

Central

Cleveland

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Leeds

Scarborough

Issue 1

Spring 2021

Yorkshire Association of
Change Ringers

Selby

Sheffield

Western

York

Yorkshire
Tykes

Contents and General Committee



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General Officers of the Association

President – Barrie Bove

Honorary General Secretary – Simon Plows

Peal Secretary – Simon J Reading

Honorary Treasurer – David Spaul

Association Ringing Master – Malcolm Turner

Composition Secretary – John M Goldthorpe

Librarian – **Vacant** (Refer to Robert Cater)

Safeguarding Officer – Robert Appleby

Other Officers of the Association

Gift Aid Officer – Anthony E Stamp

Bell Repair Fund Secretary – Peter W McCoy

Assoc. Membership Manager – Janine Jones

Report Editor – **Vacant**

Education Committee Convenor – Elaine Scott

Public Relations Office – Refer to General Sec.

Quarter Peal Secretary – Ruth Smith

Honorary Independent Examiners –
Judith McCoy, Timothy Wheeler

Central Council Representative –
Barrie Dove, Elaine Scott, Peter Scott,
Robert Cater and Simon Plows

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The Association's Activities in Covid-days and future plans.

I am looking forward to reading this First Edition of the YACR Newsletter. Congratulations to Bob Cater the Editor, and to Alan Futers for his imaginative and interesting formatting as the Compositor. I do hope that you enjoy this Newsletter and you will continue to "send in" interesting and informative articles and news about your Branches.

Our General Meeting in February 2020 was held in Beverley, when we all met together for the only time in 2020. We all enjoyed ringing on the new twelve at St. Mary's and thought what a splendid augmentation has taken place. In the late afternoon we rang on the heavy and demanding ten at the Minster, which we all found extremely satisfying. The Service and Lunch was held at St. Mary's.

The AGM and September General Meeting were held via Zoom which saw us transact business by video link for the first time. Many thanks to the team in the background who made it all happen. We are very fortunate to have members who give of their time so freely to help all members join in with the business of our Association.

The Life Members' Event and the Snowdon Lunch had to be cancelled due to "Covid restrictions"; I do hope these very popular events will take place during 2021 as planned.

Many of our towers have been keeping in touch with one another over the weeks by holding virtual "coffee mornings" or other virtual meet-ups, I know ours at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds have been very enjoyable. Like other towers, we have also been having sessions on our regular practice night via "Ringing Room". This virtual ringing is a great leveller in abilities; our less experienced ringers have enjoyed watching me struggling through various methods!!

The Education Committee have arranged various Courses covering many themes which have been enjoyed by those who have "logged-in" to watch and participate.

Although our AGM on 8 May 2021 will have to take place by Zoom, I hope after then we can all meet up far more regularly and enjoy ringing together at various functions. The scheduled events are the annual Life Members' event at North Cave on 21 August followed by the General Meeting and the Sunday Service Band Striking Contest Final in the York Branch on 18 September. The Snowdon Lunch will also be in York on 16 October.

Barrie Dove, YACR President

Editorial



The Association's Zoom License

The Association has acquired its own full Zoom license half-way through the year. What a useful and essential tool this has turned out to be, as it is now being used by Association Officers, General Committee, Education, BRF and most Branches for their AGM's and Branch committee meetings.

To use it for your group, contact the General Secretary, Simon Plows, on **yacrgeneralsec@hotmail.co.uk**

Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of the electronic version of the YACR Newsletter. You will be surely impressed by the layout prepared by Alan Futers of Leeds. I think it looks pretty 'snazzy' (although I'm sure my granddaughters would give it a more up to date description). Alan has done a wonderful job and it makes my editor's task easy as all I have to do is forward copy to Alan and he does the rest. Thank you, Alan.

Readers who remember the old paper Newsletter may recall my editorial in the last edition in 2015. I said then that as I can remember what I did on the original VE Day in 1945, it was high time to hand the job over to someone from a younger generation. I asked for a volunteer, but sadly no-one came forward, so the paper version lapsed.

Although I'm now five years further on, Barrie has persuaded me to come out of retirement to help get the electronic version off the ground. As you're reading it, you can see I've done that - and hence it's time to retire again.

The job with this version is much easier than before. With Alan doing most of the work, the editorial job now consists of soliciting copy from Members, Branch and other Officers (soliciting includes pestering them until they deliver) and adding what you think might be interesting from other sources you come across.

So, I'm appealing once again for a volunteer to take on this new editorial role please and keep the new version running. The job's not arduous and can be fitted into any quiet corners of your day. The next edition's planned for the end of the Summer, when, with a bit of luck, we may all be back ringing again, with plenty of stories to tell. If you wish to discuss the job, please email me or Alan. Do come forward!

Editor: Bob Cater - bothcaters@gmail.com

Compositor: Alan Futers - agfuters@hotmail.co.uk



Online Courses

What the Education Committee has been doing – Running Online Courses

We started running online courses using Zoom and Ringing Room in November 2020 and they appear to have been successful. At the end of this article, in the modern fashion, there is a selection of reviews. Our new online registration app has greatly help us to keep track of what is going on.

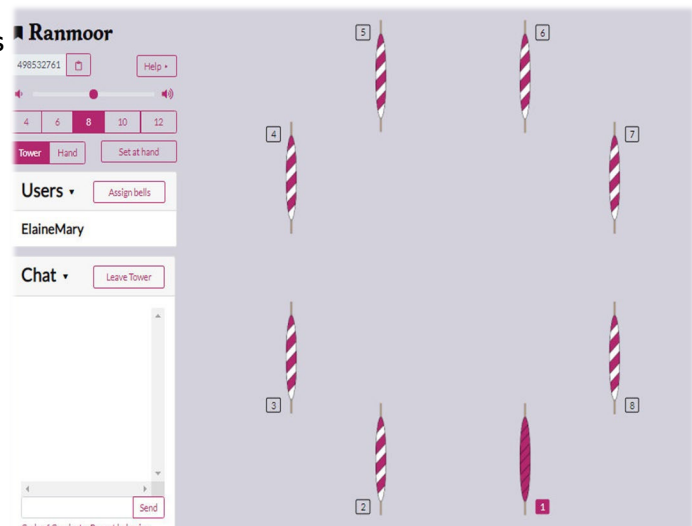
The format has been reasonably successful. The general structure is that the course is run by a main tutor, ably assisted by an assistant tutor and a couple of helpers. The main tutor works though the shared presentation of the course, with useful (or not) input from the others. Practicalsessions then take place in Ringing Room. After the course attendees are sent a copy of the slides. Everyone has an on-going invitation to the online practices also available via the registration app.

There are several advantages to running courses this way:-

- There is no minimum numbers of either students or helpers
- There are no maximum numbers of either students or helpers
- No travelling involved
- No booking of bells or rooms for the course
- No refreshments to provide

There are some disadvantages:-

- No time on the end of a rope – this is the main problem
- Ringing electronically, usually by pressing a key
- Internet problems
- Other technical problems



When we get back to real ringing we hope to combine the best of online and real ringing to run our courses. The idea would be to hold online theory courses open to all in the YACR area. Students would attend together with someone from their local area. The practical side of the course could then be arranged either at the student's home tower or somewhere near by, thus getting the best of both worlds and incidentally helping to reduce our carbon footprint!

Up-to-date details and the link to the registration app are available via the YACR webpage on the [Education](#) page. All are very welcome. If there is some theory you would like, just drop me a line and we will arrange something for you – rounds to surprise major on one or two bells can be catered for.

Courses run so far include A Guide to Plain Hunt, Say "Go" with Confidence, Introduction to Handbells, From Plain Hunt to Plain Bob, How to Learn A Method, and a talk on Recovery and Retention. We are planning a Virtual Handbell Morning on Saturday 10 April 2021 and a Virtual Summer School on the weekend 16 July to 19 July 2021. At the time of going to press we might be able to ring in some towers then, so book the date and keep an eye on the webpage and Facebook for any changes.

Elaine Scott

Education Committee



Course Reviews

A selection of course reviews (there have been no bad ones, honest).
All received ratings have been 4 or 5 stars.

"Really helpful and reassuring"

"Very interesting talk and discussion. Plenty of food for thought."

"A very friendly session in a small group."

"It was good. I surprised myself by being able to learn something new."

"Good content and tuition but slightly hampered by technical difficulties."

And a report on two of the courses -

"I joined two Zoom courses run by Elaine and John at the YACR. The excellent format consists of a theory session followed by a practical using Ringing Room. Unfortunately, I missed the theory for 'Say Go with Confidence' but joined for the practical. At first, it was scary but I kept my nerve and I did successfully call a touch. The atmosphere in the Ringing Room was relaxed and everyone was helpful and Elaine and John are welcoming and gave us loads of encouragement. I (therefore) decided to join the course a week later entitled 'Learning a New Method'. The theory session showed the construction of the grid in several stages and there was loads of advice on how to learn and memorise, points to notice and 'keep you right'. I was the only participant so could not hide! For the practical session enough ringers joined in to click a bell and soon we were ringing plain courses of Eynesbury Bob Doubles and starting on different bells. Both courses included the slides. I thoroughly recommend these two courses and will be zooming in to others. - David Scrutton"

The Snowdon Series Books

Diagrams - The 2011 Edition (reprinted 2013 & 2017) of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon's original work, comprising 202 methods showing their blue lines - **£12** (A4 spiral bound copy **£25**)

Ropesight - The 1987 reprint of Jasper Snowdon's 'Introduction to The Art of Change Ringing', first published in 1879 - **£7**

Grandsire - The 1989 reprint of J Armiger Trollope's revision in 1947 of Jasper and William Snowdon's original work, first published in 1888 - **£8**

Inspired by Bells - Some 80 articles and poems with some photographs featuring bells, collected by Frank Foden and published in 1991 - **£20**

Campanalogia: or the Art of Ringing Improved - Published in 1990 with a new introduction by William T Cook, this book is a facsimile copy of the original written by Fabian Stedman and published in 1677 - **£22**

Copies are obtainable from John Mitchell, Cobblers House, Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, York, YO51 9LY. (Postage and package included in all prices).
Please make cheques payable to 'YACR Snowdon Books'

Any enquiries, including payment options, to books@jmanorhouse.co.uk
(Sorry, but there are no discounts for multiple purchases).

All surplus proceeds to the Yorkshire Association's Bell Repair Fund.



Online Course Dates

YACR On-Line Courses March and April 2021

- Monday 1st March 10.30 am - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Thursday 4th March 7.30 pm - **Bobs and Singles in Plain Bob Doubles and Minor**
- Saturday 6th March - No Courses
- Monday 8th March 10.30 am - **Have a go at Handbells**
- Thursday 11th March 7.30 pm - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Saturday 13th March 2.30 am - **Beyond Plain Bob – An Introduction to the World of Plain Minor methods**
- Monday 15th March 10.30 am - **Say 'GO' with confidence**
- Thursday 18th March 7.30 pm - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Saturday 20th March 10.30 am - **Plain hunt to plain bob** - Naomi And John Marples
- Monday 22nd March 10.30 am - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Thursday 25th March 7.30 pm - **Have a go at Handbells**
- Saturday 27th March 10.30 am - **A Beginners Guide to ...Grandsire** - Ann Deebank
- Monday 29th March 10.30 am - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Thursday 1st April 7.30 pm - **Easy Steps for Teaching Plain Hunt** - Neil Donovan
- Saturday 3rd April 10.30 am - Easter – No Course
- Monday 5th April 10.30 am - Easter – No Course
- Thursday 8th April 7.30 pm - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Saturday 10 April 9:45 am - **Handbell Morning**
- Monday 12 April 10.30 am - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Thursday 15 April 7.30 pm - **Bobs and Singles in Plain Bob Doubles and Minor**
- Saturday 17 April 10.30 am - **A Beginner's Guide to Stedman** - Adrian Moreton
- Monday 19 April 10.30 am - **A Beginners Guide to ...Treble Bob** - Ann Deebank
- Thursday 22 April 7.30 pm - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Saturday 24 April 10.30 am - **Plain hunt to plain bob**
- Monday 26 April 10.30 am - **General Practice for tower and handbells**
- Thursday 29 April 7.30 pm - **General Practice for tower and hand bells**

Events



Proposed Open Tower Event

Proposal –

to use Yorkshire Day 2021 to hold as many tower open events as possible to promote church bell ringing and encourage recruitment, across all branches of YACR.

Why Yorkshire Day?

- in 2021 Yorkshire Day falls on Sunday 1st August.
- it is far enough ahead to give time to organise events following the end of Covid-19 restrictions.
- It also gives the opportunity to piggy back onto existing marketing and promotion of events taking place on Yorkshire Day, E.g through local TV and radio and via Welcome to Yorkshire website etc.
- Use existing Yorkshire Day logos on our promotional materials.
- As it is a Sunday it means we can hold events immediately after the morning church services when people are already attending church (captive audience).
- Could become an annual event on Yorkshire Day, if it falls mid-week we could use the late afternoon/evening slot for open tower events.

What do Towers need to do?

- Decide if they wish to take part or not.
- Check with church authorities and obtain their support for the event and book in church calendar.
- Inform local branch secretary of their intended participation by **(deadline date)**
- Do they need extra ringers to make this possible? If yes notify local branch.
- Do they have spare ringers they could lend to other towers? If yes notify local branch.
- Decide what advertising materials they need (banners, flyers, adverts on social media) and order accordingly. **(deadline date)**
- Advertise event to local schools, youth groups, Guides, Scouts etc.
- Make local arrangements (refreshments etc)

What do Branches need to do?

- List which local towers intend to take part with timings.
- Determine if each local tower has enough ringers for the day and organise extra ringers to towers in need of additional help.
- Target towers who need help to participate.
- Determine if towers have someone to teach handling of new recruits.
- Organise follow up teaching sessions in local hubs.
- Follow up with New Members Day or Class of 2021 sessions.

What does YACR need to do?

- List all towers open and times on YACR Website.
- Provide central link to promote event through TV and Radio Stations etc
- Create central link with Welcome to Yorkshire for link via their website.
- Create standardised banner and flyer designs which towers can use to add their own information to. Downloadable from YACR website.
- Use social media links, Facebook pages etc to promote the event.
- Help with co-ordination of helpers etc if branches are struggling.
- Help organise follow up training sessions or New Members Day for new recruits.



Other Activities

Possible other activities towers could use to make events more attractive:

- Yorkshire Afternoon Tea Parties – ask churches if they can help with refreshments etc.
- Welly Wanging Contests for children.
- Best Flat Cap Contests for those attending.
- Some towers regularly ring Quarters or Peals on Yorkshire Day, no reason why they cannot still do so and hold an open event as well.

Notes

- Yorkshire Day falls in the summer holidays but not all ringers go away in August.
- Not all towers will want to participate, but should be encouraged to help others.
- We need to think BIG and get this event advertised well in advance.
- Make publicity materials generic so they can be used in subsequent years e.g. “Try Bell Ringing for Yorkshire Day” etc
- Hopefully Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted in time for this event, however if not we can always use the plan in 2022.

Whilst it is too early to know what might be possible, please look at the information about Yorkshire Day (1st August). It would be helpful at this stage if you could indicate in principle if you and/ or your tower would be interested in participating or helping out elsewhere. A joint initiative just as this is just what we will need to revive ringing's fortunes once we return closer to normal.

Survival and Recovery Toolbox

The Survival and Recovery Toolbox can be found at

<http://ringingteachers.org/survival-and-recovery-toolbox>.

It has been developed by a partnership between ART and the Central Council and we hope you find it both informative and useful. It combines existing resources with case studies and opinion pieces relevant to the pandemic. It is a work in progress and if you think we're missing something or have something that you think would be useful to others then please let us know.

The next stage of its development is to identify (together) new tools that will help in ringing's survival or recovery. Developing such tools can be resource-intensive so let's make sure we choose the right things and ensure that they can be delivered in a Covid-secure way.

Bell Repair Fund

News from the Bell Repair Fund



We have had 4 projects completed in 2020 and we gave out the following grants:

Aysgarth £150
Barwick £100

Pontefract St Giles £2,000
Whitkirk £1,250

I have inspected two towers where we had given larger grants. Work in the bell hanging industry has carried on where possible during Co-Vid. After the first lockdown once the bell hangers could get back to work things did not stop for the Bell Repair Fund.



Normally someone from the Bell Repair Fund checks the project is complete and that the local ringers are happy with the work before we pay out the grant.

St Mary's Whitkirk had their work done at the start of March and waited patiently from the start of the Spring lockdown for their grant. The work was to make three bells hung for change ringing, so it is one of our county's newest towers. There is room for more bells but currently three bells sit in the tower. It was a long time until we could arrange a visit but now my daughter is learning to ring, when Government restrictions were lifted the McCoy family had its very first outing!

The Bells were a delight to ring and members of the church involved in the project came to listen in the churchyard as we went upstairs to ring. The locals were delighted that we had been able to ring the bells for them.

Yorkshire Association

Whitkirk, West Yorkshire,
St Mary

Saturday, 29 August 2020
in 2m (9cwt in A)

Rounds on 3

1 Peter W McCoy
2 Judith S McCoy
3 Sophie L M McCoy (C)

With good wishes to the people of St Mary Whitkirk on completion of their Bell Project to restore the three bells.

Left Picture: The Whitkirk Tenor

Picture Below: The Second with the wheel of the treble to the left.



Bell Repair Fund



Just before the tiered system started and the Autumn lock down happened we had another trip out and inspected St Giles Pontefract.

This work was to refurbish the fittings of this fine ring of ten bells. Sadly due to CoVid restrictions my daughter could not have a grab but we saw the first work I know of that Tom Blyth has done in Yorkshire and rang one bell.

It is a real pleasure to be able to go out at the end of a project and see the result of all the hard work and the joy of the locals that the project has been completed.

Returning to Ringing

As the Prime Minister recently put out a road map to get everyone back to "normal" there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. No full guidance has yet come out in respect of the restart of ringing. I am sure like everything it will start back over a period of time and information will come through from the various organisations.

However, one thing stays the same - bells have not been rung for a while and towers may not have been entered. You don't know what has happened upstairs in your belfries in the last few months. As a Steeplekeeper for two churches I will be checking my bells and towers and making sure everything is in order before ringing commences.

It is worth looking at the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers website. In their guidelines they have made comments about checking your bells are ok and safe to ring. The link [here](#) is from the spring lockdown but the fundamental points remain the same.

Other matters from the Bell Repair Fund

Did you know that you can support the BRF by shopping online?

Every time you shop online via easyfundraising at one of the 3,300 retailers, a donation will be made to YACR BRF, and it won't cost you a penny extra.

It's really simple to get started; we are set up with Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile.

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/yorksassocbellring/>

Or if using Amazon: Shop AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/508480-0>, Sign up to both for free

Get shopping - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to YACR BRF. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and YACR BRF will be really grateful for your donations.

If your church intends to put in a grant application for the next round of Bell Repair Fund Grants the deadline is the **30th June 2021**.

Please contact me privately to make sure you have everything required to be able to submit an application.

Bell Repair Fund



It was announced this week through the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme is to be extended. This covers the rebate of VAT on applicable work to churches including bells. Certain rules apply so if you are having work done on your bells talk to your PCC. The PCC treasurer should have an understanding of this as it also covers other parts of the church as well.

This is a 20% saving where they may be able to claim back the VAT on bell work.

We are constantly looking at options for Bells which are in churches at risk of closing for regular worship as well as towers within the county which could house such bells. If you know or hear of anything please let me know. Normally due to the sensitive nature around church closures certain rules and guidelines are in place, set out by the Church of England.

This means we rely on local knowledge.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support for the Bell Repair Fund

Peter McCoy

BRF Donations

The details for **bell repair fund donations** are

Account name - Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers Bell Repair Fund

Account Number - 00656275

Sort Code - 56-00-54

Any donations are gratefully received.

Membership Subscriptions

Banking details for paying subscriptions

2021 Subscriptions

The details for payments of subscriptions are

Account name - Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

Account Number - 02325853

Sort Code - 56-00-36

Remember to put name and/or tower in the reference and inform your branch membership secretary that you have paid.

General Interest



Electronic Ringing

It's not really ringing, is it?

Well no it's not. Pressing a key or wagging a motion controller, even one disguised as an electronic hand bell can never be the same as ringing a real bell with rope and wheel. But ringing on the computers do have some advantages. The first one is that you do not have to handle the bell and control the speed. This leaves your brain more time to count places and understand what you are trying to do. These skills can then be taken back to the tower.

So what is new?

You may have already used various ringing apps on your phone or your computer when doing your homework for tower bell ringing, and possibly used a simulator whilst ringing with tied bells in the tower.

Well the new bit is that you can now ring bells with others in real time. Not only does this let you practice but also lets you enjoy the fun and companionship of ringing over the internet. There have been several advances since the pandemic started, the most used being RingingRoom for both tower and handbells. There are practises held online at all times of the day and night. If your tower doesn't have a practice or you want to find an additional practice try the RingingRoom Take-Hold Lounge in Facebook.

And while you are not ringing try the numerous online videos of courses and talks. The Virtual Hub on Bellboard is a good place to start. There will be something to interest you maybe the Mathematics of Bell Ringing or the theory of Plain Bob Minor.

When we get back to real ringing in the tower there will again be little time for learning the theory of new methods properly, so take the time to investigate what is out there online and practice your electronic ringing. It can be a real leveller. A lot of good ringers find it difficult, some refuse to try it, and a lot of learners find it easy. Some people have even started ringing online - it will be interesting to see how they get on when introduced to a rope.

The other thing that has taken off is handbell ringing. A lot of people are turning to ringing handbells and learning what fun it can be. Handbell ringing can be practised in RingingRoom and the other simulators and apps by pressing two buttons. The fancy way is to use motion sensors as you might in online games or better still eBells. These are 3D printed bells with a motion sensor inside that you plug into the usb ports. As well as the above mentioned simulators you can use Handbell Stadium with your simulators. This gives a realistic look for ringing handbells which can be used in practice mode or online with others. You have a choice of ringing in the lounge (with carpet), basement (no carpet) or in a black box. If you really feel brave you can get the other bells rung by some rather dubious looking men.



eBells

The beauty of both RingingRoom and Handbell Stadium is that they are free to use. They both need an accompanying communication - most used are Zoom and Discord.

If you would like to know more about using the software there is lots of help online or try the Education page of the website.



Bellringing in the basement with the Men in Black

Recruitment



8 Step Plan to recruiting new learners

Finding new learners is hard enough; finding the "right" ones and keeping them is even harder! Once the lock down is lifted we have a unique opportunity to look afresh.

People are desperate for community and something interesting to keep them fit and connected. It could be the perfect time to promote opportunities to "join in and have a look" but where do you start? Here is an 8 step process to work through with your fellow band members:

Step 1: Choose your recruit – think about who you really want to teach – are they in the congregation already? Are they neighbours? Are they teenagers at the local school? Decide what would suit your band best and get clear where you find them. Decide how many you want to teach too. It helps to have a fixed number in mind. The idea of filling one of "3" slots is more attractive than being invited to "come along, everyone is welcome".

Step 2: Goals – get clear on the pathway that will suit your target recruit as they move from first demo/talk through the steps to being an integrated part of the band. The clearer you can be on the initial steps, the better, as a potential learner will know what is coming. An inspiring visit to a neighbourhood tower 6 weeks in can help motivate for instance.

Step 3: Resources – think now about what you might need to support your initiative. You might need to get some of your ringers trained up in the ART teaching techniques; you might need to buy some introductory booklets to hand out; you might need to invest in tea-making facilities or clean up the ringing room. You should also look at completing a risk assessment and reviewing safeguarding policies.

Step 4: Key People – you are not alone! So consider who you need to bring on board. Who can enrol your recruits? Consider involving (or using) your clergy; check in with your local school and scout group; think about finding a young ringer from a local tower to help you find and excite new youngsters.

Step 5: Promotion – now you are ready to promote your opportunity, whether it is a demo, a tower visit or simply a recruitment drive. Cover all bases – consider spreading the word, asking to speak at church, leaving leaflets and posters in all the relevant places. Make sure you have the time to promote your campaign and get those invitations out there.

Step 6: Engagement – make sure you have the right people to welcome new learners and enough help to ensure people are fully looked after. Your whole band will need to be with you somehow. Consider using non-ringers to help if you are short of socially skilled folk.

Step 7: Implementation – get your team into action! Run the demo, learner sessions or welcome new learners to a practice. Make sure things are safe and that you have fun. Keep up the energy, be creative, share the chocolates and inspire your new learners. Be prepared for some to drop off but work at maintaining motivation and progress for those you want to keep.

Step 8: Time for review – monitor how it's going and be ready to pivot and change plan. You might not get enough interest – how you can engage further? You might not have them stick at it – how can you motivate better? Go through the cycle over and over until you get a formula that predictably works for your band. This can take years....

Attracting new learners and teaching them to standard and long-term commitment is not easy but it's worth working for. This unique time may offer unique opportunities to refresh your band.

Online Talks

Birmingham Online Talks



When you have had your fill of the on-line tuition our Education Committee is providing, you might like to consider one or more of these weekly sessions. They are provided by the St Martin's Guild for the Diocese of Birmingham. Arthur Reeves, the coordinator of the courses, kindly invites members of the YACR to watch them if wished.

Talk Details

Wednesday 17th March

The History of Ringing Simulators - David Bagley (*Log in details tbc*)

Wednesday 24th March

Rosie and Robbie Robot - Graham Firman (*Log in details tbc*)

Wednesday 31st March

The Bells of Bow - Mark Regan (*Log in details tbc*)

Wednesday 7th April

No Talk

Friday 9th April

Beer tasting online - Hayley Young and Michael Wilby

Wednesday 14th April

Ringling and Music - David Hull

Wednesday 21st April

Bell casting - Tom Westley

Wednesday 28th April

The bellfoundries of Birmingham - Chris Pickford

Wednesday 5th May

Introducing the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain - Steve and Rowena Shipley

Wednesday 12th May

How can we be the best teachers for our students? - Arthur Reeves

Wednesday 19th May

What to do if it all goes wrong? Learning how to call things round - Mark Eccleston

To watch one please let Arthur Reeves on smgcbr@gmail.com know in advance. He will then send you the joining instructions.

To date nearly 60 sessions have been held and most have been recorded. The list is too long to present here but can be found at <https://stmartinsguild.org/teaching/training-and-resources/>

Simply click onto the title to see the tuition. They cover a very wide range of subjects, such as Quizzes, Understanding Stedman and How to Ring Big Bells.

Bob Cater



Hand Bells for Restoration -

18 bass bells are for sale (there are more in the picture here)

The ones on sale range from 29 9n C# to 17 in A#.

One does not have a full leather handle & 3 are missing the joint pins on the clappers.

They all need restoration. All are by Shaw of Bradford and fit below the 3 chromatic octave set that are already restored (see page 25).

£3000 is the asking price. Email Malcolm Turner at msturner5040@gmail.com for further information.

Survival & Recovery

The Survival & Recovery Toolbox



We don't have a crystal ball to predict the future, but we are all hoping for a speedy and safe return to normal in our lives and in ringing. When and how are dependent on factors out of our control but return to ringing we will and we want to do it well.

ART and the CCCBR are doing their bit, including the compilation of the [Survival and Recovery Toolbox](#)

The toolbox combines existing resources with case studies and opinion pieces relevant to the pandemic. It is a work in progress and if you think we're missing something or have something that you think would be useful to others then please get in contact. The next stage of its development is to identify new tools that will help in ringing's survival and recovery. Developing such tools can be resource-intensive so let's make sure we choose the right things and ensure that they can be delivered in a Covid-secure way.

At the moment our emphasis is on survival, concentrating on retaining our existing ringers, by keeping people feeling wanted and finding ways of letting them enjoy ringing in whatever form ticks their boxes – handbells, online ringing, tolling a bell or joining virtual events such as webinars. It is hard finding new, stimulating things to do and maintain momentum so we've sourced ideas from around the country. Hopefully you'll find something you've not tried yet.

A number of people have questioned whether now is too early to start planning for recovery. If I catch myself asking that question, I imagine the response of the ringing community if vaguely normal ringing was able to start in early Summer and we were not ready. I am sure it is that type of thinking that has prompted so many guilds and associations to start developing their recovery plans already, recognising that this takes time to do well.

To support this planning activity the toolbox contains ideas about "getting fit for ringing" and addresses such issues as "lockdown learners" – those whose use of online learning platforms means that their knowledge of methods far surpasses their ability to put their bell in the right place.

Hopefully, ringing will resume with few problems and we'll be back enjoying our wonderful hobby again soon. If that turns out to be the case and most of the tools in the toolbox don't have to be used, then that would be fantastic. I just don't think we can bet on that being the case.

Enjoy the toolbox and let us know what resonates, what we've missed and what you think needs to be further developed.

Lesley Belcher, ART Chair

Virtual Striking Competitions

The annual inter-tower striking competition is one of the highlights of the ringing calendar. They are great social occasions and a chance for us to meet up and renew old friendly rivalries, whilst enjoying a sumptuous ringers' tea.

If you are looking for something slightly different to do in the current lockdown, then why not organise your own online striking competition (with virtual tea included). You can replicate your traditional competition or rip up the rule book and try a new format. We've seen that virtual ringing is a great leveller, with less experienced ringers holding their own with more illustrious colleagues. So why not give it a try, involve as many ringers as possible and don't take things too seriously – with the emphasis on having fun.

Matt Lawerence

Survival & Recovery



Survival & Recovery Champions Zoom Meeting

The first zoom meeting of the Survival and Recovery Champions was held on Saturday 6 February. Over 50 people joined the call to meet the Steering Group and listen to presentations. The Survival and Recovery Toolbox had been released the day before and this was an opportunity to meet the team behind the materials and to explore some of the ideas.

Simon Linford opened the meeting by reflecting on the challenges we all face after this prolonged absence from towers and bells. During the first lockdown, there had been some hope we would all be back with a ringing fanfare but now it seems it will be a gradual return and some ringers may decide not to return to their old hobby. He reflected that pandemic fatigue might now be a problem with people struggling to come up with new ideas and lacking motivation. He hoped meetings like this and the toolbox would stimulate new ideas.

Hayley Young of the Truro Guild gave an excellent presentation about how they had identified issues and set up a working group to address the decline in ringing numbers. Their solution was an action plan which included creating a teaching team, raising public awareness and forging closer contacts with the Church.

The toolbox was introduced to us by Lesley Belcher, explaining its design philosophy and purpose by looking at pages on "Getting fit for ringing", "A Ringing Societies guide to life after the pandemic" and "Recruitment and Retention".

The toolbox includes an online survey for Recovery Champions to use to understand their local ringing situation which can be customised to suit individual needs.

If you think this is a progressive idea, which will help maintain your fellow ringers' interest in ringing, contact your Association or Guild secretary for more details. And if you wish to become a Champion you can contact Annie direct at annie.hall@sky.com

A recording of the meeting can be found via this link on [YouTube](#) , or search for 'Ringing Champions Meeting 6th February 2020'

Annie Hall, Coventry Diocesan Guild

Ringbell

I run a website containing useful diagrams and a toolkit to progress learners through to the average service band ringer who may wish to call a touch.

The 'Change Ringing Toolkit' has never been advertised, but now seems a good opportunity. My website's log files show there has been no decrease and possibly an increase in activity during lockdown.

Visitors and their activities are completely anonymous, but things can be inferred from the pages visited. Someone recently spent all evening switching between the minimus methods library and the diagram drawing page. I can only assume that they were printing off loads of four-bell method diagrams. Maybe they are only ringing four bells to maintain social distancing rules? The 'Learn-the-Line' page receives many visits too, so it appears people are using their free time to learn new methods and improve their method-ringing.

[Ringbell Diagrams](#) & [Ringbell Toolkit](#)

Matt Lawerence

These 4 articles are taken from the February 2021 Art Newsletter.

Obituaries



Margaret Perrott - Northowram

For someone so well known in the Association, it comes as a surprise to find she was quite a late comer onto the scene, becoming a member in 1986, when she was already in her mid-forties. Margaret was no stranger to the required skills, though. After university in Nottingham, where she met her husband Graham, she became one of the pioneering managers of a computing department, only leaving in later life to be Secretary of her husband's company, making educational hardware. Margaret was also extremely musical, and a singer. So, no wonder once she'd learned at Halifax, her ringing career blossomed, with a total of 46 peals and innumerable quarters, which she'd often set up for appreciative learners, both from her own tower and others all around. It is a mark of the great feeling that ringers had for her that so many pictures of quarter peal bands appeared on Facebook. Of course, she became well known as the tower captain at Northowram, a job she then passed on to Graham Adamson who she trained in the role before moving to Worsley in Manchester to be closer to their factory.

Margaret's interest didn't stop with ringing at Northowram, she remained a regular at Halifax, and Lindley, too, where she would drive back every week over the Pennines and even in her final months was organising fund raising for work on the bells.

It wasn't long in her career before she became a member of the Branch Committee, being the founding editor of Newline. And, of course, with the wider Association, she flawlessly edited the Annual Report for several years, not failing to jog us along with reminders to provide our Branch Reports and amendments, an unenviable task when deadlines loom. Friendly, efficient, competent, unassuming, and involved are all words that come to mind.

Thank you Margaret, you're missed greatly.

Bob Scofield

Ringers in Memoriam

These listed Members have sadly died since the start of 2020, and have been remembered at the remembered at the YACR General Meeting February and at the General Committee Meeting in March'

Richard Jones - Guisborough

Sybil Somers - Ilkley

Harold Jubb - Kirby Moorside

Lawrence Sheard - Batley

John Bryant - Halifax

Ron Johnston - Sheffield & Salisbury
Ex-president 1990 - 1992

Derek Sharples - Kirkheaton

Arthur Talbot - Lightcliffe

Graham Bell - Handsworth

Margaret Jobson - Thornaby

Moira Morton - Brighouse

John Bisson - St. Olave's, York

Malcolm Harker - Skipton

David Holland - Wetherby

Margaret Perrott - Northowram

Ron Ducker - Sutton on Hull

John Robinson - ex-St. Michael's, Headingley

Dolly Connors - St. Peter's, Harrogate

Donald Richardson - Thirsk

Richard Gibson - St Marys Beverley

Brian Haigh - Guiseley

David Shaw - Skipton

Elizabeth Foster - Richmond

Viv Williams - Normanton (2017)

Ian Goldthorpe - Kirk Ella

John F Bryant - Halifax



John Freeman Bryant was born on 11th September 1937. Along with his brother Geoffrey, he learned to ring as a youngster with the very strong local band All Souls, Haley Hill, Halifax. The Haley Hill band was, in the 1950s and -60s, renowned as one of the best local bands in the North of England and included the likes of Vernon Bottomley and J Henry Fielden. John's first peal was Plain Bob Major at Mytholmroyd in 1952 and he made rapid progress from there going on, mostly with the Haley Hill band, to ring peals of Pitman's spliced series at various towers in the West Riding, as well as handbell peals in a variety of methods including both Stedman Cinques and Spliced Maximus. In total, John rang 155 peals including 42 in hand. He rang 95 peals with brother Geoff who was his leading ringer, his leading tower was St Thomas, Heptonstall and his leading method being Cambridge Surprise Major.

John studied in Manchester during the late 1950s and rang a number of peals with the Manchester University Guild, but his leading association was by far the Yorkshire Association. He joined the Ancient Society of College Youths relatively late in life, in 2000, and his only peal for the Society was Cambridge Surprise Royal at Hexham Abbey in 2001.

In his professional life he was a Chemistry Teacher, working for a long time at Huddersfield Technical College. Whilst his peal total is fairly modest, John's major contribution to ringing was using his teaching skills to help develop local ringing. Instilled no doubt in his early days with the Haley Hill band, John was well known for his insistence on high standards of striking and method ringing, and would spend a lot of time on ensuring his learners mastered the basics at each level before moving on.

He had a wide range of knowledge and interests, he enjoyed a pint after ringing and his dry, understated sense of humour made him very good company in the pub after practice, although he was no one's fool and always able to robustly make his point when required. He was the driving force behind the project to install an extra treble at St John, Halifax in 2005, which he felt would help the local band to develop their method ringing, and he led the project to success despite some opposition.

John was a determined character and major heart surgery over 20 years ago did not stop him remaining physically active, doing a lot of walking and cycling well into his retirement. Unfortunately, John suffered from dementia in recent years, and this curtailed his ringing activities somewhat.

He rang his final peal in 2008, Plain Bob Major in hand at his home in Elland but continued to ring at Halifax Minster, his wife Anne driving him to the church each Sunday, until about 18 months ago when his declining health made it no longer possible. Shortly after this he moved to a care home where he died on 12th May 2020, with Anne by his side, having listened to a recording of a touch of Stedman Cinques on handbells in which he rang the trebles.

John Bryant was a gentleman who always gave of his best, and expected the same of others. He was a very capable ringer who generously gave his time to help others in all facets of life. He will be sadly missed.

John Thurman



Ron Johnston – Sheffield and Salisbury

Professor Ronald John

Johnston OBE (known to all as Ron)

was born on 30 March 1941 and sadly died of a heart attack on 29 May 2020. He learnt to ring at

Chiseldon, Wiltshire in the early 1950s, and his first peal was at his home tower on 4 Jan 1958 – Grandsire & Plain Bob Doubles – and is recorded on a peal board in the tower. In 1959 he left for Manchester University.

Ron's second peal was Plain Bob Major at Hulme, a ring of bells which no longer exists, for Manchester University Guild, and in his first term he rang five peals with MUG.

Fellow ringing students at the time included John Baldwin and Beryl Abbott (later Baldwin).

Ron later collaborated with John in various ringing projects, notable online Dove's. During this he

also rang at St Chad's Far Headingley, Leeds, during vacations. In 1963 he married fellow Manchester student Rita Brennan and embarking on his academic career had spells at Monash University in Australia, and at Canterbury University, New Zealand. While in New Zealand Ron became a member, and then Ringing Master, of the Christchurch Cathedral band and rang two peals there, the second being Plain Bob Royal which he conducted in 1974, as his farewell. That same year he joined the Geography Department at Sheffield University, back in the UK.

It was during his 18 years in Sheffield that he did the bulk of his peal ringing. His peal total during that time was 354, mainly for the Yorkshire Association, including 139 at Rotherham and 40 at Sheffield Cathedral, where he was a member of the band from 1976. His peal total was 414, 29 as conductor. His four leading peal ringers companions were all from Rotherham, with Neil Donovan first on 260, and Stuart Armeson his leading conductor on 107. His last peal was, like his first, on a six in Wiltshire – in 2002 at Stratford sub Castle.

When Ron joined the band at Sheffield Cathedral, it had a rather unusual arrangement of having the position of ringing master shared among senior members, on a rotating monthly basis. Ron saw this as unsatisfactory, especially in bringing on learners, and in 1979 proposed we adopt the more normal approach of a single person in charge. This was agreed, and Ron was unanimously elected as Ringing Master, although that was not his aim in making the proposal of change. Anyway, Ron helped to transform ringing at Sheffield Cathedral over the next 13 years. He could occasionally be fierce in correcting mistakes in the ringing, but it was never done with any malice or unfairness. Teaching learners became much more common, including Ron teaching his daughter Lucy to ring. At Ron's prompting a Sheffield band was entered in the National 12-bell Contest for the first time in 1986, finishing 4th in the eliminator at Cheltenham, and 3rd at Luton in 1987 with a mainly Sunday Service band. Again, at Ron's prompting, an eliminator was held at Sheffield for the first time in 1988, but by now several key members had left the band so we were not able to take advantage. A more widely based Sheffield team, including Ron, did qualify for the finals in 1990 and 1991.

Ron represented ANZAB on the Central Council between 1975 and 1977, and YACR from 1984 to 1992; from 1994 to 1996 he served as President. In 1988 he was the inspiration and driving force behind a comprehensive survey of the state of ringing, on behalf of the CCCBR, using his statistical skills. He was elected President of the Yorkshire Association between 1990 and 1992 and would no doubt have been elected to a second term had he not left the area, moving first to Essex and then to Salisbury, where he rang at St Thomas Salisbury and St Lawrence's, Stratford-sub-Castle. Ron commuted from Salisbury to the University of Bristol and became a frequent visitor to the practice at St Stephen's Bristol, where he maintained his advanced 12-bell abilities.

Ron also wrote 2 excellent books on ringing – Bellringing, The English Art of Bellringing (1986), and, in collaboration with Graham Allsopp, John Baldwin and Helen Turner, An Atlas of Bells (1990). He claimed to his academic colleagues that the latter was his best-selling book, though with his dry sense of humour, it was hard to be sure if this was correct!

If it were not for the current pandemic there would no doubt have been many ringing performances in memory of Ron, including at Sheffield Cathedral.

Aside from all his great achievements in the ringing world, I will always remember Ron most for his companionship, and his promotion and sheer enjoyment of good ringing.

Ron is survived by his wife Rita, daughter Lucy and son Chris.

John Robinson - Headingley



My thanks to Bob and Gail Cater, Barrie Dove and Cindy Maude for their assistance with this testimonial.

John died on 7 January in France; his ashes being scattered in the Garden of Remembrance at Lassay les Chateaux.

John rang his first peal in April 1959 for the Cheshire Association at Hazel Grove. His first for the Yorkshire Association was in April 1965 with a mainly Cheshire band. Shortly afterwards he relocated to Leeds, ringing his first peal with a Yorkshire band in February 1966. John's final peal was rung in November 2016 for the Yorkshire Association. Over the years, John rang 1319 peals, of which 885 were for the Yorkshire Association. He was elected into the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1981.

In Yorkshire, John joined the band at St Michael & All Angels, Headingley, serving as Tower Captain for 36 years before retiring from his work with Leeds City Council and relocating to France in summer 2001. As tower captain, John had an excellent balance between the disciplined, helpful and sociable and he was much missed by the local band when he left. For a short while after John left, the Robinson link with Headingley remained; his son, Matthew, and his family moved into John and Anne's old house, with Matthew joining the St Michael Sunday Service band.

However, no testimonial would be complete without mention of, perhaps, his finest ringing achievement. For 17hrs 58 and a half minutes over Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th July 1963, John was part of the band that rang 40,320 Plain Bob Major at the Loughborough Bell Foundry Campanile. This remains the longest *successfully* completed church bell peal, in terms of both the number of changes and the time taken. A 21 year old John Robinson rang the 6th.

John will continue to be held affection by all who rang with him and shared his friendship.

Chris Bostock

Lawrence Sheard - Batley

Lawrence was a retired dentist and also a life member of the YACR. I got to know Lawrence and his wife Margaret, when I moved to the Batley area and attended practice nights ever since and found him to be a gentle and kind man, a good loyal friend and accomplished ringer and conductor. He always loved to call Spliced Plain and Little Bob on a practice night. Sadly he suffered an inoperable cancer near his liver. His treatments were stopped with the first wave of Covid which led to his death. We say farewell to you Lawrence and may

God continue to bless you and your family.

Miles Lawson

Leeds & District Branch



General Ringing

The monthly branch ringing practices remain cancelled for the foreseeable future. We have recently held our Branch AGM on February 13th, as we start to look towards the possibility of returning to ringing as government guidance allows. Please keep an eye out for any information from our Branch Secretary via email and through our Branch Newsletter for available support coming from the branch and further afield as we prepare for a return to ringing in hopefully the not too distant future.

Tower News

Some other major news, following the removal of the 8 at Hunslet early 2020, we now have some more ringable bells in our branch, at Whitkirk (near Temple Newsam).

Hunslet were likely the first of Leeds' ballpark ton 8s, with the ringing peal being cast by John Warner and Sons in 1864, tenor of 18 cwt. Following the closure of the church in 2015, as a result of the rebuilt 1975 nave being condemned and since demolished, it's unknown whether the now free-standing tower could cope with the weight of the ringing peal (*Image on right*). The 8 have been removed and are to be installed in Combs in Suffolk, with two trebles to augment them to 10. The four 1939 Taylor chiming bells, installed as part of the 12 bell Ellacombe chiming apparatus, remain in the tower.

However, at Whitkirk (*image below*), the 3 bells there have been restored, of which more details of these can be found in the page 9 article.



The three bells there had been unringable for some years but have now been overhauled and returned to ringable condition by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough. Chiming hammers have also been added. All three are Thomas Mears bells cast in 1803 with the tenor weighing approx 9cwt.

Unfortunately, the bells are very close together – bells one and two are 1.2 metres apart and bells two and three are 0.8 metres apart, so at the moment only people in the same household or support bubble could ring them, but we look forward to ringing and supporting the tower here when we are able.



News from the Scarborough Branch

Scarborough Branch



The Scarborough Branch started using RingingRoom in May 2020. We rapidly found out it was a great leveller and much hilarity ensued watching the more experienced ringers trying to get to grips with it, while several of our less experienced members found it quite easy!

Our first few attempts were a bit haphazard while we all battled with the technology, dodgy broadband connections and general confusion. However, after a couple of weeks or so it all suddenly seemed to make sense and we settled in to make the most of it.

We started with a 'Middleton' practice on a Monday evening, which soon became a general ringing session for the Branch as a whole; an 'intermediate' session on Wednesday evenings, and an 'advanced practice' on Saturday afternoons. Meanwhile, Helmsley tower also started a practice on a Friday morning.

As it became more obvious that the situation wasn't going to change for some time, the Branch took the decision to buy its own Zoom licence, enabling every Branch tower to utilise it if they wanted to. By September we decided that the Wednesday and Saturday sessions could be combined, freeing up Wednesday evenings for ad hoc quarter peal attempts. Recently we have also added a Thursday evening session to attempt the 'Minor Stepping Stones' challenge with some of our intermediate ringers.

We now regularly have up to 14 members on a Monday evening. For 2 weeks out of every 3 we split into two groups using the breakout room facility on Zoom and the Branch and Helmsley RingingRooms. Usually, one room is for plain hunting/plain bob and the other for Cambridge Minor, Stedman Doubles and Triples, Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major. On the third week we run a 'have fun on 12 bells' session.

On Saturdays we're encouraging our 6-bell ringers to try Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Cambridge Major.

We've also held several theory tutorials prior to practices and a further 'introduction to RingingRoom' for some of our members who missed out first time round, and after our AGM on Zoom in November 2020, have recently started holding our monthly Branch meetings using the technology.

As of the middle of February we've achieved 8 quarter peal successes, including Plain Bob Doubles (our first!), Cambridge and Beverley Surprise Minor and Cambridge Major. Obviously, these include firsts for all on RingingRoom, but also include numerous 'firsts in method'.

We've found that RingingRoom/Zoom has kept us together as a Branch and our attendances are regularly high; people only seem to miss a session when it unavoidably clashes with another commitment. We've also been really pleased to see ringers advance - very rapidly in some cases - in their method-ringing capability, much faster than they would have done under normal circumstances. We're hopeful this will translate across when we eventually get real ropes in our hands again.

Finally, we can see RingingRoom continuing to be used for training post-Covid, and, indeed, for tower practices when the weather is too cold for standing around in a draughty tower!

Yorkshire Tykes

Tour to Durham and Covid Meetings



It seems a long time ago since 7th March 2020 when the Tykes held their last meeting. This was a trip to the Durham area ringing at five towers including Durham Cathedral. Seventeen young ringers attended and enjoyed a great day out with some excellent ringing at each tower.

Two weeks later lockdown started and for a while we didn't meet, always expecting to be back ringing soon. However, in autumn we started meetings again using Zoom and Ringing Room one Sunday afternoon per month. This is a chance to keep in touch, socialise and try our hand at methods online. These practices are going well and will continue until real ringing resumes.

We are still optimistic about entering a team in the Ringing World National Youth Contest on Saturday 11th September 2021 in Worcester. Obviously, this will be subject to Covid restrictions being lifted in time.

All young ringers (under 18) are welcome to join the Tykes, please do consider joining us either for the online sessions or when we start real practices again. Parents or Tower Captains are able to come along to offer support. Details of our events are posted on the YACR website and Facebook page, or by direct email. To join our email list please contact Jane Lynch at - j.lynch6@btinternet.com

Jane Lynch



The Yorkshire Tykes on tour at Durham Cathedral (10 bells, 28 cwt)

Local Yorkshire Societies

50th Anniversary of L&DB

Leeds and District Branch - 50th Anniversary



In 1970 eight other Ringing Societies existed in Yorkshire alongside the YACR. They had all been cooperating together for a number of years under the umbrella of the 'Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringing Societies'. Amongst other activities, the Council held an annual Striking Contest between all the nine Societies.

The Leeds & District Amalgamated Society encompassed all towers within 10 miles of Leeds Parish Church. By 1970 it was in fine fettle, holding well attended monthly meetings etc. In the late 60s the Society came second in the Contest to the long-established Halifax & District Association, a long-standing 'cartwheel society', which had a history of extremely good striking. The L&D Soc. band rang Little Bob Major, conducted by Ian North of Ossett.

Talk of the Societies merging with the YACR was in the air at the time. The L&D Soc. took the plunge and opened discussions with the YACR. One problem was the qualification for membership. The L&D Soc. was open to anyone who could ring Rounds well, and hence open to learners. By contrast however, the YACR's qualification was more elitist, requiring a ringer to have rung a 720 'inside' or a quarter peal 'behind' on the tenor to become a member.

The compromise agreed was that the YACR would bring in an additional category of membership to be known as 'Associate Members', for ringers who had not yet qualified for full membership.

Another requirement of the L&D Soc. was that it became a Branch of the YACR, and was not simply subsumed. At the time the YACR was divided into only four Divisions - North, South, East and West. Whilst it was accepted that towers in Leeds itself would be in any new Leeds & District Branch, it was not clear which churches on the L&D Soc's boundary should be included. The solution reached was that a choice was given to these towers - either stay in an existing YACR Division or join the new Branch. The choices made are reflected in the present convoluted boundary in the Heavy Woollen District (*At that time, the Harrogate area was beyond the L&D Soc's boundary*).

Everything progressed smoothly and the L&D Soc. was wound up at a meeting at St. Chad's Far Headingley early in 1970 and immediately the new Leeds & District Branch came into being.

All the L&D Soc's paperwork, including its peal book and minutes dating back to its foundation in 1880, were placed in the Leeds City's Library and Archive, where they still are.



Photograph - At the L&D Soc and YACR merger dinner (l to r)

Stella Brown, Robin Brown (Chairman), Billy Barton, Margaret Warford, Ron Warford (Ringing Master), Jack Gibson, Jeanne Bottomley, Rev Ken Blackburn - Vicar of St. Chad's, Vernon Bottomley (YACR President), Gail Cater, Bob Cater (Secretary).

Billy Barton and Jack Gibson, both of Pudsey, were long-standing supporters and officers of the L&D Soc.

Local Yorkshire Societies

Ringling Societies in Yorkshire



In the article about the 50th anniversary of the Leeds & District Branch it mentions several ringling societies existing in Yorkshire in 1970. Here they are -

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers	Founded 1875 and ongoing
Leeds & District Amalgamated Society	1880 to 1970
Cleveland & North Yorkshire Association	1898 to 1970s
Barnsley & District Society	1909 and ongoing
Halifax & District Association	1909 to 2011
Doncaster & District Society	1921 and ongoing
Beverley & District Society	1946 and ongoing
Selby & District Society	After WW2 - 1970s
Halifax Archdeaconry Society	1952 and ongoing

By 1970 they were all working together under the auspices of the Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringling Societies, which itself existed for only a few years.

There have been several Societies around Sheffield since the 19th Century, often associated with ringers in north Derbyshire. A Heavy Woollen District Association also existed at that time, based on ringling in the Dewsbury area.

Documents relating to the Leeds Society are with the Leeds City Libraries and Archive. Those for the Selby Society are in the YACR Library & Archive.

Northallerton ringling chamber holds documents from the Cleveland & North Yorkshire Association as does Sheffield Cathedral ringling chamber for the Sheffield Societies.

Why were the local Societies formed? Does it say something about the YACR? The subject's ripe for investigation.

Bob Cater

The Halifax Archdeaconry Society

The Halifax Archdeaconry Society has postponed it's AGM until Saturday 3rd July. The secretary hopes we will all be out and about again by then.

Hand Bells Ready to Ring for Sale

This is a fully restored set of 3 chromatic octaves by Shaw of Bradford dating to the 1900's approx. They are still in the box that was delivered by the foundry and have never been rung since restoration.

For sale at **£7000**. This is significantly less than an equivalent new set. They are tuned to concert pitch. See page 14 for a Restoration project set.

Email Malcolm Turner at msturner5040@gmail.com for further information.





How quickly our collective mindset changed last year. In February 2020 we watched with amazement from afar as the authorities in China confined people to their homes in order to stop the spread of a newly discovered deadly “flu-like” virus. That’s not the sort of thing that could happen here, we thought. The report that the virus had originated in a live meat market from bats via pangolins made it seem all the more alien and remote. It couldn’t happen here, could it? It wasn’t something to worry about at home, was it?

Our government at the time seemed to be quite relaxed about the situation. They had a bounce in their step having won a general election and extricated the UK from the EU. Then, more than ever we were protected from foreign viruses, surely. We were prepared for pandemics, the Health Secretary assured us. The Prime Minister was happy to shake hands with staff and patients in a hospital. After all, we had taken back control....

Meanwhile, in the pub after weekly ringing practice night we discussed the situation in general terms. The prospect of ringing stopping at all, let alone for any prolonged period was not seriously contemplated. Of course we would stay away if we had any infectious disease. Of course we would wash our hands regularly, that’s what we did anyway. It’s quite hard to find anybody who at the time thought that the new norm might be any different from the old.

Gradually cases began to be reported in Italy and Spain. There was an outbreak on a cruise ship and then bang! York! York, the first reported cases in the UK brought it home as to how close to home it was coming. The government’s advice changed. The concept of social distancing arose. “Hands, Face Space” was one of the first mantras we were taught, HFS was our ABC of pandemic prevention.

The mood in the tower changed. Being physically apart did not sit comfortably with ringing. A ringer turned up to Sunday Service ringing having returned from a skiing holiday the night before. There was an audible gasp as he walked in, followed by a visible recoil. How rapidly things had changed since that after-practice pint barely a week before. It was one thing to feel safe buying imported tortellini, quite another coming face-to-face with a skier! He had been in a “bubble” he told us. Back in the day that was a type of ski lift, not a way of life.

Things were happening downstairs in church as well. Wine was no longer distributed with Holy Communion. Some of the more elderly members of the congregation and volunteers were staying at home. Upstairs, we cancelled practice night but rang for Sunday Service. Uncertainty was rife. There was guidance but no rules. Our parish records remind me that the Church of England preempted the first national lockdown by suspending public worship with effect from 17 March.

Like all churches Selby Abbey locked its doors on 24 March. Unlike many other parish churches we have the luxury of space. We were able to reopen for socially distanced private prayer on 15 June



Picture - Selby Abbey during Covid-19 restrictions

Tower News



and have remained open daily ever since. Last summer, and at Christmas we rang for our main services.

The bells, albeit reduced in number and duration were appreciated greatly by congregations and the wider community of Selby alike. Over time, as restrictions have ebbed and flowed we have had ringing but no singing, briefly singing (by the choir) and ringing and then singing but no ringing. Such was the evolution of our understanding of the virus

When we closed down we were in Lent. The silverware and flowers were away. Fittingly, the Abbey remained in Lenten garb until we reopened in June. Once again we are in Lent.

One year on we are optimistic that come Easter and beyond we might return to something akin to normal, whatever normal might be.

Andrew Twineham - Selby Abbey Verger

York Minster

On several Sundays during the summer, when the normal ringing was suspended, handbells were rung instead on the steps of the west front. At the time, limited numbers were allowed entry to attend Eucharist.

The ringing was much appreciated by the congregation as they passed by and the Dean came out on one occasion to thank the ringers.

Virtual' Change Ringing Handbell Morning

9.45 to 12.30 Saturday 10 April 2021

Are you already a handbell ringer, or would you like to have a go?

This event is open to all, especially:

- Handbell groups in Yorkshire and near by
- Those who enjoy change ringing on handbells but do not have a regular practice
- Those who want to have a go

On the day, there will be three focus groups:

- Plain hunting to Plain Bob
- Plain Bob to Treble Bob
- Beyond Treble Bob

If you would like to join in please register on <https://yacredcom.corsizio.com/> Registration will close on 31 March 2021. Information regarding using and logging into Zoom and the Ringing Rooms will be supplied to those wishing to attend. Contact: elaine@homescott.free-online.co.uk

Doncaster & District Society

News from the Doncaster Area

Centenary of the Doncaster & District Society



2021 seeing our society enter into its 100th year! Saturday 30th January would have been our Annual General Meeting at Barnburgh. Sadly, due to Covid 19 we have not been able to meet up as members since our day visit to York in February 2020. We are not in a position to celebrate our centenary at the moment but hopefully later in the year we can make plans to hold a physical meeting and possibly ring together. After discussion we decided that holding a 'Zoom' AGM online would exclude many of our senior members who are not on the internet & our preference was to wait until the summer months in the hope we can all meet up as ringing friends.

Walker Cup Results

1st = Doncaster
74.24%

2nd = Sprotbrough
58.2%

3rd = Campsall
28.78%

4th = Coinsbrough
26.89%

5th = Barnburgh
18.75%

6th = Tickhill
6.14%

7th = Hickleton
3.84%

8th = Adwick
2.52%

Walker Cup

An excellent year for the competition despite the challenges & restrictions of Covid-19.

Eight Sunday service teams from local churches battled to provide ringing for service on bells & on some occasions only a single bell would ring out. We should be immensely proud of our dedicated members who were loyal to their churches & at times would travel miles to ring on 1 or 2 bells.

We congratulate the teams of Adwick, Sprotbrough, Hickleton, Barnburgh, Campsall, Coinsbrough, Ticknall & Doncaster Minster on their entries to the competition.

Percentages are low due to church closures & limited ringing, we see the entries as a

fabulous achievement by our members & new ringers who had only just learnt to ring but carried on supporting our local towers.

Eight entries is a huge amount & one for each & every ringer who took part to be proud of. The winners of the Walker cup for 2021 is Doncaster Minster.

By coincidence the first winners of the newly presented Walker cup in 1927 was the team of St George's Doncaster.



Doncaster & District Society



David Nichols Award for Dedication & Outstanding Service to Ringing

The award winner for 2021 is Edward C Steele known to ringers far & wide as 'Ted'.

Ted learnt to ring in London in 1960 moving to work & live at Thorne in 1976. Ted soon joined the local team there & over the years has supported many local towers, the latter being Belton & Epworth where is known for his dedication to teaching new ringers.

During Ted's time with the society he has served on the committee & as ringing master.

Ted's excels at organising 'away days' & our members have had some wonderful trips out on very memorable car & coach outings over the years. After encountering a period of ill health Ted hasn't become idle instead taking on the task of sorting out our history from 100 years. Ted became our librarian & created an archive of photographs, documents, books, minutes & records. We were all looking forward to our centenary AGM to display Ted's work & bring members old & new together. Hopefully we will have our AGM & display later in 2021.



Many congratulations to Ted & a huge thank you for all you have done for our Society, ringing in general around the country, for other associations & guilds too numerous to mention.

In Remembrance

At the start of each AGM we stand in silence to remember our members who have been called to higher service. Please remember the much loved Ken Durdy & keep him & his family in your thoughts after his passing.

Looking forward to seeing all our members old & new in person as soon as Covid restrictions allow. Keep your fingers crossed it will be very soon!
Stay safe everyone,

Helen Nichols - President & Marian Thomas - Secretary.

These 4 articles are taken from the January Newsletter of the Doncaster and District Society.



Faculties and Bell Installations

The CoE Approval System for Work to Bell Installations

A Synopsis of the New 2020 Rules

To make many alterations to a church, especially one which is a listed building, permission has to be obtained from the local Diocesan Chancellor. They are assisted in the task by the local Diocesan Advisory Committee, which itself will have a Bells Advisor.

The process is comparable with getting Planning Permission from a local Council for certain alterations to a house. Indeed, the CoE is exempt from local Planning Authority control, providing it has its own comparable process in place. Without the Faculty System, PCCs would have to apply to their local Council's Planning Authority.

No work at all may be carried out without the permission of the PCC.

List A3 - Bells. A PCC may carry out work without a faculty and without the need for consultation - Subject to the words in italics.

(1) The inspection and routine maintenance of bells, bell fittings and bell frames.

No tonal alterations are made to any bell.

No bell is lifted from its bearings.

(2) The repair and maintenance of clappers, crown staples (including re-bushing) and bell wheels.

Works do not include the re-soling or re-rimming of a bell wheel.

No bell is lifted from its bearings.

(3) The repair or replacement of bell stays, pulleys, bell ropes (including in Ellacombe apparatus), rope bosses, sliders or slider gear.

No bell is lifted from its bearings.

(4) The repainting of metal bell frames and metal bell fittings.

No bell is lifted from its bearings

List B2 - Bells. A PCC may carry out work without a faculty after consulting the local Archdeacon and acquiring his/her permission in writing, with any conditions s/he might impose - Subject to the words in italics.

(1) The lifting of a bell to allow the cleaning of bearings and housings.

Regard is had to any guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council.

No modification is made to the manner in which any bell may be sounded.

No historic material is modified or removed.

(2) The like for like replacement of -

(a) bearings and their housings

(b) gudgeons

(c) crown staple assembly

(d) steel or cast iron headstocks

(e) wheels

Regard is had to.....ditto

Faculty Guidance



- (3) The replacement of -
(a) bell bolts
(b) a wrought iron clapper shaft with a wooden-shafted clapper
Regard is had to..... ditto

(4) The treatment of timber bell frames with preservative or insecticide materials.

(5) The re-pinning or re-facing of hammers in Ellacombe apparatus.
Regard is had to..... ditto

(6) The installation of an electric silent ringing device for the training of ringers.
Any work to an electrical installation or electrical equipment is carried out by a person whose work is subject to an accredited certification scheme (as defined in rule 3.1(6)). The device is installed in a location not normally visible to the public. No alteration is made to the fittings of the bells other than the installation of electric contacts and wires. The device does not adversely affect the church's protect against lightning.

(7) The installation of louvres in a belfry as a sound control measure.
Any fixings are made into mortar.

(8) The introduction of peal boards in a location not normally visible to the public.

ALL OTHER WORK

A PCC must acquire a Faculty from its Diocese, which once approved by the Diocesan Chancellor, will carry a time limit.

Comments:

1. In the above it is assumed that all work will be carried out by a professional bellhanger or by a person the PCC deems competent to carry it out. (There are insurance implications involved, both regarding accident and professional indemnity).
2. Note that one has look for other qualifying requirements deep inside the CoE's ChurchCare web site.
3. Note that Diocesan Advisory Committees (and by implication their Bell Advisors) have no legal involvement in any List A and B work. PCCs and Archdeacons may however wish to inform and/or consult them. (Certainly in the Diocese of Leeds, which covers West Yorkshire and the Dales, all its Archdeacons discuss matters with the DAC - and with advisers if necessary - before allocating them to List B).
4. Other regulations apply to CoE Cathedrals and places of worship of other denominations.

Robert Cater, December 2020

We hope you have enjoyed this new edition of the YACR newsletter. If you wish to contribute something, or have any feedback, please feel free to contact the Editorial team.

Please send any submission to Robert Cater.

We look forward to hearing from you.