

**THE
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF
CHANGE RINGERS**



Newsletter

Winter 2010/11

JOHN TAYLOR & Co.

**BELL FOUNDERS & BELL HANGERS
BELL FOUNDRY
LOUGHBOROUGH
ENGLAND**



**EXCELLENCE IN CASTING BELLS
EXCELLENCE IN BELL HANGING
EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE IN MAINTENANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE.**

CHIMES – CARILLONS - RINGING PEALS – HANDBELLS – CARPENTRY - CAST IRON

**TELEPHONE 01509 212241
FAX 01509 263305**

**EMAIL OFFICE@TAYLORBELLS.CO.UK
WEBSITE WWW.TAYLORBELLS.CO.UK**

Editorial

Once again we're amazed at how much has gone on across Yorkshire since May. Thank you everyone who has sent articles. Their abundance however has regretfully resulted in several articles of more general interest having to be held over until a future issue. We're also sorry that there isn't room for more photographs, especially those of bands who have won multiple competitions.

Anne Deebank has now retired from co-editorship and Matthew Blurton has kindly taken the reins. Anne has dealt with the layout since the Newsletter's first edition in Autumn 2006, photocopying and stapling all the earlier editions herself until we started to use a commercial printer. Thank you very much, Anne, for your hard work, which comes in a great flurry twice a year.

Robert Cater

I would like to thank Anne for all her hard work and look forward to working with Bob on this, and future issues of the newsletter.

Matthew Blurton

Robert Cater (Robert@thecaters.org.uk)

Matthew Blurton (yacr@macstyle.co.uk)

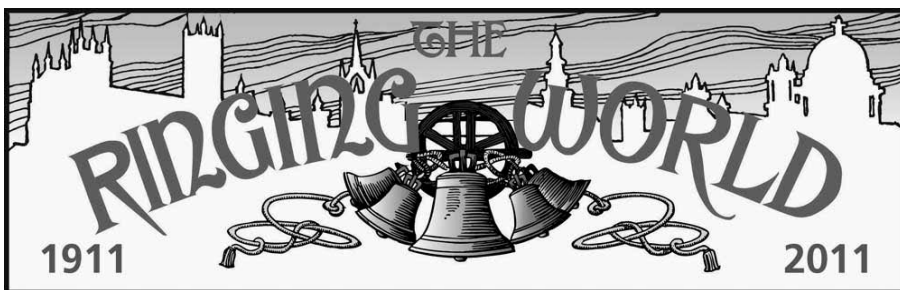
Editors

Printed by Sharon Press, 168 Crook Street, Bolton, BL3 6AS.

Tel: 01204 398776

WANTED!

We need more advertisers for the Newsletter to help defray its printing costs. If you know of any organisation willing to help in this respect, please contact one of the editors. It doesn't have to be an organisation connected with ringing. Terms are negotiable and very reasonable. Potential advertisers can be advised that the Newsletter goes out twice a year to 250 churches across the whole of Yorkshire.



- Communicating • Informing • Uniting •
- Educating • Sharing • Entertaining •

*A subscription to **The Ringing World** gives you a weekly supply of news, letters and useful information about bell ringing*

Don't rely on the tower copy – get your own

Contact us for a free sample copy

35A High Street, Andover, SP10 1LJ

01264 366 620 • subs@ringingworld.co.uk

www.ringingworld.co.uk

The Ringing World's Centenary Celebrations

The Ringing World will be 100 years old on 24 March 2011. We will be celebrating this landmark in London on the nearest Saturday – **26 March 2011**. Plans for the day are well advanced and a list of confirmed activity is shown below. (Confirmed as of 7 October).

08.30–14.00: Whitechapel Bell Foundry open

Our sponsors have kindly agreed to open the foundry to visitors on this special day. Ticket holders will be able to wander round the foundry at their leisure, speaking to staff and learning what goes on in the UK's oldest manufacturing company. The world famous foundry normally only accepts pre-booked visitors for which there is a charge of 11 per head. *Regrettably, due to Health & Safety and insurance restrictions, persons under the age of 14 cannot visit the foundry.*

09.00–18.30: Towers open for Ringing

A number of open tower routes will lead visitors from the outskirts towards central London and further routes will operate in Central London throughout the day. Routes will be available catering both for drivers and those choosing public transport.

9.30 onwards: City Walks available

Walking tours of city churches will be available at a cost of £8 per head. Further details will appear in due course.

10.00 onwards: RW National Youth Contest at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico

The 'Ringing World National Youth Contest' is an eight-bell striking competition taking place at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico SW1. The ringing will take place from 10am on the 7cwt eight, and bands of ringers aged under 19 can choose to ring Triples, Major or Call Changes. Team organisers are invited to email: nyc@ringingworld.co.uk for further information and an entry form.

10.00–17.00: Mini-rings available in Dean's Yard

Two mini-rings will be placed in Dean's Yard, just outside Westminster Abbey, for visitors to ring.

10.00–18.00: Art Exhibition Royal Opera Arcade

'Inspired by Bells' is an art exhibition specially created for The Ringing World's Centenary. It will be staged at the Royal Opera Arcade Gallery in

Pall Mall. The artworks will show bellringing from a contemporary artist's perspective and the exhibition will include a wide range of works – drawing, painting, cartoons, sculpture, and video. Nearest tube Piccadilly Circus & nearest tower St Martin-in-the-Fields.

12.00 onwards: Carillon recital at Bond Street Carillon

A recital by members of the British Carillon Society under the direction of Jonathan Galloway.

14.00–14.50: Pre-service Westminster Abbey sightseeing

Ticket holders will benefit from free-of-charge entry to the Abbey prior to Evensong (the normal adult admission price to the Abbey is £15).

15.00–16.00: Westminster Abbey service

A celebratory Evensong to mark 100 years of The Ringing World, led by the Dean of Westminster, The Very Revd Dr John Hall.

16.00–17.00: Post-service ringing at the Abbey

Early in the new year, ticket holders will be able to enter a free prize draw for the opportunity to ring at Westminster Abbey after Evensong. There will be a minimum of 30 places available for this unique opportunity.

16.00–18.00: Grand Ringers' Gathering in Central Hall, Westminster

Included in 'Maximus tickets' only, this reception is to be held in Central Hall, Westminster between 4pm and 6pm immediately after the Abbey service. Central Hall, Westminster is located in Storeys Gate just across the road from the main entrance to the Abbey. The Centenary Reception is in the Library and Lecture Hall – two large and imposing rooms (with lift access for the disabled) off the grand entrance foyer on the first floor. As well as a cup of tea with cake and the opportunity to mingle and chat with ringing friends from all over the country, at 5pm there will be a welcome from The Ringing World Chairman and we will be treated to a specially composed touch on 24 handbells by an expert band led by Philip Earis of Cambridge. During the reception, prizes will also be presented to the winners of The Ringing World National Youth Contest.

Other activities for this day are being planned and will be publicised in *The Ringing World* and at www.ringingworld.co.uk once confirmed.

There are two types of ticket on sale for the celebrations:

“Maximus” ticket: Allows free access to all of the day’s activities (except the optional city walks). Attractions include; open towers and mini-rings, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, carillon recital, viewing inside Westminster Abbey, celebratory Evensong at Westminster Abbey, ‘Inspired by Bells’ art exhibition. This ticket also includes the ‘Grand Ringers’ Gathering’ to be held at Central Hall, Westminster between 4 and 6pm. Highlights of the gathering, which includes tea and cake, are a welcome from the Chairman of The Ringing World, the results of the National Youth Contest, and the first ever public performance of change ringing on 24 handbells.

“Royal” ticket: Allows free access to most of the day’s activities. Attractions include; open towers and mini-rings, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, carillon recital, viewing inside Westminster Abbey, celebratory Evensong at Westminster Abbey, ‘Inspired by Bells’ art exhibition. Does not allow access the events and refreshments in Central Hall, Westminster.

City Walks ticket: Walking tours of city churches are available as an extra option.

Ticket Prices:

Maximus £18.00, Royal £13.00, City Walks £8.00

You can purchase tickets through The Ringing World website:

www.ringingworld.co.uk

Association News

10-10-10 Yorkshire Association Interbranch Striking Contest

The idea of an Inter-branch Striking Contest taking place on 10 bells, on the 10th day in the 10th month of the 10th year, was originally put forward by Roger Green as a way of promoting and encouraging ringing on 10 bells throughout the whole of Yorkshire. The idea was further developed by an enthusiastic sub-committee of the Association under the guidance of its President Barrie Dove. Regretfully, because of a date change to the 16th (still October) being necessary from that planned, Roger could not be with us on the day.

It was decided at an early stage that the emphasis of the contest was to be very much a social event, with the contest pieces being set at three levels which would encourage entries from novice, intermediate and experienced ringers. Planning for the Contest was well in hand more than 12 months ago, allowing sufficient time for each Branch to prepare bands for each of the three chosen pieces of ringing: Call Changes, Plain Bob and Yorkshire.

The Association Ringing Master, Brian Sanders, was given the unenviable task of having to find not only a suitable 10-bell tower which would permit the bells to be rung all day, but also one which had the necessary facilities for the all-important social activities. The Yorkshire Association has 13 towers with 10 bells; finding the right one, which would be reasonably accessible to most of the ringers in the largest county in England was not going to be an easy task.

Location, however, proved to be the deciding factor, with the bells at Knottingley being within a few minutes' drive of the M62/A1 junction. The 10 bells of St Botolph, Knottingley are arguably one of the best 10-bell rings in Yorkshire. With perfect sound control, they could be rung all day without the worry of upsetting the local residents and there is also a well-equipped Parish Centre adjoining the church. The choice was made.

The date was arranged to allow as many Branches as possible to enter a band in each of the pieces, although the revised choice of date did cause James Gibb and Angela Spaven of the Selby Branch to re-arrange their wedding so that other members of their Branch could still ring in the Contest and attend their wedding on the day after.

On the day of the Contest, 164 ringers from eight Branches enjoyed excellent food, which was provided for both breakfast and lunch by the Sheffield Branch, and alcoholic refreshments which were ably organised by

the Leeds Branch. Almost perfect weather throughout the day ensured that the ringing could be enjoyed in the sunshine.

The contest results were announced at the completion of each of the three pieces of ringing by the judges. Call Changes, judged by Neil Donovan, was won by the York Branch, Plain Bob, judged by Barry Peachey, was won by the Leeds Branch and Yorkshire, judged by Paul Mason, was won by the York Branch. Special mention must go to the Selby Branch which, despite being the smallest Branch in the Association entered a band in each of the Contest pieces. Thanks are due to the ringers and Father Clive Flatters for allowing the ringing to take place at Knottingley.

It was agreed by all present that the Contest had been a resounding success. It achieved its aim of being a contest for developing ringing on 10 bells and also providing enjoyment for all of the ringers taking part. Following such an achievement perhaps the next thing could be to organise a contest for 12 on 12, on the 12th of the 12th, 2012 perhaps?

John A Courtney

[164 different ringers is quite a turn-out! – Ed]

General Meeting at Beverley

The Beverley area was the venue for the General Meeting in September. Beverley is the County town of the East Riding of Yorkshire and exudes the aura of a delightful, small market town, seemingly hardly changed since mediaeval days. The twin towers of the Minster dominate the southern approach to the town, whilst the splendid church of St. Mary's dominates the town's main street.

Ringing during the day was available at St. Mary's, Hessle, Kirk Ella, Cottingham, Walkington and Market Weighton, whilst the 'Final' of the striking contest for Sunday Service bands was held at Nunburnholme. Eight teams participated in this, each having been the winner of preliminary competitions in the Association's Branches. Rev Martin Daniels adjudicated.

After the customary Service at St. Mary's, the gathering moved to nearby Walkington for tea, which was so sumptuous that it put everyone into a good mood for the business meeting which followed. We were delighted to have with us Kate Flavell, the Vice President of the Central Council, and her husband Paul. Kate was introduced by our President, Barrie Dove and told us of the various activities of the Council, how they contribute to the Exercise and the need for 'grass-roots' participation in the Council's affairs.

Later we elected our five representatives to the Council to serve for the three years from May 2011 – Barrie Dove, Peter Kirby, Susan Laycock, Brian Sanders and Deborah Thorley.

We stood in memory of David Banks (Wakefield), Heather Dobson (Bedale), Edna Dougherty (Beverley), Julian McCready (Doncaster) and John Severs (Aldborough) who had recently died.

Dinah Rhymer and Neil Donovan were congratulated on their recent engagement.

We then came to the announcement of the eagerly awaited results of the contest. The band from York Minster was declared the winner with the band from Skipton second and the bands from Beverley and Leeds Parish Church jointly third. Bands from Scalby, Tadcaster and Wakefield and Sheffield Cathedrals also competed.

A collection for the Bell Repair Fund raised £127 including gift aid.

Central Council Weekend – Bank Holiday at the end of May

The CC weekend was attended by all our five Representatives, Barrie Dove, Brian Sanders, Andrew Aspland, Dinah Rhymer and Neil Donovan. And it was the last time for the last three of them, as they decided not to run for re-election at our AGM. All our Reps. however remain 'in post' until the start of the CC Meeting in May 2011.

This year's event was held at Derby. As The Ringing World said of the weekend "Saturday was mostly very wet, Sunday bright and sunny and Monday dry and dull. So in many ways this year's CC weather suited the scheduled activities rather well".

For early-comers, a Friday tour of the clock makers Smith of Derby was laid on, which these days incorporates the old-established Yorkshire firm of Potts of Leeds. On the Saturday there were tower grabs across Derbyshire and peal ringing for those so inclined and then a Beer Festival in the evening, surely one of the highlights of the weekend.

A tour of the premises of John Taylor, Bellfounders, in nearby Loughborough, followed Sunday Service ringing, itself followed by the now customary Songs of Praise service at Melbourne. A Gala Dinner followed at the conference centre in Derby, which was where the annual meeting itself was held on the Monday.

Of the meeting, Neil Donovan writes

"It was just a typical end of triennium meeting – no really controversial debates, not many elections (disappointing) and everyone seemingly keen to go home. The Vice-President had a rant at members who never stood for a committee and didn't assist with the real work of the Council – it made no difference.

Council became aware that it is time to take note of data from its Ringing Trends Committee that about 14,000 ringers (out of the 40,000 in the country – Ed) are due to 'drop off their perches' in the next few years. So, where does the next generation of ringers come from and who teaches them? The Administrative Committee resolved to propose a solution or set up another committee to analyse the data and produce some findings".

During the AGM of The Ringing World Ltd, it was announced that the main event of its Centenary celebrations will be 'a grand ringers' day out' on Saturday 26 March 2011. It will however be in London, with a service in Westminster Abbey. It was noted that the readership of the RW is about 7500, with sales being about 3100. This means only about one in five of the 40,000 ringers even glances at it. It can hardly be said to be a universal communication medium for ringers world-wide.

From next May our CC Representatives will be Susan Laycock (Richmond), Peter Kirby (Lightcliffe), Deborah Thorley (Silsden), Brian Sanders (Barnsley) and Barrie Dove (Leeds RC Cathedral).

The Work of Our Central Council Members

There have been a number of articles in The Ringing World by John Harrison, a ringer in Berkshire, entitled 'Thinking the Unthinkable'. In one about the workings of the Central Council he says "Since the CC's work is done by its committees, one might expect that most of the 200 or so members would be on at least one of its 15 committees. In fact nearly 60% of members serve on no committee at all".

Well, that accusation can't be directed at our Association's current five representatives, as every one of them serves on at least one committee. Looking just at our three representatives who did not stand for re-election at our AGM and who therefore will be coming 'off' the CC next May, all three of them have served the Council well – and hence the whole ringing Exercise.

Neil Donovan has served for 24 years and was a member of its Education Committee for 9 years and then a member of the Public Relations Committee since 2006. He is currently its Chairman.

Dinah Rhymer has been a member of the CC for several years and for the last six of them a member of its Biographies Committee.

Andrew Aspland has been a CC member for nine years and for six of them a member of its Redundant Bells and its Publication Committees.

So, it can never be said the Yorkshire representatives are 'on' the CC for a 'jolly'. They have worked!

Child Protection Update

In June 2010 the Home Secretary announced that further implementation of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 has been suspended until further notice. It seems that in the meantime the existing Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure Certificates will continue to be required for tower captains and trainers. My best advice at present is that any ringer not already holding a CRB Certificate should seek to obtain one via the Child Protection officer of their own parish. Those already holding one issued by a body other than their own parish should seek a new certificate through their parish as this will then validate them for ringing purposes – strictly speaking, CRB Certificates are issued in respect of a specific activity and are not transferable to others. There is no charge under these circumstances.

Unattached ringers may continue to apply via me for process through the Bradford Diocese. A charge of £10 will be made accordingly.

As far as YACR activities are concerned, the Policy & Guidelines set out in pp 183 – 5 of the 2010 Annual Report should still be followed. I will issue further advice as and when further developments occur.

Robert Appleby, Child Protection Officer

Life Members' Gathering

Batley was the venue for this year's gathering on 21st August, and some 40 members were able to make it. It has run as a Summer day out for some years now and has proved very popular, despite the large distances it's possible to travel in the Association.

Batley is a quintessential Yorkshire mill town, now with a cosmopolitan population, once famous as the centre of the industry's shoddy trade, whereby individual fibres from discarded fabrics are separated and rewoven into thread along with fresh wool. Although it's cheek by jowl with Dewsbury, Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike, Batley has always affirmed its individuality and has a fine range of impressive stone public buildings and town hall, together with numerous wool merchants' mansions and warehouses.

Batley church was mentioned on its present site in the Domesday Book and was largely rebuilt in the 13th century, again in 1485 and restored in 1873. Its six bells were retuned and augmented to eight by Taylors in 1923. The church is a gem.

Ringling by the veterans was all of a high standard. This probably reflects that good striking was the paramount attribute in ringling when they were originally taught – something that perhaps isn't always held in such high esteem these days.

After a Service conducted by the Reader, Barbara Tomlinson, and a splendid Yorkshire meat tea provided by local ladies, Barrie Dove, the Association President, read out many letters from veterans who unfortunately were not able to be present this time. One was from William Stoker of Hemingbrough, near Selby, who very kindly invited the veterans to his tower next year, 20th August.

Out of its 1800 or so membership, the Association has sixteen Life Members who were elected before 1950, with one – John Hobson of Howden – ringling for the WW2 Allied victory at El-Alamein (Sunday 15 November 1942). Of the sixteen members, Arthur Rogers, late of Elland and now of Easingwold, rang one peal for the Association last year, and Jeffery Cooper of Guiseley rang eighteen.

Yorkshire Association Honours Jasper Whitfield Snowdon

Every year the YACR holds a Dinner in memory of its first President, Jasper Snowdon and Saturday 20 November 2010 was the 125th anniversary of his untimely early death. The Association therefore decided to host a different event from normal this year, which resulted in a Service and Lunch in Ilkley attended by nearly 160 members.

Jasper Snowdon was a son of the Vicar of Ilkley and was buried alongside his family in one of few graves remaining in Ilkley churchyard. Jasper was

an early proponent of good quality teaching of ringing and his books, such as *Ropesight*, are still obtainable. His best known book is probably 'Diagrams' – the latest edition being the red hard-back showing the rows for various methods with a blue line drawn through the path of one bell.

The Service at Ilkley church was held in his memory conducted by Revd. Dick Watson. The church nave was full and the singing was as powerful as any Yorkshire folk can produce. Prior to the Service a wreath was laid on Jasper's grave by three Association Presidents – Revd. Giles Galley (*President 1992 to 1996*), Neil Donovan (*1996 to 2002*) and Barrie Dove (*President since 2008*). Regrettably Ronald Johnston (*1990 to 1992*) and Deborah Thorley (*2002 to 2008*) could not be with us. Stedman Triples rung by the Leeds Parish Church band regaled us as we moved from the graveside into the church.

Members stopped afterwards to read the display boards in the church commemorating Jasper's life and to admire the stained glass window erected in his memory through a public subscription from bellringers across the country.

After lunch in the Craiglands Hotel, Barrie introduced the speakers, Robert M Wood, now of the East Riding, who proposed the toast to the well-being of the Association. It was replied to in traditional fashion by a touch on handbells, this year's being well struck Plain and Little Bob Royal by the Sheffield ringers. Ron Warford, now of Newcastle upon Tyne, but a Selby boy, spoke of his early mentors in ringing, especially the late J Henry Fielden of Halifax. He proposed the toast to Jasper's memory.

Barrie also introduced Christopher Groome, late of York but now of Northamptonshire, who has published the Snowdon Series books for many years. Barrie thanked him for recently handing the 'ownership' of the Series to the Association. The books have now 'come home' to Yorkshire. A new version of *Diagrams*, which is virtually out of print, is under way.

It was in all a superb celebration of the life of one of most important ringers to have made a contribution to the Exercise.

The talk given by Revd. Dick Watson at the Service

Today we are celebrating the life of Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, on this the 125th Anniversary of his death. He was a son of the great John Snowdon who was vicar of this church and parish from 1842–1878, and under whose leadership the church building was massively extended and five bells added into our 15th century tower to create a peal of 8 bells.

Jasper died at the tender age of 41, having worked hard locally to increase the number of bells from three to the full octave, and having worked assiduously to establish the art, methodology and science of change-ringing for all time, which science and system spread across the entire country, with zeal and great acclaim. Such was his influence and so greatly admired a person that the Bellringers of ALL ENGLAND paid for the insertion of the Snowdon Memorial window here at Ilkley, following Jasper's untimely passing in 1885. Jasper left us, and the entire country, a great inheritance; for change ringing is one of the most satisfying, challenging, rewarding, and testing of interests that captures the hearts of all who seek to engage with it.

Whilst practice nights have their necessary place, it is when ringers are on parade, so to speak, that most churchgoers and townsfolk look forward to hearing the pealing of bells, be they carried on the wind or over roof tops, be they heard clearly on a starlit frosty night or muffled by driving rain or by the noise of passing traffic. They call us, His people, to worship; they proclaim the joy of the kingdom of God; they declare His praise; they are part of the symphony of worship that the whole Church expresses Sunday by Sunday.

Joyful bells bring music to weddings, congregational celebrations and to the inauguration of new ministries; they herald in the turning of the year and mark national occasions such as Royal Weddings and Coronations. They speak to people beyond the Church community, perhaps more often than we realise, of passing friends or maybe of national mourning and remembrance as they echo their muffled doleful tones.

But to all who listen carefully, they express the beauty of change in ordered sequence, and they remind us of the changing paths of life with their bobs and their never ending encounters with others facing in opposite or similar directions. There is relief as one finds space to pause momentarily at lead, before the next headlong hunt into the appointed space. This, in some ways, is not unlike Christianity which is about a life of continuous personal renewal, of ups and downs through all the changing scenes of life. It is about being caught up in the life of God; of engagement with the Holy Spirit. Like life itself, God's kingdom has at its heart a teeming process of creative variety. To live is to change. To live is to engage with the living Lord, not just on Sundays but day by day. I invite you to be part of the living witnessing Christian community, at whichever church you ring. To quote the lines of the hymn we first sang: "Our lives, like bells, while changing, an ordered course pursue; through joys and sorrows ranging, may all our lives ring true".

It is my prayer that as we celebrate this 125th Anniversary that you and I and our fellow ringers pay lasting tribute to Jasper Snowdon by dedicating afresh ourselves to the service of God; that we might be worthy disciples of Jesus Christ and bring honour and glory to His Name, now and in all the time that is left to us this side of Eternity. But let me conclude with those appropriate words of scripture from Paul's letter to the Ephesians (ch6 v10-13): Be strong in the Lord and put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand, and after you have run the course, to STAND!

Education Committee

Bob-calling & Conducting Course

The Education Committee organised a Bob-calling and Conducting Course on Saturday 13 November at Tadcaster using the church's new facilities in the nearby rooms. Efficient arrangements had been kindly made by Stuart Raggett.

Tadcaster tower is fortunate in having an 8-bell Simulator, enabling all the bells to be rung without striking but with the sound being generated electronically. It means the bells can be rung all day if required, with no complaints likely to come from anyone.

Barrie Dove and Brian Sanders were the tutors, ably assisted by volunteers. Eight students attended. The Course was deemed so successful that the eight are coming back for a follow-up session in February.

Have you ever thought that you could conduct?

Eight intrepid students took up this challenge and two braver tutors met up on a wonderfully sunny morning in November at Tadcaster. Split into two groups with one traveling to the six at Acomb the other making full use of the simulator at Tadcaster for the morning session.

I joined the group visiting Acomb all of us having done some calling but wishing to progress to 'being able to keep everyone right' or conducting. We started the session discussing coursing orders and how bobs change them, with some confusion and discussion in between we moved into the tower for some practical experience of following the coursing order while ringing.

With the feeling of being a learner again with too much to think of; putting the calls in the right place, following the coursing orders, as well as keeping

myself right managed a couple of courses of Plain Bob and started to see the coursing orders 'in action'

After enjoying a wonderful lunch, supplied by the ladies at Tadcaster, of warming soup and puddings all homemade (worth a visit in itself) it was time to drag ourselves away from the apple pies. This time our group remained at Tadcaster with the other group visiting Sherburn in Elmet bells.

Building on from the morning's work the more adventurous conducted different methods or made different bells observation. I myself kept it simple. Barrie was very encouraging and ensured that we had full understanding of the basics and information that was tailored to each of us individually depending on the circumstances in each of our home towers.

Finally both groups met up at the end of the day for tea and scones and with agreement from all it was a very profitable day of learning with another one planned next year to build on further.

Although, I don't think that I will be calling any significant peals in the immediate future I have managed to conduct a few short touches for service and practice night since. So if you are wishing to learn the mysteries of conducting, wanting to know how one person can keep another right, then I would recommend this day to everyone.

A big thanks is deserved for all who organised the day, the helpers who made up the numbers (how many courses of Plain Bob can you ring) and to Barrie and Brian for the patient tutelage.

Cate Gardner, Tadcaster

The Whirlow Ringing Course

This year's Course (the 26th) was held between 9th and 11th July under the careful supervision of Dinah Rhymer & Neil Donovan and attracted 16 students, of which five were fully residential. There were five Groups. The students had the advantage of a multiplicity of experienced Helpers to give added strength to the practical sessions, as there were 24 of them fully resident and another 37 part-time. The tutors were Neil Donovan, Barrie Dove, Mark Sheridan, Elaine & Peter Scott and Simon Reading.

Whirlow: Impressions of a Helper

I attended the Whirlow Grange Ringing Course as a helper in the Cambridge Surprise Minor group. Never having been on the Course before, I was unsure about how it would work, but, having heard great things, I was prepared for a great weekend of ringing and socialising! Luckily, that was exactly what I got as there were some good bells and excellent company!

I would thoroughly recommend the Whirlow Grange Ringing Course to any who have not been, as, with the extra activities available in the 'non-ringing' time (ringing related of course!), there's something for everyone! Helpers are allowed to learn things too; I called my first touch of Cambridge!

Tim Holmes

The Association's Objectives

Mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter is John Harrison's 'Thinking the Unthinkable'. In another of his articles he talks about the Guilds and Associations in the country and says "When they were formed (*ours by Jasper Snowdon in 1875*) the Societies clearly met a need, but how well have they adapted to modern needs?"

I think that's a valid question and will be met with different answers in different parts of the country. But against what yardstick should Societies be judged? In my personal view, any kind of 'society' – whether it be one covering a sport or any kind of pastime – is there to provide a service to its members in line with the furtherance of its Objectives.

I think therefore it's worth looking at our Objectives from time to time, to see how well we're fulfilling them and providing a good, comprehensive service for our members.

At the start of the Association's Rules in our Annual Report it says:

The Association's Objects shall be ... 1. To promote ringing for divine service and to secure recognition of ringers as church workers, 2. To cultivate the art of change ringing and encourage recruitment and the instruction of ringers, 3. To promote good fellowship amongst ringers and bring all ringers into closer friendship, 4. To endeavour to arrange instruction for bands of ringers desiring it, and 5. To obtain the co-operation of church authorities in the maintenance of bells and ringing rooms in proper condition.

Now, I think Objects 1 and 5 have largely been met for many years: they were a new and important need in 1875 when ringing took place largely 'outside the Church'. However, how are we doing with 2, 3 and 4, which is what – by definition – we're primarily here for as an Association?

I like to think this Newsletter might help in a small way in fulfilling Object 3, and I hope you likewise might think it does. I also hope you might think that the numerous activities illustrated in these pages and in previous editions have helped in fulfilling the Objects – training days, recruitment drives, outings, competitions, dinners, other social events etc etc. Overall in Yorkshire we might be 'good in parts' (as the Curate's Egg cartoon goes), but overall I personally think, especially over the last few years, we're not doing too badly in trying to provide a service to our members in line with our Objectives.

I'll stop the philosophising now, and be pleased to hear the views of others – possibly for future publication – about how the Association might be of even greater service in the future.

Robert Cater

The National 12-Bell Final

The Leeds Parish Church Experience

Following our success of qualifying for the National 12-bell final in Crediton, Devon we set about practising even harder. We had 2 practices in April and May – just to keep our minds on the job and started in earnest in the "Mad month of June". You may not know that this year none of the qualifying teams was allowed to practise at Crediton. It was a "blind" final. Therefore we decided we needed to get used to "turning up and ringing well" on bells unfamiliar to our band.

We had an excellent day planned out where we were going to visit Broughton in Furness, Whitehaven and finish off ringing at Carlisle Cathedral. Unfortunately this day was scuppered by the madman gun rampage 3 days before our visit! We were grateful that Broughton allowed us to go and ring a peal instead of just practise. This was ideal – we thought. How wrong we were. When we pulled off in rounds we could not hear the treble so we had crisp rounds on the back 11! We hastily called the local back who tried to grease the crown staple but it did not improve. So we had an afternoon in the pub! It seemed the whole day's ringing had to be scrapped but we were grateful to Neil Murray who, at very short notice, allowed us to have a ring at Halifax on our way home.

The following weekend we rang a creditable peal at Towcester – which are a truly magnificent light ring of bells. Our final practise day saw us ring at five different 12s in 1 day!! – Leeds, Barrow, Hull, Selby and Ossett. By the end of that we had certainly got the hang of “turn up and ring well”. So to the Final.

On the Saturday we got the train to Crediton on a blazing hot day. The train was packed with some of the finest 12-bell ringers in the world and indeed the Taylor Trophy itself. The Crediton ringers and many of the Devon Society had put on a fine spread of local cakes, pasties, scrumpy and real ale. It was a very well organised day. The draw saw us ring 4th which we were very pleased with. Not too much time to drink or get nervous. We rang a creditable test piece and were unfortunate to have a rather large method mistake in the 5th lead. However, we were pleased with our effort. The results confirmed we actually finished 9th which was humbling but no great shock. We are still pleased that we qualified and will try again next year when the Final is to be held at Leeds Parish Church on 25 June.

Steve Ollerton

The York Minster Experience

This year's final at Crediton in Devon proved to be a splendid occasion with a good bells, brilliant weather, and lovely hospitality.

York Minster's team drew the short straw and were forced to ring first – the worst of all draws. Ringing first inevitably finds the judges sharp, with sharp pencils, no other ringing to compare with, and only once in the Competition's history has a team ringing first won.

We set off far too fast in our practice piece of Cambridge Maximus, and were distinctly unimpressed with our efforts, but rules are rules, and we had to be in the changes of the test piece within 15 minutes of the start.

Much learning had taken place in those opening minutes, and the test piece was rung at a more sensible speed (3hours 25 minutes peal speed), with the consequence that it was far more pleasing to listen to for our ringers and the audience in the churchyard below. The entire piece flowed quite evenly and was completed without a hitch, and when we got down from the tower the great Rod Pipe of Birmingham declared, “That could be the winning piece” – praise indeed from someone who has probably been in more winning teams than anyone else.

However, eight more teams had yet to ring and all the ringing proved to be of a very high standard. In the final analysis we were placed 4th, not a bad position for – like Leeds Parish Church – one of the few truly Sunday Service teams that made it through to the final.

David E Potter

Hereford Ringing Course Bell Fund Trust Appeal

Wilf Moreton died in November 2006. He was General Secretary of the Association between 1964–1971, and was elected our 7th President in 1984.

As a practical ringer he was a trail-blazer in the 50s & 60s, ringing record peals of multi-method minor, major and royal. He rang 1000 peals in an age when it was still rare. He served on the Central Council for many years, representing the Association from 1963 until he was elected a life member in 1988. But it is probably for his contribution to ringing education that he will be best remembered. He wrote a number of ringing books, most notably the 'Tutor's Handbook' in conjunction with the late Norman Chaddock, but above all he founded The Hereford Ringing Course.

The Hereford Ringing Course has launched an appeal to donate two bells in Herefordshire, the county where Wilf grew up and learnt to ring. One will be part of the new ring of eight at Yarkhill – the village of Stedman's birth. We invite ringers in Yorkshire to contribute towards this bell please, which will be given in memory of Wilf.

The other bell is being given to celebrate 50 years of the Hereford Ringing Course and will augment Stoke Prior near Leominster from five to six.

The total cost of both these projects will be about £16,500, of which we have about £10,000 already. We need the help of the wider ringing community with these projects, especially those who have ever attended the Hereford Course. Any extra monies will be used to help with the upkeep of bells used on the course.

If you would like to make a donation to this appeal, please send it to:
The Hereford Ringing Course Bell Fund Trust, c/o Mr P A Thompson, The Old School Cottage, Church St, Broughton in Furness, Cumbria, LA20 6HJ.

For those with online banking, the bank account details are Sort Code 400914 A/c 91851896. The HRC Bell Fund Trust is a registered charity, so UK tax payers can gift-aid their donation – if making a donation online, please write to Paul Thompson with your name and address, so we can claim the tax back.

Adrian Moreton, Chairman of the Trustees

The White Rose Shield Striking Competition 2010

September 4 saw the annual White Rose Shield competition held this year at Bradford Cathedral. For those who don't know, this is Yorkshire's own 12-bell competition for 12-bell bands ringing at towers in Yorkshire. This year we managed four teams and had a scratch team also. *[Last year's competition was at Ripon Cathedral – Ed]*

The format of the competition is very similar to the National 12-bell Contest's eliminating heats. We all met at 10.30 for bacon butties and coffee in the Parish rooms; the Bradford Cathedral Choir's parents did us proud in the catering and provided sandwiches and cakes throughout the day.

The draw took place at 11.30 and Leeds Parish Church was drawn first. This year's test piece was two bobbed courses of Grandsire Cinques with a Single half way and end. The judges were Neil Bennett and James Andrews, who were fortunate enough to be able to sit outside beneath the tower, as it was a glorious sunny day.

The first four teams rang competent pieces and York Minster gave no clues about their identity during their piece. We had to wake some of the churchyard listeners up after the piece, but it was cleanly struck! The scratch team gave a valiant effort and actually made it to the end of the test piece – which after listening to their practice was by no means a certainty. The teams then all got stuck into barrels of Ossett beer and enjoyed a day in the sun.

Finally the results were given. Neil Bennett gave some positive comments and the teams were ranked as follows:

The winner was York Minster 92%, Joint 2nd Wakefield Cathedral and Bradford Cathedral 84%, 4th Leeds Parish Church 83%, 5th Scratch team 68%. So, as last year, York Minster is holder of the Shield; their leader Tim Bradley received it from the Dean of Bradford.



*10-10-10 Interbranch Striking
Contest*

St. Botolph's, Knottingley.

*Plain Bob Contest winners
Leeds & District Branch.
Front row (l to r) Peter
Oldfield, James Ramsbottom,
Paul Brook, Cindy Maude,
Linda Lambert. Back row
(l to r) Ben Johnson, Neil
Aspland, Simon Poole, Graham
Bloom and Adam Crocker.*





Sunday Service Bands Striking Contest.

The band from Skipton, which came second to York Minster. (l to r) Malcolm Harker, Kevin Haseldine, Robert Cater, Simon Hopwell, Gail Cater and Chris Wright.



Students and tutors at the Tadcaster Bob-calling & Conducting Course

(l to r) Tim Holmes (Richmond), Stuart Raggett (Tadcaster), Cate Gardner (Tadcaster), Elaine Scott (Ranmoor), Fiona Weare (Lightcliffe), Brian Sanders (Tutor), Angela Gibbs (Tadcaster), Barrie Dove (Tutor), Andrea Pygott (Ossett), Susan Laycock (Richmond)



Barrie Dove's Group at the Whirlow Ringing Course.

Back standing (l to r) Tim Holmes (part hidden), Barry Baxter (behind), Peter Mason, Barrie Dove. Standing front (l to r) Ian Lloyd, Doreen Stephenson, Deborah Bearder, Janine Jones, Susan Laycock, Gerry Bacon, Gill Platt. Kneeling, Ben Newsam.



'Some of the Life Members Gathering'

(l to r) Barry Sullivan (Almondbury), Brian Sissons (Batley), Robert Pygott (Batley), Edna Sullivan (Almondbury), Barrie Dove (Association President), Shirley Pygott (Batley), Michael Sheeran (Monk Bretton), Brian Sanders (Association Ringing Master), Janine Jones (Association Librarian), Gillian Daker (Skipton), Jack Gibson (Pudsey), Digby Burton (Skipton), David Lockwood (Ossett), Deborah Thorley (Association Secretary), John Wackett (Wakefield), Elizabeth Johnson (Kirk Ella), Ron Sanderson (Huntington), Giles Galley (York), Doreen Sanderson (Huntington), Lawrence Sheard (Batley).

Snowdon Lunch



At the Lunch. (l to r) Christopher Groome, Ron Warford, Barrie Dove and Robert M Wood.



(l to r) Revd. Giles Galley, Neil Donovan and Barrie Dove at the graveside.



The Hereford Course Bell Trust Fund.

Wilfrid Moreton, our President 1984 to 1990.

The Roses Competition



Mike Platt (r) of Sheffield Cathedral is handed the John Taylor Roses Shield for Yorkshire.

'The White Rose Shield Striking Competition'



Beer and Butties at Bradford.

The Winning York Minster band. Front row (l to r) Emma Coles, Tina Walker, Rachel Storr, Giles Galley, Rob Lee, Kevin Atkinson. Back Row (l to r) Christine Potter, David Lease, David Potter, Tim Bradley, Peter Aldridge. Missing: Chris Young.





Tim Bradley (York Minster) receives the trophy from the Dean of Bradford.

Scarborough Branch



Friendly 10 Bell Striking Competition. YACR President Barrie Dove presents the trophy to Gary Joce of the All Stars.

Western Branch: Outing to Scotland.

Inveraray and the 'bell tower'.



York Branch on Safari



(l to r) Mary Stewart, Giles Galley, Tina Sanderson, Graham Blackburn, Pat Hearn, David Leese, Christine Potter, Milly, Johnny Stokoe, Tina Walker, Allen Eccles, Sophie Palmer, David Potter, Emma Coles, Holly Webster, Peter Sanderson & Lucy Stewart. Missing (late for the photo shoot) Gareth Coles, Margaret Coles, Sam Coles, Bob Meadows, Edna Meadows, Tim Bradley, Josh Bradley, Alice (Lilah) Longden, Kevin Atkinson & Andrew Aspland.



Quasimodo and the Wombel at Addingham gala.

York Colleges Guild 40th Anniversary Dinner



Barrie Dove with Helen Green and Kevin Atkinson, who were members of the Dinner organising committee.



At the dedication of the bells at Clapham. (l to r) The Venerable Paul Slater, Deborah Thorley, Penny Thorley, Revd. Ian Greenhalgh.



St. Wilfrid's, York – Sponsored Quarter Peal Day: Some of those who rang in, or helped with the catering for, the quarter peal day. (l to r) Neil Pitts, Guy Ward, Helen Beaumont, Allen Eccles, Eliza Hull, Charlotte Elkington, Tim Bradley, Jen Backhouse, Simon Hartley, Harvey Dowdy, Ewan Hull, David Hull, George Hull, Jacqui Ward, Johnny Stokoe, Mike Pollard, Judith Hartley.



Huntington, after a very Naughty Peal. (l to r) Tom Luxford, Bob Cater, Tina Walker, Mike Pollard, Judith McCoy, David Potter, Jenny Town and Peter Sanderson.



Tadcaster Band and Friends in North Wales.

Looking Back



The Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringing Societies' Festival held at Beverley Minster in 1966.

We were all very grateful for the Cathedral authorities for allowing us to use their bells and the Choir's parents for catering for us during the day. It was a great day for ringing and socialising and we look forward to next year's competition which is to be held at Sheffield Cathedral.

Steve Ollerton, Leeds Parish Church

The 2010 'Roses Striking Competition'

There's another striking competition held annually in the North, which many readers will not know about. This is the 'Roses Competition' between 'white rose' bands from Yorkshire and 'red rose' bands from Lancashire. This year's event took place at St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool, which is a ring of 12 bells with a 41cwt tenor.

The competition is over 20 years old. David Potter of York Minster tells me it started following a request by the Minster authorities for some ringing for a city Arts Festival, and he came up with the idea of a cross-border 'friendly' competition. The Festival has since died whilst the competition has developed a life of its own. These days it's in three parts – on 8, 10 and 12 bells – and the county which wins at least two parts gets the trophy. The rules are very 'relaxed': 'Beer and Sandwiches' seem to play a major part in the event.

This year the test pieces were Scientific Triples, Grandsire Caters and Cambridge Maximus. Yorkshire won the 8 and 12-bell sections so got the rather splendid John Taylor Roses Shield, which was handed to Mike Platt of Sheffield Cathedral by the judge, Simon Webb of Cirencester (see photo).

Editor

The Late Learner

"Open Tower" proclaimed the notices around the village [*Addingham – Ed*]. Having never been inside my own church tower, a few weeks later I found myself, along with several children and attendant parents, climbing a narrow stone staircase and looking with awe at the huge metal bells suspended in their frames, at the ropes, the wheels and the pulleys, and marvelling at the complexity of it all.

"Would you be interested in learning?" Me? Well, it would be something new, a challenge, a new set of friends, the maintenance of a venerable

tradition and a service to my church. Along with many others, I have always enjoyed hearing the bells ring out.

“It won’t be like anything you have ever seen or imagined” I was warned on my first lesson. An accurate statement if ever there was one! Nothing I have ever attempted before comes even remotely near it! As adults we are not used to acquiring a completely new skill, so it takes time and patience and practice ... unbelievable amounts of practice. While I watched, enviously, the experienced ringers in our tower, with their seemingly effortless precision, the possibility of my surviving ten minutes of “rounds” without collapsing in nervous exhaustion seemed remote. However, those experienced ringers were endlessly patient and consistently encouraging. There has been no smooth progression. Each step brings on a fresh wave of panic ... “The treble? But that means I’ll have to lead! ... Hunting is anything but plain to me! ... Bob who?”

But, mysteriously, after the near total disaster which accompanies an attempt at anything new, the previous step, which was proving so unattainable, suddenly seems feasible! Oh, the relief of call changes after the first plain hunt, even though those same call changes had been causing cerebral meltdown trying to work out which bell the bell I’m following is following!

It is a constant learning curve. Every ring, each practice brings something new. It’s fun. It’s sociable. You could even argue it helps to keep you fit – just climbing all those tower steps! And it is a group activity where one enjoys the company and support of other ringers, not only the local band, but all ringers, everywhere. Once you can ring you will be welcomed as a visitor to other towers, and a whole new world opens up.

Ringers bring enthusiasm, dedication, and skill to their craft, at whatever level of expertise. They are part of a tradition going back centuries, but still contributing to today’s society.

This is change ringing, and it’s not like anything I could ever have imagined.

Pat Wells-Oliver

[This article was read out at Jasper Snowdon’s Memorial Service – Ed]

News from the Branches

Cleveland & North Yorkshire Branch

The Branch is selling linen tea towels to raise money for the Association's bell repair fund. They show an attractive illustration of 46 of the Branch's towers with six bells or more. To date the impressive sum of £250 has been raised.

This is an article no home can do without – and they make presents which are always welcomed. Christine Parsons, the Branch Secretary, will be pleased to sell you one or more. They're only £5 each.

Christine can be contacted at gerry.parsons@btinternet.com or on 01642 790655.

Central Branch

This summer's Central Branch activities were very much influenced by the approach of the 10 for 10 Contest. We had a succession of outings which were based round visits to 10-bell towers to give ringers as much experience of ringing on ten as possible.

In July we visited the area around Chorley, Lancashire, on our joint annual trip with the Barnsley and District Society. Enjoyable and varied ringing took place at Standish, Ecclestone, Chorley St Lawrence, Chorley St Mary, Leyland Moss Side and finally the lovely Gillet and Johnson 10 at Leyland.

In August, with so many ringers away on holiday, a well attended meeting was arranged at Penistone for those ringers available.

September saw the Branch outing. We visited the area around Derby, ringing at five towers including the 10s at Duffield and Derby Cathedral, as well as the challenging twelve at Melbourne.

The result of all this activity was that we were able to enter bands in all three sections of the 10-bell Contest at Knottingley. We would like to thank the organisers for such a well-run day. We were particularly pleased with the third place won by our Call Change Section band, many of whom were new to 10- bell ringing.

With Autumn giving way to a sudden Winter, we enjoyed a very well attended joint meeting with the Doncaster Society at Barnburgh and Darfield on a very snowy Saturday. We look forward to an equally busy and enjoyable programme for 2011.

Mark Sheridan, Central branch Ringing Master

Scarborough & District Branch

Quarter Peal Day – 4 September

A large number of absentees made this year's event something of a nightmare to organise (the final call was at 8.30pm on Friday night!) and, sadly, resulted in some alterations to the planned programme. Nevertheless, a creditable 8 Quarters were attempted on the day, with 6 successes, and one further scored the following evening. Methods rung included Beverley and Cambridge Surprise Minor, Plain and Little Bob Major, various Doubles methods, and Plain Bob Caters. Excellent food at Tricolos rounded off the day.

Many thanks to all who participated, and especially to Barrie Dove and Janine Jones who joined us for the day, Barrie undertaking all of the conducting duties in the western area, and to Martin Hall who did similar in the east. A donation of £14 was sent to The Ringing World in respect of the successful Quarters, with £44 going to the BRF. Well done!

Friendly 10 Bell Striking Competition

A pleasantly sunny evening saw an attendance of around forty Branch members for the second edition of this competition, inaugurated and inspired by Edwin King. Bands from three branch towers contested, ringing a choice of a Plain Course of Grandsire Caters or Rounds and Call Changes, along with an 'All Stars' scratch team made up of representatives of several towers, many of which were unable to field their own team. The All Stars lived up to their billing by pipping last year's winners Pickering to the trophy, ably led by Gary Joce.

Generally the standard of ringing was good, and a great evening ended with open ringing and liquid refreshment. Special thanks to Association President Barrie Dove and Janine Jones for making the trip across to judge with scrupulous fairness and much encouragement, to Edwin and the Scarborough ringers for their hospitality, and to all who supported the event. 1st All Stars 55 faults, 2nd Pickering 57, 3rd Scarborough 60, 4th Scalby 98.

Selby & District Branch

The Branch continues to meet regularly on the first Saturday of every month and all are welcome to join us. In April we had a very enjoyable day outing to the Doncaster area. We had brilliant sunshine all day and some good ringing on unfamiliar bells. In July we had another outing, again in the sunshine, this time to the Northallerton area. This included a chance for those learning to ring on 10 bells to ring on the lovely bells at Northallerton.

If you look at the results of the 10 for 10 competition, on the face of it you would think that the Selby Branch had had a total failure, but how wrong you would be! It was quite the opposite. You need to bear in mind that Selby is probably the smallest Branch in the Association. When Roger Green first proposed the idea of the 10 for 10 day, we had only a handful of ringers who could ring anything at all on 10 bells: the whole idea of the 10 for 10 was to encourage those ringers with little or no experience of ringing on 10.

We took this challenge on board and started a 10-bell practice on a monthly basis and encouraged those with little or no experience to have a go. With the help of Roger Riley, who allowed us the use of the bells at Selby Abbey and gave us a great amount of encouragement and help, major strides have been made. We had no delusions of grandeur and knew that we would be up against ringers who regularly rang on 10 and 12 and had been in National 12-bell striking contests etc. Our aim was simply to take part in all three sections, giving all our ringers who had regularly attended our practices a chance to complete the test piece for their section. Martin Hardgrave, our Deputy Ringing Master, did a sterling job in pulling us together and we successfully reached our targets. For us this was a major landmark and we feel that we have achieved the objective that Roger set.

We accept we still have a long way to go, but we now have 30 ringers in the Branch who can say they can ring something on 10 bells. So where do we go from here? Well, we recognise that we still have a lot of work to do to improve our performance. We intend to continue our monthly 10-bell practices and to improve on what we have achieved to date. Who knows, maybe one day there will be a team from the Selby Branch in the White Rose Trophy Contest.

Stuart Raggett

[Here's one account of the benefits which have come from Roger Green's suggestion. And I don't think it's confined just to the Selby Branch. Ed.]

Sheffield & District Branch

10 Bell Quarter peal Day & 10 Bell Striking Contest

Over the past two years the Branch has had some very good 10-bell practices which have included ringers of all abilities. All this was a build up for the Branch 10-bell quarter peal day on 10/10/10. This Quarter Peal day had four successful quarters out of five – at Ranmoor, Rotherham Minster and Sheffield Cathedral. All three Branch 10-bell towers were used and for Evensong we had three quarters taking place at the same time making thirty Branch ringers taking part in the event. The day included three ringers ringing their first 10-bell quarters, so congratulations to those ringers.

A week later the Branch entered the 10-10-10 Competition at Knottingley. We entered three teams and we used 19 ringers. We came second in the Call Changes, sixth in the Plain Bob Royal and second in the Yorkshire Royal. This is something our Branch should be proud of as we are one of the smallest Branches in the Association. Some ringers from Sheffield Branch not only rang in the competition but also prepared the refreshments and took part in the stewarding.

We plan to carry on having 10-bell practices and having bi-monthly quarters at Sheffield Cathedral for the Evensong service.

Peter McCoy

The Branch's 100 Club

Recent winners were: June £50 – Sheffield Cathedral, July £50 – Mike Platt, August £50 – Ecclesfield, August £100 – Robin Storey, September £50 – Pat Collins, October £50 – Pete McCoy, November £50 – Stuart Armeson, November £100 – Owen Platt.

Western Branch

Outing to Scotland

Friday 13 August

Following torrential rain on our journey up the A1, the first tower was the Town Hall of Berwick upon Tweed, a 20cwt 8, which were an enjoyable ring of 8 and involved passing the Victorian cells of the old Town Hall en route to the ringing chamber. Haddington St Mary's were next, an 11cwt 8 – a relatively new ring within a recently restored central tower. A near lock-out was avoided, thanks to our politely reminding a local key holder. The evening and night was spent in Stirling, historic seat of Scotland, whose Church of the Holy Rude witnessed the only English coronation to be held outside Westminster Abbey (James I/ VI in 1567).

Stirling's 6cwt 6 were a good ring, and here we joined the locals – a very accomplished band formed jointly from Dunblane and Stirling ringers. This was followed by a 'couple' of enjoyable beers in the courtyard of the local Portcullis Pub, near to the church and castle on Stirling's summit.

Saturday 14 August

An early start saw the peal band of 10 set off for Inveraray, whilst the remainder headed for the Cathedral Church of Dunblane, a 24 cwt 9 (including a sharp 5th). Even with only half the group in Dunblane, we managed Surprise methods and a good ring on the minor 6. We then celebrated Fraser Murray's 13th birthday with a pub lunch in Alloa, followed by a quick ring at St John's (13 cwt 8). This was followed by a long scenic journey to Inveraray, the jewel of Loch Fyne, to catch up the other half of the group. Inveraray has arguably the finest peal of 10 bells in the north. Cast by Taylor's in the 1920's, these 41cwt 10 are housed in a purpose-built granite-clad detached bell tower.

The advance party were unfortunately not successful in their peal attempt, however they did have time to ring a quarter of Yorkshire Royal. Further ringing at Inveraray for the whole group followed in the evening, and the extensive clear views from the top of the tower, while the bells rang below across Loch Fyne, were something to really remember. The evening saw us all taking up a large part of the George Pub for a meal, beers (allegedly cloudy by Yorkshire standards!) and many a variety of single malt whiskies. At 11pm, the local pipe band en route back from winning a piping competition in Glasgow made a surprise appearance, marching up the high street and through the pub, which added to a great evening.

Sunday 15 August

Sunday morning saw those with hangovers make the bracing climb to the ruined folly, to clear their heads. The folly overlooks the castle and Inveraray, with awesome views of the local Munroes. Others headed south to do their sight-seeing at Loch Lomond.

That afternoon we had two enjoyable rings at Paisley St James, a 22cwt 8 (with a notably oscillating tower) and the majestic ringing chamber of the Episcopal Cathedral of Glasgow's 32cwt 10.

All thirty or so ringers on the outing thank Ruth Marshall for organising it and look forward to another visit to Scotland to finish off all the remaining towers.

Ed Bucknall – Otley.

Striking Contest – 15 May – Addingham

Following the great popularity of last year's Striking Competition/BBQ social event, it seemed like a good idea to have another bash at the same formula, and as the committee couldn't immediately think of another venue, the Addingham and Ilkley ringers rashly agreed to host the event once more.

I have to say that in the week running up to Saturday 15 May, things were not looking too good. There were few names for the BBQ, only a modest number of competition entries, and it was far too cold to be standing in a field eating sausages.

But, as so often happens, everything, including the weather, hotted up in the last few days: we ended up with 18 team entries, and just over 90 ringers and supporters turning up to enjoy the glorious surroundings at Addingham. And this doesn't include the steady stream of walkers who called in for cups of tea. By the way, this may explain why the salads and sweets didn't seem to go quite as far as we expected

Entertainment was provided by various styles of handbell ringing, and several people had a first crack at changes in hand, whilst others realised that trying to get the single 9# in the right place in bar 12 of Ode To Joy was possibly more difficult than putting your bell in the right place for a whole 120 of competition ringing up in the tower.

The quiz seemed to keep everyone's grey matter engaged in between the ringing, eating and drinking, although once again the Brains of Bingley seemed to have little trouble in romping home with a top score of 91 out of 108.

But of course the day was really about the striking competition, and the selection of a band to represent the branch at the Association Sunday Service competition in September. It was really great to see ten teams in this section and it turned out to be quite a closely fought contest, but in the end judges, Bob and Anita Sherriff, placed the Skipton band first, with Halifax and Ilkley in joint second place. The team from Longwood was delighted to win the 'fun' competition beating Malcolm's All Stars, and the Ringing Master's Select into second and third places.

So another great day of Branch ringing and socialising made possible, as always, by the combined efforts of lots of different people. Thanks therefore to Bob and Anita Sherriff for judging such a long competition, to Barrie Dove for organising the ringing, to the Addingham and Ilkley ringers

for saying 'yes' to a second year, to Addingham PCC for the use of their lovely hall, and to everyone in the Branch who set aside a large chunk of a Saturday afternoon to gather together and do what ringers do best.

Sue Green

York Branch

A Grand Day Out in the Dales or The Perils of the Organiser

I'll do it, how hard can it be?

We, on the committee, suddenly realised there were only four weeks to go and so far had nothing arranged for the York Branch yearly ringing outing! The Secretary was immersed in his exams, the Ringing Master was up to her eyes in work, so I offered to arrange it. I have been on many outings in my time & always enjoyed them. A minibus, a few towers, email out a notice and Bob, as they say, is your uncle! Advice came flooding in, book a bus now, leave the bus till last, get names in now, ask for names by the weekend before, go north, go south ... Hmm! So, with a little help from my friends, a cunning plan was hatched. We decided upon the Yorkshire Dales. Perfect.

A beautiful & familiar area, not too far to travel and we speak the language. Job's a good un. (that's Yorkshire for all sorted!) "Leave plenty of time between towers" the voice in my head told me ... closely followed by "Perhaps I can't organise the proverbial in a brewery ..." The day arrived, and with 45 minutes grace built in to the beginning of the schedule, we waited for the minibus to arrive. 20 minutes late due to a mix up at the garage. All was eventually sorted & we set off. I didn't worry, not until we missed the turn off on the A1 and ended up too far north! However, four back seat drivers promptly leapt to our chauffeur's aid, all offering differing directions, and, as we headed cross-country on roads not suitable for HGVs towards Grinton, I was calm again ...

We arrived at Grinton 15 minutes late, luckily we were letting ourselves in to this first tower. This was all the time Giles needed to compose one of his famous limericks.

*There was a young fellow from Reeth,
Who's driving beggared belief.
After far too much ale, he drove into the Swale
and escaped by the skin of his teeth!*

We headed off towards Aysgarth. Home turf for some, the directions came thick and fast again from the backseat team. Yes, you guessed it, we went

the wrong way! Castle Bolton dominated the hillside off to the right as we (including our own Mary *Stewart ... albeit a different spelling*) The ringing at Aysgarth was good. We tackled the method of the day "York Minor" and other methods to suit all levels, and subsequently set off towards Middleham. Success! The backseaters all agreed on the route and we arrived in plenty of time for our lunch stop at Middleham Castle. From York to "the House of York", where better? Permission granted and oil applied, we raised the bells. Despite still being quite hard-going, we launched into Yorkshire Major. Glorious! Taylors in their heyday.

A dash cross-country again brought us to Kirkby Malzeard. Heavy going bells, a very hot ringing chamber, but we rang to a fair standard. "Come on, quickly back to the bus" for our journey to Ripon where dinner at the Italian restaurant awaited. No driver! Phew it was hot. After several fruitless phone calls, Gareth our driver eventually appeared, I am sure that was ice cream round his mouth "no time for jealousy, better get going". So, who remembers Jeux Sans Frontiere? If you do then you can imagine the scene as we approached the roundabout near Ripon Cathedral, "left" "right" and "straight on" came as one loud chorus from the backseaters. Lightning reflexes & a tight squeeze between trees & we eventually parked up. Not to worry, we could run from the car park to the restaurant.

At Ripon Cathedral we were coaxed and encouraged (!) through our grand finale of the day. Mary admitted with a broad smile that this was her first time ringing on 12, Bob announced he had really enjoyed his ring here, and, together with help from our specially recruited back enders, we all did ourselves and the Cathedral bells proud. A quick cooling beer at the best real ale pub in town, all except our driver of course, & we headed home. It really didn't matter that we were almost an hour late home, or that I was very tired, possibly from not sleeping for a week due to fretting over the arrangements, everyone had enjoyed themselves and I had actually had great fun.

Three lessons learnt for next time:

1. don't worry or fret, it will all be OK on the day.
2. give the sat nav you have brought to the driver, it's no good in your handbag!!
3. allow **PLENTY** of time between towers!!

How hard can it be to organise? With such a good group of friends around you the answer is "not hard at all" but more importantly, it was all worth it, we had a grand day out!

Tina Walker

York Branch Quarters & Quiz Evening

Wishing to maintain a tradition originally started by James Sanderson during his reign as York Branch ringing master, this year's Quarters and Quiz evening was set for Saturday 23rd October.

Two Quarter Peals were rung, Yorkshire Major at St Martin Le Grande & a rather complicated arrangement of Grandsire Triples conducted by Johnny Stokoe at St Lawrence. This was followed by a Buffet & Quiz at The Black Swan, Peaseholme Green, where we were joined by friends & family. After a hearty buffet (and severe paté overdose), together with a few beers, we moved on to the highlight of the evening – The Quiz.

Having split us into teams of five, Barrie Dove & Janine Jones donned their Quizmaster caps & took us through round after round of questions, pictures and maps! Much head scratching & hilarity ensued with David & Christine's team AKA *Potter's People* winning by a mere whisker! The full results were *Potter's People* – 93, *Densa* – 83, *Odds and Sods* – 82, *Pat's People* – 76 and *50P* – 68.

The evening passed all too quickly and was enjoyed by all. Here's looking forward to next year!

Tina Walker

Tower News

Addingham and Ilkley

The Addingham and Ilkley ringers set up a stall at the Addingham village gala in July utilising the Association's Wombel. Everyone at the stall wore costumes on a theme featuring Quasimodo, the Notre Dame de Paris bellringer.

The Wombel created great interest [*as no doubt did Quasimodo – Ed*] and it was surprising how many people came up and said they had done a bit of ringing in the past. Many people had a 'go' on the Wombel, under supervision. By the end of the day eight people came along to see 'real' ringing in the tower and out of these three recruits are now starting to learn.

Two weeks later the Wombel was off to the village show at Weeton, which resulted in another batch of recruits to help with the ringing of the new six

bells to be installed next year at North Rigton. The Ilkley/Addingham ringers are already teaching the future band there.

The moral of the tale is 'make use of the Association's Wombel'. It's a great piece of equipment, really easy to use for both tutor and pupil alike, and certainly grabs the attention at village events.

Sue Green

[On the photograph of the event, who is Quasimodo!? – Ed]

The Wombel is managed by the Association's Education Committee and is looked after by Brian Sanders. To borrow it, please contact Brian on 01226 230405 or briansanders@blueyonder.co.uk

Clapham

Over 100 people attended the Service on Saturday 4 September to dedicate the ring of six bells, which had just been augmented from the original three in a new frame replacing the wooden frame made by Mallaby of Masham around 1884. The works were carried out by Hayward Mills Associates (now part of the revived John Taylor of Loughborough), with the new wheels being made by David Town of Northallerton.

The Service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Craven, the Venerable Paul Slater. After their dedication by the Archdeacon, the bells were handed to the Vicar, Rev Ian Greenhalgh, who then presented the ropes to the tower captain, David Parry. The six bells were then each rung in turn. Deborah and Penny Thorley were present, as their family had donated a bell in memory of their mother.

These fine, easy going bells are a welcome addition to those at the other churches in the Dales.

Dent

As part of the major restoration at Dent church, the Ewecross Deanery News of October says "...the new stairways and floors have been installed in the tower so the bells can be welcomed back to Dent. In October the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London will install a new frame for our six bells. The original bells were cast by Whitechapel in 1787 but have not been pealed for nearly a hundred years!

One older member of our community recalled the men climbed onto the bell frame and manhandled the bells to ring for Sunday Services, but that was back in the 1920s. When the bells were removed to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry last year the old frame and beams in the tower were so rotten, the whole thing could have collapsed at any minute, so we had to do something! All being well, the bells should be ready for full-circle ringing with ropes in the New Year."

[New ringers from the village are currently being trained at Sedbergh. Ed]

In the Southern and Western Dales, in the past few years the bells have been got going again at Slaidburn (6), restored at Settle (8) and at Long Preston (3), rehung at Giggleswick (8), augmented at Bolton by Bowland (from 4 to 6) and at Clapham (from 3 to 6) and likely to be augmented soon at Horton in Ribblesdale (from 4 to 6), being restored at Dent (6) and soon at Arncliffe (3) and improvements have been carried out at Low Bentham (6).

Huntington – A very Noughty Peal

This was an idea hatched a couple of years ago after suddenly realising the grand age of 50 was looming fast. Wouldn't it be great to be surrounded by friends also at a "special" age – make it my 50th Peal. Well best laid plans & all that, many peals were rung and lost and so it being my 50th Peal became an impossibility. Inevitably I still turned 50 years old, as did Peter Sanderson and Julie Hughes, with whom I have rung since a teenager, and so began my mission to persuade them to join me. Always open to my hair-brained ideas, Peter was happy to oblige and even conduct, but unfortunately no amount of nagging or sulking on my part could persuade Julie to come out of retirement.

With the "window" spanning just two weeks from Peter's big birthday to David Potter (who taught me to ring in 1975) leaving 60 a wonderful band of "qualified" ringers was gathered together to ring at Huntington. Plans were again upset as James had a last minute college commitment in Edinburgh and Helen cut her hand badly just a week before and was reluctant to ring. Bob Cater agreed to step in, completely unaware of the significance of his age. As luck would have it the Jasper Snowdon Lunch was held the day before our due date where, having exhausted all options I could think of past and present from York, I was able to search out my final willing replacement from further afield. At the eleventh hour (actually as we were leaving to go home ...) Judith McCoy was found and thankfully rearranged her commitments so as to be able to join us.

Sunday afternoon arrived, Mike Pollard (20) had traveled from Cheltenham, Jenny Town (60) from Northallerton, Judith McCoy (40) from Sheffield, and the remainder were resident in York, David Potter (60), Bob Cater (70), Tom Luxford (20) and of course Peter Sanderson (50) & me (50). We rang an excellent peal of Yorkshire Major which, being Tom's 30th Peal and Peter & Jenny's 100th Peal together, made it all the more special.

2 hours 38 mins later our Peal was scored & eight very Noughty but happy friends shared a bottle of bubbly and toasted "to us"!!

Tina Walker

[Do we all meet again 10 years on? -Ed]

St. Wilfrid's, York – Sponsored Quarter Peal Day

The St. Wilfrid's York ringers held a sponsored quarter peal day on Saturday May 22 in order to raise funds for refurbishing the ringing chamber and for improvements to the tower's teaching facilities. The aim was to ring 10 quarter peals, including at least one each of Doubles, Minor, Triples, Major, Caters and Royal, resulting in more than 100,000 clapper blows. Sponsors were encouraged to pledge an amount per 10,000 blows and, additionally, members of the congregation were given the opportunity to provide dedications for each of the quarter peals. The event received some welcome coverage in the local media, with an article in the York Press and Jen Backhouse being interviewed live on BBC Radio York.

The day was an unqualified success, with the 10 quarters being scored in a total of 7 hours and 5 minutes, incorporating 12,641 changes and 101,262 clapper blows; almost £3,800 was raised. 20 ringers took part with three, Judith Hartley, Stephen Hall and David Hull ringing in all 10 quarters; Judith and Stephen rang a different bell in each and thus both circled the tower during the course of the day.

The St Wilfrid's band would like to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, all those who provided sponsorship and dedications, and whose support contributed greatly to our success.

David Hull

Tadcaster

For a number of years members of the tower and a group of friends have taken part in two tower outings a year. The first in the late Spring is a day

outing and the second is a weekend away together at the end of October. This year was no exception with a day outing in early June to North Lincolnshire with ringing at Teelby, Market Rasen, Middle Rasen, Caistor and St Mary's Barton on Humber.

Our 3-day Autumn trip this year took us to North Wales, staying at the very nice Prices Arms Country hotel at Trefrew on the banks of the river Conwy. Ringing on the first day was at Buckley, Northop, Prestatyn, Rhyl and Bodelwyddan. The towers on the second day were in sparsely populated country at Porthmadog, Barmouth and Dolgellau. Although there were only three towers we enjoyed the splendid drive, made even more impressive by the Autumn tints to the trees.

On the final day, the Sunday, we rang for Service at Llandegai, where the Vicar had changed the venue for the regular service so the local congregation could hear the bells, as there is no regular band to ring for Services there. We then went on to ring at Bangor and Beaumaris, finishing up by ringing for Evensong at Llandudno.

The standard of ringing on both trips was high and on the weekend trip we managed to ring 7 of the 8 standard Surprise Major methods and also a touch of 7-spliced Surprise Major. We've had two very enjoyable tower outings, with some major achievements for members of the band.

Fewston

The back four bells are now (late November) with John Taylor & Co for restoration work. This ring of four had two trebles added last year. The original four are now being restored to match them.

Low Bentham

In November John Taylor & Co replaced all the ceiling bosses with new wide diameter versions. Since the construction of a kitchen in the base of the tower some decades ago the bells have been notoriously indistinct in the ringing chamber, with the rope rattle drowning out nearly everything else.

The new bosses have also been correctly positioned, unlike some of the previous ones where the ropes had to be drawn across to fit the bosses, with the result that over the years the ropes had worn deep grooves in them. The ropes now drop vertically. New ropes have yet to be fitted.

Nafferton

This new ring of six bells was dedicated by the Archbishop of York in the Autumn. A report will hopefully follow in the next Newsletter.

York Colleges Guild Celebrates 40 Years

Many of us thought one large scale event (the NUA weekend last November) was enough for any university society to handle in a year, given its limited time, funds and potential organisers. But towards the end of the summer term, it wasn't the looming finals which were keeping many of the 3rd year York Colleges Guild students awake but the Guild's 40th anniversary dinner on Saturday 19 June. The towers were in place, the peals were booked (and how ambitious they were!) and the largest hotel in York was awaiting our commemorative speeches and boisterous ceilidh dancing. But one worry remained, would anyone actually turn up?

Fortunately, we were not to be disappointed. From as far afield as Thurso and Germany past Guild members descended upon York for the Friday evening with ringing at Spurriergate and food in one of the ghostliest pubs in York. There was certainly lots of shrieking as members recognised old faces and settled down for a good catch-up on the last 20 years.

On Saturday morning a Peal of Plain Bob Royal was rung at St. Wilfrid's and in the afternoon one of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus at the Minster – the first of Maximus rung for Guild. Two quarters were also rung on the eights at St. Lawrence's and at Huntington. The Guild's handbell group at St Lawrence's rang a few tunes and members and their non-ringing partners had a bash at everything from the Can-Can to Jurassic Park!

The Dinner at the Royal Hotel followed in the evening accompanied by a string quartet. 100 past and present members attended. We were pleased that Barrie Dove was able to be with us. As co-founders of the Guild David Potter and Derek Jones had been asked to speak about the Guild, with Derek choosing to talk about the first 5 years and David everything since. With bets being placed on the total length of the speeches, many felt once the speakers warmed up we might be here for days. Thankfully it was not to be.

Sunday morning loomed and the less intoxicated members made their way up various towers for service ringing. For lunch everyone congregated at St John's Ousebridge now known as 'The Parish', a local nightclub-cum-Wetherspoons-wannabe. Despite the lack of ecclesiastical surroundings, the bells have remained in place with the ropes draped like a chandelier above the bar and the bells lit up in purple through glass walls.

This past year has been one full of success stories for York Colleges Guild. We rang a peal of 8-Spliced with a band of current members, we hosted a large NUA weekend, rang the Guild's first 10 and 12-bell peals and developed tune and method handbell groups. The inner weekend was excellent – a perfect way to round off the twelve months.

Helen Green

Looking Back

The Heavy Woollen District Association Cup

The Newsletter of Winter 2009/10 reported the restoration to Yorkshire of this old silver cup. The Spring 2010 edition reported a little about the Association.

We now hear from New Mill – “A photograph has been hanging in the ringing room at Christ Church, New Mill, for nearly 110 years. It shows the New Mill ringers with the Heavy Woollen District Cup which they had won in the contest on 4 August 1900. The two men on the front row are brothers Harry and Herbert Haigh. Herbert Haigh is credited with the compositions of many Treble Bob Minor methods.

We assumed for many years that the cup had been lost and so it is a great pleasure to see it in circulation again and is being used as the trophy for the recently reinstated Inter-Branch 8-bell striking contest”.

Wynford Carter

[The last Newsletter reported a HWD competition at Liversedge on Easter Monday, 26 April 1900, only three months before this one. Presumably it's for another competition held by the Association. Does anyone know please? There's a PhD out there for research on old Yorkshire ringing societies. Ed]

Joint Council of Yorkshire Ringing Societies

In the last edition there was an article about this short-lived organisation. Christopher Moxon (late of Cawthorne and now of Witney, Oxfordshire) has sent a photograph (displayed later) of ringing at one of its Festivals which took place at Beverley Minster on 23rd May 1966.

Vernon Bottomley, the YACR President 1966 to 1972, stands smartly on the right with Ruth Richardson, who he and his wife Jeanne taught to ring at Dewsbury, next to him. Ruth is now Ruth Curtis (now of Lincoln), and is the lady who returned the Heavy Woollen District cup back to Yorkshire. Jeanne retired to Leyburn a few years ago after half a lifetime farming in upper Swaledale, but very regretfully does not ring these days.

Christopher, who was the JCYRS's treasurer, writes that he has details of the Society's annual Festivals, Striking Contest rules and three Annual Reports. I hope we may have a fuller article on this organisation in future editions.

Obituaries

David Banks (1938–2010)

I think we are all wary of teaching groups of scouts or guides. Too often they get their badge and are never seen again. It's a good thing that John Kirby took a different view at Whitsun 1951. One of the churchwardens at Wakefield Cathedral presented him with four boy scouts to teach. One of them stopped ringing in 1961. Two of them continue to ring at Wakefield every Sunday. And one, David Banks, died in May, after 59 years service.

David was a gentle man. He was always cheerful and encouraging, and I never heard a cross word from him. Even in difficult times he retained his smile and would tell a story (often self-deprecating), and everyone relaxed in his company.

He exemplified the adage that there's always something more to learn. One of his last quarter peals was his first of Bristol Maximus rung for our patronal festival couple of years ago. He didn't enjoy ringing peals, but included in the 39 he did ring were the first local band peals of Stedman Cinques and Yorkshire Maximus for the association.

He learnt to ring handbells, and in recent months his handbell band was making progress ringing London Surprise Major. He also taught others to ring handbells – most notably a group of non-ringers from Sandal whom David coached until they could ring Plain hunt on 12 double handed – I wonder how many reading this could ring a coursing pair on twelve, let alone two inside bells.

In recent months a lung disease made breathing increasingly difficult, and eventually he could no longer climb the stairs at Wakefield He still rang for service at Batley when he could. He died at St Gemma's hospice in Leeds with this family around him. Rothwell Church was packed for his funeral – David had many friends from many activities – and there was plenty of ringing after the service.

His daughters Julie and Rachel learnt to ring, and both Julie's children are ringers too. I know David followed their progress with great interest. He would have been proud that all three rang in a memorial quarter peal of Little Bob Royal - grandson Chris's first inside.

The ringing exercise in general and Wakefield Cathedral in particular have lost a devoted servant.

Adrian Moreton

Wakefield Cathedral, Sunday, 11 July 2010, 1296 Little Bob Royal,
Comp. AM Moreton.

1 John Courtney, 2 Chris Heslop, 3 Adrian Moreton, 4 Kirstie Heslop, 5 Cindy Maude, 6 Julie Heslop, 7 Michael Sheeran, 8 Gill Moreton, 9 Brian Sanders (c), 10 Richard Pagdin. In fond memory of David Banks, a ringer here for 59 years, by a Wakefield Cathedral band, including Julie, his daughter, and Kristie & Chris, his grandchildren.

Heather Dobson – Bedale

Heather Dobson was tragically involved in a road accident on 17 September at the age of 66. Heather had lived in Crakehall for the past 31 years, and with her husband David learned to ring at St. Gregory's, Bedale, in the mid 1980s, becoming a member of the Yorkshire Association in 1987.

Although never advancing very far in change-ringing, Heather was a regular, reliable and conscientious member of the band. She never lost her desire to get on and, albeit slowly, was still making progress when, about five years ago, physical difficulties forced her to retire from the tower.

Heather was an extremely active member of the community in Crakehall, where she will be sorely missed. A devoted family person, she also had a great love of gardening, and indeed of all things lovely in nature. She had a great fondness for animals, above all for her dogs. Not surprisingly, there was a large congregation for her funeral at St. Gregory's, when all eight bells were rung half-muffled by a good turnout of ringers past and present. We remember her with affection and keep the members of her family in our thoughts and prayers: her husband David, son Andrew, daughter and granddaughter Jacqueline and Niamh.

Revd. Robin Brown

Bedale, Wednesday, 29 September, 1260 Plain Bob Minor

1 Geoff Allen, 2 David Atkinson, 3 Val Dobson, 4 John Passam, 5 Jan Allen, 6 Robin Brown (c). Rung in memory of Heather Dobson, for many years a ringer at St. Gregory's. Jonathan, our tower captain, unable to be present, wishes to be associated with this quarter.

John Shrigley – New Mill

John became a member of the Yorkshire Association in 1954 ringing at Marsden. After a break of a number of years, he returned to ringing in the early 1990s at New Mill and Marsden and became a regular Sunday Service ringer at both churches.

Over time his health had deteriorated and even though he was unable to continue ringing in recent years, he always maintained an interest in tower activities. He died on 25 March aged 70.

Sue Pritchard

Dates for your Diary

General Meeting	5th February 2011	Sheffield and District Branch
BRF Allocation Committee meeting	12th February	Masham
General Committee meeting	5th March	Sherburn in Elmet
The Ringing World Centenary Event	26th March	London
Harrogate Ringing Course	8th–10th April	
Royal Wedding	29th April	
Association AGM	7th May	York Branch
National 12-Bell Striking Contest Final	25th June	Leeds Parish Church

Association Attire

There's a range of personal attire available from Dinah Rhymer – sweatshirts, polo shirts, hoodies & zipped hoodies, fleeces, microfleece and rugby shirts – all in a comprehensive variety of sizes and colours. They display the Association logo, which is a bell superimposed onto a Yorkshire white rose, and to which can be added the name of your tower if you wish.

To find out more please contact Dinah on 01482 882621 or drhymer@drhymer.karoo.co.uk

Poem read out by Robert Appleby at Jasper Snowdon's Memorial Service

The Bells of Kirkby Overblow

Draw back my curtains, Mary,
An' oppen t' windey wide;
Ay, ay, I know I'm deein',
While to-morn I'll hardlins bide.
But yit afore all's ovver,
An' I lig cowl as snow,
I'll hear once more them owd church bells
O' Kirkby Overblow.

Mony a neet an' mornin'
I've heerd yon church bells peal;
An' how I've threaped an' cursed 'em
When I was strong an' weel!
Gert, skelpin', chunterin' taistrils,
All janglin' in a row!
Ay, mony a time I've cursed yon bells
O' Kirkby Overblow.

When you hear yon church bells ringin',
You can't enjoy your sin;
T' bells clutches at your heart-strings
I' t' ale-house ower your gin.
At pitch-an'-toss you're laikin',
Down theer i' t' wood below;
An' then you damn them rowpy bells
O' Kirkby Overblow.

An' when I've set off poachin'
At back-end o' the year,
Wi' ferret, bag an' snickle,
Church bells have catched my ear.
"Thou's takken t' road to Hell, lad,
Wheer t' pit-fire's bummin' slow;"
That's what yon bells kept shoutin' out
At Kirkby Overblow.

But now I'm owd an' bed-fast,
I ommost like their sound,
Ringin' so clear i' t' star-leet
Across the frozen ground.
I niver mell on parsons,
There ain't a prayer I know;
But prayer an' sarmon's i' yon bells
O' Kirkby Overblow.

Six boards o' gooid stout ellum
Is what I'll want to-morn;
Then lay me low i' t' church-yard
Aneath t' owd crooked thorn.
I'll have no funeral sarvice
When I'm browt down below,
But let 'em touzle t' bells like mad
At Kirkby Overblow.

I don't know wheer I'm boun' for,
It hardlins can be Heaven;
I've sinned more sins nor most men
'Twixt one an' seven-seven.
But this I'll tak my oath on:
Wheeriver I mun go,
I'll hark to t' echoes o' yon bells
O' Kirkby Overblow.