the occasion of the first use of our new G sharp at Martyr's Church Guild, St Andrews. January 26th 2004. *With apologies to R. Burns esq.!*

Fair fa' your honest, shining face,
Great new ain o' oor handbell race!
Aboon them a' ye'll tak your place,
Tongued, handled, bright:
Weel are ye worthy o' the space
Tae mak' tunes right.

The missing note ye now will sound,
Your tongue the inner shell will pound;
Your song will rise and sing around
In time o' need,
While thro' your note the tunes distil
Like golden bead.

Her hand see couthie Janet raise,
An' sound you loud in mony ways;
Swinging, your gleaming metal plays
Clear, true and long;
And joins in such a glorious praise,
An' joyful song !

Then, bell for bell, we stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost! on we drive,
Till a' yer ear drums sair, belyve

Are bent agley.
The music ends; they didna' rive,
'Bethankit' say!

Has there been writ' a Haydn suit
Or barcarolle for dancing feet,
Or ragtime romp wi' rhythm neat
Or Scottish air,
That will not, with our set complete,
E'er sound sae fair?

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Our group had need o' ae thing mair

Tae mak things well.

So, noo ye hav' oor gratefu' prayer -
We got oor bell!

Elsbeth Smith

Many thanks to Elspeth for her superb poem. She is the only person so far to have contributed to Fun Corner. Surely there are jokes, puzzles, poems out there which could be enjoyed by everyone? More please!

SW



Dunblane on Songs of Praise



Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensemble was recorded in May for BBC Television's "Songs of Praise" programme (as part of one of three programmes recorded in Dunblane Cathedral), to be broadcast later in the year. Presenter Sally Magnusson was shown how to ring by Adam Wilson. The ensemble was recorded performing "The Lewis Folk Melody" (traditional Scottish melody used for the hymn "Jesus calls us here to meet him.") and "The Rowan Tree" (the traditional Scottish melody used for the hymn "I heard the voice of Jesus say.") both arranged by Malcolm Wilson.



Dates for your Diary



Friday 22nd June 2012, 7.30 pm

Musical Bells at Hope Park & Martyrs Church, St Andrews.
£5 including wine & nibbles

Saturday 14th July 10-12.00 am

Dunkeld Handbell Ringers in High Street, Pitlochry (outside Fishers)

Friday 27th July 8-8.30 am

All The Bells Processional through Dunkeld for start of Olympics

31st July—4th August 2012

International Symposium in Liverpool

Wednesdays until 26th September 2012

Handbell Harmony in Dunkeld Cathedral

2-4 pm

Solos & duets plus occasional small ensembles.

Tuesday 7th August 2012 at 7 pm

The Handbell Ringers of Japan St Michael's Church Linlithgow

Over 100 ringers from 5 handbell teams. Free with donations at door.

Wednesday 8th August 2012 at 7.30

Kobe Handbell Ensemble in Dunblane—details from Malcolm Wilson

Saturday 8th September 2012

Ring in Praise—see below

Friday 14th September 2012 12-12.45 pm

Handbell Harmony at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh

Wednesday 24th October 2012 4-6 pm

Ring in the Classroom in Camelon Education Centre, Falkirk.

Malcolm Wilson will be presenting a hands-on practical session aimed at teachers and others who wish to incorporate handbells, handchimes or Belleplates in music teaching in the classroom, either as part of the music curriculum or as an extra-curricular activity. Details from Malcolm.

Saturday 27th October 2012

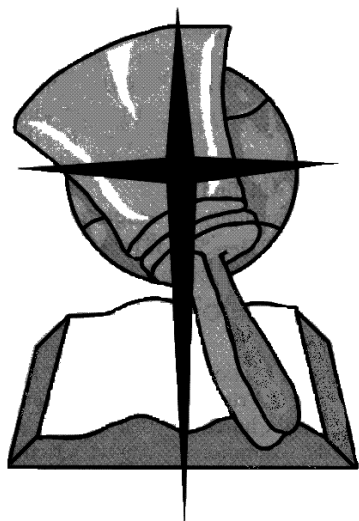
Autumn Rally hosted by Blair Bells in Bankfoot Church Centre, Perth.

12-14 April 2013

National Rally in Renfrew

This space could be
advertising YOUR event
so don't forget to send in full details

Come join us for the **24th Annual National Ring in Praise Seminar** on Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th September 2012 at



Dunblane Cathedral. Come on your own, with a friend or with your whole group! Presenters will be Burghard Wellmann from Oslo, Norway, Elaine Duffus from Aberdeen, Kathryn Hughes and Sandra Winter from London, along with Dunblane's Judith Frye, Helen Wilson, Lysbeth Wilson and Malcolm Wilson. Fuller details of all sessions options, along with application form can be found at www.ringinpraise.org.uk

Sessions on offer include: Bell techniques A-Z; Charm of Chimes for Church; Tunes that Teach; Cue Sheets & Chord Charts for Praise Band and Bells; Processional Ring; Bell Flourish DIY; Simply beautiful; Twelve-bell Muse; Ring All Day on music for performance at the end of the event; and Ring All Day Solo Style on music for performance at the end of the event.

There will also be a concert of music for organ and handbells. In addition the [Sunday morning](#) service of worship in Dunblane Cathedral will be preceded by change-ringing on the tower bells, and handbells will contribute to the music of worship.



Presentation to
Christine from Lysbeth
and thanks for all her
hard work as Chair of
the Society



Christine
hands over to
Elaine our
new
Chair of
the Society

2012/2013 Committee

Chairman

Elaine Duffus

Secretary

Marge Paterson

Treasurer

Lynda Barclay

Sales Manager

Mary McGregor

Visit the HRGB Scotland website contacts page for contact details
www.hrgbScotland.org.uk

Committee Members

Ruth Cantlay

Christine Reid

Anne Duncan

Irene Duncan

Lysbeth Wilson

John Elcock

Liz Jamieson

Newsletter Editor

Sue Wilson

Visit the HRGB Scotland website, contacts page, for contact details:
www.hrgbScotland.org.uk

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

Registered Charity numbers 298945 (England) and SC038918 (Scotland)