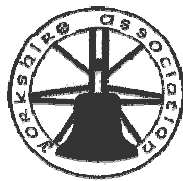


THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



Established 1875

NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2006

Editorial

Welcome to this first edition of the YACR Newsletter, which we hope will appear in every tower of the Association via Branch Secretaries. The Production Team – Bob Cater and Anne Deebank – hope you find something of interest in this first, bumper Edition. As this is the first edition we would also be interested in your views – have we got the content right? Have you any suggestions for articles? Are you reading this in a tower which isn't your own and you haven't got one at your home tower? Let us know!

The next edition will come out in the Spring, immediately after the AGM on 5 May. Please let either of us have copy by 15 April 2007.

Bob Cater

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Anne Deebank

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President's Message

I am writing this newsletter introduction after spending an enjoyable day listening to two excellent peals rung at two of West Yorkshire's best light sixes. (Clue 1 – both towers begin with an S. Clue 2 – I could have walked from one tower to the other along the Leeds-Liverpool canal.) Whilst listening to the ringing I got to thinking about why people ring bells and why they might attend Association events at both branch and full association level.

When I was younger I attended Association meetings to have the opportunity to ring on new and different bells (and to get a tick in Dove!) and also to ring new and different methods that I did not have the chance to ring on a normal practice night. These reasons still hold true today (although the chance to get new towers in Yorkshire is very limited apart from a few three's or new rings!). The chance to ring on different bells often makes you appreciate your own home tower much more (you know how your bells go). The opportunity to ring with different people and to try new methods is also true today. An Association meeting may be your only chance to progress, especially if your own tower is short of ringers who can ring the new method you want to try.

Another reason for going to Association events is the social side. You can meet both old and new friends, talk to people who share the same hobby and find out that you are not the only person who is having difficulty with 3/4 dodges in Plain Bob!

So to finish this welcome I would encourage you all to support your Association as much as you can. There is always something to gain from a meeting and I hope that the content of this newsletter will highlight some of the great things that are happening in our Association.

Deborah Thorley

Association President

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

May Day Open Days

We are fortunate in Yorkshire in having some of the very best peals of bells and some of the very best countryside that England can offer. Over the May Day weekend we did our best to combine these two and, blessed with fine weather, over 30 ringers from far and wide enjoyed ringing in the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds. Forty two towers were open in and around the Yorkshire Dales to raise funds for the augmentation schemes at Ripon Cathedral and at Kirkby Overblow. Over £700 was raised and has been presented to the two churches.

What could amount to an organisational nightmare was made very much easier by the full cooperation of all the towers and the goodwill and time given by those who stewarded the ringing. Thanks must go out to everyone involved.



We did manage to break the rope on the treble at Well (*opposite*) before the bell had even chimed a blow. Probably the fastest splice on record saw only a short delay to the programme!

The next Yorkshire Association Open Day will be on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2007 following the AGM on the Saturday. Both events will be in the Western Branch. Put the dates in your diary and enjoy two great days of ringing in more of our glorious countryside.

Andrew Aspland
Association Ringing Master

Whirlow Grange Course 2006 – The Young Persons' View

The three of us had different reasons for enrolling on the Whirlow course - two of us signed up because we enjoy ringing – the third one because my Dad told me to! We have all been ringing for about a year at Dore in Sheffield.

We were expecting the course to be fun, to learn more about bell ringing and improve our bell handling. We did not expect to have to write an article about it!

We were assigned to Group A, under the guidance of Cap'n Neil, to learn plain hunting and Stedman Quick Sixes. We started on Friday evening at Beighton, where the 4th bell was extremely reluctant to join in. We got to know the other members of the group who were to help us over the weekend. Our Dads were also there.....

On Saturday, things started getting serious, with a lecture on plain hunting at 9am by Cap'n Neil. This was really good fun and involved ringing handbells properly for the first time. After that, we jumped in the cars to go and ring at Tideswell. We split into two groups, one ringing the bells and the other ringing handbells. At half time we switched roles. It wasn't boring because Cap'n Neil kept changing things around, which kept the helpers (apart from our Dads) on their toes.

After lunch, we went to Great Longstone where the ringers on 4, 5 and 6 were a bit squished against the wall. We were OK because we were on the front three.

After Great Longstone, we went back to Whirlow where a number of different activities had been arranged. We all chose to ring handbells, because we wanted to improve. By the end of the afternoon, we had all managed to plain hunt on 6 with 2 bells, firstly 1&2 and then even 3&4 or 5&6. We also did some non-ringing activities, like rolling down hills and cartwheeling. One of us even went to Chesterfield in the evening, to ring at the crooked spire.

On Sunday, those of who read the instructions turned up for more handbell ringing – the one who didn't turn up could blame her Dad. After lunch, it was our turn at our home tower, where we showed how much we had learned: plain hunting on 3 for Pippa, Stedman Quick Sixes for Ciara and calling changes for Isaac.

It was really good fun, everyone was very kind, friendly and helpful (except our Dads) and we can't wait till next year. See you all there.

Pippa (7 years 11 months)
Ciara (10 years 5months)
Isaac (12 years 2 months)

And here is the Group in question...still smiling even after Cap'n Neil's best efforts!



And here's the whole lot!



Association Striking Competition – 16 September 2006

The final of the striking competition for Sunday Service bands was held at Stockton on the Forest, near York, on Saturday 16 September. Six bands competed under the careful ear of Ron Warford, now of Newcastle but previously of Chapel Allerton, Leeds.

Ron marked in 'thirds' of faults, so the final result was – York Minster (York Branch) 6⅓, Kirkheaton (Western Branch) 11, Silkstone (Central Branch) and Leeds Parish Church (Leeds & District Branch) 13⅓, Walkley (Sheffield & District Branch) 18⅓ and Kirkbymoorside (Scarborough & District Branch) 19⅓.



Deborah Thorley, President of the Yorkshire Association, presents the trophy to Peter Sanderson of the York Minster band on becoming the 2006 winners.

Bob Cater

Jasper Whitfield Snowdon Memorial Dinner – 21 October 2006

The Snowdon Dinner was this year hosted by the Scarborough & District Branch at the New Inn & Brewery, Cropton, Nr Pickering. In anticipation of our visit the Brewery were hoping to have opened a larger (not lager!) brewhouse, but as we found out on a tour around the new facility, it was not quite ready. Fortunately there was enough beer in stock to last the evening.

Forty-one of us sat down to a lovely meal of Exotic Fruit Cocktail, Loin of Pork and Home-made Bread & Butter Pudding, washed down with copious amounts of the local brew and wine.

After the meal and the loyal toast, proposed by Deborah, Edwin King, the second-longest serving YACR member of the Scarborough Branch proposed the toast to the Church, reminding us all of the consequences if there had been no Church. The Reverend Paul Mothersdale, Rural Dean of the Pickering Deanery replied, thanking us all for being the voice of the Church. Our chief guest, Alison Caton, talked about the enduring contribution Jasper Snowdon made to the Exercise before proposing the toast to the Memory of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon and the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers. The traditional reply on handbells was rung by members of the Scarborough Branch - Anita Blundell, Gerry Bacon & Pam Robb. Afterwards we all repaired to the bar where we sampled the delights of the Cropton Brewery's range of beers including Two-pints, Endeavour and Monkman's Slaughter.

A raffle held during the evening raised £67 for the BRF.

Thank you to everyone who attended, especially those who stayed overnight and helped to ring the following morning at several local towers.



From l to r: Alison Caton, Rev Paul Mothersdale, Deborah Thorley, Edwin King, Anne Deebank

*Anne Deebank
Scarborough & District Branch*

BRANCH NEWS

Central

We are pleased to have been given the opportunity to contribute an article about the Central Branch in this, the first newsletter of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.

Our meeting in August took the form of a car outing to Derbyshire, which whilst not terribly well supported, nevertheless provided those who did make the journey with a good day out, ringing at Matlock, the new light six at Stanton in the Peak, Bakewell, Darley Dale and concluding on the ten at Youlgreave.

The Committee is currently planning a full, varied and exciting programme for 2007 and the Branch particularly looks forward to hosting the Association's General Meeting in February of next year. Following on from the success of the mini-ring in Barnsley in 2005, we are hoping to repeat it in a different format in Summer 2007.

Details of our many activities can be obtained from www.YACRcentral.org.uk. Why not check us out by visiting this excellent website, which contains details of all the towers in the Branch?

*Sue Earnshaw & Gillian Green
Central Branch Secretaries*

Cleveland & North Yorkshire

Brompton (Northallerton) - New Future for Denholme Bells

The light ring of eight (tenor 4-1-2 in E) from the redundant church at Denholme, near Keighley, has recently been acquired by the Keltek Trust. This trust specializes in finding new homes for redundant bells and has acquired the Denholme bells on

behalf of St Thomas Church, Brompton near Northallerton, North Yorkshire. For the past couple of years the local PCC and the Northallerton ringers have been raising money with a view towards replacing the present ring of three with a larger ring. The money raised so far is within a couple of thousand of the estimated cost of rehanging the Denholme bells, plus associated work within the tower.

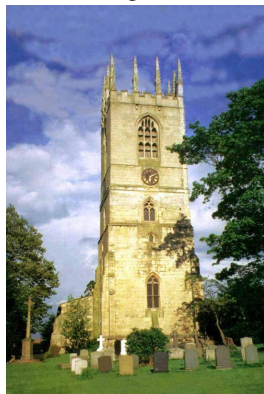
The next step for Brompton is to submit a faculty application so it will be a few months before they know the outcome. If all goes well it is hoped that the Denholme bells may be ringing at Brompton within a year. The training of a local team will have strong support from the Northallerton ringers and the bells will be a big asset to this active area of ringing.

*David Town
Northallerton*

Leeds & District

The email from Bob Cater said 'write a bit about a branch activity and why not delegate the task?'. That would have been a good idea if I had remembered about the YACR newsletter, but with the deadline looming it is too late to delegate so I'll have to write something myself (and then send a memo to myself to remember to delegate next time around.) So what activity should I write about – and pictures were requested. Well there was the teaching bell handling training afternoon we had at St Wilfred's Harrogate. That was certainly an interesting and useful activity. We started with having to give embarrassing details about how long ago we had learnt to ring (which led to the discovery that the Branch chairman and secretary and secretary's sister all have the same birthday (but not date!)) After some consideration of methods of teaching bell handling and of what we were aiming to achieve we had a practical sessions in the tower. This included a somewhat startling demonstration of what happens if a learner lets go of the tail end. Would have made a good 'action shot' but I didn't have my camera!

So how about the striking contest and AGM. Well how did I know at the beginning of the year that the Saturday we had fixed for this event was the date when England were playing Portugal in the World cup quarter finals. Needless to say branch members were rather thin on the ground for the meeting and the early slots for the striking contest were very popular so that people could dash home in time to see the match. I did try my best but the reception on the portable Tele in the church hall was so poor that it was difficult to tell if England had actually missed the penalties! We did have six entries for the striking contest and Leeds Parish were judged the winners. They didn't ring to their best potential – possibly too much consideration of the forthcoming football and it was a nailbiting end as the judges gave out the scores in reverse order. I had bribed our band's two youngest ringers with chocolate and the promise that they wouldn't have to do it again (next year is a different matter!) so was beginning to panic when there were only 2 teams to go but the judges saved the day. However in the rush of load the Tele and the chocolate into the car I forgot my camera so no photos again.



That leaves the Branch outing which was held on a lovely sunny day in June. We visited 6 churches in the Retford area, managing to get some new towers for everyone – even the inveterate tower grabbers. Some good ringing was performed, everyone got plenty of rings, we had a picnic/pub lunch around the local duck pond and morning coffee was kindly provided for us a one of the towers. We also had time for an ice cream break in the afternoon which was very welcome on the hot day although it did prove difficult to find a shop near to West Retford church. A very enjoyable day, plenty of ringing but not too hectic and here's the picture – Sturton le Steeple church with its impressive pinnacles, sorry no branch members but we did ring here –honest!

*Penny Thorley
Leeds & District Branch*

Scarborough & District

We've had a busy year so far, including a 'Walk and Ring' afternoon, the Branch outing, Striking Competition, Quarter Peal Day and Young Ringers' Afternoon.

This year's Walk & Ring took place on a sunny and warm April afternoon. We started with ringing at Flamborough and then most of us walked to Bridlington along the cliff path. We had to stop for ice creams at Sewerby, but this didn't prevent us from enjoying the usual splendid tea provided by the Brid ringers. Some good ringing afterwards rounded off a really enjoyable day. The Branch Outing was held in the Pontefract area and was organised by our ringing master, Gerry Bacon. Unfortunately, it coincided with the Beverley & District trip to London, and some of our two-hatted members decided to support the latter, but a good time was had by all nevertheless.

The Striking Competition got off to an interesting start when our judge's car blew up the evening before. Fortunately he was okay, and after an SOS to the YACR e-group, Steve & Ruth Ollerton kindly offered to come over to Middleton to save the day. Seven teams took part, and we were again delighted to welcome the Brompton/Wykeham team making their second consecutive appearance at the competition. Steve said some nice things about some of the ringing and amusing things about the rest, which left everyone content, before announcing that Kirkbymoorside had won. Brompton/Wykeham retained the wooden spoon, but encouraged by their 'have a go' attitude, Middleton ringers have promised to give them a run for their money next year!

Martin Tubbs again did a sterling job in arranging the quarter peal day on 9 September. For ease of transport he planned a western and an eastern leg, with some of us dashing from one to the other. Out of the 10 planned quarters, we scored 5,

including Cambridge Major at Whitby (not strictly a Scarborough Branch tower, but we are always made welcome there!) and Little Bob Royal at Scarborough. One was lost through a broken rope. There were numerous firsts, including first quarter for Paul Harris of Helmsley and first as conductor for Geoff Littlewood. A hardy nine of us managed to stagger down the hill from St Mary's at the end of the Little Bob to enjoy a meal at the Restaurant 55 – most of us managed the climb back too!

The Branch was well represented at Whirlow Grange, sending 3 learners and 5 helpers.

One of our young ringers, Simon Percy, organised an afternoon's ringing around York on 14 October, visiting Helmsley, Easingwold, Acomb, Bilbrough and Bishopthorpe before tea at Thompson's Fish Restaurant on the A64. We finished off by ringing after mass at St Leonard's Malton. Six young ringers took part – Ian and Simon from Pickering, Lucy, Justin and Gareth from Scalby and Eddie from Kirkbymoorside. They all rang really well and are already looking forward to the next trip.

Our programme for the next few months includes the AGM at Scalby on Saturday 18 November, an evening meeting at Brompton on Thursday 14 December and afternoon ringing at Malton on Saturday 20 January. The following dates are to be ratified at the AGM: Tuesday 20 February, evening meeting at Bridlington; Saturday 17 March, striking competition at Filey; Thursday 19 April, evening meeting at Flamborough; Thursday 17 May, evening meeting at Norton.

*Anne Deebank
Scarborough & District Branch*

Selby & District

The Selby and District Branch has held two training days recently. One for Treble Bob, which proved popular with over 20 members being present from the Branch, 17 staying for an enjoyable lunch, and a Grandsire Training Day, at Kippax and Tadcaster, when eighteen people turned-up either as student or helpers.

There was some very positive feedback from those ringers who attended these events, many stated that they benefited from ringing the method repeatedly during the session whereas they only often have the opportunity to ring the method once on a practice night and by the following week they have forgotten the method again. Most of the ringers and helpers thoroughly enjoyed a banquet and relaxing in the local Chinese restaurant afterwards.

The Branch has also recently enjoyed two mini-outings to the East Coast and North Yorkshire, and also a full days outing to West Yorkshire followed by an evening meal. Each outing attracted more than twenty members. Towers visited were: -

Flamborough, Bridlington and Kilham;

Boroughbridge, Kirklington and Pickhill;

Saltaire, Bingley, Gargrave, Kirkby Malham, Gisburn and Thornton in Craven

Sheffield & District

This year's Sheffield and District Branch striking competition took place at Rotherham on 13th May. We were pleased to welcome Tim Peverett from the Derby DA to judge the competition for us. Eight bands from around the branch took part with the ringing including call changes, Plain Bob, Grandsire and Stedman. It was encouraging to see some of the younger members of the branch being able to take part in the competition.

The results were as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1) Walkley | 24 faults |
| 2) Sheffield Cathedral A | 24.5 faults |
| 3) St Marie's RC Cathedral | 35.5 faults |
| 4) Malcolm Turner – scratch band | 38 faults |
| 5) Sheffield Cathedral B | 52 faults |
| 6) Rotherham & Thrybergh | 65.5 faults |
| 7) Dore | 66.5 faults |
| 8) Rotherham & Thrybergh | 107.5 faults |

The John J L Gilbert Cup which was purchased by the Branch last year to mark John Gilbert's 75 years membership of the Yorkshire Association was therefore presented to Walkley.

The members of the winning band were David Jackson, Judith McCoy, Joanne Bullock, James Blackburn, Peter McCoy and John Rollason.

Western

Travels of a Ringing Master

During my term as Ringing Master I thought it would be fun to try and visit as many of our towers as possible. Ideally I wanted to visit you all and join in a normal practice night. Well I've just passed the 30 mark and I thought it was time to take stock.

When I started, the first problem was to decide which *are* the Western Branch towers. Surprisingly that isn't as obvious as you might think! OK, so where are our boundaries? Another good question! In the days of the West Riding of Yorkshire (prior to 1974) it was so simple. Since then however large chunks of our county have been given to Greater Manchester, Lancashire and

Cumbria. Are they still in Western Branch? Well when I started my rounds, both Sedbergh and Saddleworth had paid up members, though neither are now in Yorkshire. Mainly I wanted to meet our active branch towers but to make life simple I decided to visit EVERY tower which had ever been within our branch as defined by the West Riding county boundary. I also am not fussy about how many bells in the tower; 3s and 4s are just as important to me as the eights. For these reasons you might see some unfamiliar names in the following 30-odd towers I've visited to date:

Addingham, Almondbury, Armitage Bridge, Barnoldswick, Bolton-by-Bowland, Bradford, Brighouse, Broughton, Burnsall, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Calverley, Clapham, Friezland, Gargrave, Giggleswick, Gisburn, Halifax, Haworth, Idle, Ilkley, Kirkby Malham, Kirkheaton, Lindley, Liversedge, Longwood, Mirfield, New Mill, Oxenhope, Saltaire, Sedbergh, Settle, Silsden, Skipton, Slaidburn, Thornton.

By strange co-incidence Almondbury, the tower of my predecessor Ian, was the only Western Branch tower I'd not grabbed before. The only tower too far for a return trip to practice is Sedbergh (Dent being unringable). I was able to tie this one in with a day's walking on the Howgill Fells. In the tower I noticed the YACR had rung a peal for the centenary of Trafalgar in 1905. Now if only I'd known that a year ago! I think Friezland is probably the most obscure tower on the list. I'm not sure it has ever been active in the YACR but was certainly in the West Riding. Here I rang my first course of Bedford: Woodbine above and Cambridge below.

Six of the visits were not to a practice night; unfortunately about 25 of our ringable towers have no regular practice. In fact during the 18 months of my 'tour' so far, four more practices have folded. Since I began the Branch has lost one ring of eight (from Denholme). I guess we have seven 'unringables' and nine of 'our' towers are active in the Lancashire Association, either through geographical necessity or preference (though five of these remain in present-day Yorkshire). On the bright side many towers thrive and are teaching learners. Bolton-by-Bowland have already been augmented and there are projects at Barnoldswick and Clapham. Slaidburn are ringable again after a long silence; Liversedge too after an overhaul. There are so many ringers at Thornton that they have to operate a three week Sunday Service rota so everyone gets a fair go!

I made it a rule to always get in touch with each tower before my visit. I only chanced it once (Elland just before Christmas) and sure enough the practice was cancelled!

At some towers the ringers were forewarned that (and I quote) the 'Great Ringing Master' was paying a visit. I hope I quickly lowered their expectations of my abilities! Sometimes I stood by in awe of the advanced ringing in progress; at others I proved useful giving handling lessons or being able to call a touch of Bob Doubles.

So look out for me in the next year or two. I reckon there are 25 to go!

*Karl Grave
Western Branch Ringing Master*

P.S. Thank you all very much for the rounds of drinks I haven't had chance to return yet!

Ringling Centres in the Western Branch

Ringling Centres exist to provide a focus for good quality regular ringling training courses in a local area. There are about 40 in existence, two of which are situated within the Western Branch of the YACR. The Longwood Ringling Centre near Huddersfield was one of the pioneering ringling centres and the first to be set up in Yorkshire, and the Yorkshire Dales Ringling Centre (YDRC) which is based at Settle and is a more recent venture.

The YDRC has been operational for over a year now and runs monthly Saturday morning courses on whatever ringers ask for, plus occasional weekday evening practices. Earlier this year the Ringling Centre hosted a course on Belfry Maintenance and Teaching Bell Handling for the YA Education Committee. So great was the demand for the Belfry Maintenance Course that the Tutor, Arnold Smith is having to venture north yet again this autumn to repeat the Course at the Longwood Ringling Centre. Thank you for that Arnold.

Running a ringling centre is rather like ringling generally, once you see what can be done, you just want to do more and more of it and get better and better. Perhaps it is this that made us decide to run a non-residential weekend ringling course, rather like a mini Whirlow. A bit ambitious you might think for a very new ringling centre, but we are confident that we have enough experience to make it a success. By the time you read this, it will probably have already taken place and we hope to report on it in at a future date.

On the Longwood front, Raymond Kefford writes about what is happening there and tells us a bit about some of the technical issues and difficulties that can arise –

"At Longwood we have dedicated some Saturday afternoons in an attempt to improve the understanding of some 'basic' methods. Half of the sessions were spent on Plain Bob and the other half on such methods as Little Bob, Kent, Oxford, St Clement's and the like. At the start of each session we spend about 30 minutes going through the theory of the method and answering questions so that we all understand what we are trying to achieve before we start to ring. In this the overhead projector has been most useful for showing acetate slides composed in advance to illustrate the initial talk. We can overlay one acetate sheet with another to add a 'blue line' to a treble line or to show the interaction of other bells.

Preparing these slides by hand proved to be time-consuming but once we were reasonably competent in Microsoft PowerPoint it was easier and neater to use the computer. However, we had problems getting them printed. Modern

laser printers no longer use coloured wax to form the image but instead apply tiny fragments of coloured plastic to the acetate sheet. This looks fine until it is projected whereupon the coloured image becomes just a set of grey shadows on the screen. Our way round this problem has been to use an inkjet printer, but the ink does not dry properly on an ordinary acetate sheet so it necessitates the use of special transparency sheets (which are available from both Staples and Viking).

But how do you make the presentation interactive? Suppose someone asks about the effect of a bob, for instance. How can you move the numbers around if they are printed on an acetate sheet? What we use in this situation is an assortment of loose coloured numbers. The numbers were first printed large on acetate sheets. The 1's (treble) are red and the others are blue. There are blue dots to represent a number when it doesn't matter which number it is. Also some numbers are in an extra colour so that they will stand out on the screen. The numbers were then cut out and popped into a jar.

Now it is possible to assemble coloured numbers into rows on the glass plate of the OHP. If we set out the last few changes of a lead and the first few of the next, we can then move the numbers around to show what happens at a bob. It's a simple idea but it works."

As the newly elected Convenor of the YA Education Committee, clearly I am keen on education and training. Also with my Central Council Ringing Centres Committee hat on, I am keen on seeing more ringing centres set up. With an Association the size of the Yorkshire Association, there is room for several more ringing centres. It would be nice to have at least one in every Branch and I would encourage Branches and individual towers to think about setting one up. I would be pleased to offer whatever advice and guidance I can to anyone who is interested in doing so.

Gail Cater

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gail@thecaters.org.uk

York

A Training Day was organised in the Branch by Pat Hearn on 14 October, based at Stockton on the Forest. The training for four students was led by Mark Murfin of Bishopthorpe

After coffee there was a theoretical session where students wrote out the plain course of Bob Doubles in order to understand how the method is constructed and where each bell passes the treble. There were then two major practicals - in the late morning at Stockton and at Acomb in the afternoon, where students were helped to ring with bands of more experienced ringers (there were about six helpers).

All in all, it was an enjoyable day and found to be very useful.

Giles Galley

TOWERS' NEWS

Bingley



Children's Society Peal Appeal

As part of the national appeal for bell ringers to undertake a sponsored piece of ringing in aid of the 125th birthday of the Children's Society, the Bingley Ringers held their event on Saturday 30th September 2006.

At the suggestion of our Vicar, we held our event in conjunction with an Open Day taking place in and around our church on the same day. We had a display stand about bell ringing inside the church manned by our ringers throughout the day. This gave us chance to talk about ringing to interested people and to encourage them to sponsor us!

At 1.00pm a team of ringers from the local band successfully rang a Quarter Peal of **1320**

Little Bob Minor as follows:

| | |
|--------|-------------------|
| Treble | Ashley Beaumont |
| 2 | Jane Lynch (c) |
| 3 | Moiria Garscadden |
| 4 | Peter Tedder |
| 5 | Mary Picken |
| Tenor | Meredith Woode |

Following the quarter we opened the tower for visitors to tour the ringing room and to see the bells in action. A charge was made to join these tours. We were delighted to show about 50 people around the tower, many of them families with young children.

We would like to thank everyone from Western Branch who sponsored us. In particular we thank our neighbouring towers at Idle, Saltaire, Oxenhope and Guiseley for their generous support. All our ringers obtained sponsorship from friends, family and work colleagues and a fantastic total of **£786.00** was raised for the Children's Society.

*Jane Lynch
Ringing Master, All Saints, Bingley*

Bolton by Bowland - augmented to six

Bolton by Bowland, still within the diocese of Bradford, was until 1974 part of the West Riding of Yorkshire. It now joins the handful of Churches in the Forest of Bowland that are administered by Lancashire County Council but are part of both the Lancashire and Yorkshire Associations.

The Church started with two bells cast around 1510 given by family of Sir Ralph Pudsey. Sir Ralph was the Lord of the Manor for Bolton, and the force behind the rebuilding of Bolton Church, including a tower with a ring of bells. He had connections with both King Henry V and King Henry VI; the latter whom he sheltered at Bolton Hall when he was a fugitive following his defeat at the Battle of Hexham (1464). A third bell cast in 1749 was acquired from the neighbouring village of Gisburn and given to our Church in 1818 by Edward King esq. of Hungrill who was then Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

It was nearly a century before the next piece of work, which was to re-tune the three bells and replace the English oak frame. And then nearly another century before the bells were overhauled and re-hung on ball bearings in 2001. This began our project not only to bring the bells up to scratch but also to complete the ring of six as Sir Ralph intended.

A fourth bell was presented by Nan Sutherland in 2003 "In thanksgiving for the life of Dr David Q Sutherland". The bell originally came from the Parish Church of St George, Douglas, IOM when their new ring of eight was installed.

Then in 2005, a fifth bell cast in 1973 was found from the Church of the Resurrection, Beswick Heath, Manchester. With momentum gathering quickly, Canon David Mewis roused everybody to complete the fund raising needed to cast a new bell. With financial support from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Associations, the Keltek Trust and the Central Council, as well as from individual benefactors, the ring of six was finally completed in December 2005.

There is always a danger when assembling bells from many different sources, that their sound is not as pleasing as a new ring. We are very fortunate however, that our six have turned out to be a very pretty sounding ring (13½ cwt in F).

The bells were dedicated on Sunday 5 February 2006 by the Rt Revd David James, Bishop of Bradford. Many visitors came from both Lancashire and Yorkshire. The bells were showcased in the middle of the service with a packed congregation watching – nerve wracking stuff!

We are now occupied with the fulfilling task of teaching new people to ring and shaping the existing band into change ringers. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country; a frequent holiday destination, so if you are ever in the area you are more than welcome to join us. We would really appreciate your support. Practice night is Monday, but please call prior as we sometimes share practices with neighbouring towers.

*Julia Cater
Tower Captain
01200 445824*

The first peal of the bells was rung on 24 June, appropriately by a band of three Yorkshire ringers and three Lancashire ringers. Because there are six floors between the bells and the ringers standing at ground level, the bells are difficult to hear. Accordingly a new sound system of microphone in the room beneath the bells and loudspeaker at floor level has been installed and gives the bells perfect audibility.

Saturday, 24 June 2006 in 2 hrs 59 mins (13-2-7)

5040 Minor in six methods

London S, Norwich S, Cambridge S, Oxford TB, Kent TB and St.Clements Bob.

1 Walter E Wilkinson

2 Gail Cater

3 Peter C Randall (Cond)

4 Robert Cater

5 Richard J Parker

6 Julia R Cater

Rung for the Patronal Festival, on the village sports day and as part of the ongoing celebrations of HM the Queen's 80th birthday. The first peal on the bells .

Bob Cater

Bradford Cathedral

Funeral at Bradford Cathedral

The funeral of PC Sharon Beshenivsky, who was shot when summoned to a robbery in the City, was held at Bradford Cathedral on Wednesday 11 January.

Police at attention lined the City's streets on a cold but brilliant morning as the cortege slowly wound its way from the scene of the robbery to the Cathedral, bowing their heads as the glass hearse drawn by four black horses passed by.

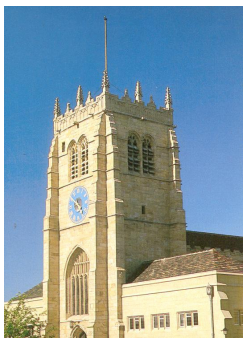
The twelve bells rang out half-muffled to call changes from the Cathedral's high vantage point, with the louvres' shutters fully open so as to bathe the City with their sound. Their ringers were drawn from all parts of the diocese.

The bells became silent as the procession reached Forster Square below the Cathedral, with the solitary tenor, rung by Ron Crabtree, Tower Captain, then slowly sounding out during the steep climb to the Cathedral's west door.

After a dignified Service of remembrance conducted by the Bishop of Bradford and the Dean, the tenor again called out as the coffin was borne away to a private interment. In the background, the 87 cwt hour bell at the City's splendid Italianate town hall tolled its sombre note at one minute intervals.

Bob Cater

Quarters at Bradford Cathedral



Since February, quarter peals on 10 and 12 bells have been rung at Bradford Cathedral approximately monthly by bands comprised solely of Western Branch members.

We have been successful so far with Plain Bob Royal, Grandsire Caters, Yorkshire S Royal (twice), Grandsire Cinques, Little Bob Maximus and Kent TB Maximus, under the watchful conducting of Roger Green and Barrie Dove. Numerous 'firsts' have been scored. A quarter of Grandsire Caters has also been rung at Huddersfield.

We hope to progress to Surprise Maximus in the Autumn.

Bob Cater

Longwood

The story goes that in the depression of 1860 the men were locked out of the factories and could not work but were under the feet of their wives at home. So the women prepared their lunchboxes as if the men were still at work and sent them out of the door each morning.

It seems that the men of Longwood gathered on the hill above the village and occupied themselves by building a small amphitheatre and a rather stumpy tower with steps around the side. They were completed in 1861 and every year from 1873 onwards have been the site of the Longwood Sing.

And so, in the warm, sunny afternoon of 10th September the local people walked over the top from Quarmby and up the hillside from Longwood to gather in and around the amphitheatre. And they did so to the sound of the bells being rung.



The bells sound across and along the valley. They are clearly heard on the hillside and even more clearly on the top, which is slightly above the top of the Church tower. Inside the tower the ringers are very aware that every note will be heard and any bell out of place, even for one blow, will be noticed.

45 minutes later the Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees arrived and the 133rd Longwood Sing commenced. There were hymns accompanied by brass band, songs from the school children and choruses from the Messiah. This year's beneficiary was the charity 'Kirklees Young Carers' but we all benefited from a great afternoon.

Raymond Kefford

Wakefield Cathedral

The Cathedral band is fortunate to have ringing in its Sunday service band a diversity of ringers both young and old, learners and experienced. In 2005 we welcomed one of those young ringers, Rebecca Pagdin, into the band as a Qualified Member. Rebecca rang her qualifying 720 changes in November and in doing so joined her father, Richard and grandparents, Rodney and Joan to become the second family with 3 generations who all ring regularly at the Cathedral. Kirstie Heslop, the daughter of Julie Heslop and granddaughter of David Banks, qualified in 2002 and has already progressed to ringing quarter peals and also touches of Stedman Cinques. A remarkable achievement for both families to have three generations ringing together in the same band, but David Banks has also been a part of another achievement for the Cathedral ringers.



The Banks Family -----The Pagdin Family

David first learned to ring at the Cathedral in 1951 along with a number of other youngsters, 2 of whom were Geoffrey Townend and John Wackett. David and Geoff both rang their first peal together, on Tuesday, December 22nd, 1953; this being a peal of plain bob minor conducted by Wilfrid F. Moreton. All three of them have continued to ring at the Cathedral as part of the Sunday service band. This year 2006, they will have been ringing together for 55 years, a quite remarkable achievement.

2005 was also a year to celebrate for another Cathedral ringer, George Hancock. George began learning to ring tower bells on VE day in July 1945 at his local tower, North Wingfield in Derbyshire. The Cathedral band rang a [quarter peal](#) with George on the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II on May 8th 2005 and also to remember the 60 years of service that he has given to bell ringing. George has also been ringing at the Cathedral for 44 years, since moving to Wakefield in January 1962.

*John A Courtney
Wakefield Cathedral*

Long Service at Wakefield

On Whitsunday 2006, three ringers at Wakefield Cathedral completed 55 years of service. David Banks, Geoff Townend and John Wackett have all been ringing at the Cathedral since 1951! Now they are all retired, getting them all together along with David's daughter and granddaughter took a while, but on 30th July we rang a quarter peal to celebrate this milestone. (And then it took a while to take the picture!).



COMMITTEES

Bell Restoration Fund

This year's awards prepared by the BRF subcommittee and agreed by the General Committee in March are:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Barnoldswick | £4000 |
| Burley | £250 |
| Conisborough | £1100 |
| Hampsthwaite | £1000 |
| Saddleworth | £1000 |
| Tadcaster | £50 |

A decision on Low Bentham was left until more information could be supplied. We have paid out Hampsthwaite and Tadcaster and received one application for grant aid in 2007. If anyone has any scheme in mind for consideration at the 2007 meeting do not be frightened to give me a ring to talk about how to make an application or what is required in the way of paperwork. I always try to encourage towers to make an early application because nothing looks better to a PCC than an early promise of a grant from their local association. Incidentally, I have in the past spoken to Incumbents on behalf of local fundraisers just to try and give them confidence to go ahead with an expensive scheme. Also I have the now rather elderly video produced by the Central Council on Bell Restoration, which is designed for showing to PCCs who may be considering a major bell restoration.

*Ian Johnson
Masham
Tel: 01765 689456
david.johnson05@ntlworld.com*

The Association's Library/Archive

The Association's Library/Archive dates back only some 20 years or so. It is kept as a separate collection within York Minster's Library and is housed in a mediaeval building that once served as a chapel within the old Archbishop's Palace next to the Minster on its north side.

The decision by the Association to create a library/archive was taken in 1985 after it was realised that so much valuable material from both the Association itself and from members, was being lost. With no central repository, important documents and books were simply being discarded, particularly on the death of members or as Branch or Association Officers changed.

It is amazing to think that until its creation the Association did not even own a complete set of its own reports, and sadly, despite many efforts, it proved impossible to trace the earliest Association Minute Books and these must be assumed to be lost for all time.

The decision to place the collection in York Minster Library was taken after consultation. The Association needed somewhere where the collection could be accessed, but somewhere that would not charge for looking after it and where it would be kept in a dry temperature controlled environment so that it did not deteriorate. The Minster Library is reasonably central geographically – though not by population density – and the Dean and Chapter accepted responsibility for housing it. They would not accept responsibility for loaning books/papers, and so it is there and accessible for study when the library is open.

The material is in two sections – printed books and manuscript material. The printed books are housed together in a part of the Library devoted to Yorkshire based collections. The manuscript material is held in a series of box files dedicated to particular aspects (e.g. separate box files for each branch or a person's own collection). A full inventory of the collection was published in Report 122 – the annual report for 1997.

To find the books on the York University library catalogue, go to <http://libcat.york.ac.uk>. In the 'search for' list, select 'Provenance ... contains word(s)', type 'Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers' (without the quotes) in the box beneath and click go. It brings up 170 items. This should be all of the printed books, assuming their provenance has been correctly listed when they were catalogued. It will not include any manuscript material such as minute books which are held in the archives. There is no online catalogue of this, but Peter Young (the Mister Library Archivist) would probably be able to supply a list.

Members wishing to use the collection can view it Monday – Thursday from 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. at York Minster's Library in Dean's Park by the Minster. For enquiries please phone 01904 625308 or contact via email enquiries@yorkminsterlibrary.org.uk

David E Potter
Association Librarian

YA Education Committee

The main task for Committee during the year is planning and running the Whirlow Grange Course, which is reported separately in this Newsletter. However, we do other things as well. We help the Branches, when invited, to provide education and training services for our members in their area. We also provide courses ourselves covering the whole Association on more specialist topics.

In May we arranged a one-day course on both Tower Maintenance and Teaching Bell Handling at the Yorkshire Dales Ringing Centre based at Settle Church. As part of the 'hands-on' training for the Maintenance Group, the students inspected the patched-up old wooden frame at Slaidburn, followed by inspection of the new steel frame at Bolton by Bowland. Here Arnold Smith, the tutor, explains the intricacies of the Slaidburn frame to his students.

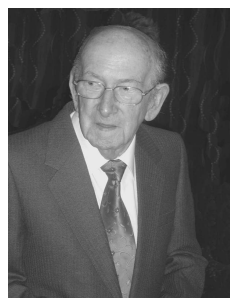


A Handbell Day was again organised by the Committee, this year it took place in Sheffield under the tutelage of Elaine Scott and will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Gail Cater
Education Committee Chairman
gail@thecaters.org.uk

OBITUARY

John J L Gilbert MBE 1918 - 2006



John Gilbert, the YACR's longest serving member and Vice President of the Association, died on 15 July 2006. Here we reprint the eulogy delivered at his funeral by Neil Donovan.

I am here to tell you about John JL Gilbert MBE - the Bellringer. It was my privilege to meet John for the first time around 1960 when, as a boy in short trousers, I was learning bellringing at Rotherham. I was taken, by my tutor, to a meeting of the Sheffield & District Society of Bellringers. At this time, John was the Ringing Master and I remember how kind and encouraging he was to everyone present.

In 1930, John had learnt to handle a bell at Handsworth, having moved on from the choir where he had been since aged seven. (He also remained a choir member until he was aged 21). He was clearly a quick learner, under the tutelage of Fred Watkinson, and was soon to ring his first Peal. (For those of you who are not bellringers, I will explain that a peal is the bellringers equivalent of running the marathon, usually taking between 2.5 and 3.5 hours). This was at Handsworth on 18 April 1931. By the time he was 15, he had taken part in peals of London and Cambridge Surprise Royal and Stedman Cinques. One of John's finest moments was when he conducted a band of young people, at Crayford in Kent, through a peal of Plain Bob Major. At the time, in 1934, this was the youngest band ever to ring a peal, a record which was to stand until 1982.

An example of what a good young ringer John was comes from an extract of the memoirs of the late Harold Chant:

'One day in May 1932 we met at Eastwood, Rotherham for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, which Albert Nash was conducting and a lady called Noel Cawthorne came along to ring bringing with her a small boy in short trousers. I said to Albert Nash "is he going to watch?". "Watch" said Albert, "he is going to ring", and so he did, impeccably, placed on a couple of boxes and not a wrong blow throughout. And so John JL Gilbert and I scored our first peal together. I have always been impressed with his ringing, but never more than I was that day in 1932.'

John went on to ring and to conduct many more peals. His total was exactly 500.

On a personal note, I recall that my first peal with John was on the old twelve at Sheffield Cathedral on Boxing Day 1962. I was to conduct what we now know was his last peal, also at Sheffield Cathedral in the same method - Grandsire Cinques - in 1994. This was an occasion when John celebrated the 60th anniversary of his first peal together with his old friend, Norman Chaddock.

Now, John was about much more than peal ringing, though some former colleagues at the YEB (Yorkshire Electricity Board) may have heard the word 'peal' during his time with them. A story told to me recently suggests that anyone phoning the YEB switchboard and asking for 'WAYLEAVES' would be asked what the call was about. Anyone saying the word 'PEAL' would automatically be connected to John!

By the age of twenty, John had become secretary of the local band and was to succeed Fred Watkinson as Tower Captain. This was a position which John would hold for a further 60 years. One of his wishes was that he would conduct first peals for each of the dozens of learners whom he taught.

Many ringers to whom I have spoken recently have commented on what a friendly practice-night it was on a Wednesday night at Handsworth, with a welcome both there and in the Cross Keys afterwards. Everyone agrees that John's quiet and encouraging manner was an inspiration. The practice always attracted a number of regular visitors and offered opportunities of ringing at a high standard. John would often request that there should be a 'good bit of tapping'. One of his favourites was to conduct Stedman, calling the bells into all sorts of position before calling them round.

John was also to come to the fore in the administration of the local Ringing Societies. As well as holding the post of Ringing Master in the Sheffield & Dist Society he was, for 27 years, Secretary to the Southern District of the YACR from 1938 to 1965. Returning as a Committee member briefly, in 1970 he took on the role of Ringing Master and, from 1973 until 1980, became Chairman of the newly created Sheffield & District Branch. He remained as a committee member until 2002.

In recognition of his services to ringing in Yorkshire, John was elected in 1980 to the highest honour of Vice-President of the YACR. However, the Honour of which John was most proud, and rightfully so, was that awarded in 1996 of MBE 'for services to bellringing at Handsworth'. Never was it more deserved than for John's dedication to his tower and bells.

Of course, over the years, there have been embarrassing and humorous moments and I'm sure that each of the bellringers present today will have their own stories. I recall an embarrassing moment at Rotherham when John's trousers nearly descended around his ankles causing him to leave the ringing chamber rapidly - one which he no doubt would have rather forgotten!

Another story which comes to mind features the late Jack Turley. Jack liked occasionally to conduct peals but rarely felt confident. Every time he called 'BOB' he would turn to John and say "that's right isn't it, John" to which the reply would usually come "Yes, Jack, that's right".

John with his quiet, unassuming manner was a friend to all ringers and will remain in the memory of all of us who knew him and ring in the Sheffield area. Our sympathy goes to Joyce and all of John's family.

Peals and Quarter Peals Rung in Memory of John Gilbert

SHEFFIELD, S Yorks, Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul

Sat Jul 15 2006 2:54 (14-0-14)

5088 Spliced Surprise Major

(4 methods: 1,440 Cornwall, 1,344 Bristol, 1,152 each Glasgow and Lessness, 90 com, atw) Comp. D F Morrison

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Peter W McCoy | 5. Adrian M Moreton |
| 2. Judith M Reading | 6. Simon J Reading |
| 3. Nicholas D Soanes | 7. Matthew J L Durham (C) |
| 4. G Jessica Lansberry | 8. Jeffrey P Ladd |

In memory of John J L Gilbert MBE of Handsworth who died today.

ROTHERHAM, S Yorks, Minster Church of All Saints

Sun Jul 16 2006 3:32 (34-3-0)

5136 Bristol Surprise Maximus

Comp. R O Hall

1. Jeffrey P Ladd

2. Jonathan M Ladd

3. Dinah M Rhymer

4. Simon J Reading

5. Adrian M Moreton

6. G Jessica Lansberry

First of Bristol S Maximus - 2

Circled the tower - 1

In memoriam John J L Gilbert MBE of Handsworth,

18/07/1918-15/07/2006; may he rest in peace.

7. Nicholas D Soanes

8. Brian A Sanders

9. Richard F Knights

10. Matthew J L Durham

11. Neil Donovan

12. Malcolm S Turner (C)

HANDSWORTH, S Yorks, St Mary

Fri Aug 11 2006 2:42 (12-0-2)

5040 Plain Bob Triples

Comp. C Ravenscroft

1. Jacqueline N Hoole

2. Judith S McCoy

3. Philip A Hoole

4. H David Holland

5. David J Kelly

6. Malcolm S Turner

7. Ian M Holland (C)

8. C David Munday

Dedicated to the memory of John J.L. Gilbert MBE 1918 -- 2006, Ringing Master at this tower for 60 years. Rung by past and present Handsworth ringers and friends.

HARROGATE, North Yorkshire, St Wilfrid

Monday July 17, 2006 in 2h38 (6cwt)

5056 Ulceby Surprise Major

Composition: A J Pitman

1. Alan J Birney

2. Anne E Deebank

3. Gail Cater

4. Robert Cater

5. Richard G Hobbs

6. Alan M Shelbourn

7. Peter J Stretton

8. C Barrie Dove (C)

Remembering John J L Gilbert Vice President of the Yorkshire Association who died on Saturday 15th July 2006.

Handsworth, S Yorks, 21 Jul, 1260 Grandsire Triples: Jacqueline Hoole 1, Judith McCoy 2, Philip Hoole 3, Ian Holland 4, David Holland 5, Simon Reading 6, Neil Donovan 7, David Munday 8.

In memory of John J L Gilbert on the day of his funeral.

Sheffield, S Yorks, 9 Wigfull Rd 17 Jul, 1264 Plain Bob Major: Arnold Smith 1-2, Elaine Scott 3-4, Peter Scott 5-6, Michael Platt (C) 7-8; also 24 Jul, 1260 Plain Bob Minor: Arnold Smith 1-2, Elaine Scott (C) 3-4, Peter Scott 5-6; both in memory of John J L Gilbert MBE.

Ranmoor, S Yorks 23 Jul, 1296 Plain Bob Caters: Janet Else 1, Hazel Horobin 2, Gill Platt-Hopkin 3, Joanne Bullock 4, Pauline Heath 5, David Williams 6, Elaine Scott 7, Peter Scott 8, Chris Bennett (C) 9, Iain Scott 10. Rung to celebrate the life of John Gilbert MBE 18/7/1914- 15/7/2006. John first signed Ranmoor visitors book on 15th May 1934

Handsworth, S Yorks. (St Mary) 30 Jul, 1296 Stedman Triples: Jennifer Armeson 1, Joanne Bullock 2, Judith Reading 3, Stuart Armeson 4, David Jackson 5, Simon Reading 6, Michael Platt (C) 7, Malcolm Turner 8.

In memory of John J L Gilbert MBE, ringing master at this tower for nearly 60 years

YACR Dates for Your Diary - 2007

3 February 2007 – Association General Meeting - Central Branch

3 March 2007 – Association General Committee AGM - Sherburn-in-Elmet

4 May 2007 Association **Annual General Meeting** - Western Branch

It is anticipated that 11 towers in the Forest of Bowland and the Southern Dales will be open. The Service, tea and Meeting itself will be at Settle.

15 September 2007 – Association General Meeting – Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch

13 or 20 October 2007 - Snowdon Dinner - Leeds Branch