



OYEZ



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Chatter from the Chair



Hello everyone and welcome to this early autumn edition of *Oyez*.

Once again this issue has been edited by our regional Secretary, Irene Merson. The silence following the appeal for a new editor has been deafening, so this is another reminder that we are still looking for someone to take on the role. Thanks to Irene and also to those who have sent in contributions. It's not too soon to submit something for the next edition...

It is a sign of improving matters that plans for our regional autumn ClusteRings are in their final stages and teams which have already expressed an interest in attending either Newbiggin or Disley will have received booking forms. I am sure that everyone is anticipating meeting up and enjoying the opportunity to once again ring as a team and share in the massed ringing pieces. We also welcome those who fit the bill as Significant Others, not as part of a performing team on the day, but still valued participants.

Shortly we should be receiving copies of the autumn *Reverberations* and I'm looking forward to reading reports of the National Rally weekend held in Sheffield back in April. In your copy you should receive a booking form for the 2023 weekend at Stirling. I attended a book collectors' conference at the venue in 2017 and it proved to be an excellent choice. It's a bit of a trek from the north west but I have no doubt it will be worth it and apart from our friends in the north east region, nearer for us than most. If you are planning to attend as a team, please note that Irene would love to hear from your team correspondent.

At this point in the year, the members of the Committee are usually underway with plans for our Spring event and AGM. Although we are investigating possible venues, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a bright idea about an appropriate hall we could use, perhaps in 2023 but also in the future. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a large enough hall with facilities to make hot drinks, which also has adequate parking. We are not alone in having this problem but meeting up at least twice a year is a very, very important part of our region thriving and moving forward, particularly after the last two and a half years. I am aware that some of our teams haven't quite got back to their usual round of local concerts and performances so having an occasion where we can gather and share our love of handbell ringing must be a priority. Irene will be in touch with teams once we are a little further down the line.

On a final note after initially writing the above, we find ourselves in a period of change: from grateful thanks for a monarch who served so steadfastly and faithfully to anticipating the new era of Charles III. Some readers may have specific memories of meeting the late Queen or being at an event she attended. Very few of those I know remember a time before her accession in 1952. The tv coverage has inevitably included some wonderful tributes, memories and anecdotes as the Nation and Commonwealth mourn and it seems inappropriate to go to press without an acknowledgment of her service, dedication and faith which have been such hallmarks of her long and glorious reign.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

With best wishes

Linda Parkington

Marron Valley Ringers Concert at Ullock Village Hall.

30th June 2022.

This was a concert with a difference; we entertained the Thursday afternoon club in the Hall where we practise each Monday. There were about 15 ladies and 3 gentlemen.

We set off with Knees up Mother Brown. (Oh, if only some of us could do that now!), followed by Parade of the Tin Soldiers. Our new member, Margaret Miller, loves this piece of music, although she wasn't able to join us on that day.

Our next piece was the all time favourite, The Sound of Music, a difficult start during our practices of the first two bars, but I think we clinched it on the day. Then another musical: from Oklahoma, Oh What A Beautiful Morning.

Margaret our leader - we now have three Margarets in the team - felt it would be quite poignant to play the Ukraine National Anthem. A very moving piece.

On to a happier theme: The Happy Wanderer, followed by Come Lasses and Lads. A very popular tune for children to dance around the Maypole.

Our last three pieces were the Londonderry Air, originated in County Londonderry; Tunes from the Adverts, including O Sole Mio (the Cornetto song) and Antonin Dvorak's Largo from Symphony No 9: From the New World, used for Hovis Bread. Last but not least - Last night of the Proms and Land of Hope and Glory.

The ladies of the Afternoon club had had a home baking day, so we sat down to a lovely spread of delicious cakes etc, with a nice cup of tea. Thank you, ladies, on behalf of the Marron Valley Ringers.

Norma, Secretary of Marron Valley [*Norma is on the left in the photo below*]



REPORT FROM MARRON VALLEY/DEAN HANDBELL RINGERS JULY 2022

Our second concert of 2022 was for the residents of Holmethwaite House in Keswick where we have rung a few times before. We had quite a challenge sorting out ringers, with Norma unfortunately being taken ill on the morning of the concert but Margaret Miller, who joined us as a beginner ringer earlier in the year, and was simply coming to listen to us, stepped in to ring with not much more than an hour's notice! We juggled ringing positions so she could ring where she'd been practising and so all went well. Well, that's what I think, Margaret may have other ideas!!

The audience were very responsive to the jokes (well they didn't groan) used as in betweeners whilst bells are changed between pieces and they sang and waved enthusiastically for our finale of Rule Britannia. (Queen's Platinum Jubilee). We came away thinking we'd done our best in the challenging circumstances; I really hadn't wanted to cancel at the last minute.

We've got new polo necked T-shirts this summer, all of different colours of our own choosing and we all look well together with them. The photo is of our first concert at Ullock for the Thursday club.

Margaret Howarth, Leader [*Margaret is third from the left in the photo above*]

Note from the Acting Editor: the following article describes a concert for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and it was, of course, submitted before Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8th September 2022. It is a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's long reign.

Musical Snapshots from the Life and Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. St Mary and St Michael Church, Egremont on Friday 3rd June 2022.

The Egremont Town Band opened up our celebrations with the National Anthem and set off the first half of the programme with RULE BRITANNIA. James Thomson's 1740 poem Rule Britannia was set to music by Thomas Arne in the same year.

JERUSALEM

"And did those feet in ancient time" is a poem by William Blake printed c. 1808. Today it is best known as the hymn Jerusalem with music written by Sir Hubert Parry in 1916. The WI members first sang "Jerusalem" in 1924. The Queen started to attend WI meetings in 1943, and remained involved with the Sandringham WI.

CRIMOND

Was the band's next piece; the Queen had two honorary degrees in music, a Bachelor of Music from the University of London, and a Doctor of Music from the University of Wales. Both were awarded before she ascended the throne.

ISLE OF INNISFREE

Music from the time of Queen Elizabeth's Accession to the throne. The "ISLE OF INNISFREE" was composed by Richard Farrelly who wrote both the music and lyrics.

JUPITER THEME

I Vow to thee my Country - Queen Elizabeth II committed herself to her country and the commonwealth at her Coronation.

RAF MARCHPAST

RAF Regimental March. On 29 July 1977 it was part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, played at Royal Review of the Royal Air Force, RAF Finningley.

THE BEST OF BOND

During her Diamond Jubilee year in 2012, Queen Elizabeth played her own part for the Palace scenes of the Olympic Opening Ceremony film with Daniel Craig, the James Bond actor. Her corgis also featured. A medley: From Russia with Love, Goldfinger, You Only Live Twice and The James Bond Theme.

HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL

The Queen's Scottish retreat was Balmoral. This piece was written by two Germans - Michael Korb and Ulrich Raever in 1982 for Bagpipes.

HEART OF OAK

Then came our joint piece, Egremont Town Band and Tantony Ringers. The Band leader Paul and our leader Jane, thought it would be good to try playing a joint piece together, but the music for a full brass and 12 bell handbell team doesn't exist. Heart of Oak has been especially arranged by Jane. It went well considering a few of us were a bit nervous.

Then it was our turn to do our pieces. Tantony Ringers have had to regroup since restarting after Covid as our numbers have shrunk, with less people we have been forced to start learning a whole new repertoire for a smaller set of just 12 bells.

The first tune was Trumpet Tune - Played at the Coronation, it was originally attributed to Henry Purcell but subsequently recognised as composed by Jeremiah Clarke.

ROYAL FIREWORKS MUSICK MINUET NO 2.

Commissioned by King George II and performed on 27th April 1749 in Green Park, London.

WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

From Moulin Rouge, a popular song written in 1952 also known as "It's April Again" first appeared in the 1952 film Moulin Rouge. The only UK hit version was recorded by Mantovani and his Orchestra on 6th March 1953.

GREENSLEEVES

Was played at the Coronation. Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote Fantasia on Greensleeves in 1934, adopted for Sir John in Love and arranged by Ralph Greaves for strings and harp with optional flute(s).

THE BRITISH GRENADIERS

For the Army; the Quick March of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and several other regiments including the Royal Engineers. Having been evacuated to Windsor Castle on the morning of her 16th birthday in 1942, Princess Elizabeth undertook her first inspection of a military regiment during a parade. She had been given the role of Honorary Colonel of the Grenadier Guards.

Then Antony and the band had a break. We were given a fine rendition by Paul the band leader, who played Wedding March (Mendelssohn). It was stunning to say the least. The Queen was Patron to the Royal College of Organists.

COUNTRY AIRS (INCLUDING JOHN PEEL AND ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN).

John Peel - Quick March of Queen's Own Yeomanry, an Army Reserve light armoured reconnaissance regiment. John Peel had hunting hounds, which are not the same as corgis, but they are both types of dogs! Queen Elizabeth's interest in horses is legendary: attending races, breeding and owning horses and riding. The piece also made us think of many trees she planted to mark special occasions and the Garden Parties she hosted for ordinary people across the country.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

A tradition begun in 1932 by King George V, confirmed by the Queen's father King George VI and then Queen Elizabeth from 1952, the Royal Christmas Message broadcasts have become part of Christmas for many people. In 2011 Queen Elizabeth quoted the last verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem in her Christmas

Message:

"O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin and enter in

Be born in us today."

IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Handbells are most often associated with Christmas, so we played an arrangement of another Christmas carol quoted by the Queen in her Christmas Broadcast of 2012:

"What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give him? Give my heart".

These are reminders of the Queen's Christian commitment: her own faith and her role as the Supreme Governor of The Church of England.

AIR FROM WATER MUSIC.

Composed by Handel following a request by King George I for a concert on the Thames on 17th July 1717. There was a River Thames pageant for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on

3rd June 2012. Handel's Water Music was performed by The Academy of Ancient Music as they travelled down the Thames on a barge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Queen Elizabeth's Birthday is 21st April but she celebrated publicly on her Official Birthday, usually on 2nd Saturday in June (established by King George VI, in the hope of better weather than on his real birthday of 14th December). It is marked by Trooping the Colour and Balcony appearances. This year the Queen's Official Birthday was moved to the Bank Holiday on 2nd June 2022 (the date of her coronation in 1953).

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE. TRIO FROM MARCH NO. 4.

Written before World War I, on the naive assumption of a splendid show of military pageantry, "Pomp" has no connection with the drabness and terror, ie the "Circumstance" of actual warfare. March No. 4 is as upbeat and ceremonial as No. 1, and was completed on 7th June 1907, and dedicated by Elgar "To my friend Dr G Robertson Sinclair, Hereford". It was first performed on 24th August 1907, in the Queen's Hall, London, conducted by the composer. Elgar used the tune from the Trio to set his wife's words to music in a song called "The King's Way", in celebration of the opening of Kingsway, London in 1909. During World War II, No. 4 also acquired words: a patriotic poem by A. P. Herbert with the refrain beginning "All men must be free". At end of the Coronation, March No 4 was played.

There we ended our concert: Thank you, Jane and Paul, for all your hard work. We played jointly with the band - Hearts of Oak was a difficult piece, but we started together and finished together!!

Thank you to the Reverend Richard Lee for announcing all the programmes. Thank you also to Gordon for the Jubilee decorations, a nice finishing touch.

TANTONY RINGERS

Note from the Acting Ed: I wish it to be known that the following article was produced without my knowledge, and did not involve either blackmail or payment of any kind. I owe my thanks to Kinder, and especially Anne Hopley, for over 30 years of musical(?) merriment.

IRENE

For over 30 years Irene has been a Kinder Ringer. In all that time her contribution to the team has been invaluable. She has spent many hours transposing music into our number system, composing original pieces and arranging many others. She has been our bell maintenance expert too. (See photo). There seems to be nothing she has not been able or willing to do, always with humour.



Since joining the NW Regional Committee in 1998 she has been involved in the day-to-day running of the Region and has helped in organising many Regional and National events. Although she has now defected over the border into Yorkshire she will still be able to continue as Secretary and as she is an Honorary Life Member of the Region she will always be affiliated to us!

A few years ago she bought her own set of bells and set up our Quartet who have been able to fulfil engagements in smaller venues. Our thanks, Irene, for all you have done for us. We wish you luck in your new life and look forward to seeing your new team in action soon.

Kinder Ringers

Two Autumn Events in the North West Region:

At Newbiggin on Saturday 29th October 2022

At Disley on Saturday 12th November 2022

If you expressed an interest in either of these events, and haven't received a booking form, please let Irene know – irene@mersons.co.uk

HRGB NORTH WEST REGION

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 7th May 2022 at The Centre @ Halton, Low Road, Halton, Near Lancaster, LA2 6NB, commencing at 12.20 pm.

Present: Independent Member Linda Parkington and representatives of the following teams: Dean HR, Greystoke HR, Kinder Ringers, Maghull Parish HR, Marron Valley HR, Tantony Ringers.

The Meeting was chaired by Linda Parkington (Regional Chair), who began by welcoming everyone.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** were received from Sue Ardern (Marple URC HR), Alan Cox (Kirkby Lonsdale HR), Jane Holland (Tantony HR), Jill Roberts (Gresford HR) and Kate Worthington (Sale HR).
- 2. Draft Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd May 2021, which had been circulated to all Members, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- 3. Correspondence:** No correspondence relating to the Annual General Meeting had been received.
- 4. Chair's Report** for the past year had been circulated to all members. Linda Parkington reported that Covid had continued to have a major effect on the Region's activities, but we managed to arrange an online workshop in July, led by Beth McCord, and by the autumn things were beginning to ease, so we staged two carefully organized face to face events, at Newbiggin in October and at Reddish in November. Both were well attended and members thoroughly enjoyed this first opportunity to meet together and socialize. As well as thanking the Committee and everyone else who has worked for the benefit of the Region, Linda ended with an appeal for members to consider becoming more involved through the Committee. Her Report was accepted.
- 5. Secretary's Report** for the past year - this had also been circulated to all members. Irene Merson reported that the Committee had used Zoom for its first two meetings in 2021, but had managed to have two face to face meetings in August and October, the latter in our pre-Covid meeting place at Halton. One change the Committee brought about was to discontinue Sales in the region – the demand had been steadily diminishing over the years,

and as the online HRGB Sales was now providing an excellent service, it was decided to refer members to that. The Report was accepted.

6. Presentation of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 – the examined Accounts had been circulated to all members before the Meeting and were passed unanimously. The Treasurer, Anne Hopley, was thanked for her work in preparing them.

7. Elections: Details of the following postal nominations had been sent out with Agendas:

POST	NOMINATED	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Chair	Linda Parkington	Wendy Robinson	Coral Ann Candlin
Secretary	Irene Merson	Rachel Armstrong	Sue Ardern
Treasurer	Anne Hopley	Sandra Ball	Brenda Wise
NEC Representative & Committee Member	Beth McCord	Sheila Cooksey	Elizabeth Roche
Committee Member	Alan Cox	Julie Jenkinson	Carolyn Walmsley
Committee Member	Sheila Harris	Hilary Ann Windsor	Victoria Daley
Committee Member	Margaret Hubbard	Elizabeth Roche	Sheila Cooksey
Committee Member	Kate Worthington	Joan Ball	Julie Jenkinson

It was proposed by Chris Ellison, seconded by Sheila Harris, and agreed without opposition that the above be elected. The following **Committee Members** were also elected without opposition:

Norma Parke – Proposed Sheila Harris, Seconded Chris Ellison

Chris Ellison – Proposed Beth McCord, Seconded Linda Parkington

Representative to the National Executive Committee: Margaret Hubbard, who had served as the Region’s representative for many years, had indicated her intention to stand down, and was warmly thanked for her work on behalf of the Region. No postal nominations had been received, so it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the North West Committee, with a view to filling this important vacancy as soon as possible.

Junior Committee Member – as no nominations had been received, Beth McCord agreed to continue in the role of Junior Liaison.

Examiner of Accounts – Andrew Wise had agreed to continue as the Region’s Examiner of Accounts and this was approved unanimously.

8. Regional, National and International Events – It was noted that the North West Region was due to host the National Rally in 2026; however, this was the year in which HRGB would be hosting the International Symposium in the UK. It was agreed that the NEC should be asked to indicate whether they would want the Region to host a National Rally in the usual format, during that year.

In 2022, UK Bronze would be held in October and the International Symposium would take place in Tennessee in August.

9. Any Other Business – None.

10. Date and Venue of the 2023 AGM – it was agreed that this should be decided by the Committee and details published to members in due course.

The Meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGIONAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING FEW PARAGRAPHS –

THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

SPRING GATHERING AND AGM, 2023

We propose to hold the Spring GatherRing on **Saturday 25th March, 2023** - our first ringing event for the whole Region since before Covid. However, in spite of having started our search for a venue in May, we have been unsuccessful so far in finding one. We are continuing our search, but as Linda has mentioned in her Chat from the Chair, if you can suggest a suitable venue, please let a Committee Member know. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU WOULD BE LANDED WITH ORGANISING THE EVENT – that's down to the Committee.** So don't be backward at coming forward, if you know of a large ground floor hall with easy access, plenty of parking and facilities for those all-important refreshments!

MUSIC IN MEMORY OF DEREK JACKSON

As you know, Derek passed away in December 2020, and a tribute to him was published soon afterwards. In view of all his work for the Region, and particularly for young ringers, the Committee wanted to produce a lasting memorial, and so we commissioned a piece of music in Derek's honour. We chose "Finlandia", one of his favourite pieces of music, and asked Malcolm Wilson to create a special arrangement. This will be rung for the first time as a massed ringing piece at the Spring GatherRing in March 2023. It will be sent out beforehand to those teams and independent members who book to attend this event, and made available afterwards to other members of the Region. At future events, there will be opportunities for members to donate towards the cost of the commission.

NATIONAL RALLY AT STIRLING, 2023

Those of you who have attended National Rallies in the past will know that it includes a Concert, usually featuring teams from each region of HRGB. The Committee has been asked to put forward possible teams to represent the North West Region at Stirling, so this is a call to Team Correspondents. If your team intends to go to the National Rally and you wish to be considered to take part in the Concert, please let Irene know as soon as possible – irene@mersons.co.uk.

....AND THE 2024 NATIONAL RALLY!

Now here's a surprise! According to the usual schedule, the North West region would have been expected to organize the National Rally in 2026. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the NEC was looking for a volunteer region to host the 2024 National Rally, and your Committee – well, we don't quite know what possessed us, but we offered to take this on as an alternative to organizing a 2026 National Rally. We are now waiting for the National Executive Committee's acceptance of our offer at their meeting on 1st October 2022.

AND FINALLY

Just to let you know, due to a house move Irene's phone number and address are no longer correct – please communicate via her email address, which remains the same: irene@mersons.co.uk. Or, of course, you can contact any member of the Committee – details are on the next page.

FUTURE EDITIONS OF OYEZ

As Linda mentioned in her Chat from the Chair, we are still looking for an Editor for Oyez. If you feel that this is something you would like to take on, please don't be shy – get in touch!

For the time being, please submit articles / photos to Irene Merson – irene@mersons.co.uk.

And it would be really nice to get more articles about teams' activities – come on, there has to be more ringing going on in our region by now!

NORTH WEST REGIONAL COMMITTEE, 2022 - 2023

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