

## Leeds Branch 2015 Report

2015 started off in January with a Handbell morning – and, no surprise again, that the biggest draw was the homemade soup, break & cakes. Thanks once again to Penny Thorley for hosting at her home and providing a warm venue! In February it was the turn of the branch to host a YACR General meeting – and many thanks go to the Ossett ringers who hosted, including a very filling lunch. In March thanks to Daryl Watkinson for organising a practice session at Bramley – one that was very well received by the local ringers. If any other tower want such a practice at their tower, please let a member of the committee know – we're only here to further ringing in the Branch!

In April Branch members both helped out and attended the Harrogate Course. Again the Branch subsidised attendance for Branch Members – another way of encouraging ringing within the Branch. Later in April the Branch helped out at the World Heritage Weekend in Saltaire by assisting with a demonstration put on for the festival. In May thanks were due to Andrea & David Pygott for organising/conducting the branch 8-bell striking competition band who finished a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> in the YACR competition at Market Weighton.

In June it was the AGM and 6 Bell Striking Competition held at Knaresborough – and thanks very much to their ringers for hosting. Yet again the competition was won by Leeds Minster, who went on to represent the Branch at the Sheffield General Meeting in September and finished a creditable third. In July an 8-bell practice was held at Far Headingley – thanks to Alan Futers for organising. Again this was a practice based around a requirement from the local band and all those who attended benefitted. Unfortunately there wasn't a lot of participation in the Quarter Peal weekend in September and maybe only 3 quarters were rung. If any bands have aspirations for ringing quarters, and require help, please again contact a member of the committee.

As always, the highlight of the year is the Branch outing – and thanks to Daryl for organising some lovely towers & bells in Humberside in October – Hedon, Burstwick, Roos, Patrington & Hessele. Patrington was especially interesting due to its entrance to the tower – not for the nervous! Later in October a Surprise Major Practice was arranged at Burley – with ringing from Cambridge to 8-Spliced – very useful for the 'learners' – and thanks especially to the advanced ringer who supported. The year was rounded off in December with a different look Christmas event, this time a meal in a local pub, preceded with ringing at Chapel Allerton. Thanks to Western Branch for the quiz!

Thanks to all the branch committee who have supported activities during the year (including Chris Sparks for maintaining the website). Thanks to Kathy Thorley to facilitating the introduction of a simulator (with wombel, screen & projector) at Chapel Allerton. The project funding was shared between the branch, the YACR Education Committee, Chapel Allerton tower, and a very generous donation from our chair, John Burnup – thanks to all concerned – especially as this is a facility available for use by the whole branch. If anyone wishes to use, please contact a member of the committee. Well done to Leeds Minster who were the only Yorkshire band to qualify for the National 12 Bell Final in Norwich. Finally, we would urge all members to get more involved with branch activities – these are not arranged for the amusement of the committee but as a genuine attempt to try and further ringing within the branch – and if you have any ideas of how the committee can help further, please contact us.