

Branch report 2018

This year we have continued to experiment with different meeting formats to try and appeal to as many people as possible. One approach that seems to be working is to have two towers open on each meeting day with the first tower practice aimed at less experienced ringers. This has proved very popular with many members coming to a meeting for the first time, and many coming back to further meetings. We have also tried aiming the second practice at more experienced ringers, or at special methods, with mixed results, and have found that having the second tower open to everyone – beginners and experienced ringers alike – seems to work best.

With the exception of the meeting that was arranged on the day of the Royal Wedding, and at the same time at the cup final(!), meetings have been fairly well attended. Morning meetings are consistently more popular than afternoon ones. Even the branch outing in October, this year over the Pennines to the Rochdale area, attracted more people in the morning than the afternoon.

This year's striking competition was held on a lovely sunny day in Hampsthwaite and was won by Leeds Minster who went on to represent the branch in the Association Sunday Service striking competition in September, coming fifth. The branch also entered a band in the Association Inter-branch striking competition, and were placed third.

This year we had decided to hold a training day in November in addition to the usual quarter peal weekend (this year extended to a fortnight). Coupled with the ringing for the centenary of the Armistice this made for a very busy weekend indeed. This year all the quarter peal attempts were successful with nine scored in all, No doubt our success rate improved because we avoided ringing Stedman! The raising and lowering courses we held were also very successful with a total of eight students supported by fifteen helpers.

Among the ringers who we have lost from our ranks this year are Sue Cima – a former branch membership secretary and Carey Inman-Harrison who was the driving force behind the augmentation of Hampsthwaite bells from 3 to 6. The death of both came as a shock to all who knew and rang with them.

It also came as a shock to discover that we shall soon be losing the bells at Hunslet. Although we haven't been able to ring there for many years since the church building became unsafe, it is still sad to hear that the bells will be leaving Yorkshire.

My thanks to all who have supported branch meetings and events in the last year. The branch committee aims to arrange ringing events that will appeal to as many people as possible in the branch. Please let us know if there is something that you would like us to try that we haven't thought of yet.