

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers *W e s t e r n B r a n c h*

Newsline – April 2018

Bea learning handling on the Wombel during the Simulator Event at Oxenhope



Our youngest learner helped by several different people had her first handling lessons during the day and was very keen to try the real thing, bell 6 at Oxenhope. But that has to wait a while Bea!!

In this issue

Chairman chats about meeting training needs - page 2

Who's Who on Committee following AGM - page 3

From the Ringing Master - All Towers, Peals and Quarters 2017; Simple touches; and an idea for regular 8 bell advanced practices -pages 4/5

Simulator Event - Training Day at Oxenhope – centre page

Kildwick, one year on - pages 8/9

Remembering our ringing friends - pages 10 and 11

Diary Dates and YACR training courses – back page

Newsline Editor : Pat Kefford – email to - newsline@yacrwestern.org.uk
Webmaster : Peter Tiley – email to – webmaster@yacrwestern.org.uk
Western Branch website – www.yacrwestern.org.uk

Chairman's Chat



Hi,

AGMs seem to come thick and fast, these days!

The snow was something of a nuisance this year, but Otley's table was spread and the team ensured everything went ahead with more attending than last year, though the home team really helped keep the numbers up.

We're always looking for ideas, and it's been suggested that next year we revert to a training day with a lunch as a relaxing interlude rather than tea....Views please!

Getting and giving help

The ever-present concern for the committee is the sheer size of the Branch, 70 miles from north to south, and the difficulty this creates in running meetings and training to which all can attend. Although we aim to include everyone, it's perhaps inevitable that some towers may feel isolated. I try to make myself known by dropping in on practices, but even that is only infrequent. So, I'd like some feedback on a proposal that natural clusters organise events which we can list on the web and a Branch calendar that can be printed off, to which all Branch members are invited.

This will require an organising person or group, either ad hoc or formal within each cluster. I wouldn't want to use the term Committee, that's too formal, and a representative can always be co-opted onto the Branch Committee.

The Branch can help with advertising events, perhaps arrange assistance, especially if it's a training event.

We'll be trying this out in the Worth Valley, I'll let you know how we get on.

On to training. Andy has sent out a letter to towers (also to be found on page 5 in this issue) asking about interest in more advanced ringing beyond Plain Bob Major. We realise that within each tower there is a wide variation of experience. Some will be learning to handle a bell and others may be able to ring Surprise Major. It's usual for the learning stages to be well covered, but the more advanced a ringer becomes, the less opportunity there is to regularly practice what has been learned, and it quickly goes onto the back burner. So please, if you want to step onto the Surprise Major ladder, reply to Andy. And here is a starter for your cluster. You may not yet be ready for Surprise Major, and there are many things to master on the way. Bob Triples, Grandsire, Stedman and Treble Bob Minor will all need conquering. Get together, arrange special practices, invite your neighbours and go for it. We'll help if we can. And the trip to the pub afterwards is always heartening!

Good ringing *Bob*

Robert Schofield, Tower Captain – Oxenhope

Chairman of Western Branch

Child and Vulnerable Adults protection

Towers are urged to keep a register of everyone who attends a practice or performance, especially where there are children or vulnerable adults present, as participants or visitors.

Western Branch Committee following the Annual General Meeting 2018



| Position | Names | Elected Date | Due re-election |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson | Bob Schofield | 2018 | 2019 |
| Secretary | VACANT | | |
| Ringing Master | Andy Sutherland | 2018 | 2019 |
| Treasurer | Sue Green | 2018 | 2019 |
| Membership Sec | Tony Stamp | 2018 | 2019 |
| | Peter Tiley | 2018 | 2019 |
| Committee Member | Phil Brown | 2018 | 2019 |
| Committee Member | Tom Morton | 2018 | 2019 |
| Committee Member | Peter Kirby | 2018 | 2019 |
| Committee Member | Jane Lynch | 2018 | 2019 |
| Committee Member | Chris Wright | 2018 | 2019 |

Appointed Posts

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| BRF Representative | Peter Kirby Deborah Thorley |
| Newsline Editor | Pat Kefford |
| YACR Education Rep | Phil Brown |
| Auditor | Robert Appleby |
| Auditor | Eric Lord |
| Website | Peter Tiley |

All officers and committee members are now to be elected annually.

Jen Darling did not stand for re-election
Chris Wright has been elected for first time

Subscriptions are due in January. A few towers/members have not yet sent their subscription money to Tony Stamp. He is looking forward to hearing from you!!!!

Membership Matters

Huddersfield St Peter Joining as Q
Halifax Minster Re-joining as Q
Longwood Joining as Q
Ilkley Re-joining as Q
Marsden Advancing to Q
Burton in Lonsdale Re-joining as Q
Clapham Joining as A
Armitage Bridge Advancing to Q

Guisseley Joining as A
Low Bentham Joining as A
Settle Re-joining as Q
Otley Joining as A
Oxenhope Joining as A
Haworth Joining as A
Kirby Malham Joining as
Gargrave Joining as A
Wiffen

Jonathan Duxberry and Huw Griffiths
Nathan Mann
Nathan Clay
Matthew Illman
David Fisher
John Keen
Tony Horsewill
Catherine Day,
Anne Slzchcic and Richard Hobson
Martin Stockdale
Debbie Garman and Andrew Chappell
Nigel Crooks
Sulaiman Hassen and Richard Bowman
Tiffany Clarke
Edward Mallen and Maxine Brown
Rev Geoffrey Spencer
Linda Hartell Eileen Pociacha Allison
and Helen Bridgman



Tony Stamp, Membership Secretary

A = Associate : Q = Qualified, (ie having successfully rung a Quarter Peal or 720)

From our Ringing Master

Now that 2017 has ended we can take a look at what has been rung at our towers. The table below shows the number of peals and quarter peals recorded on Bell Board as rung in 2017. Of the 62 towers with 4 or more bells, 45 recorded a performance in 2017. Addingham recorded the most quarters (20) and Saddleworth the most peals (8).



| Tower | Quarters | Peals |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|
| Addingham | 20 | 1 |
| Almondbury | 2 | 1 |
| Armitage Bridge | 5 | 1 |
| Barnoldswick | 0 | 6 |
| Bingley | 0 | 0 |
| Bolton by Bowland | 1 | 0 |
| Bradford | 2 | 0 |
| Bradshaw | 0 | 0 |
| Brighouse | 4 | 1 |
| Burnsall | 2 | 0 |
| Burton in Lonsdale | 1 | 1 |
| Calverley | 1 | 0 |
| Clapham | 1 | 0 |
| Dent | 1 | 0 |
| Dewsbury | 2 | 0 |
| Drighlington | 0 | 1 |
| Elland | 0 | 1 |
| Gargrave | 0 | 0 |
| Giggleswick | 1 | 0 |
| Guiseley | 3 | 0 |
| Halifax M | 4 | 6 |
| Halifax AS | 1 | 0 |
| Haworth | 1 | 0 |
| Heptonstall | 10 | 3 |
| Holmfirth | 0 | 0 |
| Horton in Ribblesdale | 1 | 0 |
| Huddersfield | 12 | 1 |
| Idle | 0 | 0 |
| Ilkley | 2 | 0 |
| Keighley | 2 | 0 |
| Kildwick | | |

| Tower | Quarters | Peals |
|--------------------|----------|-------|
| Kirkby Malham | 3 | 0 |
| Kirkheaton | 11 | 0 |
| Lightcliffe | 16 | 0 |
| Lindley | 0 | 0 |
| Liversedge | 0 | 0 |
| Longwood | 0 | 0 |
| Low Bentham | 0 | 1 |
| Marsden | 2 | 0 |
| Meltham | 0 | 0 |
| Mirfield | 1 | 2 |
| Mytholmroyd | 0 | 1 |
| New Mill | 0 | 0 |
| North Rigton | 1 | 0 |
| Northowram | 1 | 1 |
| Otley | 0 | 1 |
| Oxenhope | 7 | 1 |
| Pudsey | 0 | 1 |
| Queensbury | 0 | 0 |
| Ripponden | 0 | 0 |
| Saddleworth | 2 | 8 |
| Saltaire | 0 | 0 |
| Settle | 1 | 0 |
| Silsden | 0 | 0 |
| Skipton | 10 | 3 |
| Slaidburn | 0 | 0 |
| Sowerby | 0 | 0 |
| Thornton in Craven | 2 | 0 |
| Todmorden SM | 2 | 0 |
| Todmorden U | 0 | 2 |
| Tong | 2 | 0 |
| Walsden | 0 | 0 |

Of these, there are no recorded performances in either 2016 or 2017 at Bradshaw, Gargrave, Liversedge, New Mill, Queensbury, Ripponden, Saltaire and Walsden – perhaps a route for a quarter peal day?!

Finally, a word about Little Bob (the method, not the Branch Chairman). This is worth learning and very useful for introducing the ringing of spliced methods, and for constructing short service touches. A simple touch is a lead of Plain, a lead of Little, a lead of Plain, which runs to 32 changes. Triple it by ringing it 3 times with a bob at the end of each set of 3 leads (when the tenor is back in its home position). Call the changes of method at the treble's backstroke lead. As both methods start the same there is a bit of leeway if you get it slightly wrong. Make sure the treble is awake, as if it fails to turn round in 4ths place in the Little Bob, that will usually cause a big problem.

Good luck!

Andy Sutherland aspsrs@btinternet.com

Two Northowram Quarters

Yorkshire Association
Northowram, St Matthew

Sunday, 28 January 2018 in 45 mins

1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Margaret E Perrott
 - 2 Carole Kirby
 - 3 Paul H Wilkinson
 - 4 Rebecca Kirby (C)
 - 5 Vic Gorny
 - 6 Peter C Kirby
- First inside - 5

Rung as a 60th birthday compliment to Vic Gorny



Monday, 5 February 2018

1288 Grandsire Triples

- 1 Alison Williams
- 2 Jean Murphy
- 3 Carole Kirby
- 4 Lorraine Trebble
- 5 Margaret Perrott
- 6 Sue Wilkinson
- 7 Jane Lynch (C)
- 8 Rebecca Kirby

For the 100th anniversary of votes for women. By a band of ladies.

Extra Practices??

Dear all



I am looking at whether it will be practical to arrange a series of regular practices (probably monthly) with the aim of taking people from the stage of ringing Plain Bob Major through Little Bob and Kent to the stage of ringing the simpler Surprise Major methods (particularly Cambridge, Yorkshire and ultimately Superlative).

As a first step I am interested in finding out

- who would be interested in such a series of practices;
- who would be able and willing to help (subject to availability of course) as we would need a fair few helpers.

Please could you let me know (**by email to aspsrs@btinternet.com**) if you are interested, or are able to help. Once I have established whether there is sufficient interest in this, and sufficient willing helpers, I will look further into the practicalities of dates and availability.

Please reply by Friday 20 April.

Many thanks,

Andy Sutherland, Ringing Master WB

Listening and Striking Skills – Training Day on Simulators

Bob Schofield led this simulator course, explaining how to use Abel at home and in towers. With the helpers, trainees took to the ropes and headphones to practise and improve skills.

After lunch, kindly provided by Pat Schofield and Celia Holmes, several methods were rung open, using the listening skills learnt during the morning session



Left :
Peter
Kirby
helps
with
adjust-
ments
to suit a
pupil.



Right:
Meg
and
Gillian
watch
the
screen
as they
offer
guidance.



Left : Rob from Almondbury
concentrates on his striking,
with Rebecca keeping an eye
on his progress.

Right : Bea has a handling lesson
on Jane's Wombel



and below, left :
While having a rest from the
Wombel, Bea teaches Pat a
thing or two.





Tutor Bob Schofield



Putting it all into practice



Some of the ringers, at the end of a busy day

Many thanks to Bob Schofield for a busy and informative training session.

Kildwick celebrates –One Year In Chris Wright, Tower Captain

We met, for the first time, just a year ago on April 2nd. "We" were six complete novices, along with two old lags, one of whom had been on gardening leave for some 50 years. With some trepidation all around, we set out into new territory. With the huge support of Jane Lynch, we've become a real band. Let some of them tell the story...

Below : *David, Ed and Gill*



I've always enjoyed the sound of the bells ringing. The tower is less than a stone's throw from my front door so it was a case of be woken up by the bells or help to wake up everyone else. I'm now well and truly hooked. ...And after practice you get to go to the pub with a great bunch of new friends." (Gill Berry)

"Back in Harness! I've been retired (from ringing) for fifty years but was dug out to join the new Kildwick band. Everyone is mutually supportive, and anxious to improve. My own 'rustiness' is disappearing, and I hope that we can grow in numbers as well as expertise in our second year (and thereafter)." (David Pearson)

"There is something very special and joyful about the sound of church bells ringing and, living next to St Andrew's, I've always enjoyed hearing them. When my neighbour, Gill mentioned she was going to have a go, I jumped at the chance to join her. I soon found there was more to it than I realised and I have to admit my first year has had its ups and downs.

With perseverance and a lot of patience and coaching from our teachers Chris and Jane, I am proud of what I've achieved in this first year. Apparently, my face reveals everything I am feeling and has gone from abstract terror to mainly calm and even the odd smile.

Below : *Pete and David*

I am probably the tortoise in the band, and still have some way to go, but everyone is always supportive and encouraging ; it really is a great team spirit. The feeling of getting it right that first time; being in control of the bell, managing to ring in time, ringing a bell up on my own, or ringing a bell down in peal (well, sort of), is great.

With practice, practice and more, and the support of great teachers and a great band, I know my confidence and ability will continue to grow. In the last year I've learned a new skill and formed new friendships. ...and helped to keep the bells ringing in Kildwick." (Theresa Clark)



A year ago - almost to the day – I was out on a local stroll with my wife and grandson when we called in at the tower to see some ringing as part of a tower Open Day: Ben and I were intrigued, and after being lightly pressed by better half decided to have a taster lesson: We were hooked from the start. It seems after a year that my 13 year old grandson is a "natural" and what was a competitive contest has become somewhat one-sided.

I must say that the ringing has become quite tuneful, I am slowly catching up to the other newcomers from one year ago and certainly feel part of this new group. Ben is quite a way ahead BUT I keep telling him that it is only a matter of time before I will be ringing with the best !!! An enjoyable gentle(ish) form of exercise whilst all the time preserving a small slice of traditional English life and heritage. The company's not bad, either !!!" (Pete Seward)



Potential Star!

A tailpiece

I think that what's special about this band is the way that they have created a joyful and supportive group. Success for one is very much a success for all. The "committee meetings" in the White Lion are important too – as is the freely given (and received) comment and criticism, especially that aimed at the tower captain! We are also beginning to gather a small group of visitors from other towers who seem to enjoy our relaxed atmosphere as well, perhaps, as the opportunity for a bit more rope time than they may get in a busier, more advanced tower.

The scoreline after twelve months makes comfortable, if not spectacular reading. So far, none of the original eight has dropped out (or shown signs of doing so!) All six of the new recruits have gained their ART Level 1 award, several have their level 2 – and Ed has gone on to pass his Level 3, becoming of course a fully qualified member of the Association in the process. Two more ringers, Gill and Ben, are close to ringing their first quarter peal and that raises the giddy prospect of the first Kildwick band quarter peal for, probably, more than 20 years. We're not there yet, but there's a brightness in the East!

And, as I sat to write this, the phone rang. "I'm standing in the churchyard and looking at your poster. Do you think I could learn to ring?"

Below : Chris Wright



Bradford Cathedral's bells

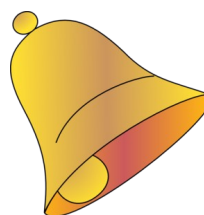
Heritage Lottery Funding contributed to the costs for Taylor's of Loughborough to remove, refurbish and reinstall Bradford Cathedral's clappers in time for Easter Sunday following a major restoration project. Importantly for 2018, the bells were installed in 1922 as memorials for those who fought and died in World War I. The project included building work on the tower and an exhibition that is planned for this summer about World War I. Ron Crabtree, tower captain, would like anyone interested in supporting ringing at the Cathedral to contact him on 01274 777720

A Very Special Quarter

To mark Jeffery Cooper's 70 years as a ringer at St Oswald's, Guiseley, with congratulations from the rest of the band.

Yorkshire Association, Guiseley, St Oswald King and Martyr
Sunday, 11 February 2018 (16–3–7 in F) **1260 Plain Bob Triples**

1 Julia Thornely. 2 Sue Green. 3 Jane Lynch, 4 Roger Waddington, 5 Maurice Calvert
6 Jeffery Cooper, 7 Andy Sutherland (C) 8 Andrew Drury

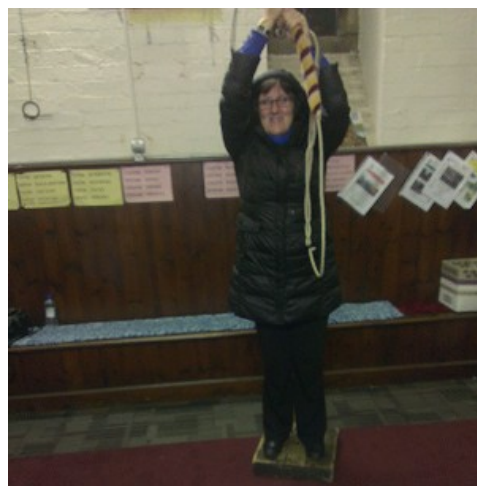


Just for fun -

"which is the coldest tower in the Western Branch".

This winter has been quite a cold one, and many practices have been cancelled. At Northowram, however, one ringer has found a solution.

Thanks Margaret (apologies for the quality of the photo)



Remembering our Ringing Friends

Alex Marsh

Died Thursday, 25th Jan, 2018



With the passing of Alex, we have lost one of our last ringers from World War 2. Born in Greenwich, London on 10th August 1927, his family moved to Woodlesford in 1938, where attended Rothwell Grammar School. Alex took up ringing in his local towers, Woodlesford (6) and Rothwell (8) taught by Tom Strangeways, once the enforced silence was lifted in 1943 and he assumed charge at the former. He became a member of YACR in 1945, and rang peals both for VE day (his first) and VJ day.

National Service followed. Alex joined the RAF and served his time in India, being in Karachi on the day of Partition and the birth of the state of Pakistan.

As a young man, he moved to Pudsey, and also became a member of the "Snowdon Scholars". Snowdon Youths, a Western Branch forerunner of the Yorkshire Tykes, touring and ringing peals around the county with other well known ringers, Gordon Benfield, Jacky Gibson and of course Jeffery Cooper. At his local tower he came under the wing of Billy Barton, the tower captain, an excellent ringer himself.

His work, with the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Company,, took him down to Cardiff for a while, but he didn't give up ringing, and scored 23 peals for the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association. It wasn't long, though before he landed back at his beloved Pudsey and continued his association there, which only ceased when he died. When ringing at Tong was revived, Alex soon found his way into the tower, rather fewer steps than Pudsey, and his last ringing was there, on 7th October last year. Pudsey wasn't forgotten, though, and although he couldn't reach the chamber, he gave Sue his full support when ringing was revived there, also.

Alex rang 160 peals for YACR, and a few for other associations, he was elected a member of the College Youths in 1970 (4 peals) and although he rang around the world (1 in Hawaii and another in Melbourne) most of his ringing was in his home county.

He was always the gentleman, he helped so many learners, me included, in our early days. His style was so easy, it seemed miraculous! Here's one ringer's recollection:

The main things I remember about Alex were his ageless appearance and his ability to ring Pudsey tenor with seemingly no effort. He must have been over 50 at the time but didn't look it. He could strike Pudsey tenor, which is not an easy bell, so accurately and he just held the rope between finger and thumb of each hand. He was a perfect gentleman, always polite and cheerful with never an unkind word.

I'll leave with just one anecdote. For some time, Alex and Vivienne had a caravan near Skipton. I didn't know this. Last weekend we held a Branch meeting in West Craven, walking between Thornton and Ghyll, with refreshments and meeting at Ghyll, and a lot of members from that part of the branch. We held a minute's silence for Alex, which I announced by saying "you probably wouldn't know Alex, but he was a long standing member from Pudsey". "Ah but we do, he was a regular out here when he stayed in his van, and used to come to our practices any time he could". He was that sort of bloke.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Bob Schofield
Thanks to Louise Connacher, Maurice Calvert, Jeffery Cooper, Sue Kelk, Robert Appleby

Remembering our Ringing Friends

Heather Walker

Heather came to Yorkshire in 1978/9 and joined the Bradshaw band with the Mann family. She rang her first peal in June 1983 at Guiseley. (5040 plain bob major). She also rang a peal at Bradshaw and one at Kirkthorpe. After she split up with her then husband she disappeared from ringing for a few years and reappeared in the Yorkshire report in 2002 at Elland. We both took up hand bell ringing in 2000 with John Bryant. In 2006 Heather became tower captain at Elland, after Arthur disappeared to North Yorkshire. In 2008 she rang 6 hand bell peals with James Holdsworth and John. After this, Heather brought her mother to live near her in Greetland and they both took up playing bridge, which I understand she was very good at. The band at Elland collapsed but I know that she continued to ring, teaching people at Ripponden. She died in September 2017, just after her 60th birthday.



2 quarters and 1 handbell peal were rung in her memory.

She was a very gentle person, a vegetarian, and loved her animals, dogs and cats. RIP.

Margaret Perrott, St Matthew, Northowram



Francis R Colley 1932 – 2017

Francis learnt to ring at Shrewsbury whilst at school there but did not ring for many years after this, until he came to Almondbury in 1980. (His wife Wendy persuaded a friend of theirs who had recently started to learn to ring to take him along.) Thus we were very lucky to welcome a ready trained ringer!

Francis was keen to take up ringing again and to learn new methods as well as being a very friendly, sociable and lively personality, well liked in the tower. He rarely missed a practice or service ringing and he was a stickler for punctuality! He became a very good friend and generous with his hospitality.

Most of his ringing (over 30 years) was done at Almondbury. He rang over fifty Quarter Peals including Cambridge, lots of Yorkshire, a couple of Rutland, Stedman, Norwich, Beverley, as well as Plain Bob and Grandsire. With Ian and Maureen Panton at Almondbury for much of this time the ringing progressed well.

Unfortunately, Francis had a few health issues in his last few years and he was eventually unable to climb the steep and well worn staircase into the Ringing Chamber and sadly had to give up ringing. However he kept in touch and was always interested to hear any news or changes in the tower.

After a fairly sudden deterioration in his health in the last couple of weeks he died peacefully in hospital on October 23rd aged 85.

A well struck Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung in memory of Francis before Evensong at Almondbury on October 29th. His wife Wendy, three children plus spouses and grandchildren, all came to listen and showed their appreciation as the ringers came out from the tower. His funeral took place on November 8th at All Hallows.

Edna Sullivan - All Hallows, Almondbury

Diary Dates

fuller information to be sent to towers in due course.

Western Branch events – planned and proposed.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 19 May | Local Quarters – Andy Sutherland will announce details |
| 14 July | Joint Event with Rochdale Branch – ringing at Marsden, Saddleworth and Oldham |
| 18 August | proposed Treasure Hunt – Andy Sutherland is the organiser. |
| 22 September | Branch ringing meeting |
| October | Proposed Branch tour tbc |
| 11 November | Muffled morning service ringing at home towers and open ringing in the afternoon – also a national event. |
| November | Quarter Peal Fortnight |
| 15 December | Carol Service |

Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers AGM and Inter-Branch Striking Competition Saturday 12th May 2018

Striking Competition

Ripon Cathedral (Pitts Tucker 8) 9-2-15 (HG3 2NG)

Refreshments from 09:30, draw at 10:10, First band 10:30



General Ringing

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 11:30 – 12:15 | West Tanfield, St Nicholas (6) 10-3-12 (HG4 5JQ) |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Masham, St Mary the Virgin (10) 13-1-21 (HG4 4EQ) |
| 13:15 – 14:00 | East Witton, St John the Evangelist (6) 6-3-23 (DL8 4SN) |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | Askrigg, St Oswald (6) 10-1-25 (DL8 3JW) |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Grinton, St Andrew (8) 10-0-7 (DL11 6HH) |

Service

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Richmond, St Mary 11-0-0 (DL10 7AR) |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|

Tea & AGM

Evening Ringing

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 19:00 – 21:00 | Richmond, St Mary (8) 11-0-0 (DL10 7AR) A Taylor's new ring of 8 installed April 2017, supported by the YACR BRF |
|---------------|---|

Names for tea to Susan Welsh **Wednesday 9th May** at the latest. **No name no tea.**

Email: sew295@gmail.co 17:00 – 19:00 Richmond Town Hall Tea followed by AGM and striking competition results

Additional date : 5 September - 6 Bell Striking Contest Final organised by Central Branch

Western Branch Committee is looking into a Branch outing date tbc

and the possibility of a 6 bell contest in June



Wanted – you! The Committee plans events, books towers, arranges food, finds helpers and supporters commit their time. Please tell any committee member what you want help with, as an individual or as part of a group It would be great to put in all that effort to meet an identified need; otherwise, it's a guessing game. Training – practice – support for quarters? It is your choice.