



HRGB Scottish Newsletter

2017 Issue 3 – August/September 2017

Chat from the Chair

I have been fascinated by the contribution handbell ringing makes to orchestral music. My own band Holy Trinity Handbells last year joined Music Co-OPERative Scotland under the baton of Sian Edwards in their community production of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* as part of the Lammermuir Festival. And I have recently received an enquiry from Scottish Opera regarding the acquisition of a handbell for their production of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Our Autumn Rally will be hosted by Blair Bells at Bankfoot Church Centre, Perth on Saturday 7 October when Fred Gramman, Director of Music at the American Church in Paris, will conduct *Polaris and Northern Lights* by Brendan Bevan, *Peal con brio* by Karen Thompson and *Hosanna!* by Jason Krug (based on the tunes *Ellacombe* and *St. Theodulph*). Celtic Carillon will also be performing.

No doubt we will be hearing about the travels of our three golden bears as well as Teddy McRing who have been touring Scotland over the last months. We will also find out the answers to the Gold Quiz set by Susan Allan as part of our anniversary celebrations.

I am very pleased that the 2018 AGM and Spring Rally and will be hosted by Mannofield Handbell Ringers at Mannofield Parish Church, Aberdeen on Saturday 24 March 2018. We look forward to that.

I am equally delighted that Anne Docherty has joined the committee as magazine distributor. Her experience will be invaluable. But we are still looking for a secretary and a sales manager. So follow Anne's example: drop me a line and see what you can do for the Association.

And if you are not already a member, do think about joining the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain, a bargain at £12.00 a year!

I look forward to seeing you at Bankfoot.

Best wishes to you all.

Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers

Our session ended in May after a very successful concert with our Community choir raising vital funds for Christian Aid.

On 31st July 3 of us (Kirsty, Linda and Ruth) headed south to Sheffield to the National Residential Ringing Week. We had 10 very different pieces to grapple with and with thanks to Claire, Lynda and Susan, we managed to get a few rehearsals under our belt before the event. The conductors this time were Damien Lim from Singapore, Michael Glasgow from USA and Helen Secker from UK. Some of the music was exceptionally challenging but with great patience and perseverance from the conductors, the end result was definitely music! The dress rehearsal was streamed out live on Facebook and you will find a link to it on our Facebook Page (Jordanhill Parish Church Handbell Ringers) if you would like to listen to it.

We are all looking forward to our Celebration ringing day for HRGB's Golden Anniversary on 7th October, making music with Fred Gramann. Several of us will also be ringing with Celtic Carillon, Scotland's national handbell ensemble.



Kirsty with some bass chimes and the three Glasgow girls with composer and director Michael Glasgow at the Residential Ringing Week



All three conductors with HRGB chair Tim Willetts and Aidan Fozard, who organised the event

Anniversary News from the Kilwhang Ringers

The Kilwhang Ringers are nearing the end of their summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead when they will be celebrating ten years of ringing. On September 17th, 2007, a group of novice lady handbell ringers met with a set of handbells which had been in storage for a number of years and simple handbell music. Ten years later we have two sets of handbells and enjoy playing some challenging pieces of music and a gentleman has joined the group. We have also sipped our way through 5,000 teas/coffees and nibbled the same amount of biscuits whilst sharing many stories!!! As the year progresses we hope to update you all with our birthday frolics.

Margaret Godzman

Committee matters

To whet your appetite for attending the Autumn Gold Ring, here's an inspiring photo from the 2017 Spring Rally which was held in Jordanhill Parish Church in March.

Thanks to Elaine Duffus for sending in this picture. ☺



Anniversary bears

Please could all teams ensure that the 3 HRGB Golden anniversary bears and Teddy MacRing will all make their way to the Autumn Ring in Bankfoot on Saturday 9 October! Photographs of the Golden bears' activities should be sent to Malcolm Wilson

(handbells@dunblanecathedral.org.uk) and Teddy MacRing's travels to Elaine Duffus (e.g.duffus@btinternet.com). Mary MacGregor plans to construct a map of Scotland showing where our intrepid travelling bears have been. The committee hopes that all registered teams in Scotland will have been visited by at least one bear by this time.

Membership

To encourage new members, HRGB has agreed that members/teams/regions who bring in 2 new members will receive a £10 HRGB voucher. If 20 new members are registered, the region will receive £200. The challenge runs until October 2018.

Sales team

The committee is concerned that the position of sales manager remains vacant. Might a handbell team, rather than an individual, consider taking on this role? Please give this some thought and contact the committee if your team might be able to help with this.

Freedom of the Scottish Region Award

The Freedom of the Scottish Region Award will recognise the extraordinary contributions made by members of the Scottish Regional Association. Criteria being considered include, for example, the promotion of youth interest regionally or nationally, working with the larger church outreach, contributing to the bell music repertoire, leading a handbell team, is or has been a regional and/or a national office bearer, demonstrating long service to the Association. Further suggestions of suitable criteria are welcome. Would this be an annual award? How many awards would be made at any one time? Who would decide? Please let the committee know your thoughts. The committee aims to announce the establishment of the award at the 2018 AGM.

Autumn Rally 2018

The committee would like to hear from any potential hosts for the autumn ringing event in October 2018. Ideas for the format of the event (e.g. workshop/performance/training) are also welcome.

News from the Far North

The Caithness Handbell Ringers and the Poltney Ringers came together for a concert in June at Lyth Arts Centre. It was a triple celebration – 50 years of HRGB Scotland, 40 years of the Lyth Arts Centre and 18 years of the Caithness Handbell Ringers!



The HRGB anniversary bear came along to help at our final rehearsal in Wick before our big concert...

...and Teddy McRing arrived just in time to join us for our big celebration!



Report from the Castletown Primary School Team

Our team arrived at Lyth Arts Centre at 11am to rehearse our tunes and then all three teams played together, led by Katrina Gordon. We worked on an arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon. We played our part on handchimes while the grown-up teams played on handbells. We had to count hard to keep our place but it sounded great.

After this, our team got a shot on the Handbells. We usually play on belleplates so this was a new experience. We enjoyed playing on the bells because you have more control over the volume of the sound and can play much louder than on the belleplates. The bells were much heavier, especially the big ones!

Lyth Arts Centre has a lovely garden and during lunchtime we lost a football in the tree, a Frisbee on the roof and a shuttlecock in the guttering. It was fun trying to get the ball down from the tree. After lunch we all had birthday cake for the 18th birthday of the CHR team. The cake was really good because it had a lot of chocolate and Choco flakes.

After some more rehearsing we set up the stage for the concert. Teddy McRing and the HRGB bear, who had been to John O'Groats, joined us on stage for the performance. The concert, to an excited audience of about 30 people, was fun. Each team played their own pieces. Our team played "Boil them cabbage down", "Au Claire de la lune", "Hot Cross buns", "Sakura" and "Maytime Sunshine." The final tune in the concert was Pachelbel's Canon.

Afterwards we let members of the audience have a go on our belleplates and we helped to teach them how to play properly.

The whole event was a big success and we were thrilled that our school team had been invited to join the grown-up teams. We hope we will be able to play altogether again very soon.

Matthew, Craig and Xander of the Castletown Primary Bell Ringers



Important Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 7th October 2017 Scottish Region Autumn Gold Ring - Bankfoot Church Centre

25th December 2017 Ho, ho, ho... the memorable deadline for submissions to the next newsletter! ☺ Please email katrinathurso@aol.com or post to 26 Grove Lane, Thurso, KW14 8AE

Saturday 24 March 2018 2018 AGM and Spring Rally hosted by Mannofield Handbell Ringers at Mannofield Parish Church, Aberdeen

Autumn Rally 2018 Remember to get in touch with the committee if your team might like to host this autumn ringing event in October 2018!