



Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Winter 2017 / No.4

In this issue . . .

- Peter Sotheran - 60 Years a Ringer 2
- Ypres Dedication 3
- In Memoriam:
George Willerton 3
- Stockton Practices 4
- YACR Subs 2018 4
- Cluster Proposal Update 4
- Ringing History of Saltburn
and Marske 4
- Richmond Progress 5
- WW1 Memorial Peal 5
- Forthcoming Events 6
- Local Practices 6

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Online!

The Yorkshire Association
Website can be found at

www.yacr.org.uk.

Contact the Branch
Secretary to add events
and get tower pages
updated.



Events 2018:

Branch AGM: Saturday 20th January 2018

Programme:

11:30-12:30 ringing at Saltburn.

13:00 Lunch in Marske church

Followed by the AGM

Approx 14:30-15:30 ringing at Marske.

The meeting agenda is circulated with this issue of the Newsletter, along with the minutes of the the most recent Branch AGM.

Please send names for tea to
ross2weddell4home@gmail.com by

Wednesday 17th January

Branch Striking Competition Saturday 28th April 2018

The date has been set for next years Branch Striking Competition. The committee is in the process of confirming a venue a venue.

Association AGM and Interbranch Striking Competition Saturday 12th May 2018

The Branch is hosting next years Association AGM and Interbranch Striking Competition. The event will be based in and around the Richmond area and will include ringing at Richmond and a tour of local towers. Details will be circulated nearer the time

Congratulations!

It is with great pleasure that the branch hears that William Peter Georgeson was born to Debbie Georgeson of Pickhill. It is understood that mother and baby are doing well.

A Warm Welcome from the Editor

A warm festive welcome to the fourth issue of the new look newsletter Newsletter from the editor. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, contact the editor.

Sixty Years a Ringer

by Peter Sotheran (Marske)



My schoolmate Bill and I used to mess around at St. Cuthbert's Church in Kirkleatham where he was a server and I used to cut the grass with scythe. 'I've been reading about bell ringing,' said Bill as we compared our summer holidays. 'I've seen it done,' I replied and described a holiday visit St. Chad's in Shrewsbury. With the fearless enthusiasm of youth we cleared decades of guano and nests from the tower of St. Cuthbert's and, based on what I had seen and Bill had read, we set about teaching ourselves to ring the three bells. As the autumn of 1957 progressed we ventured to Saltburn to join the practice night at Emmanuel Church and to learn to ring properly.

Three years at college in Leeds and interest in other activities distracted me from ringing for a decade. Then a chance conversation when I was delivering the monthly church magazines to Saltburn drew back into bell ringing. The Revd. David Moore, then the Curate at Saltburn was planning to restart the bellringing team which had lapsed a few years earlier and he co-opted me to help him. During the autumn term of 1967 we recruited almost a dozen volunteers and established the new team. Our first 'public performance' was for the Family Communion Service on Christmas Day; I recall one of the teenage girls having tears of pride in her eyes as we rang.

The following year my friend Bill and I explored the belfry of St. Mark's Church at Marske-by-the-Sea. The bells were in a ruinous condition. We cleared out decades of birds' nests and guano, made some running repairs and started recruiting new bell ringers at Marske. Age, and a serious fire in 1902 had taken their toll on the frame, wheels and fittings at Marske. Almost every week we were trekking round the Longbeck Trading Estate, begging repairs of the several woodwork and metalwork companies.

In 1969, a wheel collapsed and a clapper fell out. Enough was enough. With the consent of the Vicar, Canon Richard White, we launched an appeal to completely replace the bells and the frame.

The embryonic team of Marske bell ringers raised the money in eighteen months and, to reduce costs, we opted to undertake to remove the old bells and hang the new ones ourselves. The first six bells first rang out for Christmas 1973. We continued fund-raising and fifteen months later, at Easter 1975, we installed the two heaviest bells to complete the octave of notes.

Our ringing led us to become involved in all sorts of other activities. Some of the highlights of the last sixty years include:

1975: St. Mark's ringers appeared on That's Life on BBC-TV.

1977: I helped to produce a 12 minute film about ringing at Marske for BBC2.

1977: Cleveland Handbell Ringers wrote the scripts and featured in a week of Epilogues on Tyne-Tees TV.

1977: I helped to arrange for a redundant bell to be shipped from Dunsdale to a mission church in New Zealand.

1984: The Cleveland Handbell Ringers toured New England in the USA.

Pretty well every tower at which I rang needed more ringers. Earlier this year we checked Marske belfry's Sunday Service Attendance Register. More than 125 people have reached the standard to join the Sunday service band at Marske, probably another twenty at Saltburn. About one-in-four of those who begin, stay the course and become competent ringers. On that basis we have taught around 500 people at Marske and another 80-100 at other churches around us, not counting scores more who have had nothing more than a few trial pulls.

Over last sixty years bell ringing has brought me into contact with many amazing and generous people. Scores of people – too many to name – have been involved. To them all I offer my thanks for their friendship and support – the latter of ten at some cost to themselves. For me it continues to be a great hobby and a means of being part of the life of the church. I look forward to ringing the changes for a few more years to come.

Marske by the Sea, North Yorkshire

Saturday, 21 October 2017 in 53min (6-3-21 in Bb)

1344 Plain Bob Major

1 Peter Sotheran

2 Sue Sotheran

3 Margaret Jobson

4 Andrew Frost

5 Joseph Wilson

6 John Groom

7 David Lester

8 Ross Weddell (C)

Rung to mark the 150th Anniversary of the first service at St. Mark's, to mark 60 years of ringing for Peter Sotheran and the birthday of John Groom.

Circled the tower 16 times to Quarter Peals, 1

Ypres Dedication

by Jennie Town(Northallerton)

Many of you will have seen in the press and in the Ringing World about the successful completion of the scheme to put a ring of bells into St George's Memorial Church in Ypres. There has been plenty of local involvement in the background work to this, with David Town from Northallerton making the bell wheels and Ian Staves (Northallerton) and David Gardner (Ainderby Steeple) constructing and installing the sound control with Ian doing much of the electrical work too.

On Friday 20th October, David and Jennie Town traveled to Ypres with Ian and Julia Staves to attend the dedication service. Saturday afternoon was spent up the tower ringing the bells whilst filming was in progress for a programme which was shown on BBC East Midlands. This was restricted to those who were ringing in the service touch next day, with Jennie filling in for somebody who could not be there and Ian acting as technical assistant for the filming. The final piece on television was extremely brief but, as is usual with these things, filming took all afternoon. Once this was completed we went into the church hall where there was food and drink provided as a celebration of Alan Regin's birthday. Alan is the Keeper of the Rolls of Honour for the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and has been the driving force behind this scheme. Sunday 22nd October was the day of the dedication service, led by the Bishop in Europe, Robert Innes. Handbells were rung during the service, Kent Treble Bob Royal, conducted by Jennie Town. The bell-ringers hymn was sung with gusto by the many ringers present and, following the service, a course of Ypres Surprise Major was rung by an invited band, which included David Town.

The bells were much admired by all, both for sound and for “go” and the ringing room must be one of the smartest ever seen with magnificent oak paneling. After a while the sound control was closed and all the ringers present had an assigned slot (or two) where they had an opportunity to ring the bells.



In addition, donors or others related to the scheme who were not ringers were able to go to the ringing room for a short talk about ringing (the bells having been lowered) and were able to chime “their” bell.

Whilst all this was going on, there was a reception in the church hall and grounds with drink flowing and plenty of food for all. All ringing stopped for around 1pm whilst Alan took the opportunity to thank everybody present for their help, going through groups and individuals to thank them personally. The support has been tremendous and the atmosphere was thoughtful as well as celebratory.

Many ringers were staying at the same hotel, so the celebrations went on until the early hours of the morning - ringers really do know how to enjoy themselves. It is hoped that visitors will be able to make use of these bells – initial enquiries are going through Alan Regin at present. There are also plans to put a teaching programme in place and there are already some locals who have expressed interest in learning.

The teachers will be those who have been through the training programme for the Association of Ringing Teachers and will be able to stay in rented accommodation. It is hoped that teaching will start in March next year.

In Memoriam: George Willerton of Guisborough

It is with regret that the branch hears of the death of George Willerton of Guisborough. He died peacefully whilst resting in his chair on the 25th October 2017, at the age of 69.

George was taught to ring at Guisborough in the early 60s, and whilst not a prolific method ringer he was a very active Sunday service ringer.

In the early years he was one of the small group that went on tower holidays along with the full tower days out. In these later years, he has been very active at not only Guisborough, but around the area, at various towers, both for service ringing and practice.

Items for the next
Newsletter to
Ross Weddell
ross2weddell4home@gmail.com

By Friday 23rd
March

Ringling at Stockton 2018

by Jack Hanlon (D&N Southern District Master)

I have been working with Rev. Mark (vicar at Stockton) and Margaret Jobson at Thornaby about how we can establish some more regular ringing at Stockton and secure the long term viability of the tower by the recruitment of local bell ringers.

The Plans for 2018 are as follows:

SUNDAY SERVICE RINGING:

The Thornaby ringers will ring at Stockton Parish Church on the 2nd and 4th Sunday Mornings of the month, starting from Sunday 14th January, 09.45am till 10.30am.

REGULAR PRACTICE NIGHT:

The vicar is very keen on establishing a regular practice night therefore the plan is to have a regular practice night on the first Thursday of the month 7pm till 8.30pm. The first practice is planned for Thursday 4th January.

OTHER RINGING:

I hope to arrange some specific 10 and 12 bell method practices on the 4th Tuesday of the month about four times a year, which I hope will be give opportunities for ringers from the wider area to ring methods on 10 and 12 bells.

For more information email: Jack.hanlon@hotmail.com

YACR AGM: Subs for 2018

by John Welch (Branch Treasurer)

2018 Subscriptions:

Unfortunately subscriptions will be increasing next year. The rates that will become due in January for 2018 will be £6 for full time students and £12 for everyone else (including those over 65).

These should be sent by bank transferr to John Welch(email jrw147@gmail.com for account details) or sent by cheque to **John Welch, 8 Maple Road, Richmond, DL10 4BW**. Please email jrw147@gmail.com, if Membership tower contact details have changed with details of the new contact.

Annual Report Contact Details:

If your tower/address/tower contact details have changed since the last annual report. Please send the revised details to ross2weddel14home@gmail.com as soon as you can, so this can be updated for the 2017 Annual Report.

Branch Clusters

by Ross Weddell

The committee is now has a named representative for each Cluster. It is hoped that each representative, will be able to provide a snapshot of ringing in their cluster, which can then be discussed at the Branch AGM and reported on in the newsletter.

As mentioned previously, the aim of the Cluster Proposal is to move the Branch from a PROVIDER of Ringing to a FACILITATOR ringing, taking advantage of the local links between towers that already present.

Branch AGM: Ringing History in Saltburn and Marske

Next years Branch AGM heads to the north east of the Branch, to Saltburn and Marske. Both Churches are celebrating their 150th birthdays in the coming year, although ringing in both towers didn't begin until many years later.

Saltburn Tower History:

The tower was added to Emmanuel Church Saltburn in 1900, standing 113 feet tall over the town. The clock was added next in 1901, as a memorial to Queen Victoria, funded by public subscription. Finally, a fine set of 8 bells were donated in 1901 by Arthur Dorman as a memorial to his brother, Robert Dorman. The bells were cast by John Taylor & Co and range between 2ft 3½ inches and 3ft 1 inches in diameter. The dedication was by Right Rev R Crosthwaite bishop of Beverley on June 9th 1902. The bells were rung for the first time the following day by a band of over 50 ringers from the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.

Over the years since 1902, the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association has evolved into the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Branch of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers. It is therefore very apt that in the churches 150th year, we once again visit this church, as did the association 116 years ago.

Marske Tower History:

The current set of eight bells in St. Mark's church tower were installed in the early 1970's, replacing an earlier 19th century ring of 6. The ringers undertook to remove the old bells and raise funds to the new peals of bells. With the professional help of local industries, the first 6 bells were installed by Christmas 1973. The remaining 2 bells were added for Easter 1975, which marked the end of the project.

Richmond Progress

by Peter Trewby(Richmond)

The Church of St Mary, Richmond is now the proud and extremely fortunate owner of 8 new bells, new frame, chiming hammers, clock mechanism and adjustable sound control. It is unlikely this would be the case if our star Richmond ringer had not decided seven years ago, when aged 15, that our bells were just not up to the standard to which he was becoming accustomed. With the assurance that youth brings he voiced his concerns but got little support from fellow bellringers who sensed the huge task required to raise the cash and felt the bells would sound much better if we were better at ringing them! Undeterred, he wrote to Taylors Bellfounders and asked if they would inspect the installation. Unaware of his age, they came and reported on the poor quality of the frame and the unsatisfactory tonality of the bells. With their report in hand, and gradually, little by little the band acquiesced to pressure and agreed to explore the possibility of replacing the bells. If the bells, why not the frame, and why not the unsatisfactory clock mechanism which impinged into the limited space of the ringing chamber, and why not put in sound control and display our bells of historic interest?

Preliminary work was done, estimates obtained, and the project officially launched to the public with open tower tours and teddy bear parachuting from the tower in April 2015. This was the weekend before the election and we were pleased to welcome our prospective Parliamentary candidates who joined us to launch their suitably rosetted teddy bears.

Spurred on by the wise words of John Hallett that no bellringing project ever failed through lack of money just lack persistence, we set forth to raise the more than £160,000 required. We leafleted every house in the town, had concerts, dinners, lunches and quizzes. The money flowed in and we were heartened and somewhat embarrassed by the esteem in which he bells were held by the people of Richmond.

We also received grant money and are particularly grateful to the Yorkshire Association of Bellringers and the Colin Ashton bequest, the Cleveland and North Yorkshire branch of the Association, the Green Howards Association, whose Chapel resides in the church, and a substantial grant, headed up by Liz Foster from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are also very grateful to Michael Sunley and his family and the Paul Curran Trust whose bell is inscribed “Helping young disabled people fulfil their dreams and ambitions”. The HLF grant enabled us to put on innovative educational activities, display our five historic bells above our existing bells and run a successful history group. Our most exciting in-house fundraising activity was our Richmond (Surrey) to Richmond (North Yorkshire) cycle ride headed by our very own Glenys R and Glenys J on a tandem- “G2R2”. Church bells were

rung on the way and over £10,000 raised. By mid-2016 we had sufficient funds to pay Taylors the necessary deposit; our bells were cast in November/ December 2016 and work started in March 2017.

Our team of volunteers had never worked so hard as when removing the oak frame. The main beam was found to be severely water damaged where it entered the wall which explained the poor “go” of the old bells as the frame rock ‘n rolled during ringing.

The tower was eventually cleared, holes dug in the masonry for the primary and secondary beams and frame and bells installed. The new bells (tenor 11-1-12 cwt in G) are a tight fit but are now on one level and everyone who has heard them say they sound magnificent. Our 5 bells of historic interest are displayed above the new bells with a purpose-built walkway to enable them to be seen and appreciated and the Sanctus bell now sounds on the old c1500 Seliok bell. Our old 1862 Warner tenor is en route to the Church in Chemmalammattam Southern India with the transport generously paid for by the people of Richmond and our two 1904 Warner trebles are awaiting placement by the Keltek Trust.

In addition to the 8 new bells, we have adjustable sound control, courtesy of the District Council, so any number of peals and be rung, and electromechanical chimes on all eight bells to give us the potential for single octave tune ringing as well as the standard Cambridge chimes.

We hope the installation will be good for 500 years. For this we must thank the people of Richmond, fellow bellringers, Taylors Bellfounders, our patrons and grant givers and the Yorkshire Association and the family of Colin Ashton without whom none of this would have been possible.

Thank you also (in retrospect if not at the time) to the persuasive power and enthusiasm of youth. We do hope you will come and enjoy our bells.

WW1 Memorial Peal

Middleham, North Yorkshire St Mary and St Alkelda
Thursday, 26 October 2017 in 3h 10m (18–0–8 in E)

5056 Cambridge Surprise Major
Composed by Johnson's Variation

- 1 Robert M Wood
- 2 Graham J N Colborne
- 3 C Barrie Dove (C)
- 4 Jennifer A Town
- 5 David A Town
- 6 Christopher P Turner
- 7 James W Holdsworth
- 8 Neil Donovan

Specially arranged to mark the centenary of the death of Private Harold Lindley Collinson (aged 31), 1st/4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, who was killed on 26th October 1917. He was born and lived in Middleham and was a ringer at this tower.

Upcoming Events

January

Sat 20th Branch AGM
Saltburn and Marske
(See Pages 1 and 4)

February

Sat 3rd
YACR meeting in the
Sheffield Branch

April

Sat 28th
Branch Striking
Competition – Venue TBC

May

Sat 13th
Association AGM and
Interbranch Striking Competition
based around Richmond

**Have a Practice/
Event?
Contact The
Newsletter
Editor**

Regular Local Practices

Sowerby Monthly Practice

1st Tuesday's: 7:30-9pm
What is typically rung?
Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods
Contact: Neil Irving
neil@neilirving.co.uk

Sunday Surprise

3rd Sunday: 4:45-6pm – Stokesley
What is typically rung?
Standard 8 Surprised Major, including spliced
Contact: John Hallett
jgh135@gmail.com

Barnard Castle Practices

2nd and 4th Mondays
What is typically rung?
Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods
Contact: Helen Scott
helenscott63@hotmail.com

D&N Southern District – Advanced Practice

2nd and 4th Tuesdays – St John's Darlington 7:30
What is typically rung?
Kent Minor, Grandsire, Plain Bob,
Yorkshire, Cambridge, Bristol
Contact: Jack Hanlon
Jack.hanlon@hotmail.co.uk

Thirkleby Weekly Practice

Mondays 7:00 – 8:00pm
What is typically rung?
Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods
Contact: Michael Armstrong
m.armstrong21@btinternet.com

Marske Weekly Practice

Mondays 7:30 – 9:00pm (Bell Handing from 7:00)
What is typically rung?
Rounds and Call Changes, Simple Methods
Contact: Peter Sotheran
Peter.sotheran@gmail.com

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