

Leeds Branch Newsletter

Issue 3 April 2021



Welcome

Welcome to the next Newsletter. I am sure you will find it as interesting as the previous ones.

It looks like we are getting nearer to ringing in our towers again, subject to various objectives being met. I for one am looking forward to ringing on six bells for forty-five minutes at a time.

The 2020 YACR Report is with us now, and we are in the process of getting them around the branch for you all to see. I have really enjoyed seeing many of you face-to-face and being able to say 'hello', albeit at a distance.

Branch Ringing Room instead of our regular Second Saturday Meetings is going nicely. It's not just the 'ringing' that is nice, it's the keeping in touch with other ringers as well. If you haven't rung on Ringing Room do try and join in with the rest of us next time and find out what you are missing.

Best wishes

Barrie - Branch Chairman

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Ringing Roadmap

We were delighted that the Central Council agreed with the Church of England that we could ring for Easter Day services provided that we rang socially distanced and with appropriate precautions. However, the dispensation was for Easter Day only, and two households are still not allowed to meet indoors unless they are part of the same social bubble. Please be patient with the restrictions, as we gear towards the possibility of ringing soon.

The CofE Recovery Group and the CCCBR have released draft restrictions for ringing for the next stage of the roadmap. These will apply from May 17th onwards if the government are satisfied that nationally, England has met the government Roadmap tests. Please familiarise yourselves with the restrictions, and keep an eye out for any changes (which we will also circulate as needed). The restrictions from May 17th can be found [here](#), and supplementary information found [here](#).

We are all (hopefully) keen to get back to normal ringing as soon as possible, we just have to be patient and follow the guidelines a little bit longer.

If you have articles or feedback for the newsletter, please email - leedsbr.editor@gmail.com

Your Leeds Branch Committee

Chairman - Barrie Dove (Leeds Cathedral)

Secretary - Janine Jones (Leeds Cathedral)

Treasurer - Miles Lawson (Birstall)

Membership Secretary - Vacant

Education Committee Rep - Cate Ovington (Unattached)

Ringing Master - Paul Brook (Leeds Minster)

Assist. Ringer Master - Alan Futers (Far Headingley)

Webmaster - Wendy Bloom (Leeds Minster)

Committee Member - Bill Todd (Kirk Deighton)

News from the Branch

Branch AGM

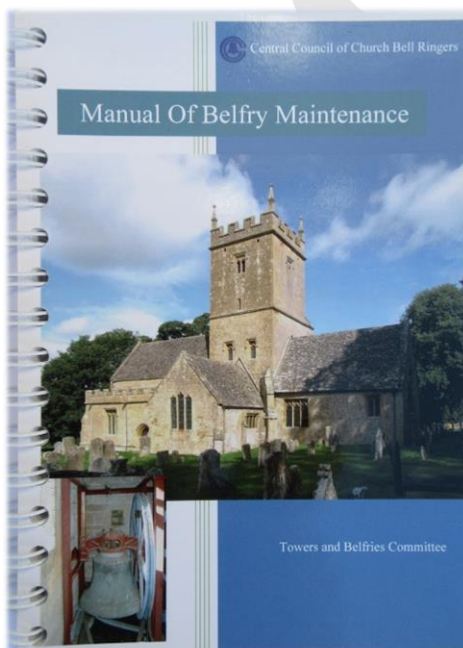
We held our AGM on 13th February by Zoom (our first virtual AGM ever). The main points of interest were:-

- 🔔 There are no new branch officers – Barrie Dove was re-elected as Chairman, and Alan Futers was re-elected as Assistant Ringing Master. However, Peter Oldfield retired as Membership Secretary and that post is now vacant. Please let someone on the committee know if you would be interested in this role.
- 🔔 There were no new members elected at the meeting, but Amelia Johnson was elected to the YACR at the Association meeting on the previous Saturday, and was at our branch AGM. Welcome Amelia.
- 🔔 There was lots of discussion about getting back to ringing again, in particular:-
 - Simon Plows, who is a Recovery Champion for the YACR, talked to us about what the recovery champions are doing, and recommended the "[Survival & Recovery Toolbox](#)" which has lots of ideas and help for now and when we can ring safely again. If you would like to join the recovery champions, please let Simon or Barrie know.
 - Barrie recommended that we encourage lapsed ringers to come back to ringing. Lots of people will have more time on their hands now and their circumstances may have changed since they left. Best of all, if they can already ring, you won't have to teach them!
 - Yorkshire Day will be an excellent opportunity for publicity and recruitment, although there was also concern that local or national restrictions on August 1st could prevent us from taking full advantage of the day. If we couldn't hold open days then any preparations could be useful later in the year and on future Yorkshire Days.
 - If you feel that your bells need to be checked over, or you need some help with some maintenance, please ask. The branch will pay for a maintenance inspection on your bells, and grants are available towards the cost of any work.
- 🔔 Electronic handbells (eBells) have been developed that can be used as handbells either as a group or individually with Ringing Room, Handbell Stadium etc. At the meeting we discussed subsidising younger branch members to buy them or loaning them out. See page 3 for more about eBells.

The collection of annual subscriptions from towers is being split between committee members until we have a new membership secretary. If your tower hasn't already paid your subs this year, someone from the committee should be in touch with you soon to let you know who they are.

Manual of Belfry Maintenance

by the Towers and Belfries Committee of Central Council



This book is intended as a guide for steeplekeepers and covers not just the tower, frame and bells but Health and Safety, Faculties, clock and chiming hammers and more. It describes how the different parts of the installation work and the maintenance tasks associated with them, and covers the sort of jobs that can be carried out with little or no specialist knowledge. Everything is clearly explained and illustrated with numerous photographs and technical diagrams.

This book would be interesting to any ringer who would like to understand a bit more about what goes on above them, and very useful indeed if you have any involvement in looking after your bells. In my opinion, every tower should have a copy. The book usually costs £12, but we are currently subsidising the cost from branch funds and you can buy it for £6 through the branch.

Janine

eBells

eBells are electronic handbells that are designed to have the look and feel of medium-sized handbells. They are 3D printed in durable plastic and contain electronic motion sensors that send information, via a USB connection, to a ringing simulator app. The app interprets the data to sense when the bell would strike at handstroke and backstroke and reacts by playing the sound of a bell.



Each eBell is 9 cm (about 3½ inches) across at its widest point, 22cm long (about 8¾ inches) including the handle, and weighs about 200g (about 7oz). You can have your name or a logo printed on to your eBells if you would like.

eBells can be used with all the usual ringing programs such as Handbell Stadium, Abel, Ringing Room, Beltower etc. They can be used:-

Singly – for example, ringing an eBell instead of pressing a button to ring a tower bell in Ringing Room. Ringing an eBell is easier than pressing a button on a keyboard, and, as handstroke and backstroke are different, it helps you keep track of where you are in a method.

In pairs – to ring a pair of handbells in Handbell Stadium, Ringing Room etc.

As **two pairs** – enabling two people to practice at once.

The current software only allows four eBells to be connected to one computer, but in future this could change so that more eBells could be connected – so potentially, a whole band could ring together using one computer.

See the website www.eBells.co.uk for full information.

You can see some eBells being rung [here](#).

Ben Johnson, from Leeds Minster, is one of a team of four people who developed the eBells. You can read the whole story [here](#).

The bells cost £100 a pair if they are bought directly from the eBells website. At the branch AGM we discussed using branch funds to subsidise them for younger members, however, subsequently we have decided that we would like to find a way to make them more accessible to branch members generally. We have considered various options and we would like to get a feel for how many people would be likely to take advantage of each of the following:-

- 1) Offer the eBells at a reduced price by subsidising them with branch funds (possibly at a price of £25 per pair, although the actual discount, whether the offer would be limited to younger age groups, and the number of pairs available at this price isn't yet decided).
- 2) Buy a number of pairs of eBells which would be owned by the branch but could be loaned out to people a month at a time.
- 3) A 'try before you buy' scheme – where you could pay £10 to use them for the first month, and then have the option of buying them or returning them at the end of the month.

If you would like to either buy or borrow a pair of e-bells and would be likely to take advantage of the branch offer, please tell us which option would appeal to you most. If there is enough demand we could have more than one option. Please e-mail leedsbr.editor@gmail.com.

In addition, the eBell 'team' have negotiated a £5 discount on the price of the paperback edition of **Change-Ringing on Handbells (Volume 1: Basic Techniques)** by Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay, if it's bought at the same time as the eBells. The discounted price is £15.

The book covers change-ringing on handbells from the very basics up to Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major. We will feature a review of it in the next edition of the newsletter.

Return to Ringing

A partial relaxation in ringing restrictions, provisionally agreed with the Bishop's Recovery group and the CCCBR, aims to allow 'more normal' ringing from 17th May, details of which can be found [here](#), and [here](#). Below are a few pointers to help you feel more comfortable about the return to ringing.

Risk assessment

Risk assessment is all about looking at the hazards and doing what you can to minimize them.

For example, if you have a handrail that people use when climbing the tower stairs, people can be asked to sanitize their hands at the bottom of the tower and then again at the top (or even better, wash your hands with soap and water if you can, but don't share towels).

Think about things that people touch – light switches, pens (when signing the book), door handles – you could arrange that the same person switches the lights on and off, that everyone brings their own pen, or that the belfry door is left open until everyone has arrived.

More important is good ventilation in the ringing room, as aerosol transmission is thought to be the main way that Covid 19 is passed on.

Do everything you can to maximize natural ventilation while you are ringing. If you have windows and/or doors (to the outside) in the ringing room open them all. Now is the time to 'unstick' window catches that have stuck.

Consider very carefully whether ringing should occur at all in towers with very small, or no, windows that can be opened. Do not use air-conditioning equipment. (Fans may assist with air circulation but do not necessarily change the air).

Consider whether someone should 'dust' the ringing room beforehand if it is likely to cause someone to sneeze.

Avoid using heavy bells and those that would require considerable effort to ring or ring up, to avoid risk of exhaled droplets.

Consider who your ringers are – if your whole band is older and retired and have all had two vaccinations, then you will be at less risk than if your band includes younger people who haven't had any vaccinations and who are in contact with a lot of people through their work.

Maintenance

The committee are currently planning maintenance inspections for towers in the branch. If your bells haven't been rung for more than a year, it is a good idea to check the condition of the bells to make sure that they are safe to ring again.

If you would like a maintenance inspection, or help with any other maintenance issue, for example, rope splicing, please get in touch with someone on the committee, who will be happy to help directly, or assist in finding local expertise to your tower to help. Also, consider buying the Manual of Belfry Maintenance book on page 2.

Communication & Notices

Always keep your vicar and/or churchwardens up to date with what you are planning to do, as they need to agree to anything you propose to do ringing-wise, as ultimately, the bells are their responsibility.

Consider putting notices in newsletters, church and local circulation groups mentioning that ringing is intended to resume in line with government restrictions, and that bells are likely to be heard at certain times again. Some locals to the tower might have forgotten the bells are there and could object when ringing suddenly restarts.

Stop Press – Survey

Most towers have replied to the survey – if you haven't, **it's not too late!** Responses so far are encouraging and we will be bringing you the results in our next newsletter.

We are planning to work on maintenance issues and risk assessments initially, so if you said that you would like help with these, you should be hearing from us soon.

We asked the committee what they thought was the most useful thing that they were taught when they were learning to ring:-

Alan - Possibly the most useful advice I had was if you feel like you're physically working too hard while ringing, you probably are. You should only be putting in enough effort to encourage the bell to turn and complete a circle, usually ending up at the balance point (or the pause point on a back bell), and not be fighting it at the end of the rotation, and this is the case for most bells in most circumstances. The exceptions are a badly going bell, or getting a larger bell going at the start of a raise. Even turning a tenor in for a service touch length of ringing shouldn't be tiring. You should be able to relax and enjoy the ringing.

Barrie - When I was trying to get Ropesight - people standing behind me counting places for me and always saying "open lead" when I got down to lead.

Bill - When I was an absolute beginner - learning to handle the bell - I found that being told to carry on breathing was really helpful. You wouldn't think, would you, that an adult would need to be told to breathe but, once it was pointed out that I wasn't doing it, all tension left me and relaxation became possible. Even some joy crept in!

Cate - I think the time spent learning to handle a bell and getting the technique right - it is as boring as practicing scales but essential in being able to ring difficult bells.

Janine - Probably learning to lead properly. We were a band of complete beginners being taught to ring by three ringers from another tower. I rang the treble while we practiced ringing rounds so I got lots and lots of practice at leading, and they made sure that I led with the right gap at handstroke (space for one bell to ring) and no gap at backstroke. All the practice I got meant that when I started to learn to ring plain hunt and methods inside, leading was always a point where I could stop panicking for a minute, relax and start off again in the right place.

Miles - When I was learning to plain hunt the most useful thing that I was told was to follow the bell following you when you are hunting up to the back then ring over the bells in the same order on the way back to lead. When you are hunting up to the back you ring more slowly so you have plenty of time to look around and see who to follow next. On the way down to lead it is quicker and a lot harder to see who to follow, so the easiest way is to remember what the order was and repeat it.

Paul - Being shown that there are multiple ways to learn a method. If one isn't working reliably (in my case rote learning the Plain Bob circle of work) then there are several other tricks you can use to keep yourself right.

Wendy - I'd choose the multiple benefits of watching others ring and trying out ideas to see what works for me. As well as "standing behind" when learning a new method oneself to gain invaluable ropesight, or to support someone else, there's much that can be learned by observing *how* others ring. My first tower has the 22cwt 9th and 31cwt tenor on ancient uneven boxes, so I watched both locals and visitors deal with ringing hefty bells with thick ropes whilst standing on a sometimes wobbly surface. I saw the advantage of using every inch of the backstroke pull to use energy efficiently, how to take in and let out rope when moving a bell at different speeds through the change, and how to lower a bell in peal smoothly without big coils of rope flapping around. When I started to wear glasses full time at 16 I watched to see how others coped with them and saw that by tilting my wrists outward slightly I could more or less guarantee they stayed in place (so far so good). One friend found it easier to judge her handstroke leads if she closed her eyes for a fraction of a section beforehand, concentrating all her energy on her hearing; another has often proved how important eye contact is by lifting my spirits during seemingly endless peals by winking, grinning or even sticking his tongue out at me!

If you have a question for the committee, send it to leedsbr.editor@gmail.com

A Thank You - Pete Oldfield

Pete has been on the committee since 2010 and has served as webmaster, membership secretary and secretary - a total of eighteen years in all if added together.

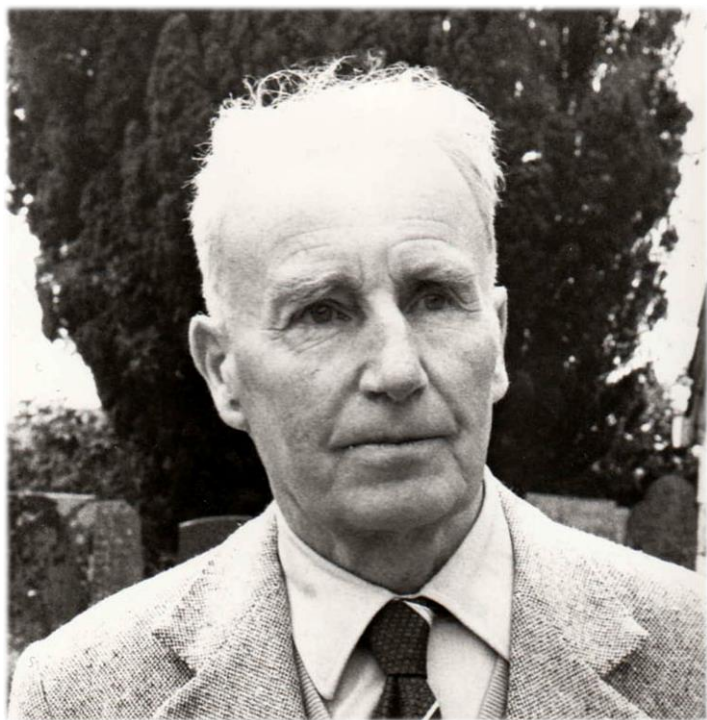
He is well known as the tower captain at Chapel Allerton, and a regular supporter of branch practices and many other practices around the branch. When not ringing he can frequently be found walking or playing cricket, and has sometimes combined these hobbies with ringing. If you have been on a branch 'walk and ring', you will know that Pete has arranged many enjoyable walks, most recently on a very hot July day between Kirk Deighton and Spofforth. Thank you Pete for all your hard work for the branch.

Pete says 'It's not goodbye and I still intend to attend branch practices whenever I can.'



Ringers of the Leeds Branch: Ringers from the Past

In this newsletter we focus on Ron Dove who was a member of the YACR between 1934 and 2001.



Ron Dove was born in Burton on Trent in 1906. He learned to ring at St. Paul's Burton on Trent in 1925 and in 1926/27 he became secretary of the Burton district of the Midland Counties Association. It was this that seems to have set Ron on the path to writing 'his guide'. The Association covered the border areas of several counties and he soon discovered that there was no definitive list of towers which belonged to the Association, or even which churches had bells. He set about compiling a list of all the towers with five or more bells in the four counties, initially using a set of Kelly's directories at his employer's office. It wasn't a straightforward task though - he soon discovered that the directories hadn't been kept up-to-date and also that they didn't distinguish between bells that were hung for ringing and bells that were part of a carillon, and there was one occasion when he directed an outing party to a tower with tubular bells! However, he found the work so interesting that he soon extended his research to cover the rest of the country.

In 1928 he moved to Croydon to work for Gillett and Johnston, where he was also able to use their foundry records for his research. In 1934 he moved again, this time to Leeds, when he was made manager of William Potts and Sons Limited (Potts Clocks).

Although he had originally thought of publishing in 1934, he abandoned the idea at the time and it was not until 1950 that the first edition of 'Church Bells of Britain' was printed. Research for each edition was from the records of the three main foundries (John Taylor & Co., Mears & Stainbank and Gillett & Johnston) and he also encouraged people to write to him with corrections and changes to their bells. Each subsequent edition would be produced by separating a copy of the previous one into individual pages, each of which would then be stuck into the centre of an A3 sheet of paper. Alterations would be written around the edges, and the whole page would eventually be sent off to the printer who would send back a typed-up version to be checked. The second edition was published in 1956 and subsequent editions followed at regular intervals, all of them produced manually, as above.

On moving to Leeds he had joined the band at St. Michael's Headingley and rang there until ringing stopped because of the war. After the war there was no ringing at Leeds Parish Church owing to the age of the ringers there and in 1947 he became leader of the band and restarted the ringing.

At some time during the 1950's he started attending St. Matthew's church at Chapel Allerton which at the time had four clock bells (1, 2, 3, 6) hung dead, the bells having been given by the widow of a previous churchwarden in memory of her husband. At his instigation the bells were rehung in a frame for ringing and the widow was delighted to be able to give bells 4 and 5 to complete the ring.

In 1969 he moved to Harrogate and began to worship at St. Wilfrid's which at the time had no bells. By 1973 St. Wilfrid's had a ring of six! Ron had obtained a ring of six from a redundant church in South Yorkshire and, together with some bell metal he had collected whilst working for Potts, this was given to Taylors and melted down to make a new ring. In 1977 they were augmented to eight. He rang at St. Wilfrid's until the mid-eighties when he moved to York.

Ron Dove died in 2001 by which time he had produced eight editions of his 'Church Bells of Britain'. After the last one in 1994 he gave the copyright to the Central Council who now produce the book with the name 'Dove's Guide'.

From the Archives

The following are extracts from the minutes of a branch meeting held at Thorner in May 1971. Ringing had earlier taken place at Wetherby and Bramham and the meeting was followed with evening ringing at Thorner.

The Secretary reported that the Association's 1970 Report was not yet available, owing to the Printers having gone bankrupt.

At the next meeting in July the reports were still not available.

An idea put forward by Mrs. Skelton of St. Chad's, that committee members be compelled not to seek re-election for at least one year after completing a term of office, was discussed. The members present were not in favour of the idea.

A good idea for giving more people an opportunity to be on the committee (elections for committee posts were quite common then, so people were frequently disappointed), although they decided against implementing it. If we tried this today we would soon run out of willing committee members.

After the completion of ringing, a film was shown in the church about the augmentation of Thorner's bells from 6 to 8. The film was made locally & was a "talkie" and in colour. The Chairman urged all members to attend, saying that the local beer would last out until afterwards.

Thorner was augmented from 6 to 8 in 1965. Does anyone know if the film still exists?

Also of interest at the meeting, the chairman, Robin Brown, congratulated "the young band from the Leeds area on ringing another peal".

A bit of research shows that the peal was at Chapel Allerton (see right), and that the ringers were probably aged between 14 and 18. It was one of a series of peals rung at Chapel Allerton and Whixley.

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

St Matthew's, Leeds, Chapel Allerton

Sunday, April 18th 1971 in 2hrs 35mins

5040 Minor (2160 Cambridge, 4 extents Plain Bob)

1 Stephen L Clarke

4 Neil J Sheard (+)

2 Robert J Atkinson

5 Pamela A Lockwood

3 A Julian Long

6 Christopher N Grandidge

+ First Peal inside

Conductor - 6

If you have anything you would like to submit to the Archive feature, please send it to leedsbr.editor@gmail.com.

News from the Association

Posts vacant

The Association is looking for a Report Editor and a Librarian. Please get in contact with Barrie Dove or Simon Plows if you are interested in one of these roles.

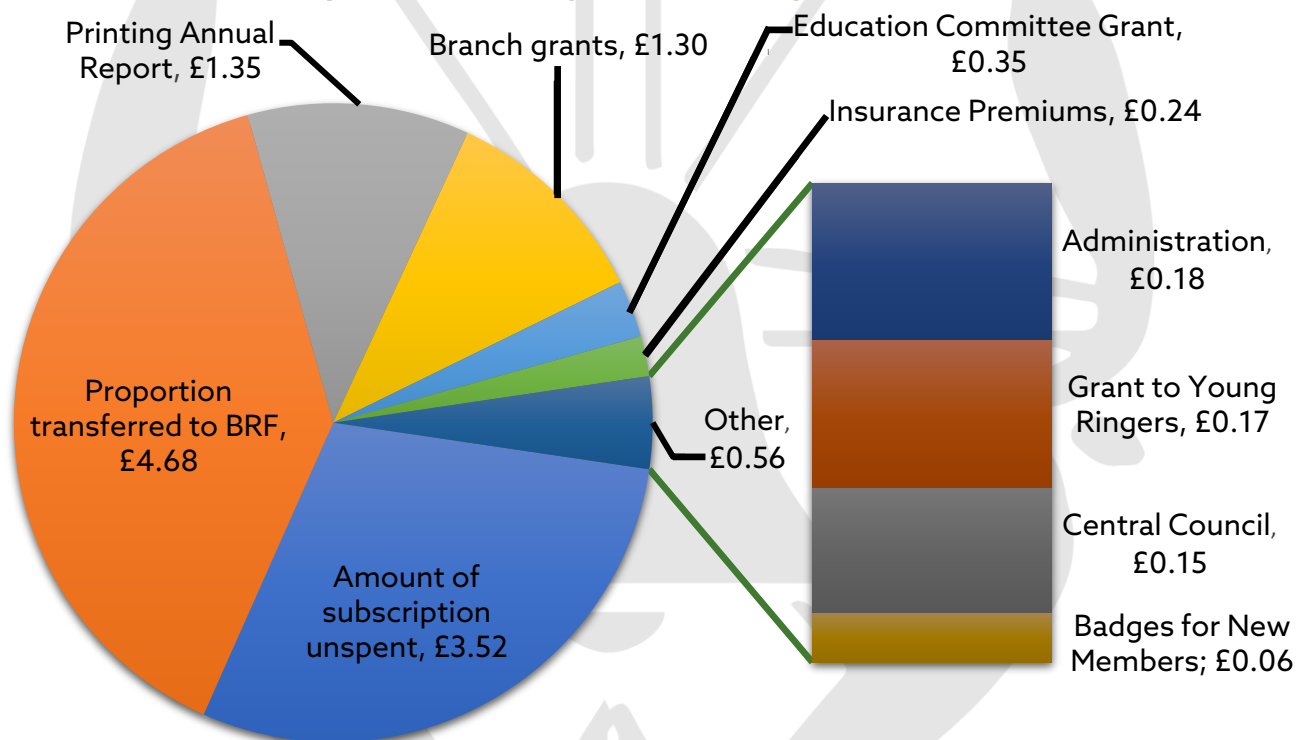
Association AGM – Saturday 8th May

Join us at the Association AGM, which will be held by Zoom. You will be able to hear more about Recovery Champions, more about the plans for Yorkshire Day, and about forthcoming events for the year. The official business includes (re-)electing the Association Treasurer (David Spaul), electing a CCCBR representative, and ratifying the election of this year's Life Members.

We will also be voting on the proposal "Qualified and Associate members of the Association who have paid their annual subscription by 31 December 2021 will not be required to pay a further annual subscription in 2022." Join the meeting and you will be able to register your vote. please confirm your attendance to the General Secretary (simonplows@gmail.com) by Wednesday 5th May 2021. The agenda and meeting login details will then be issued to you directly Thursday 6th May 2021.

As we promised in the last newsletter, the following shows how your subscription is spent.

How your subscription was spent in 2020



Obviously 2020 wasn't typical, and there wouldn't usually be such a large amount unspent at the end of the year.

Future Events - 2021

Association AGM

Saturday 8th May, via Zoom

Branch Ringing Room practices

Saturday 15th May 10.30am

Saturday 12th June 10.30am

Education Committee Courses

More details about Education Committee courses are available [here](#).

Virtual ringing summer school – 16th – 18th July

Register [here](#).

Scarborough Branch

How to Ring Heavy Bells Talk – Saturday 15th May 4pm

Focus on: All Saints – Barwick in Elmet



Barwick in Elmet is approximately 7 miles east of Leeds. Its long history is evidenced by the earthworks of Wendel Hill, including a mound and ditch which comprise part of a large Iron Age fort. Hall Tower Hill was used later for a Norman motte and bailey castle and a second World War observation post. Elmet was an independent Christian Kingdom from the time the Romans left Britain, about 400 A.D., until 625 A.D. when the kingdom was invaded by Edwin of Northumbria. It is highly probable that Barwick was not only the capital of Elmet, but also the chief fortress of the area. Little is known of the history for the next 400 years but Barwick and the church are mentioned in the Domesday records of 1086. When the Norman lord, Ilbert De Lacey received the Manor and Estates of Barwick from William the Conqueror he raised a new church building in the early twelfth century. This was built on the Norman style and parts of this structure still survive. It has been modified several times since then, the Gasgoigne family having influence since 1396. Some pre-Conquest Anglo-Saxon stones survive in the modern church. The church lies not due east but northwest-southeast, the direction of sunrise on All Saints Day.

The most famous landmark is the tallest maypole in the country, being 86 feet and weighing almost 3 tons. The other claim to fame is the Archers theme tune "Barwick Green". The composer, Arthur Wood, often stayed in the village.

All Saints tower contains 6 bells, the tenor in F sharp is 12 cwt 3 qtrs 8lbs. It was cast in the churchyard by William Oldfield and installed in 1604 (during the reign of James 1st). It is one of the oldest ringable bells in Yorkshire and in 2004 a peal was rung to celebrate its 400th birthday. The fourth and fifth bells were recast in 1844 by Mears of Whitechapel. In 1959 the old wooden frame was replaced with a steel one and the 3 front bells were added, cast by John Taylors of Loughborough.

The ringing chamber was enlarged by the removal of the old organ in 2010 and a glass screen installed enabling the ringers to see into the body of the church (see photo.)

Eighteen peals have been rung; the 1st in 1961 and the last in 2012.



The current band was established in 1998 with the recruitment of a number of learners in order to ring for the Millennium. A further recruitment a few years ago increased the band size so that we now have a steady group of 8 ringers and some regular visitors. In recent times emphasis has been placed on learning doubles methods and achieving quarter peals. The new recruits have been very active in taking part in church celebrations and our Christmas tree and Angel have been reported in the Ringing World.

Moya McNamara

Photographs courtesy of Phillip Pierce

Next month, we'll be looking at All Saints, Batley

Barwick in Elmet Stat Pack

Number of bells – 6 (12 cwt in F#)

Founder(s) – John Taylor & Co, Loughborough 1961 (1-3)
Charles and George Mears 1845 (4 & 5)
William Oldfield (of Bradford) 1604 (6)

Total Weight of bells – approx. 45 cwt

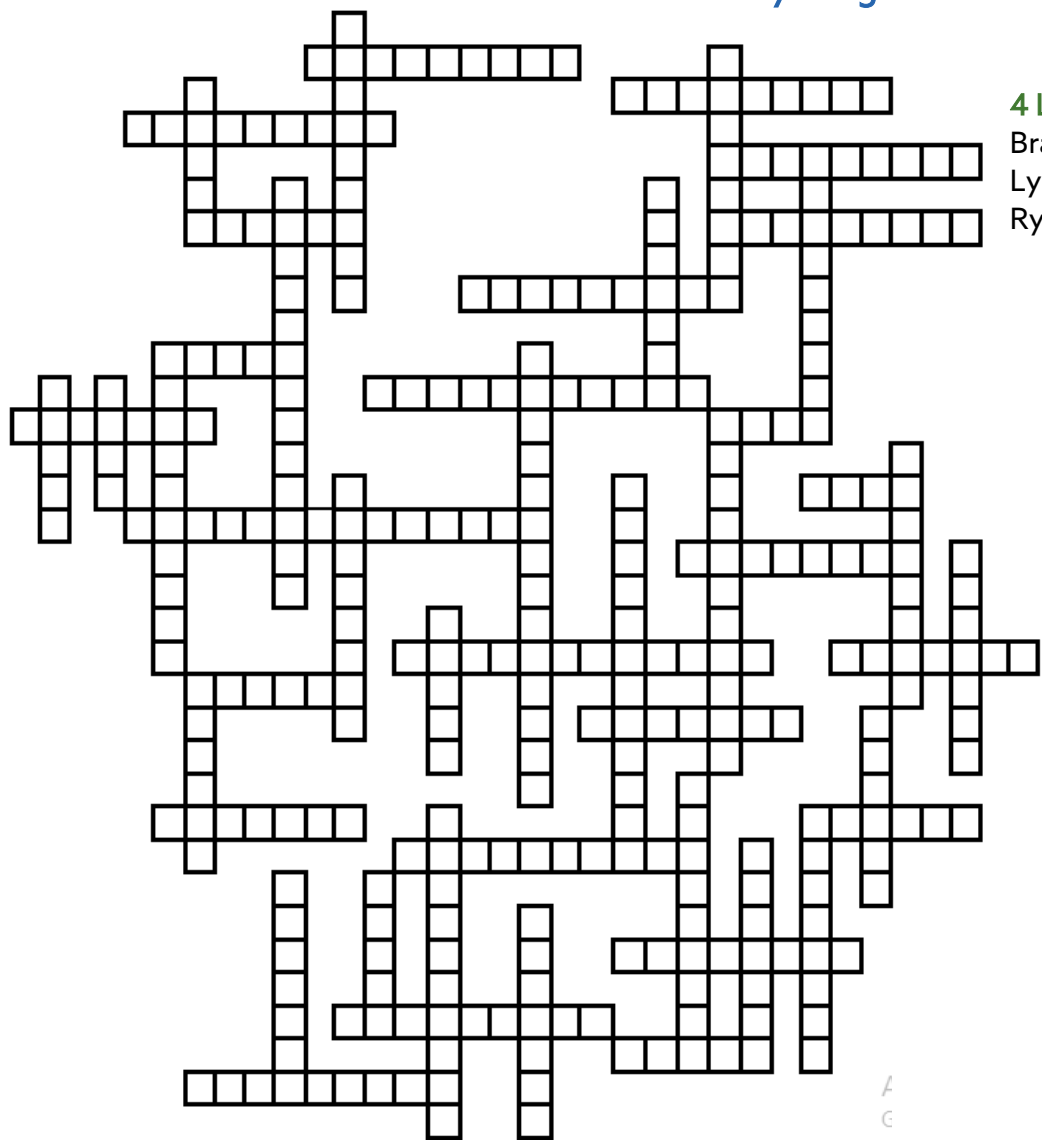
Total Peals – 18

Practice Night – Thursday

Sunday Service – 9.50am (check in advance)

Steps to Ringing Chamber – 13 (Spiral Staircase)

WordFit – Heavy Rings of 8



- 4 Letters**

 - Bray
 - Lymm
 - Ryde
- 5 Letters**

 - Clare
 - Derby
 - Frome
 - Louth
 - Wells
 - Wigan
- 6 Letters**

 - Exeter
 - Oundle
 - Oxford
 - Pentre
 - Totnes

- 7 Letters**

 - Baldock
 - Bloxham
 - Bristol
 - Colyton
 - Halifax
 - Reading
 - Sudbury
 - Wedmore
 - Windsor
- 8 Letters**

 - Adelaide
 - Ebbw Vale
 - Keynsham
 - Plympton
 - Tiverton
 - Westbury

- 9 Letters**

 - Ambleside
 - Baldersby
 - Cambridge
 - Chew Magna
 - Curdrige
 - Doncaster
 - Eccleston
 - Salisbury
 - Sherborne
 - Tenterden
 - Warburton
- 10 Letters**

 - Folkstone
 - Long Ashton
 - Woodbridge

Please note, where spaces exist in a tower's place name, the spaces don't exist within the grid

- 11 Letters**

 - Bridlington
 - Congresbury
- 12 Letters**

 - Milborne Port
 - Peterborough
- 13 Letters**

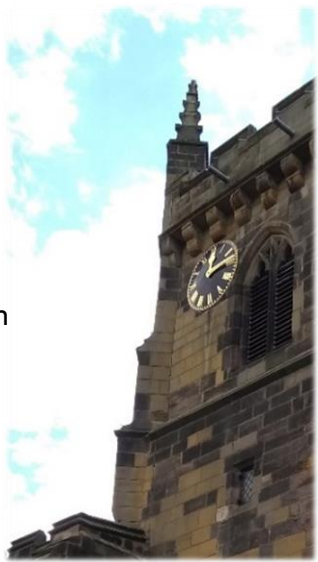
 - Stow on the Wold
- 14 Letters**

 - Bradford on Avon
 - Wellingborough

Where's that tower.....?

Clue 1:
This is a Leeds Branch tower, but they are an unringable 3.

Clue 2: The bells at this southern branch tower have a deep tone for their weight.



Puzzle Corner – Children's Ages

Jim is our tower captain. He has four children and John, the oldest, is learning to ring. Jim hopes that, eventually, the others will want to learn as well.

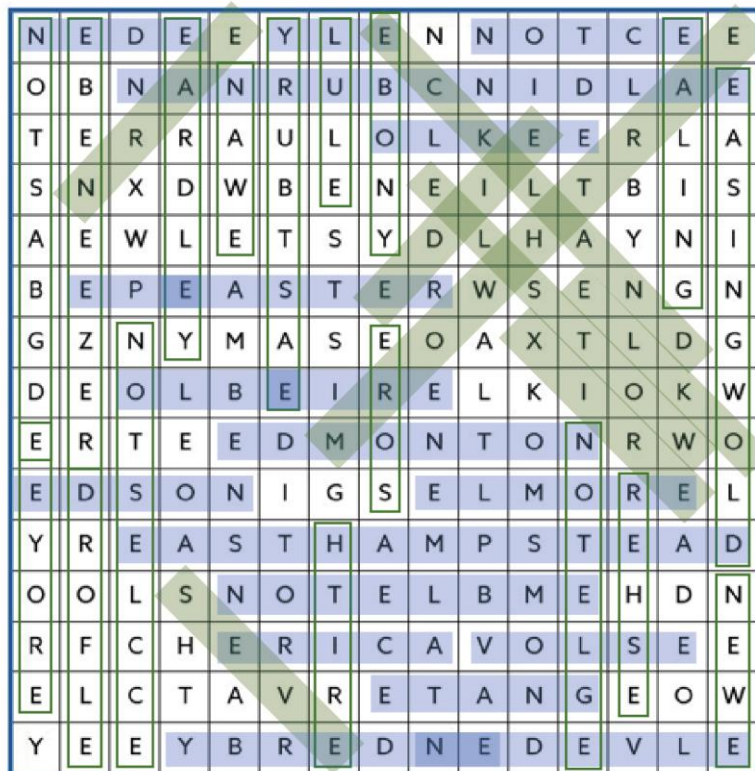
Someone in the band asked John how old his brothers and sisters were, and he replied: "The ages (in whole years) of the three of them multiplied together give a product of 72. Added together, they sum to my age." The enquirer knew John's age but, after a short time, said that he hadn't been given enough information to work out the ages of the three youngsters.

Later in the evening, Jim remarked that his two youngest children had not yet reached school age. How old are the four children?

This puzzle is No. 114 by Angela Newing, and was published in the Ringing World in February 1991.

Puzzle Page – February Answers

Wordsearch: Surprise Major Methods "E"



Tower Trivia

The Heavy 12s

The 15 rings of 12 bells, over 40cwt, globally in order from heaviest are:

- 1) Liverpool Cathdal
- 2) Exeter Cathedral
- 3) St. Pauls Cathedral, London
- 4) York Minster
- 5) St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol
- 6) London, Southwark Cathedral
- 7) Worcester Cathedral
- 8) National Cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin
- 9) Manchester Town Hall
- 10) St. Mary le Bow, London
- 11) St. Nicholas, Liverpool
- 12) Edinburgh Cathedral
- 13) Buckfast Abbey
- 14) Leeds Minster
- 15) St. John Baptist, Yeovil

They are all diatonic 12s (so excluding any semi-tone bells a diatonic 12 might have), where 12 is the maximum you can ring.

Seeing Double

The possible pairs of towers are Norton (in Sheffield) and Norton (juxta Malton), Sowerby (Halifax) and Sowerby (juxta Thirsk) and Carlton (in Cleveland) and Carlton (juxta Snaith).

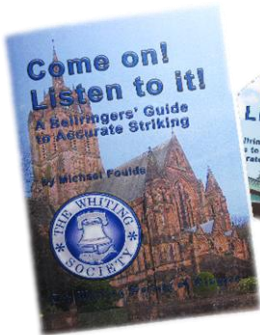
Where's that tower....?

Last month's tower was All Saints, Pontefract, with the unique access in Yorkshire being due to it's double Helix staircase



So, what did you think of the ringing at [Haynes](#)? Did you like the ringing? Did you like the pace set? My overall thoughts were that the ringing was fairly steady throughout, so the band collectively knew the pace they wanted to set, and for a small 6cwt 6, they weren't pushing them on, which is no bad thing if it's consistent. We don't know how well the bells go, they could potentially be a really sluggish ring of 6, hence the steady pace, or the band made a conscious decision to be steady for consistency for the band. The result was a really respectable piece of ringing, with no major errors. There were a number of minor errors on some rows which occasionally rolled on for a couple of rows, but it was a very listenable piece of ringing, possibly detracted from slightly by the bells themselves due to the range of bells founders involved over the years. I rated this on average of 35 faults, so was a good effort by the band.

Katie Town, who some of you across Yorkshire might know, currently based at Leeds Minster, and Chief Judge of the 2018 National 12 bell final at Cambridge, recently gave a virtual talk entitled 'Can I judge a striking competition' for the Cambridge District of Bell Ringers. The full talk is available via this [link](#). Although this is mainly based on how to build up to judging an actual competition, from where to listen to a competition, what to plan for and how to approach a variety of competitions, it provides a great insight into what competition judges do, in how to judge, what to judge, and what to look out for on the day, but there are lots of interesting hints and tips about getting into listening to a piece of ringing, which can be fed back into general ringing to improve an overall piece, in listening to the rhythm that a band set.



Another resource of interest could be the 'Come On! Listen to It!' book and DVD, which contains over 10 hours of listening exercises and demonstration videoclips for those who wish some extra

homework. This is available through the Whiting Society website, costing £15, or you can borrow the branch copy for free.

The next piece to listen can be found here via this [link](#), which is a touch of 100 Plain Bob Doubles, at Westbury-on-Trym in Bristol. Another quick scout on Dove's Guide shows that these are a ring of 6, tenor 21 cwt. This time, they are a mix of two founders, 4 bells cast in 1774 by Thomas Rudhall, and the other 2 recast by John Warner & Sons in 1859. Being a ring of 6 with 'a bit of meat' on them, you should expect a slower,

How a row should sound	1	2	3	4	5	6
0 Fault Row	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Fault Row	1	2	3	4	5	6
2 Fault Row	1	23		4	5	6
3 Fault Row	No clear order of ringing					

grander piece of ringing to allow for the heavier weight of bells to be turned in when compared to Haynes. Also, this clip is from the bell chamber, in which we can see that the bells appear to be in great condition, frame and bell chamber seem fairly clean and wheels in good condition so appear to be looked after, and the headstocks we can see are metal, which indicate they are fairly recently rehung, certainly since 1859 when the youngest bells were put in, and therefore have the potential to be a 6 that could go well. But again, we don't know if there is tower movement, whether the ropes are drawn into the ringing circle and any obstacles in the ringing chamber, all of which could hamper the ringing.

Again, because there are 6 bells ringing, you have a cover bell to use a marker for the end of each row, and hopefully help with the rhythm. Please feel free to use the marking guide above again if you wish to listen in detail to this piece of ringing, or as a 'churchyard judge', what is your view on the piece of ringing overall.

Alan

Ringling Room Tips

Tip 1 - Don't jump in and expect from the start you will be ringing Spliced Surprise Maximus for example, start with the basics and build up from there. Start with Rounds, and just get use to the interface and controls with the rest of the band.

Tip 2 - Try a few call changes, starting with ringing on 6 as you continue to get used to the interface and controls. One advantage of Ringing Room is that you can instantly 'augment' your tower, so also try call changes on 8, then 10 then 12, or even up to 16, even if just for the novelty factor.

Tip 3 - You can also try ringing two bells at once, so if you are a band of 8, why not take two bells each and give 16 a go. You could also do basic jump changes, so going from rounds to queens on a call from the conductor, and just think about when to ring your two in sequence with the rest. It's a virtual environment, if it goes wrong, it doesn't matter, and RR is easy to reset and go again.

The next two Leeds branch session are:

- **Saturday 15th May at 10:30am**
- **Saturday 12th June at 10:30am**

Come along and have a go. If you'd like a beginners RR session let us know.