

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain East Midlands Region NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 No 1/24

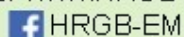


HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBERS
298945 (ENGLAND) AND SCO38915 (SCOTLAND)



REGIONAL OFFICERS

Website: www.HRGB-EM.com



Chairman

Michael Johnson (NEC rep)

Tel. 01933 460647

E-mail: mike78rpm@btinternet.com

Secretary

Gill Crowe

E-mail: Gill.crowe@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer:

Marie Allen

Tel. 01933 353915.

E-mail: m.allen857@btinternet.com

Committee Members

Sue Bond

E-mail: sbond058@gmail.com

Brian Buttery (Newsletter Editor)

Tel: 01476 578152

E-mail: brian.buttery@btinternet.com

Judy Gees (NEC rep) (Safeguarding Officer)

Tel: Mobile 07969 768001

E-mail: hsocello1@gmail.com

Jane Heald

Tel. 01400 272445

E-mail: janeheald@hotmail.co.uk

John Heald

Tel. 01400 272445

E-mail: jhealdorganist@mypostoffice.co.uk

Regional Team Sub-Committee PLEASE SEE PAGE 14



HANDBELL RINGERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

"To advance, provide and encourage for the public benefit the art of handbell tuning ringing in all its forms"



Spring Edition 2024 No. 1/24

Mike Johnson

We welcome Mike back, as Regional Chair, together with the committee elected at our AGM in March. See inside front cover.



Contents:

Accounts for 2023.....	6
Archives.....	34
Chair's report.....	2
Crescendo Scheme.....	23
Crossword.....	36
Diary.....	8
Symposium.....	9
Harlaxton Rally.....	20
Hon. Life Membership.....	23
HRGB National Secretary.....	5
HRGB Shop.....	12
From the Archives.....	38
Job Descriptions:	
Chair.....	35
Secretary.....	18
Manton Bells.....	32
Minster Minis.....	10
National Rally 2024 et seq.....	24
N.E.C. Minutes.....	14
Regional Team.....	13
Safeguarding	
Officer.....	16
DBS.....	34
Training.....	34
UK Bronze.....	12
Vaughan Evans Fund.....	13
Webinars.....	5



Editorship of Newsletter

Despite resigning as Editor in 2023 I find myself editing the Spring 2024 issue. I am pleased to be back.

BB

Front Cover

Millennium Bears



Editor of Newsletter

Brian Buttery

67 Belton Avenue, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 9JF

Tel: 01476578152

E-mail: brian.buttery@btinternet.com



Message from the Chair

MARCH 2024



You may remember that I stood down as Chair of the East Midlands Region of HRGB at the 2023 AGM as I had previously said that I would stand down when my wife retired so that we could spend more time away in our caravan and pursuing other interests (and Yes – I do have interests other than ringing handbells!) But unfortunately, as Nicola Wright, who was elected as Chair at the 2023 AGM was unable to continue, I was nominated and accepted as Acting Chair in January 2024, with the approval of the Region Committee and the National Chair, Keith Rowland.

In the absence of any other nominees for the post, I agreed to be nominated and, surprise, surprise I was elected as Chair (unopposed!) at the 2024 AGM that was held on 23rd March. The AGM was an item on the programme for our Region Spring Rally held at Harlaxton Village Hall. The venue was identified and booked by our very own Newsletter Editor Brian Buttery and I thank him for that. I'm sure there will be an article elsewhere in this newsletter about the rally and AGM, so I will keep my input short. Just to say thank you to the Committee members and Officers that have agreed to continue and a special thanks to Sue Bond (Weldon Handbell Ringers) who has joined the Committee. The current Region committee is comprised as follows:



- Chair – Michael Johnson (also NEC Rep)
- Secretary – Gill Crowe
- Treasurer – Marie Allen
- Safeguarding Officer – Judy Gees (also NEC Rep)
- Newsletter Editor - Brian Buttery
- Other Committee members: John Heald, Jane Heald and Sue Bond.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**



Our safeguarding Officer, Judy Gees is the person in the Region to contact if you have any concerns about safeguarding issues within the handbell ringing arena. Do remember also, that safeguarding does not apply to just junior members – it does also apply to all members, whatever age or ability. Judy has undergone training and knows what to do in issues of safeguarding and can take whatever steps are needed to help resolve issues in a completely confidential manner.

Many Region members will know that a long-time member and one-time Region Treasurer Tegwen Manton passed away in the summer of 2023.

Tegwen was a great inspiration to many handbell ringers and I remember that the first of many HRGB Region rallies that I attended in the mid 1990's was hosted by Tegwen and her Husband Richard. Over the years Tegwen had amassed quite a collection of Handbells, Chimes and other equipment and that is all now in the process of being brought into the ownership of this region. In parallel with the formal transfer paperwork being processed, the Committee are working on the strategy for the ongoing management of those assets.



Tegwen
Manton

I'm writing this just before the HRGB 2024 National Rally takes place. The East Midlands Region Team are attending en-masse and hopefully you can read about their experience elsewhere in this newsletter. The Rally will include the HRGB National AGM, during which Judy Gees will be elected to the post of National Secretary. (I say that categorically as I do not imagine for one minute that anyone else will be nominated.) Thank you, Judy, for taking on that role. It seems that HRGB, both nationally and regionally struggle to find members that are willing to take on duties external to their immediate team.



In closing, I would like to remind all members that we need venues for future Region rallies – ideally one in the summer and another for the autumn. As I have said before – you need to do nothing more than identify a suitable venue to any committee member and we can do the rest. (obviously if you want to be more involved that is also fine)

Host a 
RALLY DAY

Also, two more repeated requests:

If members of your team are not yet members of HRGB, please encourage them to join.



If members of your team do not yet have email addresses registered on the HRGB Database please ask them to have it included as it makes communication with members from HRGB National and Region so much easier (and cheaper with stamps now regularly increasing in cost)



Finally – Let's hope we have a good year ringing those bells and chimes etc.

With my best wishes Mike Johnson

Alford Rally 2019

Mike conducting the massed ringing



HRGB National Secretary



The Annual General Meeting of HRGB was held at Swanwick, Derbyshire, on Saturday 6th April during the National Rally Weekend.

We congratulate our own Judy Gees on her election as National Secretary.

Judy is a member of Grantham Town Handbell Ringers, The Northern Bell Orchestra and was responsible for founding the Minster Minis (please see article on page 10)

Judy is the Region's Safeguarding Officer.



Judy Gees, with Keith Rowland - National Chair and Diane Holt, Membership Secretary



Forthcoming Topics:

The following topics will be available to members:

- June:** How to absorb new ringers into an established team.
Leader: Mike Johnson
- September:** Helpful advice to new ringers (rhythms, notation, parts of handbells)
Leader: Aidan Fozzard
- November:** Grant Funding. Sourcing ,etc Fund Raising
Leader: Mike Johnson
- Full details will appear on HRGB website later in the year



Regional Accounts for 2023

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain – East Midlands Region
Registered Charity No. 298945 (England) & SC038918 (Scotland)

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st December 2023

INCOME	(£)	EXPENDITURE	(£)
Membership rebate	228.00	Hall Hire for Region team practices	453.60.
50% Ruskington Raffle	27.00	50% Raffle to VE Fund	27.00
Rally attendance - Ruskington	278.00	Rally expenses – Ruskington	133.80
Seagrave	102.00	Seagrave	124.90
Subs for EMRT	615.00	Refreshments for EMRT practices	18.20
Closure of EMRT account	510.05	Website	88.65
TSB apology	100.00	Printing & postage (general)	4.50
COIF Interest	79.22	Printing & postage (newsletter)	11.00
Total Income	<u>1939.27</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>861.65</u>
Total Income Less Expenditure	1939.27 (861.65)		
Net ingoing resources	<u>1077.62</u>		

SUMMARY



- * 2023 resulted in a surplus of £1,077.62 for the region. Almost half of this money came from the closure of the EM Regional Team Account with all monies being transferred to the EM account.
- * The TSB lost some of the paperwork relating to a change of signatory for the account. They paid £100 into the account by way of an apology.
- * The Rally at Ruskington made a surplus but the Rally at Seagrave resulted in a small loss.
- * No committee member claimed any expenses during the year. All committee meetings were held via zoom.

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 1.3.24



**King
Charles III
£5 banknote
and
50 pence coin**



Regional Diary



2024	
19th May*	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
22nd June	NEC Meeting
23rd June	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
25th June	Regional Committee Meeting on Zoom
20th July	Weldon HBR in concert with strawberry tea at Weldon Village Hall 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm
28th July	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
12th-17th August	21st International Symposium - Japan
11th August*	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
22nd September	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
23rd-28th October	UK Bronze
27th October	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
24th November	Regional Team Rehearsal—Grantham
2025	
11-13 April	National Rally - Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Milton Keynes
2026	
April	National Rally
4th-8th August	22nd International Symposium - Aberdeen
* NB: Meeting this month on the third Sunday.	



"Look to the Future"



The 22nd International Handbell Symposium

A new venue has been chosen for the 2026 UK International Symposium.

Tuesday 4th
to
Saturday 8th
August 2026

It will now be held at the in Aberdeen's state-of-the-art events complex, P&J Live, in the North East of Scotland.

P&J Live is a multi-purpose indoor arena in the suburb of Bucksburn, in Aberdeen in Scotland. Opened in August 2019, it offers a capacity for all types of shows and events from 5,000 to 15,000.



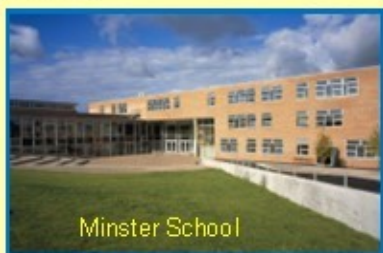
**PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING AS IT IS A
ONCE IN A 16 YEAR HOME EVENT**

Minster Minis Handbells Team



The Minster Minis handbells team was formed in June 2021 and use a three octave set of Malmark Handbells leased from the William Hartley Memorial Fund. The Minster School is a school founded in 956AD, based in Southwell in Nottinghamshire. The school has about sixteen hundred pupils and a small primary school of forty musically gifted students who form The Minster Junior School, where the Minster Minis handbells teams are based.

There are two teams that rehearse after school on Mondays and Tuesday, and are taught by me. It has been fun watching the children learn new techniques like martellato and thumb damping. At a recent concert to the Junior School



parents, the teams played Away in a Manger normally then demonstrated how the carol sounded when played using martellato and then thumb damping. We demonstrated circular ringing and damping to the parents, who were fascinated and have asked for us to do another concert at Easter. The children are in years 3 to year 6 inclusive.

I asked two of the older children to write a report of the concert.

John has written:

"When we stood on the stage in front of all our parents, I was very concerned about the performance. Although rehearsals sometimes went wrong, the determination of the team got us through the concert and I remember it as a great one. I have been in the handbells team for almost three years now and everyone who joins brings something

new to the team. I love to play handbells with my friends and our wonderful teacher, Mrs Gees. All of the pieces in the concert were good, but we can always improve. I hope to continue ringing handbells for as long as possible. I have noticed the importance of listening to each other in order to ring together successfully. "



John and Imogen

The Monday team played Silent Night, We wish you a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells.

Imogen, wrote:

"I am part of the Tuesday handbells team at the Minster Junior School in Southwell. Before the Christmas holidays , we did a concert of Christmas carols and played Good King Wenceslas, Canon by Tallis and Away in a Manger. Mrs Gees teaches us every Tuesday afternoon. I think the concert went really well and I like playing handbells because it is fun and we make an amazing sound! "

I have had to split the original team into two teams because of commitments to attend chorister rehearsals in Southwell Minster on various days, after school. This has meant that we are concentrating on twelve bell music for the moment rather than two or three octave music.

This may change in the future if the two teams amalgamate again, once I retire, and leave the school in April 2024. The handbells team will be taught by the year 3/4 teacher, Mrs Mason, who has been sitting in on rehearsals since September 2023 learning the various techniques for successful ringing. Mrs Mason's daughter, Nellie, plays handbells and can teach her mum all about circular ringing and other techniques!

Judy Gees

UK

BRONZE



Wednesday 23rd—Saturday 26th
October 2024

Holiday Inn Hotel Farnborough

Massed ringing on large sets of bells with daily rehearsals concluding with a concert on the Saturday afternoon.

Rehearsals led by Fred Gramann

Full details on HRGB website

<https://handbells.org.uk>



HRGB Sales

More than 1200 items available

Go to: handbells.org.uk
HRGB Shop



Over 1300 Titles
Including
HRGB Music *
Mayola Music
The Beford
Collection
Aardvark
* Download Free



Books

Publications



HANDBELL Accessories



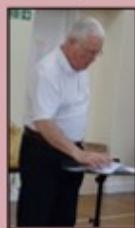
Including: music stand
lights, ties, scarves,
jewellery, bow ties,
car badges, pencils,
pens, erasers, tea
towels, notelets,
coasters...

**THE SHOP DOES NOT SELL
MALLETS OR BELLS**

10% Discount for HRGB Members



The Regional Team



John
Atkinson
MD

The Team usually meets on the fourth Sunday in the month (except May & August) at ChristChurch, Finkin Street, Grantham NG 31 6QZ from 1.00 pm.

New members are always welcome.

Dates of Rehearsals are to be found on page 10 (Regional Diary).

REGIONAL TEAM SUB-COMMITTEE



CHAIR: Samuel Davies

e-mail: Samueljd79@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Marie Allen

Tel. 01933 353915.

e-mail: m.allen857@btinternet.com

Bursary Vaughan Evans Fund

The fund was set up in memory of Vaughan Evans who died in 2007. Vaughan had been a devoted supporter of HRGB serving in all three of the Officer's posts as well as leading one of the country's large teams of handbell ringers, St Wulfram's, Grantham.

UK and International bursaries are awarded for young ringers, in education. Full details on conditions and the application process is available on the HRGB website.

Handbells.org.uk



NEC meeting



Summary of **Minutes of NEC meeting held on 27th January 2024 on Zoom**

- 1 22 members present
- 2 **Regional Matters**

The regions reported on events and matters concerning their region. East Midlands reported on the appointment as Acting Chair of Mike Johnson and the proposed rally at Harlaxton. The bequest to the Region of Tegwen Manton's bells. Was in hand. Judy Gees's school teams were progressing well.
- 3 **Transfer of teams.** Under rule 27 Teams may transfer to other regions on request to Membership Secretary
- 4 **Future Events**
 - **National Rally at Swanick 2024.** 183 people register to attend. Conference Centre require £25.00 pp for members to attend AGM.
 - **National Rally 2025** (EA) Kents Hill Training and Conference Centre in Milton Keynes. Further information will be available at Swanwick Rally.
 - **National Skills Day 2026** (SW Region) No information available
 - **National Diamond Jubilee 2027** This event will need further consideration from the NEC at a future meeting.
 - **AGM 2024** This will be held at 1.30pm Saturday 6th April at the National Rally
 - **Webinars:** Four webinars have been planned: 28th March, 8.30pm– Introduction to the HRGB Crescendo Scheme in June, September and November,

- **21st International Symposium, Japan, 2024**
twenty five ringers registered from the UK and five hundred and eighty five altogether.
- 22nd international Symposium, UK 2026. Details on page 9

5 **Money Matters**, Treasurer report on 2023 Accounts, Public Liability Insurance and email scams. A donation of £2000 from the estate of Nick Ottmann has been received and a proposal to set up a bursary will be considered.

6 **The Education Group** to review The Vaughan Evans Trust.

7 **Musical Directors' Seminars**. National Funds will still be used to support these events.

8 **Safeguarding Report** Newsletter editors are asked to insert a request for members with DBS checks in place and had undergone safeguarding training. To give their details for inclusion in Skills Register.

9 **Officers Reports:**

Reports received from Sales, Social Media, Website, Archives, Williams Hartley Memorial Fund and

- **Membership Secretary** Numbers for 2024 not yet

finalised. 120 Junior members registered in Caithness and would appear to be the whole school.

Zoom Meeting



Circulation of Reverberations discussed concerning late renewals.

The meeting closed
at 12.36 pm

Regional Safeguarding Officer



Judy Gees

I would like to introduce myself as the East Midlands Regional Safeguarding Officer. My name is Judy Gees and I play with John and Jane Heald in the Grantham Town Handbell Ringers team. I have dual nationality as it were and am a member of two other teams, both in the North East Region; Amber Bells and the Northern Bell Orchestra. This means that I am fairly well known, possibly some would say infamous, in the handbell ringing world!

There is a policy document on the front page of the HRGB website that outlines our responsibilities and behavioural expectations relating to safeguarding.

I am not going to repeat what is in the document but just want to signpost a few key points.

Safeguarding of children and adults at risk is a shared responsibility. It is something that all of us should think about and take responsibility for in our handbell teams and at HRGB rallies and events.

I have taken this bit directly from the HRGB website.

"An important aspect of the fabric of a Society whose members value the social aspects of membership is that we are alert to the well-being of our fellow members, particularly if they appear to be behaving differently, or stressed. If a fellow-member is in distress for any reason we should try to listen and support."

HRGB encourages all its members to be alert to the following indicators :

Any form of abuse including verbal, physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect,

Bullying, including cyber bullying, initiation rituals (for example theft of someone's property);

Grooming and exploitative behaviour.

HRGB encourages its member teams to establish their own policies and good working practice relating to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.



HRGB has borrowed a course of action from the British Transport Police in **"See it, say it, sorted!"**.

"See it" means that if you become aware from what you have seen or heard relating to a potential safeguarding issue, do not ignore it.

"Say it" means talk to someone about what you have seen or heard.

"Sorted". You have done what you needed to do and have passed it on.

The practicalities are that at HRGB events, organisers must have the name and contact details of all attendees and there should be a Safeguarding Lead at these events. The name of the event Safeguarding Lead should be publicised in the event information, available to team correspondents. Teams should have at least one member of the team who has a clean DBS certificate.

There are two courses of action relating to safeguarding:

If the young person or adult at risk is in immediate danger, dial 999 and inform the emergency services.

If the safeguarding issue relates to something you have overheard, been informed about, witnessed and so on, then inform the event organiser, the Safeguarding Lead, your team leader or an HRGB officer, who will speak to the parties concerned.

The person informed will then speak to the E M Regional Safeguarding Officer, me, as soon as practical.

I will discuss the incident or concern with the parties affected, will keep an accurate record of what was said, will take appropriate action and will above all maintain confidentiality about the details of what has happened.



**Safeguarding
is everyone's
responsibility**

Remember: See it, Say it, Sorted and that responsibility for safeguarding of our children and adults at risk is a **SHARED** responsibility.

Further details of the HRGB Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found on our website.

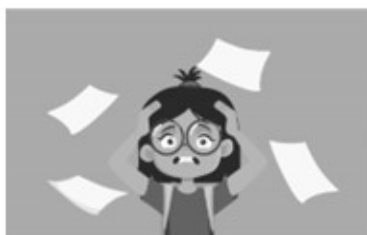
If you have any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e mail.

Judy Gees

East Midland Regional Safeguarding Officer

Email: hsocello1@gmail.com Mobile: 07969 768001

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR REGIONAL SECRETARY



The role of Regional Secretary requires excellent communication and organisational skills.

The Secretary should be able to navigate the HRGB Database and possess a reasonable level of IT skills.

Committee Meetings

Circulate the agenda (following due consultation with the Regional Chair) to all Committee Members.

Receive the necessary reports from the officers and other papers and distribute to Committee Members prior to the meeting.

Take the Minutes at the meeting, type (making sure any 'actions' are highlighted) and circulate as 'draft minutes' to all Committee Members, along with the HRGB National Secretary, as soon as possible.

Annual General Meeting

Circulate the Notification of the Meeting to all EM Region Members using the HRGB Database and within the time stated in the EM Constitution (at least 4 weeks prior to the meeting). Circulate by post to those members who do not have an e-mail address on the database.

Also enclose: Rally Booking Form – Meeting Agenda – the Previous year's AGM draft Minutes – Nomination Form - Proposal Form.

Once the Nomination Forms and any Proposals have been received by the due date, notify the EM Region Members using the HRGB Database (or by post for those without e-mail addresses) and within the time stated in the EM Constitution (at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting).

Take the Minutes at the meeting.

Following the meeting contact the HRGB National Secretary listing details of the newly elected Regional Officers and Regional Newsletter Editor (names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers). Also inform the National Secretary of the elected NEC EM Regional Representatives' details (as above) and also *including dates of birth* because they become Trustees of the Society (Handbell Ringers of Great Britain)

EM Regional Rallies

Once a date and venue have been agreed by the Regional Committee circulate a letter of invitation and booking form (with return date) to all EM Regional Members using the HRGB Database or by post for those

without e-mail addresses.

The committee will decide whether the Regional Secretary should receive the booking forms/payment or whether these should be received by the person/team organising the rally.

The massed ringing conductors and music will be agreed by the committee and the music distributed to attendees by the Regional Secretary.

The committee or team organising the rally will decide regarding the provision of refreshments.

A raffle will be organised, the proceeds of which will be split between the host team and the Vaughan Evans Bursary.

Details of the payment receipt name and address, timetable for the day, charges, refreshments, raffle and table layout and size are to be included in the invitation/booking form.

EM Regional Newsletter

Receive from the Editor and distribute to all EM Region Members using the HRGB Database or by post. ALSO distribute to other Regional Secretaries and Alan Hartley for the Archives.

Newsletters from other Regions

Receive via e-mail or post and distribute to the EM Region Officers.

Enquiries

Receive enquires via e-mail or telephone and deal with according to the nature of the enquiry. These are usually enquiries for a team to ring in a particular area in the region.

Regional Diary

Maintain a Regional Diary with dates of rallies, other region events, Region Team rehearsals and Committee Meetings. All these Diary Dates should also be included in the Regional Newsletter.

ALSO dates of rallies and other events (not EMRT rehearsals or EM Committee meetings) should be sent to the HRGB Web Editor and the Editor of Reverberations.

Reverberations

The Regional Secretary will be asked by the Editor to provide a Regional Round-up for each issue of Reverberations prior to the copy date.

Filing

Accurate and appropriate filing is essential by using a secure computer filing system.

Jane Heald 27.2.24





Regional Rally

Harlaxton

Saturday 23rd March, 2024

The day started at 10.00 when the teams began to arrive to set up for the East Midlands Rally and AGM, which was held in Harlaxton Village Hall on Saturday 23rd March. Three teams arrived: Stanwick, Grantham Town and Bretherton. Our conductors for the day were Samuel Davies, Judith Kirk and Jane Heald. Mike Johnson was MC in charge.



Harlaxton Village Hall

Our massed ringing pieces were a new composition by Samuel Davies called "Handbell Waltz", "A Spoonful of Sugar" from the Mary Poppins film and "Over the Waves", a Vaughan Evans piece. Jane recounted how she had enjoyed ringing this piece many years ago with Vaughan in the St Wulfram's Handbells team, based in Grantham.

The teams played the massed ringing pieces then were given an opportunity to ring around the room. Bretherton rang first and played a skilful rendition of "Parade of the Tin Soldiers". Grantham Town rang next and played "Brahm's Lullaby" most sensitively, observing the dynamics beautifully.

Stanwick played one of my favourite pieces, Michael Helman's "Soliloquy", and were joined by Ted and Irene who used to ring in the East Midlands Regional Team. Stanwick has a most accomplished



four in hand team of Marie Allen, Sandra Cox and Sam Chambers. They played "Champagne Charlie" and "Hot Cross Buns" to great effect.

Lunch was a bring your own affair and just before lunch, the heavens opened and it started to sleet. At the last rally in October, it rained so hard that we had to stop as we could not hear ourselves above the racket of the rain on the roof.

Some lovely raffle prizes were donated including candles and Easter eggs. Last time I won a bottle of gin very kindly donated by Brian Buttery. This time, I won a more modest Marks and Spencer's scented candle, which was most welcome, of course.



Stanwick Handbell Ringers



Grantham Town Handbell Ringers



After lunch Mike Johnson started our AGM. It was lovely to see Mike back as the East Midlands Chair, after a short absence. The rest of the committee was voted in en bloc, with the welcome addition of Sue Bond to the EM Committee. Mike thanked Nicola Wright for her work for the first seven months since our last AGM and particularly for the acquisition and collection of the late Tegwen Manton's bells and chimes. Mike commented that our region is large geographically but does not have many active teams that

are willing to attend rallies. He calculated that about 25% of the members in the EM region had attended our rally and AGM. Judy was thanked for her work of cataloguing and working with Alan Hartley to transfer the ownership of Tegwen's bells, chimes and equipment to the EM region. He commented also that Judy had been nominated for the position of National Secretary of HRGB.



Stanwick 4 in Hand Trio

After the AGM there was more massed ringing and all the teams were able to ring more pieces. Bretherton played Moon River most effectively, followed by Grantham Town playing a Larry Sue piece called "Alouette, Gentile, Alouette". Stanwick asked Sam and I to sightread "The Ash Grove" on chimes. This was a most effective way to play this piece, I felt.

Cakes were provided by the teams and were much enjoyed by all. Thank you to our Regional Committee members for acting as hosts. I had to dash off to Harrogate for a concert at the tea break but know that the rally was a great success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Our rally was small but perfectly formed, as they say!

Thank you Mike Johnson for a most enjoyable day of ringing, friendship and fun.

Judy Gees

Grantham Town Handbell Ringers



Tim Willetts

Honorary Life Membership



At the HRGB AGM Tim Willetts was conferred Honorary Life Membership of HRGB which is the highest honour that can be bestowed by the Society to recognise the

outstanding contribution of individuals to handbell ringing nationally and internationally. Roger Lazenby read the citation and the Certificate of Honorary Life Membership was presented by HRGB National Membership Secretary Diane Holt. Tim has been HRGB chair since 2014.

The East Midlands Region congratulates Tim on his award and wish him well for the future.

CRESCENDO Scheme



'Crescendo' is a staged programme to encourage young ringers to develop their handbell ringing skills which will, we hope, generate enthusiasm for all the aspects involved. Full details www.handbells.org.uk

National Rally

Swanwick



Review of Rally by New Timer

I have recently returned home from this year's HRGB National Rally was held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. I was invited to attend, despite being a little nervous and intimidated, for various reasons, about whether I would enjoy it or not.

Would I feel welcome? Would I be good enough?
Would I fit in? What about Catering and Food?

Given that our East Midlands Team were keen to perform Nocturne in C Minor at the "Teams in the Spotlight" session on the Friday evening, I felt that I really needed to show team spirit and support for our Team and John and Jane Heald. No pressure then!!

I am so glad I attended. I learnt so much. Not only did we somehow pull off our team performance on the Friday evening in front of about 180 handbell ringers, but also we looked rather smart in our new ties and cravats. Thanks is due to Jane Heald for her encouragement and enthusiasm. What a buzz! We certainly enjoyed our post concert drinks. I realised that the venue was super. Bedrooms were clean with



EMRT

The East
Midlands
Regional
Team
In concert
Nocturne in C
Minor



Welcome from
Beth McCord

small double bedrooms and my shower and tea/coffee making facilities all worked perfectly.

The catering in a huge dining room was surprisingly excellent with a choice of 3 main courses as well as vegetarian/vegan options. There was even a salad bar for the health conscious. An array of desserts was available and all could be washed down with our choice of accompanying beverage from the bar.

There was a huge comfortable lounge bar area to accommodate all delegates who chose to socialise. Most did and many friendships were forged or rekindled. All attendees were incredibly friendly and welcoming and I felt totally included.



Lounge bar

The weekend continued on Saturday with musical workshops, cleverly categorised to match delegates stated playing ability.

These were run by conductors who I found to be extremely knowledgeable and full of fun. We met new neighbours at these sessions as not all regional and local teams have players who all play to the same ability. This also fostered sociability and friendships which spilled over into coffee break and lunch and dinner chats.

The music played at workshops was very enjoyable and just challenging enough. I played "Prayer for the Innocents" by Michael Helman. Look on YouTube! By the end of the session, when we were able to play it quite well, I found myself becoming quite emotional.



Malcolm Wilson conducts 'Finlandia'

Another workshop opened

my eyes to the concept (apparently used by some teams around the UK) of writing or converting music into completely different formats rather than the traditional stave format.

Numbers or colours are used or sometimes simply the numbers 1, 2 or 3 are given to your specific bells along



with bar lines, dots etc. Amazingly, from complete confusion, we found that after about a 2 minute explanation we were playing the Lambeth walk and other tunes with few problems just as well as from our conventional musical notation.

An evening concert by the best handbell ringers in the UK served to inspire me to improve my technique, rather than overawe me. It was probably one of the most enjoyable concerts of any type that I have attended.

The Mass Ringing on the Sunday morning was astonishing.

180+ ringers all in the same room playing /learning 3 different pieces. Please don't be put off or intimidated. Yes you may find yourself next to an expert ringer. However, on your other side there maybe someone who is struggling. I found an atmosphere of everybody wanting to help each other to learn and improve and enjoy the event. In particular, what a thrill to learn to master and play "Finlandia" written and conducted by the man himself.

In conclusion I would simply say that the NW team should be so proud of the event they planned and organised. Their whole team thought of everything, including mobility and dietary issues, and I had the time of my life. An experience I would recommend to anyone. For someone who arrived at the rally as a bit of a sceptic I have to say I have been converted. I would strongly recommend that you give next year's 2025 HRGB rally in Milton Keynes a go!

You'll love it!

Ian Ingram



National Rally

Swanwick



Review of Rally by an Old Timer

We were looking forward to once again attending the National Rally, even though we had done so many times before. This year it was at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick and hosted by the NW Region.

As we arrived for registration it was good to see so many familiar faces again, all smiling and happy to be there. We received our delegate packs for the weekend after which John left to find a suitable parking place. I was soon joined by members of my team who were due to be



The Hayes

playing that evening in the Teams in the Spotlight session. They volunteered to go to find where we would be ringing and to make sure our tables were set out in the format we had requested. They agreed to set-up our tables with the foam, covers, bells etc whilst John and I found our room and settled in. I was very grateful for this. Following dinner all I needed to do was find the hall in the Derbyshire Suite and arrive with



Cliff Blundell

my music stand and music ready to conduct the East Midlands Regional Team.

This first session of the rally on Friday evening was most entertaining with six teams ringing – The Kinder Ringers, Aidan Fozard (solo belleplates), Broxbourne Handbell Ringers, duo Beth and Jocie McCord, Dronfield Handbell Ringers, Cliff Blundell (solo) and the



The East Midlands Regional Team

East Midlands Team. As we were last on and this was the first time the team had played at a national event, there was time for nerves to settle down (or not, as the case may be). In the event the team played extremely

well and I was very proud of them. I received compliments over the weekend regarding their sensitive playing of Michael Helman's Nocturne in C Minor.

Following this we found the bar for some serious socialising.

We sat chatting, drinking and laughing for longer than hubby would have liked, but I am a social animal really and, as my good friend, John Atkinson, constantly says "Mrs Heald's always dancing on the table" when socialising with fellow ringers – an exaggeration of course!



Lounge Bar

Hubby finally managed to prise me away from our friends and we retired to our Jane-friendly room – plenty of rails in the bathroom to hold on to.

The following morning I was tired but looking forward to the day ahead. Following breakfast John took me to my first workshop and I took part in ringing The Heavens Are Telling, arranged by Sandra Winter. Very enjoyable.

The next workshop was entitled 'Not Just Dots and Sticks'. This looked into other forms of reading music besides staff notation. As a person who has been reading staff notation for making music for nearly 60 years, this concept requires much concentration from me. However, it is a good way of ringing if a person is not used to staff and it is amazing how some teams

are able to ring complicated music this way, including all the different handbell techniques.

Following lunch and more chatting to fellow ringers we gathered in the Main Hall for the HRGB AGM where our own East Midlands member, Judy Gees, was elected as National Secretary – well done Judy! The other National Officers were



Judy Gees, Keith Rowlands, and Diane Holt at the AGM

re-elected – Keith Rowland (Chair), Anthony Hayes (Treasurer) and Diane Holt (Membership Secretary). The Chair reported on his first year in office. We were informed regarding dates for this year's UK Bronze in October, next year's National Rally in Milton Keynes, the National Residential Ringing

Week 2025 in Sheffield and the International Symposium 2026, now to be held in Aberdeen, so there are plenty of forthcoming national events to participate in as well as our own regional events. I was delighted to see young Noah being presented with his Crescendo Scheme Certificate.

Next for me was another workshop where I took part in ringing Suite for Handbells by Michael Helman. This is a lovely five movement composition containing challenges with changing time signatures and some additional bell techniques. Sandra Winter took us through this with her usual enthusiasm.



Noah presented with Crescendo Certificate

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend my last workshop of the day.

Dinner was served! This, once again, gave us an opportunity to discuss with friends the highlights of our day's workshops.

Time now for the much anticipated National Rally Concert. Introduced by Kate Worthington, five teams played an excellent

and varied programme of music. Maghull Parish Handbell Ringers gave us energetic renditions of 'Shine Jesus Shine', Pirates of the Caribbean and March Olympic Gold. Dronfield Handbell Ringers rang Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, Stardust and Moonlight Sonata; all arranged by Vic Cox and very sympathetically played. Next we listened to Alton Handbell Ringers playing Resound and Rejoice, I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say and the piece well known to all handbell ringers, Highland Cathedral (with superb malleting in the bass).



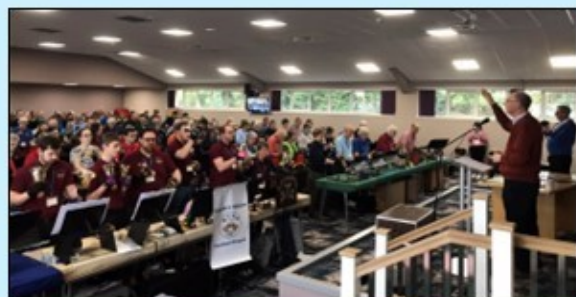
Maghull Parish Handbell Ringers

Following this we were given a complete contrast by the Stour Valley Handbell Ringers – a duo ringing 8-bell music 4-in-hand. This was a very emotional performance as it was a tribute to Pauline, their mother and wife respectively, who had been their Team Leader and who passed away in August 2023. They rang I Vow to Thee, my Country (Thaxted), Jason Krug's Elegy and It is Well with My Soul (Ville du Havre) in honour of Pauline. Wow, very tear jerking and extremely well played. Finally we were treated to Surrey Hills Ringers conducted by the energetic Sandra Winter. They played Sandra's composition Celebration, A Song of Love and Amen Siakudumisa – a rousing way to end the concert which had been a musical feast.

Everyone seemed to be now dashing to the bar but on hearing that the trade stalls were still open, I felt in need of some retail therapy which Robert and Fiona Willis very successfully enabled!

By this time we were both quite tired following the day's activities so found a quiet place in the lounge to sit on our own for a drink. We wanted to retire early in order to be packed up and out of our room by the 9.30 deadline (I am very slow in the

mornings these days). On our way out we said "goodnight" to friends who could not believe we were going to bed early! John Atkinson sent Tom Baker to reception to ask if we could be allowed to vacate our room a little later. Tom negotiated an 11am leave which took the pressure off – it's good to have friends who can, and always manage to, sort things for us.



Massed Ringing - 'Finlandia'
led by Malcolm Wilson

The final session on Sunday morning was massed ringing in the main hall. Hubby settled me in and then went back to clear our room. The massed

ringing was
Reflection on

Finlandia, arranged and conducted by Malcolm Wilson, Blues for Bells by Robin Benton conducted by Linda McCord and Psalm 'Crimond' arranged and conducted by Sandra Winter. It was brilliant to hear all the bells ringing together. Also, Tintinnabulis and Burghill and Tillington rang their lively individual piece.

We ate a good Sunday lunch together before saying our goodbyes and making our way home. Once again, the National Rally Weekend was a most rewarding experience. It gives me the opportunity to ring handbells, learn from other team/workshop leaders, play new pieces of music, enjoy massed ringing and have the privilege of listening to other teams play their individual pieces.

Also, it provides a great opportunity to catch up with old friends from across our regions and chat to new ones. The rally had such a lovely atmosphere and the little gifts in our packs were very thoughtful. As in previous years, my thanks go to all who made it possible. It is a mammoth task to organise such an event and this was well executed again this year. God willing, I shall be at Milton Keynes next year.

Jane Heald

"The Manton Bells"

We recently reported the sad news that Tegwen Manton of Washingborough had died. Tegwen together with her late husband, Richard, had managed Harlaxton Chimes for many years and were regular attenders at National Rallies.



It was Tegwen's wish that her bells and equipment be donated to HRGB and a substantial set of bells and chimes are now in the ownership of the East Midland Region.

Your Committee has been spending many hours deliberating on how best to use this legacy of over £40,000 in the form of handbells, chimes and equipment. It has many implications, e.g. use, storage and insurance,

As a first measure The East Midlands Committee would like to offer any team within the East Midlands Region who would like to use any of these bells/ chimes to get into touch with Marie Allen, the Treasurer (details below). The schedule of bells and chimes etc. is shown on the page opposite. They are available on lease or for sale.

Marie Allen

Tel. 01933 353915.

e-mail: m.allen857@btinternet.com



SCHEDULE

To The Manton Bells



- 4½ chromatic octaves of Schulmerich and Malmark Handbells G3 to C8 held in 6 cases.
- 2 octave set of Schulmerich handchimes G4 to G6 held in 1 case.
- 3 octave set of Malmark Handchimes C4 to C7 in 2 cases.
- 4½ octave set of Schulmerich and Malmark Handchimes G3 to C7 held in 4 cases.
- 1 single Schulmerich handchime C3 in a tube.
- 1 blue plastic box of Schulmerich handchimes, 2 x B_b 6, 2 x A6, 2 x B6, 2 x C.
- 1 two octave set of Suzuki handchimes G5 to G6 and G[#] 6 to G7 in 2 white polystyrene cases marked CM25.
- 1 cardboard box containing Percussion Plus handchimes C4, C5, E5, G5, C6 and one Schulmerich G4 handchime.
- 1 suitcase containing eighteen handchimes of various sizes and condition, maker unknown
- 37 tuned Cowbells, Lowest bell C plus three further octaves of C, and three octaves each of C sharp, D, D[#], E, F, F[#], G, G[#], A.
A sharp and B Assorted accessories: handbell mallets, white gloves, music folders, black music stands and repair kit.



Safeguarding



In order to update the Skills Register would any member with DBS checks in place and has undergone safeguarding training please come forward.

Any such East Midlands member is asked to contact Judy Gees, our Safeguarding Officer, for their names to be forwarded for inclusion in the Skills Register.

PLEASE READ JUDY'S ARTICLE ON PAGE



Any member wishing to undertake Safeguarding training should

contact Judy Gees

Email: hsocellot@gmail.com

Mobile: 07969 768001



JOB DESCRIPTION FOR REGIONAL CHAIR



Qualities required:

- A willingness to lead the organisation
- Possesses tact, diplomacy and powers of persuasion.
- Possesses relevant knowledge of handbell ringing and the workings of HRGB and its rules, together with an understanding of the Annual HRGB rally.
- Has the relevant skills to run a meeting well.

The main function of a chairperson for the East Midlands Region is to lead the region and its committee to enable it to fulfil its purpose.

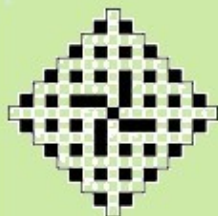
To this end the following points should be observed:

- Acting as spokesperson and figurehead for the Region
- To ensure an effective relationship between the members and members of the committee.
- To move the region forward and encourage its members and teams to participate in the life of the region.

As regards the Committee and its members:

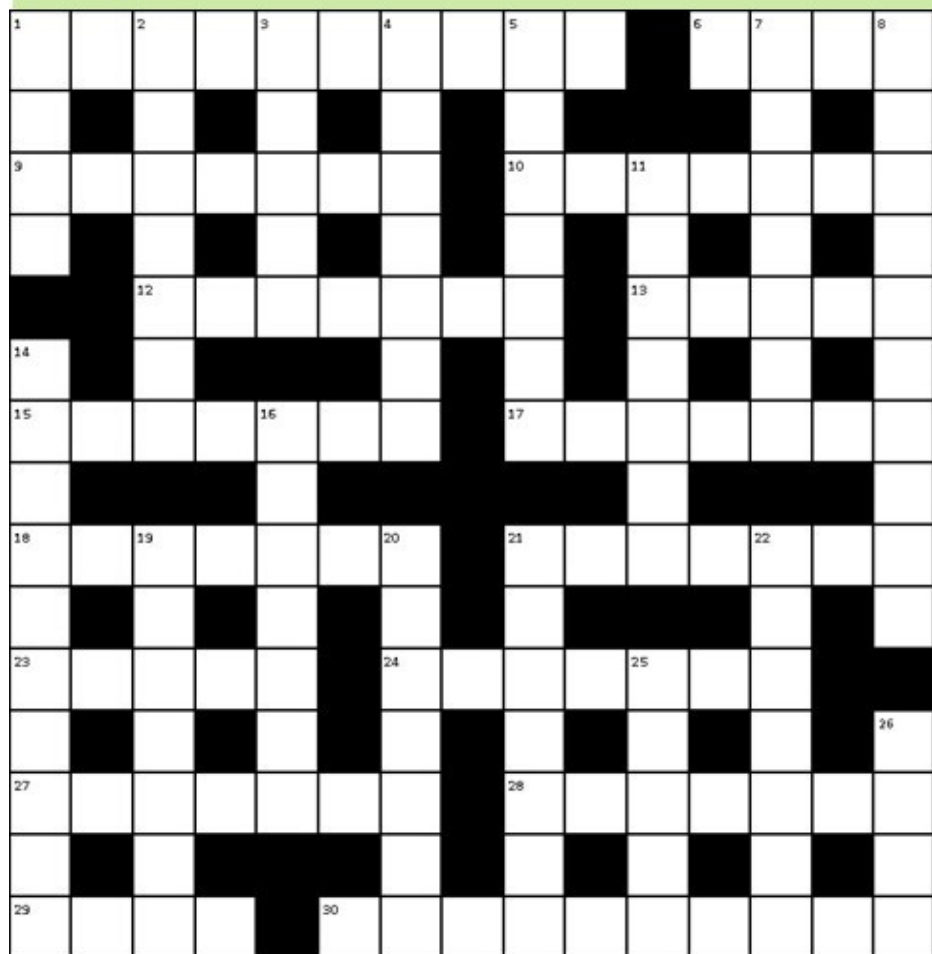
- Chair meetings of the committee.
- Be familiar with the regional constitution.
- Liaise with the Secretary as to agenda for meetings.
- Keep a balance between discussion and moving the agenda forward.
- Keep record of voting and ensure these are recorded.
- Ensure that each member is given opportunity give their views but not dominate the meeting.
- To encourage members to take on task for the Region.
- Ensure that a successor is found before the term of office finishes.

EM Crossword



by Triode

Solution in Winter edition
of the EM Newsletter



Crossword Clues



ACROSS

1. Looking back (10)
6. Cabbage or is it pastry? (4)
9. Hummingbird (7)
10. Find fee in Turkish nobility (7)
12. Small crotchet perhaps? (7)
13. Little Scotland (5)
15. Domestic duck (7)
17. Lend our disc about (7)
18. Beaters whisk into refund (6)
21. Biro patented it (7)
23. Balearic island (5)
24. Florida in Bloom (7)
27. Quavers in USA (7)
28. Obliterate (7)
29. Minster City (4)
30. Battlements in US (10)

DOWN

1. Scrum down (4)
2. Roman money (7)
3. Going round in circles (5)
4. Scottish Town (7)
5. Charlie's City (7)
7. Old measure of land (7)
8. Circus act? (10)
11. True-to-life (7)
14. A bit of needle in this (10)
16. Ishmael (7)
19. Hesperus
20. Liverpudlian (7)
21. Prime Minister (7)
22. Dean of recent cathedral (7)
25. Asian County – not a penal colony (5)
26. Collar fastener (4)



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Rallies



Bretherton 2009



2012 at Grantham



2012 at Alford



Sandra Cox 2023



Cottesmore HBR 2014



Irene & Ted James



Disclaimer

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