

OYEZ



NOVEMBER 2019

NUMBER 20

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



As I'm writing this on a rather dark and dismal Monday I realise that autumn is upon us and that folk involved in anything musical are probably heading, if they haven't already started, for Christmas. Our seasons seem to have been a constant talking point. I remember being in Norfolk in February and it was more like April; then we had January in March and August appeared in May & June. As usual, the weather deteriorated once the schools broke up for the 'summer' holiday and the rain has been in biblical amounts in recent weeks. I know some handbell teams don't meet in July and August but others continue and work round ringers being away at other times. I hope that by the time you read this you are back and enjoying ringing once again.

Since the last 'Oyez', we have had a summer event at Halton when our theme was Music from Stage & Screen, with the opportunity for teams to play 'in the spotlight'. There is a splendid report on our web-site (nw.hrgb.org.uk) and hopefully somebody has written an account of a most enjoyable day for this 'Oyez' (see "My Fair Lady" – Editor). As well as team and massed ringing, we had two inspirational and informative workshops led by Beth McCord and Robert Pettener and a musical quiz devised by Anne Hopley & Irene Merson. I

also thoroughly enjoyed The Northern Bell Orchestra concert in Chester, having been made very welcome at their open rehearsal the week before.

The planning for our two autumn rallies has been underway for some weeks. Newbiggin was in the middle of October, before this edition of 'Oyez', and we still have Maghull to look forward to. Smaller autumn rallies began some years ago as a contrast to our main spring rally and AGM. In an attempt to deal with the long distances some teams have to travel, the aim was to find venues and host teams across the region. Sometimes we still describe these as 'mini rallies' and they are often, although not always, in smaller halls which tend to be rather more cosy and less daunting than a larger venue. It can mean that ringers are not quite as intimidated and nerves are not such an issue as they could be. They also tend to be rather easier to organise. Could your team help us with events in 2020?

Early in the summer I visited a church in Cheshire where I spotted a handbell team photograph on the notice board. The church warden was very keen to tell me about the team and the bells and the following day I was at a Craft Show in Leigh and one of the stall holders rang handbells. I directed them both to our regional and national web-sites – you never know what their searches may lead to. Jeanette Jenkins, our web-site expert, has also set up an HRGB NW facebook page. In the last few weeks I have seen publicity for handbell ringing as part of a weekend of community-led events, in libraries in Urmston, near Manchester and Longridge, near Preston; also for upcoming concerts which include handbell ringing. You may have views about social media but I've recently come to realize that it offers publicity opportunities not to be dismissed. Do contact Jeanette if there's anything your team would like to let the wider world know about. Use her expertise – she's willing to give it! I also noticed that St Clement's, Urmston, have a '*handbell ringing group*' section on their church web-site. Well done to them and your team too, if you've done the same. Be inspired, if you are part of somewhere that has a web-site. Our journal is also very important and editor, David Kerry, is always looking for contributions. As in any organization, its magazine is all the more enjoyable because there are interesting, funny, quirky and informative things in it. How about sending something in for the next edition in the spring?...

Whether or not the wider handbell scene is your thing isn't important. What is, is how good it is to share skills and talents with others, to enjoy making music while taking a break from those busy times in our lives and to know the rewarding feeling that by rehearsing together, a piece that seemed challenging some weeks (or even months...) before takes on a whole new aspect. The old comment "handbells sound lovely at Christmas" springs to mind but, as we all know, they also sound lovely all year round. As the coming weeks become busier and life tends to go up a notch, take a moment to appreciate the opportunities handbell ringing brings.

Linda Parkinson

AUTUMN RALLIES - WOULD YOUR TEAM HOST ONE?

Before you answer “No way!” please read on ...

The Committee organises the Spring Rally and AGM (held on the same day) and usually, an event in the summer. However, in the Autumn we have two mini-rallies, one at each end of the Region, and we rely on teams volunteering to host these events.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do we start?

You would receive a whole package of information and advice on how to run a rally, including sample letters, booking form and checklist of things to do. The first sentence of the guidelines reads “YOU ARE NOT ALONE” and we mean it! If any queries or problems arise, you will have the Committee’s contact details and you just get in touch.

Will it cost the team money?

Definitely not! Rallies usually make a small surplus, but provided you follow the guidelines in running the Rally, any shortfall is covered by the Region. Even better, the finances from both Rallies are added together and any surplus is shared equally between each host team and the Region, subject to a **minimum of £50** to your team for hosting the Rally.

How many people would we need on the day?

You will need people to run refreshments (drinks and biscuits – anything more than that is up to you), to “meet and greet”, to tell everyone what happens next and to run the raffle if you decide to have one. You can organise other activities if you want to, but this is entirely voluntary.

What about music and conductors?

Each host team chooses one piece of massed ringing music and the Committee chooses a third. Then all three pieces are used at both Rallies. If you need help with this, or in finding conductors, you contact the Committee – that’s what we’re there for!

If you have any other questions, talk to a Committee member (contact details in this edition of Oyez). We are looking for teams to host the two Autumn Rallies in October / November 2020, so please give some thought to this.

MUSICAL DIRECTORS’ SEMINAR

The first HRGB Musical Directors’ Seminar took place in 2018, and was a great success. HRGB is planning another weekend Seminar in the autumn of 2020, so look out for details in Reverberations or on the HRGB website. If you think you may be interested, but would like to know more before committing yourself, talk to Beth McCord (contact details on NW Committee page) or Robert Pettener of Maghull Parish HR – both of them attended the last Seminar and found it most useful.

PURDUE BELLS AND PERDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB CONCERT

On Friday 17th May this year Norma Parke (Dean, Marron Valley and Tantony Ringers) and her husband attended a concert, performed by the Perdue Bell Ringers and Perdue Varsity Glee Club of Indiana, USA. The concert took place at Rutherglen near Glasgow.

Norma writes:

It was with great excitement that my husband and I set off for Carlisle to catch the train to Glasgow. When we arrived, we checked in to the Grand Central Hotel before taking a taxi to Fernhill & Cathkin Parish Church in Rutherglen.

When we got there, a little bit early, I started talking to a man with an American accent. I said I was representing the North West HRGB and that I came from Cumbria. He had never heard of our county, so I told him we had the smallest church, the highest mountain and the biggest liar. He invited us to meet the bell ringers and explained to them who I was. Well, what a joy it was and what a welcome they gave us.

I was invited to have my photograph taken with them.

In the concert, they were a pleasure to hear and were so happy and smiling. After that it was the turn of the choir. The Varsity Glee club Young Male Voice Choir entered the church, running up the centre and both side aisles. Their voices were stunning. The conductor said the choir were going to sing "You are my Sunshine" especially for the ladies in the audience. All of a sudden each young man ran to a lady, went down on one knee, held the lady's hand and sang to them. Yes, I was included. I never stopped smiling.

At the end of the concert, I was given one of their posters as a "memory" of that wonderful evening.



BISHOP'S HANDBELL RINGERS 'ON TOUR'



Bishops' Handbell Ringers at the Sunday Service

Bags packed, tickets in hand, bells on board – Bishops' Handbell Ringers, with our Team Director, Mr. Derek Jackson and Mrs. Jackson, were off to Germany! We had the privilege of visiting Chester's twin town, Lörrach -situated in the valley of the Weisse in Southwest Germany. Lörrach is a beautiful little town that lies right next to the French, Swiss and German borders, surrounded on the North side by the famous Black Forest.

Arriving at the airport, we were greeted with open arms by our soon-to-be German families. We were overwhelmed by the kindness they showed us in giving us accommodation, providing us with transport around the town and serving us delicious, traditional German foods. Immersing ourselves into German culture and 'typical' family-life was an unforgettably wonderful experience that broadened my outlook of the world and will hopefully stay with me for the rest of my life.

We were honoured to play the bells during the local Sunday church service. Since very few of the team could speak more than a few words of German, however, the service itself was quite a challenge to follow at times. Fortunately the minster had arranged the service partly in German and partly in English - with Mrs. Jackson doing an English reading and I read some prayers in English. The congregation were incredibly accommodating of our ignorance, and the round of applause we received at the end of the service was incredibly humbling.

Following the service, we packed up our bells and walked a couple hundred metres down the road to the neighbouring Catholic church which would be the venue for our concert with the local youth orchestra later on that evening. The support we received during the concert was phenomenal. The Church was packed – it appeared all of Lörrach's residents and local dignitaries had come out to

watch our amazing 'Handglocken' team perform. As Germany has very few Handbell teams, if any at all, most people had never had the pleasure of listening to the joys of Handbells before. We played a wide range of pieces, from the fast-paced 'Cubley Brook' to my personal favourite 'Di Tanjong Katong' – a Singaporean folk song. However, the highlight of the evening was our final piece - 'Let there be Peace on Earth' which we played with Lörrach's youth orchestra. There was something very enlightening about playing such a beautiful piece alongside our young German counterparts; it was truly heart-warming to find unity in music during what often feels like a time of frequent division. The experiences we had and the friendships we formed were genuinely incredible, and I look forward to a day, hopefully in the near future, when I can go back to this emotional, but also wonderful corner of the world again.

Alongside the pleasure of playing in the concert, we had great fun exploring the local attractions with a trip to the 'Hasenhorn Rodelbahn' - - the longest mountain roller coaster in Europe, situated in the enchanting Black Forest. We also spent a day in the neighbouring Swiss city of Basle.

Overall, we had a fantastic time in Lörrach, which meant saying goodbye on the last day was incredibly difficult. I can't express in words how thankful I am to the host families for accommodating us and showing us all such a wonderful time.

Conor Walsh – Team Captain
Bishops' Handbell Ringers



Bishops' Handbell Ringers in Lörrach Museum

MARPLE URC BELLS FOR PEACE

On Sat 21st Sept 2019 a few members from Marple URC Handbells and the Strictly Come Craft group (all ages) from the church rang Bells for Peace. We were joining together with "Ringing bells across Europe for the International Day of Peace - September 21, 2019".

We are lucky to have one of the inscribed set from the Manchester International Festival Peace Ringing in July too, and we all put our thoughts towards World Peace. It was not especially tuneful ringing but it gave us all an insight into the meaning of peace!

MARPLE URC HANDBELLS OPEN EVENING

We were unable to gather for a 'Fun Palace' on the 5th or 6th Oct, but Marple URC Handbells held an Open Evening on October 8th from 7.30 - 9 pm.

Although attended by no general public or church people outside of the bells group, it was a resounding success - because those present enjoyed playing the bells!

Gusto - our town crier, 'joined in' with our 'M.I.F. Peace Bell' – can you see him?



Although we hoped to have sparked interest, particularly for younger people, to engage with live music in a fun way, we realised the minimum of advertising was not likely to attract many - on a dark Tuesday evening in October (which unfortunately clashed with other local activities). However, those present practised some tunes, had suitable warmth (some with their white gloves!), sat on comfy seats, and enjoyed cake.

Perhaps we will do things differently - to bring in the public - next year?"

Sue Ardern (team leader, Marple URC Handbells)

MY FAIR LADY

For the last Halton rally, Marron Valley decided we would have a go at ringing something from one of the popular shows and so we set out learning a new medley from My Fair Lady, piece by piece. We eventually practised all the linking bits and so on the day we rang the whole thing. If we'd stopped and started between each piece we would have made life easier for ourselves!

We ladies had fun finding appropriate dresses and Gordon found a very smart suit for his portrayal of Mr Higgins.

Some of our ringers also belong to Tantony (and Dean who sadly couldn't be there on the day,) so they had a very busy time !

We enjoyed the day as it's always good to hear new music for bells and meet new teams.

Learning and revising bell techniques with Beth was very helpful.

Thank you everyone who planned and executed the day.

Margaret Howarth

Leader of the Marron valley/ (Dean) Handbell Ringers from West Cumbria

NEWBIGGIN AUTUMN RALLY

On the 12th October the North-West handbell ringers met (again) at Newbiggin Village Hall in Cumbria for their autumn rally. The last time at this location we were celebrating Christmas in the summer! This time the event was hosted by a fairly new team, Appleby, (led by Chris Ellison).

Alan Cox led the first massed ringing, ably conducting everyone through "Pie Jesu".

Individual team ringing followed with Appleby entertaining us with "I saw Three Ships" followed by "We Plough the Fields and Scatter". Dean gave us "Messing About on the River" and "Echoes of the Music Hall". Kinder Quartet played "Trumpet Voluntary" and "How Great Thou Art" the tune of which, we were informed, is a traditional Swedish folk song. Kirkby Lonsdale played "Sleigh Ride" and "Can Can". Marron Valley gave us "Roses from the South" and "The Bells of St. Mary's".

Sue Hunter was very brave and did her first bit of conducting steering the teams through "She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain". Sheila Harris took on the task of providing a very realistically sounding the train whistle.

After lunch Maureen Hardy conducted the mass ringing of "The Blue Danube" which was followed by the second session of individual team ringing. This time we had "Oranges and

Lemons” and “Grandfather’s Clock” from Appleby Handbell Ringers. Marron Valley played “In a Monastery Garden” and “Lara’s Theme”, Kirkby Lonsdale “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”, Kinder played Scottish themes “Westering Home”, “Loch Lomond”, “Mhari’s Wedding”, and “Skye Boat Song” and Dean gave us “Waterwheel” and “We Plough the Fields and Scatter” – this last number was a “singalong”.

Massed ringing followed with Irene Merson conducting “American Patrol”



Marron Valley and Appleby teams



Kinder Quartet and Kirkby Lonsdale teams



Dean Handbell Ringers



*Sheila Harris played a wooden whistle and Sue Hunter conducted
"She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain"*

RICHARD MANTON

Many of you will remember that, some years ago, we held three "Fun Workshop" days led by Tegwen and Richard Manton, from the East Midlands region. Two were in Rawtenstall and one was hosted by Bishop's Handbell Ringers.

We are sorry to tell you that, after a long illness, Richard passed away on the 1st August. He and Tegwen had their own unique style, and brought a great deal of fun, as well as expertise, to our region on their visits. He will be sadly missed both in Lincolnshire and in the wider handbell ringing community.

NORMA'S BIRTHDAY BELL

In the last edition we ran an article about a trip to Old Windsor. Whist there, Norma Parke bought this beautiful bell to celebrate a very special birthday, this summer. You're never 70 Norma!! It must be the ringing that keeps you looking so young! (*Editor*)



ALAN COX'S HOLIDAY SNAP



Alan reckons this is too big even for his wrists!!

And a reminder 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 Irene Merson 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.

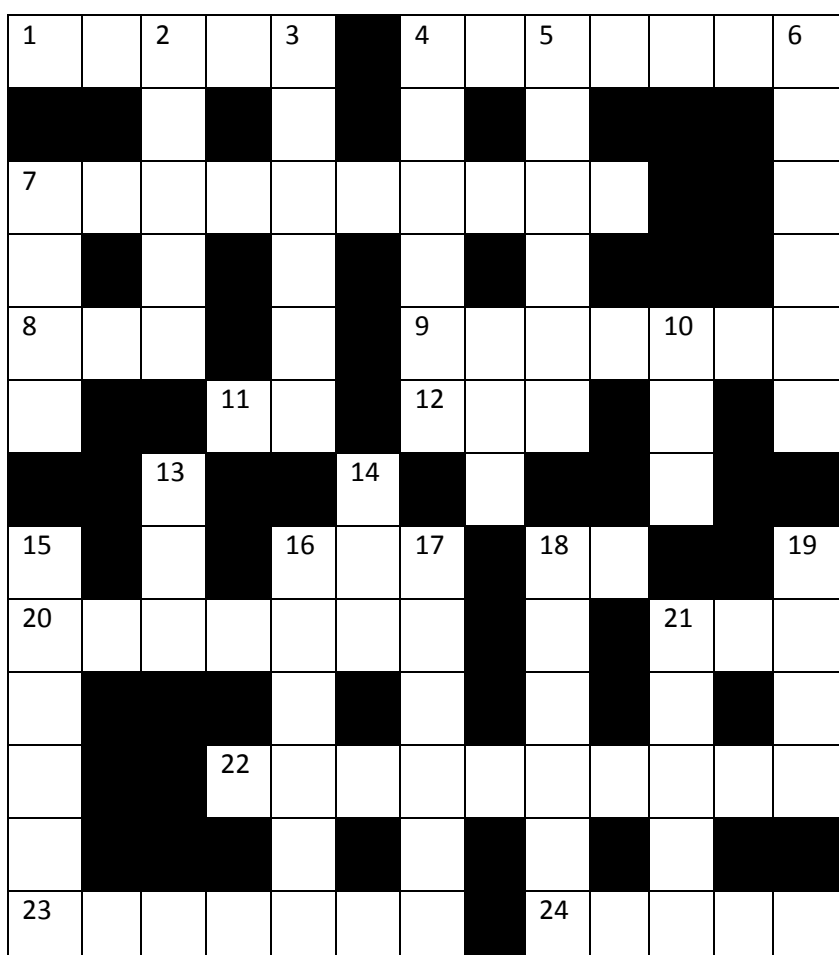
Quick crossword

Across

1. Bell ringing get-together that's really motoring (4)
4. Accepting what happens without response or resistance (7)
7. Enigma types (10)
8. De Janiero (3)
9. Brought into existence (7)
11. Near to (2)
12. Consume (3)
16. Oceans of water – but a bit smaller (3)
18. In tonic sol-fa the third note of a major scale (2)
20. Old cartoon character with a flat cap, drinks beer and used to smoke (7)
21. An Egyptian cobra (3)
22. Short lines added for notes above or below the range of a stave (5 and 6 letters)
23. Existing in name only (7)
24. Stories (5)

Down

2. In a slow tempo and dignified in style (5)
3. Annually (6)
4. Male relative of a monarch (6)
5. A poem of fourteen lines (6)
6. Fixes firmly and deeply in the surrounding mass (6)
7. A word used to describe an action (4)
13. A bundle of soft material (3)
14. An open area of grassy or arable land (3)
15. A large body of people (6)
16. An upright partition (6)
17. Be attractive or interesting (6)
18. A bell ringer's small hammer (6)
19. Copies, mimics (4)
21. Declare invalid (5)



Answers in the next edition

SUBMITTING ARTICLES AND EDITORIAL DEADLINES

To submit articles and photographs you can contact me, David R. Kerry at
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 20th January, 20th May and 20th October.

Please don't leave it to the last minute.

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