

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain

East Midlands Region

Newsletter

SUMMER

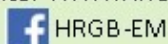


HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN



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"Summer is a cunem in"

The oldest known rota or round, also known as 'The cuckoo song', is a herald of Summer. With it comes the hope of more halcyon days for our region.

We welcome Samuel Davies as our new Secretary and thank Jane Heald for her service as secretary to the region over a great number of years.

Full details of the Regional Officers and Committee elected at the 2022 AGM are shown on the previous page.

Brian Buttery

I hate it when people try to act all intelligent and talk about mozart when they have never even seen one of his paintings .

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Acknowledgement !

My thanks to those members who have contributed to this edition of the Regional Newsletter. Ed

Message from the Chair



Mike Johnson



Well, here we are again. I'm writing this at the beginning of June and unfortunately there are no East Midlands events in our calendar to look forward to at the moment. We would really like to organise a rally in the summer or early Autumn, but time moves on and it seems unlikely that we will be notified of a suitable venue in time for this year. We still have our "Get Back to Ringing" event to re-arrange – our earlier attempt back in March had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. We currently have no date for that event.



Our Region AGM was held in April and the main piece of information that I can give you from that is that the Region still exists! If you aren't aware, we did receive a proposal to close the region, re-arrange the borders of adjacent regions and for existing East Midlands teams to be placed in the relevant expanded region. The proposal was voted down though so the East Midlands Region carries on. Hopefully that decision will turn out to be the right one, but it all depends on you – the Region members. The Region Committee cannot keep organising events with little support. It would be really good and encouraging for someone to help with finding a venue for a rally or to suggest something new for the Region to organise, and then be overwhelmed by support for that event.





Another significant outcome from the AGM is that we have a new Region Secretary. Jane Heald decided not to stand for re-election due to ill health. We had no nominations for the post prior to the AGM, but Samuel Davies, an independent Region member (see left) volunteered to take on the role of Region Secretary. Thankyou Samuel. Also, Congratulations are due to Samuel as from October this year he will be a student at King's College, Cambridge studying music.



I must take a moment to thank Jane (see left) for all her hard work in working for the Region over the years and especially for providing me with the advice and guidance that I needed during my 5 years as Region Chair. She intends to continue as an active member of the Region. She will also be continuing as the Musical Director and administrator for the Region Handbell Team. Thank you, Jane for all that you have done for the Region over the years.

I also thank the other Region Committee members for their ongoing support for the Region and HRGB in general.



Judy Gees (see left) has agreed to continue as the Region Safeguarding Officer and will be undergoing some training provided by HRGB to add to the knowledge and experience that she has gained from other sources. If you have any concerns about the safety and well-being of any of your team members (Adults and juniors) then please contact Judy. She will be able to offer confidential advice and guidance and if necessary, she will work with you to address the issue.

A moment ago, I mentioned the Region Team. This is currently a team of approximately 10 ringers that get together on the fourth Sunday in the month from about 1:30 to 4:00pm in the hall at

Christ Church in Finkin Sreet, Grantham. New members would be made very welcome. If anyone is interested to join or to know more about the team, please contact Jane Heald.

As a Region, we have been invited to join with the West Midlands



Region for a rally on Saturday 15th October in Coventry. This will be an ideal opportunity for teams in the west of our Region to try a rally. The current plan is

that there will be a mix of team performances along with some easy massed ringing, Ursula's notorious quiz (?), the ubiquitous raffle, food and drink and one or two novelty items. It sounds like it will be a great day out. Obviously, all teams and independent members in our Region are welcome to attend (not just those in the East!) Further details will be available soon.



Our Region does have a website – maybe not the most glamorous all singing and dancing website like some organisations have, but it does give some information about what is happening in the Region. There is a gallery with a few photo's – more needed please. Access to the recent Region newsletters is available via a link. Some information about HRGB events can also sometimes be found on the home page. The HRGB East Midlands Website address is HRGB-EM.com.

I would like to ask again for some input from teams for the newsletter. Information about how long you have been ringing, how the group was formed, whether or not you give performances or ring purely for your own pleasure. Anything interesting or out of the usual that has happened in your group. Pen pictures of your ringers, with some notes on interests that they might have other than handbell ringing. Please submit your



articles / information to Brian Buttery, our Newsletter editor who would be very pleased to receive it.

Well, I think that's enough from me for this time, so I hope to see you at the joint rally in October if not before and please remember – if you do know of a venue suitable for a handbell rally – please pass the information to any committee member. Otherwise, I hope you have a good summer.

Mike Johnson
Chair

HRGB East Midlands Region

WHAT ARE THOSE BLACK MARKS ON THE PAGE? . . .



- ◆ . . . was the title of Aidan Fozard's HRGB online workshop on 11th June 2022.

Well, what are they? Some so familiar you don't need to think twice. Some others – well, time for a bit of head scratching. More than one meaning comes to mind for “dim”!!

Watching a demonstration of techniques can be more helpful than deciphering a written description. You know what “Martellato” means but do you know how to do it to avoid damaging the bell?

Does that little “+” have a dot underneath it?

The relatively new symbol “SB” stands for what?

Subtle differences between “rit” and “ral”

“Tutti” does not mean it's time to stop for ice cream!



Aidan's notes are now on HRGB's website www.handbells.org.uk, where you'll also find details of forthcoming online workshops (webinars).

Sandra Cox
Stanwick HR

NEC NOTES



HRGB National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday 26th March 2022 at 10.00AM on Zoom

Chair's welcome:

All were welcomed to the meeting with a special mention to Beverley from SW Region who is a potential NEC member. Followed by a short discussion about the national Covid situation.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from the NW Region reps who were attending a rally. Also, Lysbeth Wilson and John Elcock

Minutes of last meeting (29 January 2022) and Matters arising

The minutes were approved and matters arising were Linda McCord stated that some recent East Anglia

Region rally attendees tested positive for Covid within 3 days of the rally. It was also stated that there were currently 35 registered for UK Bronze.

Regional Matters:

SCO – No issues

NE – Christine Lazenby is standing down as Region Secretary. Asked if "National" communications could be sent direct to all members rather than being sent to Region Secretaries for onward distribution.

EA - A recent rally attracted 92 ringers.

EM – The "Get Back to Ringing" rally scheduled for 19th March was cancelled due to lack of support and illness.

EM chair stated that a proposal for the Region AGM had been received stating "That the East Midlands Region of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain be dissolved in accordance with Rule 36 of the rules of HRGB with effect from mid-night on Saturday 31st December 2022 and that the Society be informed of the decision to allow for the allocation of teams to other Regions and any geographical amendments to the Regional Boundaries in accordance with Rule 26.

The National Chair stated that this was a very worrying proposal and that perhaps not enough notice of the proposal would be given to members to ensure a fully considered response if they are not made aware of it until the beginning of April. NE Chair suggested that he was not surprised that the proposal had been received as he was aware of the feelings of some EM members. NE Region secretary stated that this issue needs to be seriously considered by HRGB as a whole as, if EM Region is dissolved that would make the remaining Regions even larger geographically and that

could cause logistical problem for management of the remaining Regions. The general feeling of the meeting was that insufficient thought had gone into the proposal and a counterproposal should be made to delay the process as it is a very serious issue and everyone concerned need to be absolutely sure that the right outcome is achieved. Comment was also made about how successful the series of virtual rallies had been even though they were poorly supported by Region Members. The article by Susan Nelson in the recent issue of Reverberations was highlighted as a potential boost and benefit for the Region and HRGB as a whole. The National Chair suggested that he speak to EM Chair outside of the meeting for further discussion.

EM Chair also stated that the Region Secretary was standing down due to ill health.

WM – New Region Secretary is needed.

SE – The SE Reps thanked EM Region for the virtual rally that had been attended and enjoyed by several SE members.

SW – Some of the larger teams in the Region are closing down, resulting in large numbers of bells becoming available. The SW Region also needs a new Region Secretary.

Regional Events:

SCO – Read & Ring Rally scheduled for May and a “Get back to Ringing” rally in October.

NE – National Rally in Sheffield in two weeks. Spring Rally / AGM in May. A “Grand Day Out” was also mentioned – this is a joint event between Handbell and Tower bell ringers to be held just before the National Rally.

EA – Region team have 2 concerts planned.

EM – AGM scheduled for 26th April

WM – Events scheduled as per National diary.

SW – 4 events scheduled with a Christmas Festival.

National Events:

2 weeks to go for the HRGB 2022 National Rally at Sheffield. Some workshop organisers have withdrawn. NE Chair stated that “It will be what it will be” A small financial deficit is expected. Some problems with the overspill accommodation had been experienced due to the adjacent Hotel (Owned by the same company) being taken over by HM Government, but the Hotel next door (Also owned by the same company) had made space available.

UK Bronze – This event is expected to break even.

2023 National Rally – progressing to plan

2024 National Rally – The venue for the Rally has now re-opened and appears to be operating normally.

International Events:

20th Symposium Nashville (2022) is going ahead although with very few attendees

22nd Symposium to be held in UK in 2026. The working party reported that they are working with potential venues to ensure a good event.

Charity Governance Code:

Section 5 of the code was discussed in breakout groups with each group providing feedback to the meeting. It was agreed that HRGB should adhere to the Charity Commission guidelines in that any Officer or NEC rep serving for 9 years would be the subject of a review to ensure continued suitability for the role.

It was also suggested that thought be given to succession planning for Officer and Region Rep posts. Other ideas floated included the setting up of a nomination's working group, to ensure that prospective Region Reps are aware of the duties and responsibilities of the role. It was also agreed that the skills and experience of all members (other than just Handbell ringing) could be identified to enable potential use for the benefit of HRGB.

Finance:

The Treasurer's report detailing the 2021 finances was tabled with no comments raised. Stated that there was nothing to report on the 2022 finances as yet. It was agreed that one of the two HRGB "Zoom" licences will be allowed to lapse in April. Regions holding their own licences agreed that their licences could be used to supplement the National held licence if required.

William Hartley Memorial Fund (WHMF):

A 5 Octave set of Whitechapel Handbells has been bequeathed to HRGB. These bells are currently with "Bells of Whitechapel" for survey prior to restoration at an estimated cost of £7000. After some discussion it was agreed that the work should proceed although it was confirmed that other estimates were significantly less, but it was considered that the work would be best carried out by Bells of Whitechapel. It was also agreed that £10,000 would be transferred from HRGB general funds to the WHMF.

Region Reps and members were reminded to promote the work of WHMF at their events.

There was a question about whether or not we should be working with another National Charity eg. The Disasters Emergency Fund. (HRGB has worked with "Childline" in the past. The content of the work was not discussed.

Operating without a National Secretary:

The Chair requested that all members considered whether they might be able to take on the role of National Secretary as no nominations had been made.

A discussion followed regarding the possibility of members taking on parts of the role – for example, taking the minutes of the meetings. There was a suggestion that in the absence of volunteers, a member could be paid to be Secretary.

The position of Reverberations Editor was also discussed with a number of names being suggested as possible volunteers for the post.

Archives:

It was agreed that HRGB will retain the copyright of all items passed to Heritage Quays, with an option to transfer the copyright in the future.

Recommendations re Copyright and Photographs

Event organisers should ensure that all attendees are made aware that Photos may be taken for publication in Regional Newsletters, Reverberations and on social media. The use of "Pinterest" or similar was discussed and agreed for archiving of digital images. HRGB maintains control of who has access but cannot have full control of the use of material on sites such as Pinterest. Any user could download images and use them in a way that infringes copyright.

It was agreed that a digital archive of Handbell performance videos should not be made generally available to members due to potential copyright issues.

Joint Membership:

It was proposed that a change to the membership system be made to allow joint membership at a reduced rate if only one copy of Reverberations is required. It was agreed that (subject to approval at the 2023 AGM) the rate of 75% of the full membership shall be payable by each of the joint members. The Membership system will then be configured in time for 2024 membership renewals.

AGM 2022:

The AGM will be held in the Ballroom of the National Rally venue at 4.00pm on Saturday 9th April. All members are eligible to attend.

Charity Commission News:

The latest Charity Commission news email had been circulated to all Region Chairs.

Membership:

The Membership Secretary stated that renewals are still being received, but total membership is still down on 2019 numbers.

Sales:

All of Don Bedford's and Mayola music books are now with the Sales manager. Copies of Bill Butler's book "Musical Handbells" have been made available at a reduced price.

Website:

An ongoing problem with emails emanating from the Membership database system whereby they often end up in "spam" folders is (hopefully) being resolved by changing the senders address from name@hrgb.org.uk to something that won't automatically be considered to be spam.

Social Media:

Members were reminded that when uploading items to social media, they should also be shared on the HRGB Social Media pages.

Matters Arising:

None

Correspondence: None

Diary Dates: As published on HRGB Website

AOB:

EM Chair, on behalf of the EM Region, thanked the outgoing National Secretary and Reverberations Editor for all their work over the years and wished them well for the future.

Date of Next Meeting: 25th June 2022 on Zoom

Meeting closed at 4.35pm

Honorary Life Member



At the Annual National Rally at Sheffield the Society awarded Life Membership to Vic Cox for his services to hand bell ringing and the society.

The Musical Director of the Dronfield HBR in the North East Region Vic's arrangements of music for handbells is one of his specialities

Picture shows Vic being presented his certificate of Life Membership by the Chairman of HRGB, Tim Willetts.

Bretherton Hand Bell Ringers



Dear all,

It was so good to see so many of you again at the ZOOM AGM. Like most of you, we stopped ringing during COVID apart from playing at Peggy Sellars' funeral. This is something we had promised to do many years ago and though we could not play 'The Old Rugged Cross' as she had wanted, we were able to play some 12 bell tunes in the Parish church that she would have enjoyed - after all, she had rung for many years, had given us the bells and lived until the age of 104!

We have gained two new members over lockdown, who have fitted in very well and we are all back to enjoying our ringing. We did one concert last year for the Ladies Club, but have a few dates already for this year. It is going to be a slow process to build up to what we were doing, but it is amazing that, like swimming, you do not forget how to play and how to read music! The progress of the team is wonderful and we are all enjoying being together again.

I would like to thank the team for all their hard work and fun at rehearsals, particularly to those members who for various reasons have not been able to join us again.

Having been chairman and secretary of the region in my time, I know how hard it is to organise events and get people together. I also understand that prices have gone up along with our ages, but please let us all make an effort to support our committee and attend when and where we can.

Happy ringing to you all and we look forward to meeting with you face to face in the not too distant future.

Judith Kirk, Bretherton Handbell ringers



Diary Dates

*Dates
to
Remember*

2022

25th June	NEC Meeting
2nd-6th August	20th International Symposium, Nashville USA
26th August	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
25th September	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
1st October	NEC Meeting
23rd October	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
26th-29th October	UK Bronze
27th November	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham

2023

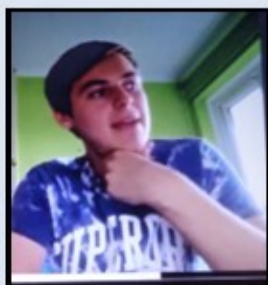
February	NEC Meeting
14th-16th April	National Rally and AGM Stirling
June	NEC
August	National Residential Ringing Week
September	NEC

2024

February	NEC
August	21st International Symposium - Japan
September	NEC



SECRETARY'S REPORT



Well, this Secretary lark is all very new to me! Thank you to those of you who voted for me to take on this role in this year's AGM.

How lovely it is to see the art of Handbell ringing returning to some sort of normality. The East Midlands' Regional Team are back in full form, as are many teams from around the region; it is such a relief that after nearly three years of disturbances we can finally get back to ringing. I know that from having helped to direct Stanwick Handbell Ringers for the past few weeks, ringers are more eager and willing than ever to put on their gloves and ring out some old favourites. It's been a joy to be a part of it.

The East Midlands' Annual General Meeting was held over zoom on the 26th April at 7.30pm. Due to illness of the Chairman, the meeting was very ably led by Marie Allen, the East Midlands' Treasurer. It was proposed during the meeting that the East Midlands Region be folded due to lack of membership and vivacity. However, I am delighted that this notion has not come to fruition, and that we can continue to function as a region.

As always, please keep us updated with your ringing adventures and remember to send your stories to Brian Buttery so that they can be published in future editions of this magazine. I look forward to seeing you all at events to come.

Samuel Davies
Region Secretary

NEC NOTES



HRGB National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday 25th June 2022 at 10.00AM on Zoom

These notes are not the formal minutes of the meeting nor do they include details of every topic on the meeting agenda.

The official minutes will be available on the HRGB Website in due course.

Tim Willetts (HRGB National Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Judy Gees (East Midlands) Marie Allen had been formally approved to take her place at the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a reminder to all to spread the word of the William Hartley Memorial Fund (WHMF)

Regional Matters:

SE Region – 3 Regional events held in April and May. The Committee has decided not to require Region Officers to use the HRGB informative Email signature blocks as suggested by NEC. They have also removed the time in office limits as specified in their Region rules due to the difficulty of getting new members on the committee.

SW Region – 4 events since the last NEC meeting – mostly well supported.

EA Region – They also stated that the HRGB Signature blocks were not routinely used on Region emails. It was suggested that the Diary dates paper distributed prior to this meeting was incomplete. John Willis (HRGB Website Manager) stated that the dates page on the HRGB website was up to date.

EM Region – Mike Johnson (Region Chair) stated that the proposal mentioned at the previous NEC meeting to close the region had been voted down at the Region AGM, but there is still an ongoing problem with getting support for events. It was stated that due to the continued lack of support the Region committee had unanimously decided that any involvement in the organisation of the 2024 National Rally is now not possible. National Chair requested all other regions to consider the implications of that with a view to further discussion at the next NEC meeting.

Region chair agreed to forward a copy of the contract previously arranged with the Kettering Conference Centre to the National Treasurer. Linda McCord (EA Region) stated that no venue has been found for the 2025 National Rally and that the event will be either very expensive or much smaller than the norm.

WM Region – The Region still needs a secretary. Sandra Winter has presented a workshop in the Region. Some bells have been taken to a school for trial lessons and were very well received. Paperwork for the joint rally with East Midlands Region on 15th October will be available shortly.

NE Region – Committee now meeting face to face. The AGM was held in Grassington with approx. 50% of the normal pre-covid attendance. Rona Gager is

the new Region Secretary. Two other recent events have been well supported. **NW Region** – Committee are now meeting face to face. A new NEC representative was nominated at the Region AGM. Plans are going ahead for a spring rally in 2023.

SC Region – A Region event was held in May. Planning for the 2023 National rally in Stirling is progressing.

National Events:

Team Leaders weekend to be held in September is limited to 10 participants. Tim Willetts requested that the NEC approve a grant from HRGB central funds to reduce the cost to participants. A grant was approved to limit the cost to £100 per participant.

UK Bronze – No further information received.

National Rallies:

2023 – Stirling in the Scottish Region. Arrangements are progressing with monthly meetings.

2024 – EM Region chair to check / confirm what the financial liability will be in cancelling the booking.

Virtual Events:

The next **Virtual Webinar** is to be an “Ask the officer” style event on 30th July, with Mike Johnson and Keith Meader (EA Region) being joint chair to host the session.

International Events:

2022 Symposium in Nashville USA currently has 350 delegates booked with only approx. 15 being from countries other than USA. Tim Willetts will be attending and will also be an HRGB representative at the International Handbell Committee (IHC) meeting. Christine Reid (Ex National Secretary) will attend the IHC as the second HRGB representative via Zoom. Either the HRGB National Treasurer and/or National Membership Secretary may also attend via Zoom.

Report on the 2022 National Rally:

Christine Lazenby (NE Region) gave an overview on how the event had been received by delegates and quoted some of the favourable comments submitted. John Atkinson (NE Region Chair) thanked everyone involved in the organisation and running of the rally. Marie Allen (EM Region Treasurer) added her positive comments and thanked all for what was a really enjoyable event. A suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of live streaming some parts of future National Rallies.

Business Matters: The Role of Secretary – A long discussion ensued as to the lack of a National Secretary and what steps could/should be taken to find a suitable replacement or at least to minimise the impact of not having a “full time” National Secretary. A paper had been submitted to the meeting with a suggestion that, as a last resort, we could consider paying someone to take on the role. That suggestion met with a quite strong rejection. The favoured and accepted suggestion was that the duties of the Secretary be split into 3 specific separate

areas that could each be taken on by volunteers with the appropriate skills. The “job descriptions” will then be circulated with a request that Region committees make every effort to disseminate to their Region members as widely as possible. It was noted that in the absence of a National Secretary, volunteers are taking the minutes of the NEC meetings. Thanks were given to those volunteers.

Strategic Development:

Succession Planning – It is becoming more difficult to get new members for HRGB generally and as a consequence more difficult to fill roles that keeps the wheels of HRGB turning. Current vacancies are National Secretary, Reverberations Editor and Young Vibrations Editor (the junior section of Reverberations) A long discussion followed about how to (1) maintain/increase membership, (2) maintain / improve the culture and structure of the organisation to ensure that it meets the needs moving forward.

Bells into schools – An update was given on the subject including a comment that the University of Northumberland have bought a set of handbells and are setting up a programme for their use. Birmingham Conservatoire are also in the process of acquiring 6 sets of instruments. It was not specified whether those sets will be bells, belleplates or hand chimes.

Membership Cards: A paper had been submitted questioning the need for physical membership cards. A number of options were discussed including: Continue to use the existing system, continue but with recyclable cards, purely digital, card for life, It was stressed that a purely digital membership card would not be acceptable to many members who do not have access to smart phones/computers etc. Member opinions are to be invited.

Money Matters: 2020/21 Accounts – were tabled and approved.

Region Accounts 2021 – Approved. The treasurer stated that HRGB are now using Paypal for all on-line transactions. Members are reminded that a Paypal account is not required to be able to pay by Paypal.

Membership: The Membership Secretary reported that a few new members have joined since the last NEC meeting. It is expected that a few more might join after the beginning of July as the membership fee reduces at that time.

HRGB Sales:

It was reported that it had been a successful sales week at the 2022 National Rally in Sheffield.

Website:

Nothing to report on the website specifically but it was stated that the closing date for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Photographic competition had been extended to 28th June.

Social Media:

The number of followers on the various platforms is slowly increasing. Facebook – 628, Twitter – 259, You Tube – 44, Instagram -214. All regions were reminded to share any relevant posts to the HRGB pages.

Reverberations:

All members are reminded that a new Editor for the Reverberations newsletter is required.

HRGB Archive:

All archive material has now been delivered to Heritage Quays, where it will be sorted /catalogued and made available for research etc as agreed.

William Hartley Memorial Fund (WHMF):

All bell sets managed by the WHMF are out on loan.

Correspondence:


An invitation has been received from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) for HRGB to participate at the "Nottingham Roadshow" to be held in September. This invitation had been forwarded to the East Midlands Region in mid-June but due to the short return date, we were unable to assist. John Atkinson agreed to investigate what could be provided for the event on behalf of HRGB. John Willis (Website and sales Manager) agreed to produce a suitable advertisement for the event brochure.

Diary Dates: Members are reminded that dates for events should be forwarded to John Willis for inclusion on the HRGB Website.

Date of next NEC meeting:

Saturday 1st October at 10.00am on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 16.40pm.



Jubilee Edition of Newsletter

A Souvenir Jubilee Edition of the Region's Newsletter will be published in 2025 to celebrate 50 years since the founding of the East Midlands Region.

I should be grateful if all members would peruse their photo albums etc. and let me have any that you think suitable and would like to be included together with dates, event, names etc.

Articles concerning the founding/history of the Region would also be welcome. Please send to me by email or to the address at front of the Newsletter.

Editor

Treasurers Accounts and Report for the Year 2021



Handbell Ringers of Great Britain – East Midlands Region

Registered Charity No. 298945 (England) & SC038918 (Scotland)

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st December 2021

INCOME	(£)	EXPENDITURE	(£)
Membership rebate	267.00	Hall Hire for Region team practices	72.00
50% Grant for Zoom Licence	71.94	Website	81.45
Get Back to Ringing Grant	480.00	HRGB/EM Zoom Account	143.88
Interest on COIF Account	00.23	Printing & Postage	37.50
TOTAL INCOME	819.17	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	334.83
Total income less expenditure	484.34		

'Get Back to Ringing Grant' has to be classed as a credit so cannot be counted as carry forward for 2022

NET INGOING RESOURCES equate to £484.34 – £480.00 = **£4.34**

Balance Sheet as 31st December 2021

YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON

Current Assets	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Bank COIF	£1790.25	£1790.02	1785.32	£1775.20	£1767.17
TSB	2065.90	1581.79	1625.64	1780.91	1321.54
Liabilities					
Creditors	(480.00)	0.00	(162.00)	(512.84)	(217.20)
TOTAL ASSETS	3376.15	3371.81	3248.96	3043.27	2871.51
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds b/f	3371.81	3248.96	3043.27	2871.51	2478.88
Net Movement in Funds	4.34	122.85	205.69	171.76	392.63
Total Funds c/f	3376.15	3371.81	3248.96	3043.27	2871.51

Summary

2021 was a difficult year financially as there were no opportunities to generate income by holding regional rallies due to the Covid 19 pandemic and resulting restrictions. However, income minus expenditure did result in a small surplus of £4.34 for the region.

*No committee member claimed any expenses during the year.

All committee meetings were held via zoom.

*A zoom account for use by teams within the EM region has continued to be funded jointly by the EM region & HRGB national.

My accounts have been finalised and audited. The accounts are available to view by any member within our region. If you wish to contact me about the accounts, please feel free to e-mail me at m.allen857@btinternet.com

Marie C Allen HRGB/EM Treasurer 3/3/22





Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Midlands Region of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain Held via Zoom

**Sunday 21 March 2021
at 2.30 pm**

Present: Michael Johnson (Chair), Jane Heald, Marie Allen, Brian Buttery, Judy Gees, John Heald, Gill Crowe, Samuel Davies, Judith Kirk, Sandra Quinsee, Sandra Cox, Chris Milward.

The Chair, Mike Johnson, welcomed members to the meeting under very different circumstances this year. He stated we maintain our position as the smallest region and the region's rallies are attended by the same few teams. The NEC are considering the position of 'one person registered' groups, seeking people to take on various roles and wants to remain relevant. There will be a grant from HRGB of £500 for each region to hold an event to get ringing started again following the pandemic and ideas will be welcomed by the EM committee regarding the format of this event. The Chair thanked the work of the EM committee over the past year, in particular Judy Gees in the newly appointed position of Safeguarding Officer and Brian Buttery for his excellent newsletter. The Chair is concerned that the committee consists of members from just two teams in the region. The EM region is now due to host the National Rally in 2024, all national events having been rescheduled due to the pandemic.

Apologies for Absence – Apologies were received from Janet Carding, Freda Jones, Jill Potts, Nicola Wright, Dot Williams, Paul Bird. Paul had sent an email taking the opportunity to thank the committee for the work they all contribute, which he can appreciate being a former committee member himself. He also thanked Brian for his graphical and editorial skills in producing our EM magazine.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – These had been distributed prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Judith Kirk and seconded by Judy Gees that these be accepted as a true record. The Chair will send the secretary an email (attached to the file copy of these minutes) in lieu of his signature.

Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report – This had been distributed prior to the meeting (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes). It was proposed by Sandra Quinsee and seconded by Samuel Davies that this be accepted.

Treasurer's Report – The audited annual region accounts had been distributed (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes). These had been sent to the National Treasurer for amalgamation with other regional accounts. The Treasurer, Marie Allen, reported a balance of income over expenditure of £122.85 for the year, with total assets of £3,371.81 carried forward as at 31st December 2020. It was proposed by Gill Crowe and seconded by Judy Gees that the accounts be accepted.

Mike informed the meeting that the funds in the Region's Handball Team account currently stood at £403.84.

Page 1, HRGB EM AGM Minutes, 21.3.2020

Election of Officers – There had been one nomination for each post. The following members were elected en bloc to serve on the committee for the coming year:

Name	Position	Proposer	Second
Michael Johnson	Chairman	Pauline Avey	Gill Crowe
Jane Heald	Secretary	Judy Gees	Sandra Quinsee
Marie Allen	Treasurer	Janet Carding	Margaret Neville
John Heald	Committee Member	Michael Johnson	Nicola Wright
Brian Buttery	Committee Member	Dorothy Williams	John Heald
Gill Crowe	Committee Member	Anthea Feggetter	Dorothy Kenmore
Samuel Davies	Committee Member	Samuel Chambers	Sandra Cox
Judy Gees	Committee Member	John Heald	Michael Johnson

Appointments:

Examiner of Accounts – The Treasurer proposed Jeanette Ackroyd again. The meeting agreed.

Magazine Editor – Brian Buttery. The members present were all in favour.

NEC Representatives – Michael Johnson and Judy Gees. The members present were all in favour.

Any Other Business:

EM Region Handbell Team – Jane will contact all members, also John Atkinson, regarding a Zoom chat and ‘rehearsal’. Jane will decide on the music and Mike will ascertain whether MP3’s are available from Jeffers. **ACTION: JaneH, MJ**

Peggy Sellars – Judith Kirk reported that Peggy (Bretherton Handbell Ringers) passed away peacefully in February, aged 104.

Team Involvement in Region Activities – Judy emphasised the need for more teams in the region to become involved in the region’s events. Judith suggested that teams be visited to give a personal approach from the committee. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting. **ACTION: Committee members**

Spring Rally – A suggestion was made to hold a Zoom Spring Rally. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting. **ACTION: Committee members**

Chris Milward thanked the committee for all their hard work.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

*At an East Midlands meeting this year
Each member was given a beer
They finished up tipsy
But they moved very quickly
To motions more appropriate, I fear.*



Thoughts from Weldon

by Paul Bird



It's hard to believe that it was two years ago in March 2020, that Weldon HBR hosted the last "in person" East Midlands Region AGM and Rally. Just days later the world changed, probably irreversibly. Whilst many embraced video technology, despite being a bit of a computer geek I didn't and the number of calls I've participated in could be counted on one hand, one of those being the recent AGM. What's even harder to believe is that it was over thirty one years ago, in April 1991, that I finished my two year evening course at the local Agriculture College, swapping 2 ½ hours on a Thursday evening in a lecture theatre, to 2½ hours in the late Dick Webster's lounge learning the art of handbell ringing. It started as one of those "I'll give it a go" situations... I'm still giving it a go! (At this point I'd like to offer

congratulations to both Dot and Brian of Grantham on their much longer handbell "careers".) Those of you that remember Dick will recall he was an ardent tower bell ringer and also an early member of the Weldon Handbell Team – also being present at Burgh-le-Marsh when the East Midlands Region was formed. He had great pleasure in telling me that when he designed his own dormer bungalow, the size of the living room had been dictated by the space to accommodate the handbell team practice sessions. There was also bespoke storage



Dick Webster

areas for the bells. It was at Dick's persuasion that for a few years I served as treasurer of EM Region so I can vouch for some of the difficulties our regional committee faces in generating interest, (so a big thank you to the

present committee for the work you do).



Weldon Handbell Ringers

I think Dick would have been shocked at the recent proposal to disband HRGB EM, but equally might have seen the reasons why the proposal was made. Whilst, personally I could not have supported the proposal, it should serve as a wakeup call to all members. As an exercise, have a look at the area covered by your own county's nearest neighbouring region – <https://handbells.org.uk/hrgb-region-map> and see how far you could end up travelling if the East Midlands Region was to disappear! E.g. Lincolnshire to Northumberland? Derbyshire to Anglesey? We are geographically, quite a large region but with a relatively small number of members and it can sometimes be quite a distance to travel to rallies

etc., but the good news is there are usually at least two rallies each year in different parts of the region, where individuals are just as welcome to attend, as teams. You'll always be found a bell or two to ring especially in the massed ringing pieces. So as far as HRGB (EM) is concerned - Remember -like toilet paper – “you never appreciate what you've got - until it has gone”.
Weldon Team News
As a team, Weldon suffered numerically over the past two years. Two of our members (Lynn and Lindsay) “emigrated” to Lancashire where they have since joined a team in the North West Region. Before we could recruit, the first lockdown kicked in. Sadly in 2021 Rev Jan (Collins) passed away after a long illness. Jan was

our own "Geraldine Grainger" (with a similar sense of humour) and despite moving from Weldon to Nether Heyford, back to Corby and then Kibworth Beauchamp in Leicestershire,



she continued to travel each week to ring with us.

In order to help our player shortage, Sue, our conductor has put her baton down for the time being and moved behind the table, and we have been joined by Andy, but we are still a couple of ringers short, so for the time being have reduced our ringing range of 5 ½ to 4 ½ octaves. We are a little more tuneful than a "bag of spanners", but I think it is fair to say we still have quite a way to go before being "performance ready" with a concert repertoire again.

Other Obituaries

Over the last twelve months, we have also sadly learned that three of our former ringers passed away

in the last twelve months. Chris Bruce, played our large bass bells from 1985 to 1998 when following his marriage moved to Devon. Sylvia Peile, a Peterborough College catering

manager, who played "around" middle C position for about four years in the late 1990s also died in spring 2021, and most recently, in May this year, Gloria Gunn passed away at the age of 83 years. Gloria took many new ringers "under her wing"- including me - when they started to ring doubling up with them to help gain confidence. We think Gloria (who was a former primary school teacher) started ringing with the team in the mid 1980's, and she continued until her health precluded her from ringing with us in Summer 2018.

Paul Bird

Weldon Handbell Ringers

AGM Minutes of 2022



**Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting
(subject to approval at next AGM)
of the East Midlands Region of the
Handbell Ringers of Great Britain**

Held via Zoom Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 7.30 pm

In attendance: Tim Willetts, HRGB National Chair

Chair's Welcome – The Regional Chair, Mike Johnson, welcomed all to the meeting. He explained Marie Allen will take the Chair as he is still recovering from illness. Marie wished Mike a speedy recovery.

Apologies for Absence – Janet Carding, Margaret Neville, Dorothy Kenmore.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – These had been distributed prior to the meeting (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes). It was Proposed by Samuel Davies and Seconded by Judy Gees that these be accepted as a true record. The Chair will send the Secretary an e-mail in lieu of her signature.

3. Matters Arising – None.

4. Secretary's Report – This had been distributed prior to the meeting (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes). It was Proposed by Sandra Cox and Seconded by Judith Kirk that this be accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report – Audited accounts had been distributed prior to the meeting (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes). In presenting the accounts the Treasurer stated 2021 was a difficult year financially with no opportunity to generate income. However, the region accounts are showing a small surplus of £4.34. As a result, total assets of £3376.15 are carried forward as at 31 December 2021. It was Proposed by Gill Crowe and Seconded by John Heald that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Election of Officers – It was noted there had been no nominations for Secretary as Jane Heald is retiring from this role.

All nominations were elected *nem con en bloc*.

The Chair stated no nominations for secretary had been received by the cut-off date. However, a member of the committee now volunteered – Samuel Davies. This was Proposed by Judy Gees, seconded by Chris Milward and put to the meeting. **Samuel Davies was elected nem con to serve as Secretary.**

Name	Position	Proposer	Second
Michael Johnson	Chairman	Sandra Cox	Marie Allen
<i>No nomination</i>	Secretary		
Marie Allen	Treasurer	Michael Johnson	Sandra Cox
Judy Gees	Safeguarding Officer	Sandra Quinsee	John Heald
John Heald	Committee Member	Brian Buttery	Sandra Quinsee
Brian Buttery	Committee Member	Dorothy Williams	Sandra Quinsee
Gill Crowe	Committee Member	Freda Jones	Pauline Avey
Samuel Davies	Committee Member	Marie Allen	Margaret Neville
Jane Heald	Committee Member	Brian Buttery	Sandra Quinsee

The Chair and the National Chair, Tim Willetts, thanked Jane for many years' service as secretary to the EM region and also as EM NEC Representative.

7. Appointments :

Examiner of Accounts – The Treasurer proposed Jeanette Ackroyd again. The meeting agreed.

Magazine Editor – Brian Buttery. The members present were all in favour.

NEC Representatives – Michael Johnson and Judy Gees. The members present were all in favour.

8 Any Other Business-

Proposal – The Chair read the proposal (attached to the file copy of these minutes). The proposer, Brian Buttery, spoke; the seconder, John Heald, spoke. Extensive discussion took place.

Vote – 2 in favour, 25 against, 2 abstentions. **Therefore, the Proposal was not carried.**

Sue Bond joined the meeting after the vote had been taken.

Mike Johnson will write to each EM region member to explain what has taken place during this meeting.

The Chair, Marie Allen, thanked everyone for their support and thanked Tim Willetts for attending.

The National Chair, Tim Willetts, thanked Marie for chairing the meeting carefully and thoughtfully.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Christchurch

Linton and Castle Gresley
Derbyshire



The Christchurch ringers of Linton had great pleasure, and were privileged, to ring "The National Anthem" at the Whitsuntide Service at which they celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, The Queen.



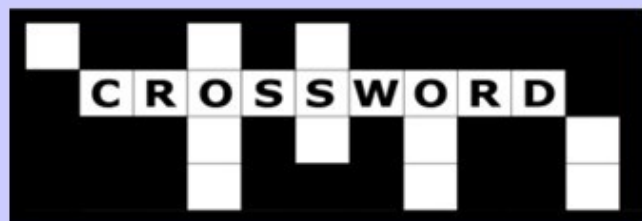
Christchurch
Linton

The congregation applauded and thought it a wonderful way to pay tribute to Her Majesty.

The ringers realised the significance of the event as that such a Platinum Jubilee will not occur again in their lifetime. Margaret Shepherd



Display & Flowers at Christchurch Platinum Jubilee Fayre



Solution

Solution to the Spring 2022 Edition

H	E	B	R	E	W	S		N		K		R		A		
A		R		S		A		A	B	I	G	A	I	L		
M	E	E	T	S		N		S		M		I		B		
A		C		E	A	S	T	E	R	B	E	L	L	S		
T	R	O	O	N		K		B		E		W				
H		N			P	R	A	Y	E	R	M	A	T	S		
I	N	C	A	S		I				L		Y		K		
T		A		L	I	T	C	H	E	E		S		Y		
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B	L	A	Z	O	N	S		D		A		N		E		
S		L		T		T				O	P	P	O	S	E	R

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Some members of The Bretherton BellRingers resting at a Rally



Silver Jubilee
Cake
Rally 1992



Disclaimer

Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editor or the committee.