

# OYEZ



JUNE 2019

NUMBER 19

## Editor's comments

Linda Parkington is our new Chairman and in this issue she tells us all about herself and how she got involved with handbell ringing. Welcome Linda.



There's a report on the Spring Rally held at Bury. Ashton makes another appearance and an article on ringing the bells for homeless charity Crisis and Sheila Harris writes about the Windsor rally.

Our Secretary, Irene makes some important pleas, so please, please read her pleas.

Don't forget to check out our website for more pictures and news.

*David Kerry*

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Some words of introduction are probably appropriate in this first 'Oyez' following our regional AGM, as I begin the role of Chairman. Where to start?

Well, I've been ringing handbells since January 1984 when I joined Roger and Christine Lazenby's team at St Stephen's in Bury where I live. Christine brought bells to a Family History Society Christmas event and after 'having-a-go' I was totally hooked - sounds familiar? Christine was very encouraging about finding out more and so I turned up for the first practice of the new year. Little did I realize what an

excellent decision it would turn out to be, although I do remember seriously expecting a phone call to say that there were no vacancies in the team (ie forget it!). Would you have blamed them? My sight reading of musical score may have been generously described as 'somewhat limited' and as a person with only one arm, handbell ringing wouldn't have been the first activity to spring to mind. However, I did return the second week and from then on I really looked forward to practice nights. Without their kindness, and the team's tolerance and understanding, none of the following would have happened.

Three weeks later, I sat through my first North West AGM, not having a clue who was who or indeed what most of the business was about. I sat between Roger and John Partington and had an enlightening running commentary throughout. Three months later, I was at the Spring Rally in Dunblane, as in those days Scotland was part of our region. Three years later, I was elected to the North West Committee and thirty three years later, I had the privilege of being made an Honorary Life Member of our Region of HRGB, having been on the Committee throughout that time, for a few years as Treasurer and then as Secretary.

My goodness, where has that time gone? I had a time of ringing with two local teams but sadly all that remains are some wonderful memories and their HRGB

team numbers. Now I am an Independent member and at rallies usually form one of the recently re-named 'Significant Others', previously known as 'Orphans'. Just had to get that changed - sounds like a pitiful group in a novel by Dickens!

So, what about other things? I took early retirement from teaching back in 2012, the last 15 years as Deputy Head and class-teacher of the top class in a church primary school. Those were the days – when teachers actually had a life beyond school. I'm currently Vice-Chair of Governors and enjoy helping out a morning a week, when I just turn up, do as I'm asked and go home again. Wonderful!

I've always been involved in church things and would be described in Anglican terms as a 'Traditionalist' (sometimes referred to as 'up the candle' or with 'bells and smells'). It really suits me but I'm quite happy for others to like something different.

I collect story books published between around 1920 & 1960, particularly for girls; adore sacred choral music including anything performed by The Sixteen and I love card making. (Thank you to anyone who's bought my cards with a handbell or music design.) (***Editor: I have, and much admired they were.***)

I was told, when reluctant to stand for Chairman, having avoided it several times before, that I'd run out of excuses. Beth's act is very hard to follow and I have nowhere near her expertise and knowledge of all things handbell. I've told her many times that she always managed to say the right thing at the right time and we were lucky to have her. I am delighted that despite her family commitments she will continue as an active member of the NW Committee. Also, without Irene as our Secretary and the other wonderful, loyal and imaginative members of our NW Committee, I definitely would have run a mile from this role and believe me, the late John Partington is having the last laugh...

I look forward to seeing you at our Summer Event at Halton on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July and at one of our mini-rallies in the Autumn. Happy Ringing – and remember how fortunate most of you are to have a team to ring with.

*Linda Parkington*

## PLEAS (PLEASE!) FROM THE REGIONAL SECRETARY

### A couple of reminders –

**OYEZ** – The publication dates are now fixed as 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> November. If within a few days after these dates you haven't received your copy, please get in touch with me to check that I have your details correct in my group contacts.

**WEBSITE** – Now that we have Jeanette, our competent Website Manager, instead of yours truly, the website is kept up to date and contains the letters which go out to teams as well as recent issues of 'Oyez'. Again, if you find that you are missing letters, please let me know.

### And a message to teams about Regional Events –

If you usually attend events and find for some reason that you won't be able to manage one, it would be useful if you could let me or the host team know straight away. Just a quick email or phone call is very helpful, to save us wondering whether we will receive a last-minute booking.

Finally – **PLASTIC OUT, CUPS IN** – This was so popular at the Spring Rally that we decided at the AGM to make it the Region's policy for all future events.

*Irene Merson (Contact details on back page).*



## **NORTHERN BELL ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL**

This is to let you know that the **June 22nd** Northern Bell Orchestra rehearsal will be taking place in Sale rather than its usual slightly 'out of the way' venue.

Because it will be in a more easily accessible area, this is a good opportunity for all NW teams and individual members to come and listen, and ask questions, to see if they would like to join.

The address is:

Sale Moor Methodist Church

299 Northenden Road

Sale

Cheshire

M33 2PP

Ringers will be welcome any time between 11.30-1.30 for a drop in.

If you would like to go, please contact Kate Worthington – [kate@lakesideneedlecrafts.co.uk](mailto:kate@lakesideneedlecrafts.co.uk) – and let her know expected numbers.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June Northern Bell Orchestra Open Rehearsal (see above)

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July Summer Event - Music from Stage and Screen  
Halton, near Lancaster.

Bookings close on 17<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October Autumn Rally at Newbiggin, near Penrith, Cumbria  
Details to Follow

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November Autumn Rally at Maghull, Merseyside  
Details to Follow



## Spring Rally Bury 2019



Northwest Spring Rally at Bury 2019

As the Northwest Region handbell ringers gathered at Bury for the Spring Rally it looked at first as if we might have been locked out. The caretaker came just in time and a mightily relieved committee could get in. After some long journeys almost from the Scottish Borders there was great relief all round.

Beth welcomed the “orphan” ringers from North Wales who had come as individuals, known as the “significant others”.

The massed ringing of Di Tanjong Katong was a Singapore Folk song arranged with many different effects. Those ringing four- in-hand were excused from some of the thumb damps as they did not have enough thumbs for four bells! The arrangement was first heard at the International symposium in Liverpool and adopted by Bishops Bells to ring at the Sale Rally last year.

In a bid to be environmentally friendly the ringers had brought a wonderful assortment of mugs for the hot drinks which they could take away and wash at home.

There was fancy dress for the ringing of Pirates of the Caribbean and a teddy bear for Dancing Teddy Bears.

Baby Max attended his first rally at 4 months old and some of the ringing, particularly “All on a Summers Evening” helped to lull him off to sleep.

At the AGM, Beth stood down as Chairperson and she was thanked for her 7 years of service and presented with a card and gift. She is not leaving altogether however, as she will still be a committee member.

Linda Parkington was elected to take over as Chairman and we look forward to hearing her ideas for the Northwest Region of HRGB going forward.

As you can see from the following table, there was quite a variety of tunes

Massed Ringing	Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves
Marron Valley	Ragtime Ramble
Kinder	Take five
St Clements	Jesu joy of man’s desiring
Sale	All on an April evening
Tantony	Blue Danube
Massed Ringing	Dancing Teddy Bears
Bishops Bells	Cubley Brook
Dean	To God be the Glory
Marple	Carillon



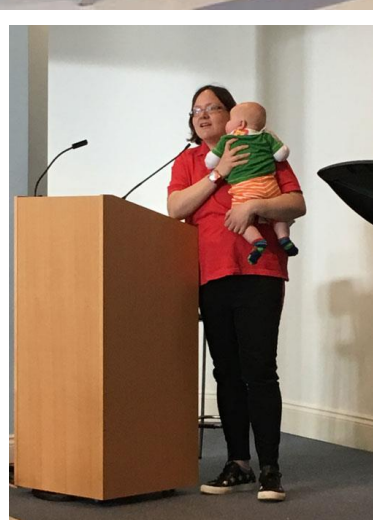
Gresford	Pirates of the Caribbean
Massed Ring	Di Tanjong Katong
Gresford	You raise me up
Marple	Nellie the Elephant
Dean	From a distance
Bishops Bells	American Patrol
	Happy Birthday Sue and Chris
Tantony	The Happy Farmer
Sale	Puttin' on the Ritz
St Clements	Puff the Magic Dragon
Kinder	Blessed assurance
Marron Valley	When the Saints

**Dean, Marron Valley and Tantony add their thoughts of the day.**

Although Dean and Marron Valley were familiar with Dancing Teddy Bear they had had it transposed, a number of years ago, by the late Margaret Benn in four-four time. This was in two-four time. It's a very catchy tune with crushed notes and challenging timing.

Norma, Hilary and Carol were organising the raffle. It was so busy that we hardly had time to eat.

After clearing up most of our ringers went home but three from Whitehaven and Egremont went on for a lovely meal at the Toby Inn. We got home at 9.30pm. Thanks go to Sue and Sheila from Dean for transporting the bells, tables and foams.





## ASHTON IN EXALTED CIRCLES

Ashton, that lovely little bear gets everywhere. Alan Cox, Kirkby Lonsdale Handbell Ringers, writes:

This is a snap I took at the Central Council meeting at Lancaster University last year.

The gentleman with Ashton is the Chairman of the Central Council, so Ashton was moving in exalted circles!



## RING THE BELLS FOR CRISIS

Tim Willetts, HRGB Chair, is keen to have this event promoted within regions. We have been asked to encourage teams to not only do something on 10th October, but especially listen to the carol, buy it if they like it, play it at Christmas and upload any recordings as suggested.

The music mentioned can be purchased from Boosey and Hawkes

<http://www.boosey.com/shop/prod/Fincham-Paul-Ring-The-Bells-SATB-Divisi/2319797>

*Tessa Bartley, Chairman of the London Philharmonic Choir writes:*

I am writing to ask whether the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain would be interested in supporting a project for homeless charity [Crisis](#) this year.

We at the London Philharmonic Choir are collaborating with Crisis on a fundraising and awareness raising project, as part of their [10-year plan to end homelessness](#). We're releasing a recording of a new Christmas carol (written by composer [Paul Fincham](#)), and donating all the proceeds from the carol to Crisis. A short video about the concert premiere of the carol can be watched on [Paul's Vimeo page](#). Paul is also donating publishing rights to Crisis which means that the charity will benefit when other choirs and ensembles buy the score, so we will be encouraging music groups around the UK to purchase the score and perform it at their own carol concerts and services.

At first look, the carol seems a bit abstract from the work that Crisis does but they're keen to use a play on words, **Ring the bells for Crisis - calling time on homelessness** as the project is focused around their 10-year plan. As a pre-launch to the Christmas activities, another phase of the project is to get organisations around the UK ringing bells at 10am on 10 October, which is World Homelessness Day. Churches, temples, synagogues, schools, offices, town criers - we'll be reaching out to all parts of the community to support this and aiming to build a social media following for the initiative.

We wondered whether the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain would be interested in supporting the project by encouraging your players to participate in ringing bells on 10 October and perhaps having a group perform the carol on bells? Any videos of participation could be uploaded to social media using the

hashtag #ringthebellsforcrisis so we can build momentum behind raising the profile of Crisis's work.

October and Christmas seem a long way away but projects like this take a lot of planning which is why we're reaching out to groups now to garner interest and ensure everyone has the lead time to include supporting the project in their activities this year. I'd be interested to hear your thoughts and happy to discuss on the phone or by email.

Tessa Bartley

Chairman

## **London Philharmonic Choir**

c/o Hinde Street Methodist Church  
19 Thayer Street  
London  
W1U 2QJ



## DEAN HANDBELLS AT WINDSOR 2019

Back in the Autumn of last year, the question was asked

“Who wants to go to the National Rally in Windsor?”.

“ You mean Windsor - down south Windsor? “

“Maybe!”

The venue looked lovely and the timetable looked interesting, especially the Friday evening activities which included a bar!

Norma, Sue, Margaret and I (from Dean Handbell team) decided to go, we would work out the logistics later! The idea would be to fly from Newcastle to Heathrow, then taxi to the Hotel.

When we first started to arrange everything, bells did not enter into the equation, we were just taking cabin luggage - simples!

The next difficult thing to do was to pick what to do, there were so many different things to have a go at. From Ring and Ring Again to Knitting. It was hard to choose. Eventually our choices were made, deposits paid, and flights booked.

Two weeks before we were due to go, we decided to take some handbells. There wouldn't be much room for bells, clothes etc. in hand luggage, in the end it was decided to put one suitcase in the hold with bells in, just 14 bells. It was suggested that to keep them safe in transit we would wrap them in our knickers, problem we didn't have enough pairs!

The day finally arrived. Everything was packed, including bells in bubble wrap. Sue, Margaret and I had all flown before, but Norma hadn't! We explained what you had to do for security and what to expect. She was nervous. I think she eventually opened her eyes after we had taken off.

We got to Heathrow and then taxi to the Beaumont Estate, Old Windsor, which is a very impressive building. At its heart, sits an 18th-century mansion, a chapel, 75 event spaces and a Georgian white house in 40 acres of parkland grounds. The original house was built for Lord Weymouth, but it was, in its

time as a public school from 1854 - 1967, that saw most of the estate's architectural developments.

After dinner on the Friday we managed to find some ad-hoc ringing, which we thoroughly enjoyed. The sessions started at 9.15 Saturday morning and we went to our different locations, Sue and Norma went to Ring, Ring and Ring Again Intermediate with Sandra Winter, I went to Solo Ringing with Aiden Fozard and Margaret went to Steel Pans & Handbells with Ursula Howes.

There were three more sessions to fill the day. We certainly deserved our meal that night.

After dinner we settled down for the concert, there was a wide range of music from Pop to classical and the ages ranged from young school children to “older” ringers. It was great to see the Kinder team from the North West at the concert.

Sunday was a more relaxed morning with four pieces of massed ringing, which all had a Royal theme. The room was quite big so the people at the back had difficulty at times in seeing the conductor. The answer was for two extra conductors Robert Willis and Helen Secker standing on chairs down the side of the room!

Overall we agreed it had been a great weekend, we were tired, mainly from walking down the long corridors to our rooms. Norma was a bit more relaxed on the flight back and we got home about 11.00pm.

Sheila Harris



**Left to right: Sue, Norma, Margaret and Sheila**



**Here's Sue in flight!**

**You can clearly see that she has taken notice of the advice given to "ensure you hydrate."**

**I didn't know that water came in bottles like that (Editor)**



## **FOR SALE**

Fully enclosed, customised, Bell Trailer, made by Carlisle Trailer Company.  
Good condition. 35" wide, 47" high, 58" long (excluding length of tow hitch).

£150 o.n.o.

For more information contact

Sheila Harris, Dean Handbell Ringers, 0775 1986794

## **SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND EDITORIAL DEADLINES**

To submit articles and photographs you can contact me, David R. Kerry at  
[blitzen@btinternet.com](mailto:blitzen@btinternet.com)

### **EDITORIAL DEADLINES**

Oyez will be issued three times a year at the beginning of February, June and November.

The absolute last dates to get items to me will be the 20<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> October. Please don't leave it to the last minute.

**"DAMP"**

**NORTH WEST REGIONAL COMMITTEE, 2019 - 2020**

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