

Branch report 2019

We have continued to hold monthly Saturday morning practices at two different towers with the first tower aimed at less experienced ringers. There is always a good turnout at the first tower - many of these ringers are 'Battle's Over'/Ringing Remembers recruits and it is good to see them growing in confidence as their ringing ability improves.

Events of note during the year were 'The Grand Day Out' in April; arranged by the YACR Education Committee and held in the Leeds Branch area. It was pleasing to see this supported by many Leeds Branch members.

In May, the Leeds Branch won the Inter-branch 8-bell striking competition, ringing Grandsire Triples at Market Weighton.

In June, as a change from the usual Sunday Service band striking competition which hasn't attracted many tower entries in recent years, we held a 'hat' competition where the members of each team were drawn from a hat. Despite many comments as to what a good idea this was, this attracted no more people than the usual striking competition, although at least there was a better spread of towers represented at the AGM which followed. It was agreed to move future AGM's to earlier in the year.

The branch hosted the September Association meeting. Our thanks to the Thorner ringers for hosting the 6-bell striking competition and the ringers at St. Giles Pontefract for hosting the tea, service and meeting. Leeds Minster represented the branch in the final of the Sunday Service band striking competition and were placed first.

The branch outing in October went to South Yorkshire and will be most memorable for our navigational problems at Beighton and the access to the ringing room at Harthill!

Also this year, we held a series of 10-bell practices at Pontefract St Giles, initially with the aim of ringing in the Hexham Abbey challenge. In the event, when the date of the competition was announced, there weren't enough people available to compete. Nevertheless it was good practice for those people who hadn't rung on higher numbers before and something that we might repeat in the future.

We have also been attempting to reduce the large surplus of money we hold in the funds by spending it in a way that benefits the branch. Several towers have now benefitted from a maintenance check on their bells, carried out by a local ringer and paid for by the branch. Other towers have also received small grants to help them pay for work in their towers.

Thank you to all those who have supported branch meetings in the past year. If we haven't seen you at a meeting, please tell us what type of events would encourage you to join us.