

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



Established 1875

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2007

Editorial

We have been very pleased with the feedback from the first edition of the Newsletter and thank everyone for their constructive criticisms, which we have taken on board, but not necessarily actioned this time! However, despite our best efforts to ensure all Branches received enough hard copies of the Newsletter for every tower in their areas, it seems some towers/ringers have not seen it! PLEASE, PLEASE, if you are a Branch Secretary or Tower Correspondent, make sure you do your bit to promote this Newsletter! For those with access to the YACR Web Site, all Newsletters can be found on the 'About the Association' page of www.yacr.org.uk.

Please send articles for the next edition to Bob by Sunday 21 October.

Bob Cater
robert@thecaters.org.uk
Anne Deebank
anne.deebank@virgin.net

President's Message

Welcome to the second YACR newsletter. I hope that you enjoyed reading the first edition. With such a large association as ours it is often difficult to find out what is happening in other areas. Please continue to support this venture by sending in articles – if you think something may be of interest to ringers in Yorkshire then please get in touch with the editors.

Deborah Thorley
Association President

FROM THE BRANCHES

Cleveland & North Yorkshire

Boroughbridge Ringing Gallery

Back in 2003 when we first started discussing the restoration and re-hang of the 6 bells at Boroughbridge, the vicar was keen for us to lower the bells and then have a ground floor ring, as at Aldborough. This seemed a reasonable idea and it meant that the bells could be lowered down into the ringing room. This was of benefit to the tower as the ring of Victorian bells was indeed really too large and heavy for the tower. Fitting the bells into the ringing room was extremely tight and certain adjustments had to be made. The re-hang has given us a much better ringing circle as well as considerably improving the handling.

Since 2004 we have been ringing from the ground floor and this has been of benefit to a couple of our ringers who found the stone spiral difficult. As a result of the ground floor ring the church lost its storage space, especially when a kitchen was built in the other open space at the back of the church. Need I say more! With the ropes pulled up on a spider and practices alternating monthly with Aldborough and service ringing on alternate weeks, we were frequently moving furniture!

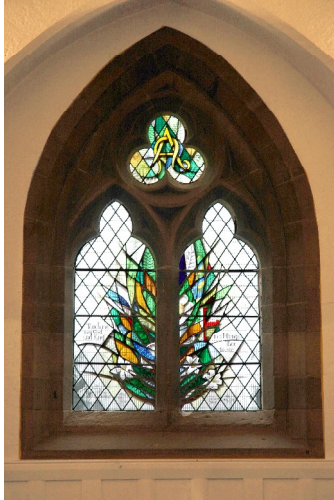
We had always hoped for a gallery as we saw this as the ideal arrangement. After what seemed an eternity plans were drawn and eventually we got the faculty and work started. It is now almost finished. Ian Johnson (Chairman of Bell Repair Fund) has been doing the work. We have a platform some eight feet off the ground with an easy staircase. Underneath the gallery the church has storage for tables and chairs etc. The storage area is fronted by a screen, which matches the kitchen. The gallery will be completed with a waist height glass panelled front which will enable the stained glass west end window to be seen from the nave. It is all looking very good and we are looking forward to ringing at Boroughbridge again. We will be hosting the branch striking competition in July.

Leeds & District

Alfred Ian Johnson 1922-2003

When Alfie Johnson died in 2003, it was suggested that we should have a fitting memorial in St Chad's, Far Headingley as Alfie had worshipped all his life there. In fact his grandparents were the 13th couple to be married at St Chad's.

We do not know who came up with the idea of a stained glass window. Elizabeth Johnson had seen the 'Ringer' window at Sherburn-in-Elmet. She approached Barry Overend, the vicar, with information on the designer and maker, Ann Sotheran from York. He contacted her, arranged a meeting with her, Elizabeth, Barry and Anne Futers.



We talked about Alfie to Ann Sotheran. When he was 70, the bellringers via Robin Brown did a 'This is Your Life' evening. Elizabeth still has the book presented to Alfie so she lent this to Ann Sotheran. From this Ann pulled various ideas together relevant to Alfie's life to put in the window. The first design clearly showed a bicycle, bell and wheel, Yorkshire rose, St Chad's cross, candlestick, runner beans and various allotment plants and Alfie's woodworking tools. This design had to go before the DAC, but they did not approve it for various reasons. So, back to the designer. She designed another window which was totally different. This new design incorporated most of the items above and a few new ones including a funeral director's top hat but these were subtly integrated into a bush of life. This design was approved, although many of the congregation preferred the first design better. Funds were raised, a donation of £2000 from the family and the rest from the parish.

The construction commenced in January 2007 and finished, installed and dedicated on Sunday 4th March 2007 by Revd Roger Robinson, an ex-curate of St. Chad's.

We had a very successful bellringing reunion the day before when it was wonderful to gather together 50 people made up of ringers and their families who, over the years, had been welcomed into the belfry by Alfie. Ringers collected together from all over the UK and from America and New Zealand.

Ringers rang during the afternoon at St Michael's and St Chad's followed by an evening of fun, food and re-acquaintance in St. Chad's Parish Centre. (Some of the old photos on view perhaps should have been censored to save blushes – Did we really look like that???) The weekend was brought to a close with a band ringing a quarter peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Triples rung in 45 minutes after the dedication Service on the Sunday.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Emily Futers* | 5. Maurice Calvert (conductor) |
| 2. Alan Futers* | 6. Charles Morrish |
| 3. Anne Futers | 7. Simon Futers |
| 4. Carol Hallam | 8. Chris Milestone |

*1st on 8.

St Chad's Bellringers, Far Headingley

Scarborough & District

Since the last Newsletter, the Scarborough Branch has continued its programme of monthly evening meetings and, as an experiment, held its Striking Competition in March rather than June. This seems to have been a success in terms of the number of bands entering (perhaps not being able to use the 'we have a wedding to ring for' excuse!) and 10 teams took part. We were not only pleased to see the Brompton/Wykeham band again but also Helmsley entering a team for the first time in several years and coming a creditable 5th in the process. It was Pickering's turn to win – which, contrary to popular belief, had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that the team's captain had also arranged the judge.... by the way, thanks, Andrew!

John Siddle and Kathy Carter have set off on their travels around Europe once more, picking up where they left off last year. We wish them 'bon voyage', but they leave a big hole on the eastern side of the Branch.

Our next major event is a training day at Pickering in June, where we will be offering the chance to learn Plain Bob from minimus to major.

All our events for 2007 are listed on the YACR web site and everyone is most welcome to join us.

*Anne Deebank
Scarborough & District Branch*

Selby & District

Selby and District Branch Quarter Peal Day

The Selby and District Branch of the YACR hold their monthly meetings on the first Saturday of each month. This clashes with Bonfire night in November; for several years the branch has resolved this problem by organising morning and afternoon meetings or training days leaving the evening free for members to attend firework displays with their families. Members of the Branch requested a quarter peal day this year, therefore November appeared to be the most suitable opportunity for this event. Each quarter contain at least one first in the method and five in the case of the Tadcaster quarter. Our appreciation goes to Kirsty and Jim for organising the event.

Tadcaster, N Yorks, 4 Nov

1282 Superlative S Major

1. Mark Webb,
 2. Angela Spaven,
 3. Susan Webb,
 4. Stuart Raggett,
 5. Neil Turner
 6. Jim Startin
 7. Philip Brook - Conductor.
 8. Thomas Raggett
- 19th Birthday compliment to Thomas Raggett.
First of TB: -1; First in Method: - 2, 4, 6 & 8.

Barmby Moor, N Yorks, 5 Nov

1260 Stedman Doubles

1. Susan Webb
 2. Kirsty Watts
 3. Martin Hardgrave
 4. Mark Murfin
 5. Philip Brook (C)
 6. Barry Malin
- First Stedman Doubles: - 2.

Pocklington, N Yorks, 5 Nov.

1260 Spliced Doubles, 3m (St Martins, St Simons and Plain Bob)

1. Philip Brook
 2. Jane Moll
 3. Susan Webb
 4. Kirsty Watts
 5. Neil Turner (Comp. & Cond.)
 6. Barry Malin
- Rung half-muffled for the All Souls evening service.
First spliced doubles inside: - 2.

Western

Conducting Training Day - 4 November 2006 with Barrie Dove

This day was intended as a follow-up for the original six pupils in Barrie's conducting group in the Western Branch Training Day last March. Three towers were arranged: St Martin's, Brighthouse for the morning, St Mark's, Longwood for the afternoon and St Matthew's, Northowram for the evening.

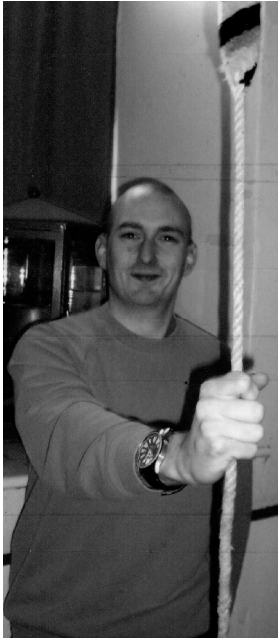
A theory lesson before the morning session concentrated on Plain Bob Minor. Barrie rehearsed us in juggling the coursing orders in our heads for bobs called at Wrong and at Home. But it was all different when we came to do it for real. We managed to ring and call the bobs in the right places ... and we 'attempted' to juggle the numbers. By the time we went off for lunch our brains were glad of the rest. After lunch Barrie explained how to manipulate the coursing orders when calling from a bell other than the tenor and also the effect on coursing order of calling singles. In the afternoon ringing session we found we could actually follow what was happening at some of the calls. Even so, our brains were mashed before teatime. A longer break allowed us to recover in time for the evening session. We were allowed to venture into Triples and Major and into other methods. Despite being less intense this session was just as valuable; it gave us the opportunity of using what we had learned in a different situation.

Our thanks go particularly to Barrie, whose expertise and experience was the foundation of the day, and Janine who patiently continued ringing one of the other bells for us in all three sessions. We were also dependent on a number of willing helpers: Ann Worsman, Andrew Fawbert and David Townend at Brighthouse, Alan and Lorraine Trebble at Longwood and Margaret Perrott, Helen Rigby and Brian Hayes at Northowram. And of course the three Churches for being allowed to make use of their bells. A big 'Thank You' to all of them.

Finally, if even the faintest thought of doing something similar has ever entered your head, go and get it organised. Ours was a superb day and yours should be, too.

*Raymond Kefford,
Longwood*

Stuart Mills



Most of us in and around the Yorkshire Association (and beyond) will be acquainted with local Western Branch character Stuart Mills. It was with great pride and pleasure that Stuart rang his first peal - at the first attempt, at Leeds St Anne's on January 23rd, covering to St Andrews Bob Triples.

Stuart was initially taught to handle a bell 10 years ago by Wynford Carter at Dewsbury Minster where many hours were spent patiently honing his talents. Credit must be given to the Dewsbury ringers in particular Gill and Denny Flynn who looked after his welfare in the early stages before Stuart became famous.

It wasn't long before Stuart was making his own way around local towers (although never one to refuse a lift) where he became well known not only for his enthusiasm for ringing but also his photography, drawings and tape recordings of various bells and favourite carillons.

Stuart's progress has been steady, covering quarters to various quarter peals of triples and recently ringing the treble to Plain Bob Major at Elland.

Probably most of us involved in local ringing will at some point have had an input into teaching Stuart something of our skills and perhaps it would be unfair to single people out. Needless to say I think all of us are the better for having met and had the company of our friend Stuart.

Alan Trebble

Young Qualified Members

Emily Shrimpton aged 10 years and 5 months, was elected a Qualified Member of the Association at a Western Branch meeting at Otley on 16 December 2006. Emily rang the treble at Settle in fine style the day before to 720 changes of Plain Bob Doubles. She had been taught by Gail Cater for some twenty months and is a member of the Settle band.

Emily had been an Associate Member before her elevation to Qualified membership, She is now perhaps the current youngest Qualified member of the YA.

Her 720 was as follows: Emily Shrimpton 1, Gail Cater (C) 2, Kate Mussett (Emily's grand-mother) 3, Allan Gould 4, Robert Cater 5, Ian Boocock 6.



L to R: Robert Cater, Ian Boocock, Gail Cater, Emily Shrimpton, Kate Mussett , Allan Gould.

How Young Have Other Qualified Members Been?

In the next edition of the Newsletter I would like to run an article featuring young ringers elected as 'full' members. Would you therefore send me details please of youngsters elected as qualified members in the past, giving their age and tower at the time of their election? They don't still have to be living in Yorkshire. (*If they're still under 18, I shall approach their parents for permission to publish*). Thanks.

Bob Cater

York

It has been a very successful start to the year for the York Branch. We had our AGM on 27th January at Huntington, when no less than SIX officers were elected to the previously vacant posts of Chairman, Ringing Master, Deputy Ringing Master, Secretary, Treasurer and Education Committee Representative. There was a lovely tea presented by Doreen Sanderson and helpers.

Since then we have been running alternate Surprise Major and Minor practices each month in the city centre, which have been generally well attended. A Plain Bob Doubles practice was also organised specifically for the ringers at Stockton-on-the-Forest.

The branch striking competition was held on 28th April and hosted by Easingwold, the branch's northern outpost. This was contested by nine teams of which Huntington won, securing a narrow victory over York Minster (this result ensures that the Wilfrid Moreton Trophy will be moving to a new tower later this year!). Another superb tea was given, organised by Sally Coomer.

We are all very excited to hear of the tremendous progress being made by the Rufforth ringers towards getting their new ring of six. The bells and frame are now made and the new ring is expected to be installed this summer!

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage all ringers in the branch to get involved in our future activities - all are welcome!

*James Sanderson
Ringing Master*

TOWERS' NEWS

A New Bell for Barlick



On 3rd May, 2007, a group from the bell-ringers of St. Mary-le-Ghyll Church, Barnoldswick, attended Taylor's bell-foundry, Loughborough, to witness the casting of bell no. 7 of their proposed up-grade to an 8 bell tower. An inscription on the bell will show the names of all the Band's ringers, in addition to a reference to 2007 being the 850th anniversary of the founding of Ghyll Church.

Alan Birney

Tamping down the molten metal in the sand encased mould for the Barnoldswick bell.

All Saints, Bingley



Bingley Ladies Make History.....!

Some months ago I approached Ann, our newest ringer, and suggested she might be ready to ring her first quarter peal. In what I believe was an attempt at delaying tactics Ann said yes provided we rang with an all lady band. Ann obviously underestimated the depth of talent amongst the lady members of the Bingley tower!



After several weeks of intense practice with the lady team we decided to set a date for this piece of ringing. Serious deliberation took place before someone suggested “Lady Day” might be the most appropriate date. This happened to be on Sunday 25th March, just short of two years since Ann first came along to try out ringing. Lady Day is of course one of the traditional “quarter” days in the historic calendar.

The ringing was going extremely well until part way through the tenth 120 when a major mistake was made and ringing had to stop. Despite not quite finishing the full quarter peal we did ring well beyond 720 changes ensuring Ann now qualifies for full membership of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, so very well done Ann. This is also believed to be the longest piece of ringing ever achieved by an all lady, all Bingley Sunday Service band, so a little piece of history was made as well. Perhaps the ladies will try again next year....?

720 Plain Bob Doubles

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ann Cossavella | 4. Jane Lynch (C) |
| 2. Penny Woode | 5. Mary Picken |
| 3. Solna Burnham | 6. Moira Garscadden |

*Jane Lynch
All Saints, Bingley*

Holy Trinity, Skipton

We have had another good year in the tower, though we would be glad to have another learner or two.

As well as ringing for Sunday services, one hour both morning and evening, we do have a social side to our activities. Bob Cater arranged a very enjoyable dinner at The Tennants Arms, Elslack and later in the year a successful outing to the Lake District, where we rang at seven towers and stopped for dinner at Whoop Hall on the way home.

Some special events have been marked by Quarter Peals. For Bob and Gail Cater's Ruby Wedding we rang Plain Bob Major, conducted by their daughter Julia. At the end of December we had another celebration, when our own ringer Richard Wheelhouse married Stephanie Haithwaite. For them we rang a QP of Plain Bob Triples on New Year's Eve. In February we rang Grandsire Triples for Alan Combs' fiftieth birthday and by chance the conductor, Maurice Calvert, was fifty the same week! Other Quarter Peals in the past year include Plain Bob Major for Remembrance Sunday, one of Superlative, one of Stedman Triples and one of 4-Spliced Surprise Major.

Our two teenage ringers have moved on to 'higher' things - Gill Enzor to read music at Durham University and Andrew Enzor to the sixth form at Chetham's School in Manchester. Both are sorely missed, though they do join us when at home and we wish them well.

During the year we bought a new set of bell ropes for which we were able to pay from our own tower fund.

*Digby Burton
Tower Captain*

Leeds University Society of Change Ringers



There is much to update on about the last year for LUSCR. Our numbers have increased with a good influx of freshers, both experienced ringers and learners, as well as ringers moving into the area. We regularly get helpers from Leeds Parish Church on practice nights, and sometimes even for Sunday service ringing. We have rung a number of quarters, including one where we rung in our pyjamas! At the end of March there was a change of committee. We are all settling into our new roles: Annelise Felton as President, Theo Wilson as Vice President, Ruth Townend as Secretary and Louise Flower as Treasurer. We are a very sociable society and our new Social Secretary, Rachel Town, has many events planned for the coming year.

Annelise Felton and Louise Flower

COMMITTEES

Bell Restoration Fund

BRF Grants Awarded this Spring

The BFR Subcommittee had projected funds of up to £23000 available when it met in February. It made the following awards:

Huntington - £350 towards cost of £2105 + VAT for refurbishment of clappers and pulleys.

Rufforth - £5000 towards cost of £38121 + VAT for replacing existing 3 bells with 6 new and second-hand bells.

Slaidburn - £150 towards cost of £974 incl. VAT for refurbishment of clappers, rebushing etc and replacement of ceiling bosses.

In addition the Subcommittee gave its support to proposed works to replace the wheels and headstocks at St Wilfrid's in Harrogate (approximately £8500) and to augment the 3 bells at Kirkby Overblow to 6 (approximately £17000). Grants are promised when further information and costs are known more fully.

Ian Johnson
Masham
Tel: 01765 689456
david.johnson05@ntlworld.com

BRF – Fund Raising Committee

Fund Raising Committee - never heard of it you say and to all intents and purposes this is one committee that has not been very active in recent times and, apart from its Chairman (Neil Donovan), currently does not have any members.

The Bell Repair Fund (BRF) exists to assist various schemes within the Association's boundaries (plus some pre-1974 boundary change towers) to award grants to these projects. Typically, these grants are around the 10% mark although the Allocation Committee decides on the merits of each project and may give slight more or less than this percentage. To date, the largest single grant allocated has been £5000.

However, would it not be wonderful if we in a position to award grants of 15 to 20% (or even more). Well, we could if there was more money in the BRF kitty. But how could we do it? Currently, income is from various sources: 25% of your subscription; collections at Meetings (some Gift Aided), Friends of the BRF (typically PCC's / Ringing Bands); profits from the sale of CC Publications at meetings, tax recovered from Gift Aid donations and some smaller areas of income. All in all, this provides around £8000 annual income barely enough to supply and hang one new bell and fittings.

If the BRF Fund Raising Committee had some additional members (the rules allow for 5) who were able to bring to the fore some serious money raising events (and by serious I mean looking to raise 4-figure sums) then the opportunity to allocate greater amounts to Bell Restoration projects could become real. Of course, this will not happen overnight and also has to be sustainable year on year.

Do you possess the skills that could see serious money being raised? Have you been involved in other organisations that have the knack of bringing in consistent high amounts of money into the kitty? Then Neil Donovan would like to hear from you – so get in touch!

Peter C Kirby
Association General Secretary

Education Committee

Handbell Day Course 4th November 2006 at Sheffield

I attended the handbell day course held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield on 4th November. The course was organised by Elaine Scott and it catered for absolute beginners to the more experienced ringer. There were 9 students, 5 of whom were children or young people, and an equal number of helpers.

We were divided into 3 separate teaching groups; I made steady progress throughout the day, from being barely able to ring Plain Hunting to ringing Plain Bob Minor. The helpers were all very patient and encouraging, and extremely enthusiastic about the joys of handbell ringing.

At lunch time we were treated to a performance by the helpers, which included plain bob maximus- very impressive. The course concluded with the young people ringing call changes on twelve. The course was hard work but above all it was good fun. It gave me an introduction to handbell ringing, which I hope to build on.

*Marian Thomas
Howden Minster East Yorkshire*



Lessons for Learners

I did not start learning to ring until I was nearly 50. Early progress was very slow, but I was determined that ringing was not going to beat me. I was very fortunate to have some experienced ringers about me, who took me under their wing and patiently coaxed me through and gave me a great deal of encouragement.

By the time I could ring a few of the basic methods I had taken early retirement and was invited along to ring with a group who met in the afternoon once a month. I was enthralled with the ringing, which was to a high standard and enjoyed going just to listen to some wonderful ringing. I was often asked to “Drum” to something called Stedman Triples, which I thought was absolutely magical. This was a method (or as I later found out was a principle) that I desperately wanted to ring. At the time I was told that it was too complicated for me, but I was not deterred. This was something I was determined I was going to ring. About this time I noticed an advertisement for the YACR annual training course at Whirlow, and so I applied to go and learn Stedman Triples. My tutor on the course was Robin Story, and what a tutor he was. For those of you who do not know Robin, I can tell you he is a remarkable man who knows his Stedman inside out. The weekend course covered both the theory and practical elements of the principle and on the last practical session of the course I rang my first touch of Stedman Triples. At the end of the course Robin set me a target to ring a quarter of Stedman Triples. Little did I know at the time that this would take me another five years?

The problem is that the opportunities do not come that often. I am very lucky to be able to ring touches of it with various bands but have only had three opportunities to ring quarters. The first two unfortunately were failures but on Wednesday 27th December 2006 I rang a quarter of Stedman Doubles and then Stedman Triples with other members of the Selby and District branch of the association. The lesson therefore is to set yourself a realistic target and keep working at it until you get it. It took me over five years to achieve this target but how sweet it was when I got there.

Many thanks then to Robin and all of the many others that have given up their time to help me along the way. It’s an achievement for them as well as me. Oh, and it doesn’t stop there, like all of us, I have many more targets that I am still working on, I know these will take years to complete but what joy when you get there. The lesson then, it might take a long time, but don’t give up, keep working on it!! Take every opportunity that you can, go on courses, read the books, and listen to those experienced ringers, but above all, enjoy it.

The definition of a learner is someone who acknowledges that they don’t know it all.

*Stuart Raggett
Tadcaster*

Grandsire Doubles Day

On Saturday, April 21st, students from Nidderdale, Harrogate and Craven met at Knaresborough to learn more about ringing this method. John Leech, who had organised the day on behalf of the Association’s Education Committee, had to drag the students and helpers away from the warm sunshine on the Parish Hall terrace overlooking the Nidd Gorge, where the day had started with refreshments, first for a short lecture and then the first practical session up the tower.

After lunch (on the terrace again) all went to join colleagues at Kirk Deighton for more ringing. A further session at Knaresborough consolidated on the day.

There were 5 students, and over the day 10 different helpers. Of course, being Grandsire, the students were often filling in on the trebles or cover, making it a hard day for them, but at the end everyone agreed that the day had been really worthwhile, with everyone (including the helpers) having learnt a lot.

*Fabian McStedman
Knaresborough*

OTHER NEWS

The Association AGM 2007

The AGM was held this year at Settle on the brilliantly sunny and warm afternoon of Saturday 5 May. Eleven towers were open for ringing – Gargrave, Thornton in Craven, Gisburn, Bolton by Bowland, Slaidburn, Low Bentham, Burton in Lonsdale, Horton in Ribblesdale, Giggleswick, Kirkby Malham and Settle itself – all of them in the old West Riding of Yorkshire. There were crowds of ringers at some of them.

About 80 people sat down to tea kindly provided by ringers from Settle, Giggleswick and Kirkby Malham. The AGM business was briskly managed by our President, Deborah Thorley, and was ‘to the point’.

We firstly stood in silence in memory of the late Ron Harrison, a past ringer at Ranmoor.

We raised our subscriptions to £8 for a ‘full’ member and £4 for those paying the reduced rate (*see separate article*), so as to prevent a further drain on our finances as had happened in the last year. Whereas the old subscription had not been raised for many years, it was pointed out that another increase will be required in two or three years simply to offset inflation.

Peter Kirby of Lightcliffe was appointed to continue as our Honorary General Secretary, John Goldthorpe of Escrick as our new Composition Secretary and Brian Sanders of Barnsley and Cawthorne as our new Ringing Master. Simon Smith and Andrew Aspland were thanked for their long services in the latter two posts.

Six nominations were taken for the five posts of Central Council Representatives, to hold office from the CC Meeting in May 2008 – Andrew Aspland, Neil Donovan, Barrie Dove, Dinah Rhymmer, Brian Sanders and Deborah Thorley (*in alphabetical order*). This means an election will take place at our next General Meeting in September.

Arnold Smith sent his best wishes from his new home in New Zealand and resigned as a current CC Representative. As Bob Cater will be attending the CC Meeting in May this year as a guest of Gail, who is an Honorary Member of the CC, he was elected to fill Arnold’s place for the remainder of his term of office. The Association will therefore be fully represented at the Cheltenham CC Meeting at the end on May.

Emma Baxter of Hull was elected to fill the new post of Association Webmaster. We look forward to seeing the fruits of her labours in due course, when she has revamped the Association’s Web Site.

After the Meeting itself, Gail Cater gave a short talk at the Yorkshire Dales Ringing Centre at Settle church. This was to a small group of ringers and was entitled ‘Setting up a Ringing Centre’. The experience of planning the Centre at Settle was used as an illustration.

Bob Cater

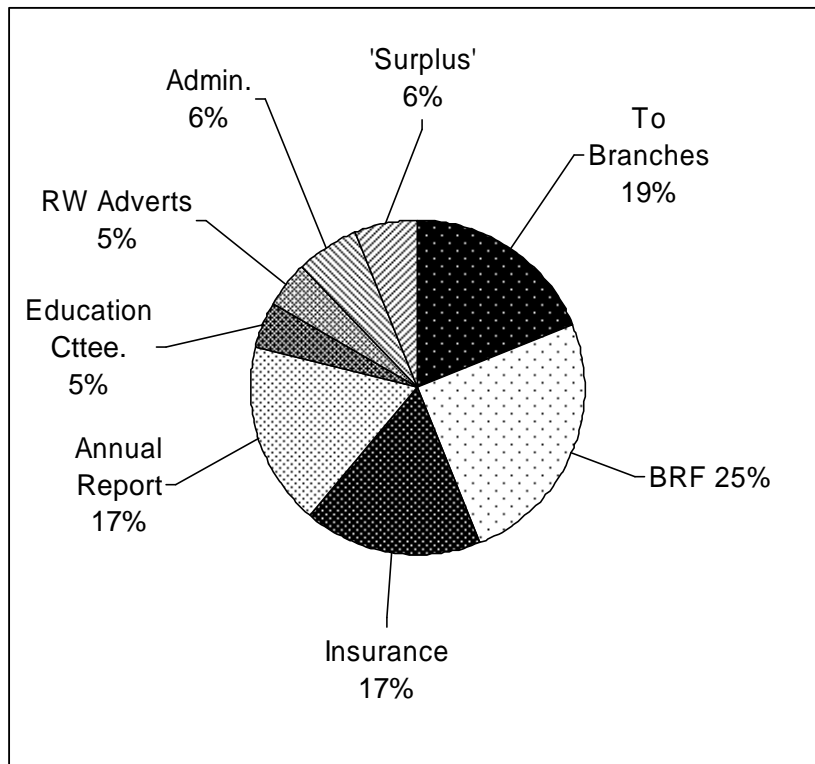
Where Our Subscription Goes

I thought it might be interesting to show in diagrammatic form where our £8 annual subscription goes. So here is a ‘pie chart’, which I hope is pretty much self-explanatory. The figures have been kindly provided by David Spaul, our Treasurer.

As you can see, the amounts going direct to the BRF, the average going to the Branches, payment for our personal copy of the annual Report and our insurance premium amount to 78% or £6.24. The ‘centre’ can hardly be said to be profligate with our subs., when it spends only 49 pence each on administration!

For those of us paying the reduced sub. of £4 (some 46% of the 437 members in the Western Branch in 2006 for example were in the ‘nil or reduced rate’ band), there’s hardly any left for other expenditure.

You will note that out of the full sub., there is a ‘surplus’ of just 49p. Based on typical inflation for those items subject to inflation, this will be all used up in a couple of years. If we don’t increase our subs. then we shall be in the same position we have been in during the last year or so of having to draw upon our reserves.



The £8 Association Subscription – How It's Used

Bob Cater

Gift Aid

A Message from our Gift Aid & Tax Recovery Officer

The Bell Repair Fund of the Yorkshire Association is a registered charity so that donations to the Fund can qualify for tax relief under 'Gift Aid'. This means that for every £1 donated to the Fund under Gift Aid, the charity is presently able to obtain a repayment from HM Revenue and Customs of 28p. Sadly, this benefit will slightly decrease from 6 April 2008 in lieu of the reduction in the basic rate of income tax from 22% to 20%.

As I am sure you are aware, the only requirement in making a Gift Aid declaration is that you are a UK taxpayer, so please bear this in mind when BRF envelopes are circulated at the next Meeting you attend. Donations under standing order could also attract relief under Gift Aid and I do have a supply of the necessary forms. My contact details are shown in the Annual Report.

To give you some idea of the figures involved, the Gift Aid repayment claims for the four years to 5 April 2006 yielded a tax repayment to the Bell Repair Fund of a little over £2000, which I have no doubt the Fund can put to good use.

Tony Stamp
0113 250 2488

YACR and Child Protection

Protecting children and young people in a bellringing environment has recently been discussed at length in the Ringing World. With this short article, I want to clarify how the YACR approach this issue.

The YACR has a policy and guidelines for Child Protection. A copy of this policy and guidelines can be found in the report. This policy and guidelines apply to all full association meetings and events, and the general committee encourage branches to follow this, or a similar policy, for their activities. A copy of the consent form for participation by young people in association events can be found in the 2005 report.

Much of the recent discussion in the Ringing World has been about the need to obtain, and the validity of, the CRB checks. The YACR recognises that these are the official checks needed to meet the requirements of the Child Protection Policy. However, we also acknowledge that having, or not having, a CRB check does not necessarily protect young people and we

stress the importance of applying common sense when dealing with young people in a ringing situation (ref. guideline 3). The YACR will accept copies of CRB checks obtained for other organisations and encourages anyone who wishes to submit a copy of a recent CRB check for our records. These should be forward to the Child Protection Officer Robert Appleby (address in report).

The YACR policy and guidelines only applies to YACR events. Normal Sunday service ringing and practices are the responsibility of individual parishes and PCCs.

*Robert Appleby
Child Protection Officer*

Bellringing Web Sites

Here's a list of current web sites for bellringing in Yorkshire - plus a few others you may be interested in. (*The 'Change Ringing Resources' site in particular leads to a multitude of other bellringing sites*).

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR) <http://www.yacr.org.uk/>

YACR: Central Branch <http://www.yacrcentral.org.uk/>

YACR: Leeds & District Branch <http://www.leedsyacr.co.uk/>

YACR: Western Branch <http://www.yacrwestern.org.uk/>

Beverley and District Ringing Society <http://www.bnd.org.uk/>

Barnsley & District Society of Change Ringers <http://barnsleyringers.co.uk/>

Doncaster & District Society of Change Ringers <http://www.doncasterringers.co.uk/>

Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR) <http://www.lacr.org.uk/>

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) <http://www.cccbr.org.uk>

Dove's Guide <http://www.cccbr.org.uk/dove/home.php>

The Ringing World <http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/>

Change Ringing Resources <http://www.ringing.info/>

If you know of any more local web sites, please let me know so that this list can be updated.

*Bob Cater
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OBITUARIES

Wilfred Moreton MBE



The following is the text of the speech made by Adrian Moreton at the YACR meeting on 2 February about his father.

Wilf didn't want any Obituaries, but I don't think this meeting should pass without some reference to his contribution to ringing in Yorkshire, and to this association in particular.

Wilf was a Yorkshireman. He was born at Flamborough, where his father was vicar, but the family moved to Herefordshire when his father was appointed a Canon of Hereford Cathedral. Wilf learnt to ring at All Saints Hereford, the church where the family worshipped. He first rang for service on Easter Day, 1937, and he rang his first peal at Eastertide in 1939. Wilf was 14 years old. He called his first peal a few months later. I've often wondered what his peal total might have been if the war and the ban had not intervened.

He returned to Yorkshire in 1952, when he took up the post of Divinity Master at Normanton Grammar School. He stayed there for his whole career, rising to be Deputy Head. He quickly joined the Cathedral band at Wakefield, and was soon appointed tower master, a job he did for nearly 30 years. He was elected General Secretary of this Association in 1964, a post he held for six years, and he took over as Report Editor in 1971. He did that job for 8 years, and was elected a Vice President in 1978. In a strange parallel, we lost two Vice Presidents that year – Billy Barton and Ted Hudson. Last year we also lost two Vice Presidents – John Gilbert and Wilf. Wilf was elected the 7th President of the

Association in 1984. He also served as a Central Council representative for the Association from 1963 until he was elected a life member of the Council in 1988.

So much for the offices he held, but what of his ringing? At various times he taught bands at Kirkthorpe, Crofton, Wragby and Woolley, as well as running the ringing at the Cathedral. He rang 652 peals for the Association, conducting 454 of them. It's difficult to know which of these to pick out, so I've chosen just three. A peal of 53 Spliced Surprise Major at Conisborough in 1955 - at the time the record number of methods to a peal of Surprise. A peal of 130 methods Minor in hand, which he conducted in 1961 - the most methods to a peal to date, and 42 Spliced Surprise Royal at Rotherham in 1965, which he also conducted. This too was the most Surprise Royal methods in a peal to date.

But sometimes the peals he was most interested in were those that others rang. Two spring to mind. The first peal on the light six at the Cathedral, rung by a local band of ladies in 1968. He taught 5 of them to handle, and taught all them their change ringing. And a peal on the recently augmented bells at Flamborough in 1994, rung by five members of his family, and one of his godsons. He taught four of that band to ring.

So although he held many offices, and rang many peals, it will be chiefly for his teaching that he will be remembered. He was a tutor at the first Grantley Hall courses in the early sixties. Later, he was a tutor at the Whirlow courses. Along with Norman Chaddock, who organised the Grantley Hall courses, he was selected to go to America in 1964 to ring at the opening of the bells at Washington National Cathedral, and to help teach the new band there. And he founded the Hereford Ringing Course - the longest running and largest ringing course there is. He was awarded the MBE for services to bell ringing in 1997. At the Hereford course the following year, the Master of the Hereford Guild introduced him: Wilf Moreton, Many Bellringers Educated.

Harry Renshaw - St. Martin's, Brighouse

Harry died on 21st December 2006 aged 82, having been ill for some time. He suffered a mini-stroke whilst ringing a couple of years ago. He missed the sally only once and then recovered but it was obvious to the rest of the band what had happened. He did not ring again.

The Brighouse Ringers had marked his 80th birthday at the end of April 2004 when, at the Annual Dinner, he was presented with a memorial bell and a framed old photograph of the Church which he had served so well for many years, not only as Ringer but also as Server. Recognition of such service was acknowledged by the receipt of Maundy Money in Wakefield Cathedral in March 2005.

Harry was taught to ring in 1943 when the wartime restriction on ringing Church bells was lifted but he did not become a member of The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers until 1954 - presumably on ringing his first peal. The old-style membership certificate, suitably framed, hangs proudly in the tower. He had also been an active member of The Halifax Archdeaconry Guild of Ringers.

Harry rang only three peals - being at Brighouse (13 March 1954), Elland (27 December 1954) and Tong (28 May 1960). In the first two he covered to Grandsire and the bands included on each occasion Frank Linfoot, Albert W Bond and John Pearson - all names to recall with affection as associates of Harry in those days. The last one at Tong (Plain Bob Doubles) is notable on two counts, viz: Harry rang "inside" (the 2nd) and it was the first peal conducted by the up-and-coming youngster, Barrie Dove! (No doubt a watchful eye was kept on him by his father!!)

Harry was always pleased to be included in the Sunday Service "Quarters", mainly ringing the treble, sometimes the tenor, but he did ring inside to Plain Bob Minor in May 1989 to mark his retirement from life-long work at Firth's Carpets, Bailiff Bridge, Brighouse.

However, the lasting remembrance the Brighouse Ringers will have of Harry is the devotion he had to Sunday Service ringing -- he was invariably the first to arrive - and the work he did as Steeplekeeper for many years. He is sorely missed.

Eric Lord



**On Sunday, 31 December 2006 at
Brighouse
1280 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1. Anne Worsman
2. Eric Lord
3. Alison Williams
4. Tina Newsome
5. Neil Murray
6. Margaret Perrott
7. David Townend
8. Andrew Fawbert (C)

In Memoriam Harry Renshaw

YACR Dates for Your Diary – 2007/08

Maintenance Day at Darton 9 June 2007

Whirlow Grange Ringing Course 13-15 July 2007

Association Meeting (C&NY Branch) 15 September 2007

11:00 Striking Competition at Wath-juxta-Ripon

11:00-12:00 Sharow 8

12:00-13:00 West Tanfield 6

13:00-13:45 Well 3

13:45-14:30 Burneston 6

14:30-15:30 Pickhill 6

15:30-16:30 Kirklington 6

16:30 Service at Kirklington

17:00 Tea and Meeting - Kirklington Village Hall

Evening Ringing at Masham 10 for 1 1/2 finishing no later than 20:30

Names for tea to Christine Parsons (01642 790655)

Snowdon Dinner (Leeds & District Branch) 20 October 2007

The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers

The

Jasper Whitfield Snowdon Memorial Dinner

Saturday 20 October 2007

The Pavilion Suite, Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate

Tickets approx £25

More details to follow!

Handbell Day 27 October 2007

Association Meeting (Leeds & District Branch) 2 February 2008

General Committee AGM (Sherburn-in-Elmet) 1 March 2008

Association AGM (Scarborough Branch) 10 May 2008