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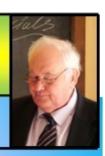
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## **Editor**

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#### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We send
our loyal
greetings
to Her
Majesty



The Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

I send greetings from the Editor's Desk and wish you all a belated happy New Year.

After a long and protracted war against Covid 19 we have been blest with the lifting of all restrictions.

Please send reports of any ringing or other events for the next edition which I hope will be a late Summer edition.

Brian Buttery

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#### **COVER PICTURE**

The
Bretherton
Bell Choir Alford 2012.
H.M. The
Queen's 60th
Year of
Reign.



## Report from The Chair

## February 2022



### Hello,

Christmas has been and gone for another year. The date for submission of my report creeps up and it seems like no time at all since I sat at my computer the last time trying to think of words that might just encourage East Midlands members to get involved in the events that are organised by HRGB National and the Region Committee. According to the latest figures that I have seen, the National rally will welcome just 5 or 6 East

Midlands members. The Webinars that have been hosted on Zoom have covered a variety of Handbell related topics and have seen almost no-one attending from our region. I wonder why that is? I would love to know!



This region has now hosted 4 Virtual rallies on Zoom, and we have had a good response from members from outside of our region and all 4 rallies have attracted visitors from USA and Singapore with the first one also attended by Kevin Mazimas Ko from Hong Kong. The overseas visitors have been very keen to show us some of their work via video clips and we have received



numerous complimentary comments from attendees. Total attendance averaged about 30 per rally but only two teams from the East Midlands

(Our Region!) were represented at any of the rallies. Again, I wonder why?

As I write, our Region's "Get Back to Ringing" event is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> March, to be held in Ashby de La Zouch. It is a free event for HRGB members with all food and refreshments included. This event also appears to be suffering from a lack of support. I wish some one would take the time to tell me or any Committee member where we are going wrong! Similar events in other regions are regularly over-subscribed.

A couple of high points to tell you about now: Brian Buttery (Grantham Town HR), as you know is the editor of our excellent newsletter and has recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Handbell Ringing. Brian was a member of St. Wulfram's Handbell Ringers (Now Grantham Town HR) in the very early days of HRGB and was instrumental in setting up the East Midlands region – the first region to be recognised in HRGB. Many congratulations and let's hope you have many more years to come. Also, Dot Williams, also of Grantham Town HR has recently celebrated her 40 years of Handbell ringing. Many congratulations Dot. (Report on page 8)

Now – the standing appeal for a team to offer to host a Region Rally in the Summer or Autumn. All you have to

Can You Help? do is identify a suitable venue. It could be a village or Church or School hall, that would allow us to take it over for the day. We need sufficient space for (usually) five or six teams to set up their tables etc and a kitchen area for tea/coffee etc. As the host

team, you need do nothing more than let us know the contact details for the venue. The Region Committee can do the rest, including booking the hall, paying the hire fee, arranging refreshments and producing all the paperwork.

The 2022 HRGB National Rally (postponed from 2020) will be held over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> April at Sheffield. If you are one of the East Midlands region members attending. I hope you have a great time (Or if this newsletter arrives after 10<sup>th</sup> April I hope you had a great time!) Unfortunately, I am not able to attend this year.

Our Region Hosted National Rally is still on the cards for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to be held at the Kettering Conference Centre as a one-day event. Hopefully this will attract sufficient ringers as it

should prove to be significantly less expensive than the current traditional weekend event. The National Rally originally was a one-day event in the distant past.

Finally, I give you notice of our Region AGM. It will be held on "Zoom" on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30PM. Please try to be there as we need the attendance of a



minimum of twenty members to allow the meeting to proceed. Less than twenty would mean that the meeting cannot proceed and that would technically leave the Region without a committee! Zoom sign-in details will be made available shortly.

Finally finally(?!) Please consider if you are able to submit an article for the Newsletter. Brian, the Editor does a marvellous job of producing our newsletter but has a perpetual struggle to get items for it from anyone other than Committee members. It would be great to hear some news about your team, your ringers or anything related to Handbell ringing that other Region members might be interested in. Maybe a quiz or a crossword puzzle or a wordsearch or even a poem or limerick that you have heard or can create. It would be a real shame if the newsletter was to become just a report on National and Regional Committee affairs, and believe me, It would not make interesting reading. Maybe handy if you can't sleep!

In the words of the Looney Tunes cartoons - That's all Folks! (If you are of sufficient age to remember them?)



Mile Johnson Chair EM

## A Double Celebration

Pandemic when two attempts to celebrate their long service in the hand bell ringing world, Brian Buttery and Dot Williams, at long



Brian Buttery & Dotty

last, managed, be it two years late, to celebrate fifty and forty years, respectively, with their fellow members



of the Grantham Town Handbell Ringers. On a Wednesday afternoon in February guests and family, gathered at Grantham's Angel and Royal Hotel where they enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea.

14th Century Fireplace

Both Brian and Dot told of their

introduction to hand bell ringing. Brian from being a

tower bell ringer at Saint Wulfram's Church, Grantham, where



Vaughan Evans had asked him if he would like to join a handbell team, based at the local St. Wulfram's Secondary school.



Vaughan Evans



Members and Guests at Tea

Dot had joined the team when Brian and Vaughan had visited a W.I. meeting at Christmas 1979. The pair of them ringing bells in the appropriate places to

a recording of the St. Wulfram's team. The full team had not been able to fulfil the engagement. Dot, having "a go" along with some more W.I. members decided that it was easier and much better than playing a cornet, and marching up and down on Notts. County's football matches at Meadow Lane at half time when she was in her teens, and promptly joined St. Wulfram's ringers at their next meeting in January, thinking that Brian and



York Minster 1987

Vaughan needed a bit of help to ring all those bells which she had heard.

There was both laughter and tears when Brian and Dot recalled their

memories of past members no longer with us, of events they had attended; two visits to Germany, Jersey in the Channel Isles; featuring on TV; a tour of Scotland, and the Isle of Man International Music Festival where the



1974 Team—Brian Buttery, Mike Ellis, Peter Sleight, Vaughan Evans

team played to an audience of 10,000; parading down the prom at Douglas with all the other musicians from the world; Brian receiving applause from the ferry passengers after parking the minibus sideways in the only

space left; playing in York Minster shortly before its devasting fire, but there were more churches and

cathedrals in between the years, too many to mention, other than that there were no more fire-damaged buildings, following a visit by the team.



Musical Directors
John and Jane Heald

The Musical Director, John

Heald, spoke of the contribution that both Brian and Dot had made to the team, including Dot's method of teaching, ensuring that mistakes were rarely repeated.

Brian was presented with a whisky tumbler and Dot a crystal bell; both items being suitably inscribed with script, marking their achievement of years served.

A cake made by Nicola Wright, a fellow team member, was decorated with handbells with the pairs respective

bell notes they played. The sides of the cake was iced and covered. in staves depicting their notes that they usually played.

The cake was ceremoniously cut by Brian and Dot who then faced a barrage of cameras.

"lust like the press with photographers some celebrity", Brian was heard to say.



Celebration Cake

Cards congratulating the duo were received as well as from former members unable to attend.

Brian and Dot thanked everyone for joining them in marking their achievement in such an enjoyable way





**Brian Buttery** 



**Dotty Williams** 











# Virtual Rally

## 630 Years of Handbell Ringing

n Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February the East Midlands Region held their 4<sup>th</sup> virtual rally via Zoom. This proved to be another very enjoyable afternoon with a variety of activities. The rally was organised and hosted by Mike Johnson, chair of the East Midlands Region. During the past two years I have really missed handbell ringing, both the actual playing of the bells and the shared experience of this unique form of music making. To listen

and watch experts performing, to participate in the air ringing and to enjoy the light hearted quizzes and social aspect of the session was a joy. For a couple of hours I was immersed in the world of handbell ringing and I loved it!

People from a number of the HRGB regions attended and we were very fortunate to be joined by some of the big names in the world of handbell ringing - Damien Lim, Tan Shin Lu and Ximin from Singapore, Larry & Carla Sue from the USA and Susan Nelson from New Jersey. Everyone introduced themselves and then the fun began.



Susan Nelson



Damien Lim

The afternoon started with air ringing of 'Celebrate with Gladness', an apt choice as 6/2/22 was also the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This lively Hungarian folksong was



Larry & Carla Sue

taken at a brisk pace and ensured everyone was awake and concentrating. The next piece, 'Passacaglia, was inspired by Pachebel's Canon' and arranged by Valerie Stephenson. A beguiling melody, 'Snowflakes' by Richard Johnson ended this session.

Susan Nelson introduced a video of the Campinelli Handbell Ensemble playing her arrangement of Stanley Trumpet Voluntary with an excellent trumpet player (Gary Ross) accompanying them. We then witnessed a



Campinelli Handbell Ensemble

feat of considerable strength as we watched Larry Sue ringing the world's biggest handbell, a Malmark GO. A fascinating video clip from the Raleigh Ringers showed a handbell vibrating when dropped. Watching the metal expanding and contracting in waves was a 'heart in the mouth moment'. We also saw the vibrations bouncing a

droplet of water inside a bell. Neither of these should be tried with your bells!

The second session of air ringing featured an Irish tune, 'Clonmel', arranged by Judy Phillips. As I struggled to keep up on my two imaginary bells my attention was captivated by Larry and Carla Sue zipping along playing 4-in-hand. Then I noticed Gay and Alan Cooper doing the same! As if that wasn't impressive enough we were then treated to a video of 'Come down O love divine' by Carla & Larry. The screen was split into 7 screens, each showing them playing bells from treble to bass and handchimes too. Of course there was at least one



screen with them playing 4-in-hand. The IT skills needed to produce this synchronisation amaze me.

Cities of

The

Damien Lim, of the Ministry of Bellz in Singapore, showed us a video of 30 of their ringers (the youngest being only 9 years old), playing Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' .An electronic xylophone was used to replicate the guitar. Damien played an accompaniment on percussion.

Two quizzes kept us on our toes. Brian Buttery had devised an entertaining geographical set of questions based on cities

around the world. The graphics were excellent! Mike challenged us with a musical quiz — I shall try to remember that the English translation of the word 'Karaoke' is 'Empty orchestra'. This piece of trivia could be useful in a future quiz!

A final video clip showed 3 people performing change ringing. What was remarkable was that the group included a little boy who looked about 6 years old, kneeling on a chair and playing with amazing accuracy and timing.

The rally concluded with a final piece of air ringing, 'Bridge over Troubled Waters'. We had not experienced any of those during the course of this inspiring



afternoon! Attendees were asked for how long they had been ringing handbells. A quick addition gave the total as 630 years – over six centuries of hard work, dedication and pleasure!



Mike Johnson EM Chair

Mike thanked everyone for attending this virtual rally.

I would like to thank him for all the hard work he puts in to keep handbell ringing alive and well in the East Midlands region.

Marie Allen

## **NEC NOTES**



#### Saturday 29th January 2022 (via Zoom)

- Chair's welcome TW welcomed everyone then announced that Amanda Jones is unwell and is intending to step down as Editor of Reverberations. He mentioned too the recent death of Don Bedford and sent condolences to Philip Bedford and family.
- Apologies: Amanda Jones, Lysbeth Wilson, Malcolm Wilson, John Elcock.
- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising. Accepted. Matters arising will be dealt with in item 22.

#### 4.Starting ringing again

4i Regional events

**Scotland.** Some teams have returned in person, some have not. They have arranged a rally and AGM for March on zoom as well as in person events in October and May.

**North West.** They have had mini rallies in October and November which were oversubscribed. They have a Spring rally and AGM on 26 March. Summer and Autumn rallies are being planned.

North East. There was a rally in October which was a tribute to Hazel Brady. The Autumn Bingley rally was cancelled due to a lack of numbers. Various teams have given concerts but one team was turned away due to covid non compliance. The team had not been asked to provide proof of vaccinations or LTF tests and so were unprepared when asked for this. Rally organisers should ask people to let them know if any ringers develop Covid within five days of attending a rally. Various other rallies are being planned including Grassington in May and the Summer Ring in June, as well as the National Rally in April.

West Midlands. There was a joint rally in October with the SW region. The David Williams workshop has been postponed until November. There will be a mini rally and AGM in March.

East Midlands. There has been some ringing in person but also some significant reluctance of some teams to meet. We will have our fourth virtual rally on 6th February with some international ringers. We have planned a Get back to ringing rally on 19th March at Ashby School with the emphasis on individual rather than team attendance. The AGM will be via zoom in either April or May. The East Midlands team

has met again in person.

East Anglia. There is some reluctance in the region to go back to in person ringing. The October rally was oversubscribed and a great success. There will be an AGM and rally on 19th March and a summer ring too. At a recent committee meeting, safeguarding and the webinars were mentioned and the committee wanted to know if the webinars could be recorded and placed on the HRGB website.

South West. Ringing is a bit patchy with some teams returning to in person ringing. Various rallies have been planned. South East. There was a rally in Hampshire organised by Bishop Bells. Rallies are by invitation in order to keep the numbers small. SERBO is not meeting due to concerns over covid. There will be two invitation rallies in May and a service in Guildford Cathedral.

4ii Report on Webinars There were two: Arranging music and Musical phrasing, which were well received. There is one planned for 12th March at 2pm on Arranging music. There will be more after the National Rally in April.

#### 5. National Events

2022 National Rally The rally is not going to have the same workshops as before because some workshop leaders are not attending. There will be about 150 attendees plus stewards, which is about 2/3 of the numbers from 2020. There is a possibility of livestreaming the event, and the possibility of this is being explored.

2023 Scotland National Rally No new facts and the committee are moving things forward.

2024 East Midlands National Rally There is some concern over the venue and whether the centre will be reopening.

#### International Events

- A) Nashville, August 2022. Details were posted on the website in December and delegates need to book themselves onto this. Martin Winter will be the UK delegate. Christine will be the IHC rep and will attend also.
- B) International Symposium, UK, 2026. There have been two bids for the venue plus another in the pipeline and the announcement of the chosen venue will be fairly soon, after venue providers have attended an interview.
- C) UK Bronze. As at the middle of January, there are twentyto two delegates booked onto this. Strategic matters. The safeguarding paper has been accepted, with the amendment of vulnerable adults to adults at risk.

#### 6 Business matters

#### AGM 2022

Officers' intentions

TW, our Chair is to step down in 2023. The National Secretary is due to step down this year, 2022. Any successor suggestions to Tim please. Membership Secretary and Treasurer are happy to continue. Amanda Jones is to step down as editor of Reverberations

- 7 Gender Equality paper. Thanks to Mike Johnson for working on this. The paper will be sent to the AGM for consideration.
- Publication of NEC minutes It was agreed that minutes could be published on the Member pages of HRGB, but with the removal of confidential matters.
- 9. Managing the work of the new National Officers. Trustees were put into various rooms to discuss whether we should have two committees: one to consider strategic matters and one to look at operational matters. The consensus was that we should not have two committees and that perhaps we should consider lengthening the NEC days in order to be able to get through the agenda items. It was noted that we may not be able to appoint national officers as people had not come forward to take up the roles. It was decided to lengthen the NEC days rather than add a fifth day.
- Charity governance code . This was deferred.
- 11. Charity Commission news. Deferred.
- 12. Money matters,. Nothing new to report.
- 13. **Membership up date.** The new online system worked very well. Family membership was discussed and it could be called Double membership. The will be explored further at the next NEC meeting.
- 14. Membership renewals software. Nothing new to report.
- 15. Social Media. Nothing new to report.
- 16. Archives. The overseas documents are going to be collected and looked at by Gay Cooper, rather than sending them to be recycled. Copyright issues were discussed and Amanda Jones' proposals to put photos onto a Pinterest account were rejected. Issues of copyright and minors were a problem.

The archives will be relocated to the Heritage Quay at Huddersfield University. The proposal to transfer copyright of HRGB archive material to the Heritage Quay was rejected. The nominated person to interface with Heritage Quay would be the archivist or an equivalent post holder.

- William Hartley Memorial Fund There was a bequest from Alan Collings of a five octave set of Whitechapel bells to Senlac HR. The team declined the bequest and passed responsibility for the insurance and evaluation of the bells to HRGB. Three octaves of Woodroyd bells are being leased to a new team , Eden Bells, in the North West Region.
- 18. Reverberations. Available as a paper version and online by request. Amanda would like people to send interviews to her for compilation, either video or audio,

#### 19. Sales

- William Butler's book will be available on a sale or return basis.
- 2. Bedford Family music. Philip and Don had decided to give their music and copyright to the HRGB. One piece is not out of copyright though and will not be available, but all other Bedford family music will be available from the HRGB shop. HRGB thanked the Bedford family for their generosity and would like to accept the music.
- 20 Website. Nothing to report
- 21. Handbells in education. TW is talking to Heads in North Somerset and will report at a later date.
- 22. Matters arising from previous minutes.

Item 13. Brian Buttery's proposal. TW was reminded to speak to BB about this.

- 23. Correspondence. None.
- 24. Diary Dates. Trustees were reminded to send diary dates of rallies to Christine Reid so that they could be added.
- 25. AOB. None.

Next meeting 26th March 2022.

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice of the AGM for the East Midlands Region of HRGB is hereby given for Tuesday April 26th 2022

via ZOOM at 7.30 pm

Please make an effort to attend this Important meeting



## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee







This year H.M. The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. The Government has announced a long weekend of bank holidays and celebration activities from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5th June. One of the activities will be the "Big Jubilee Lunch" on Sunday 5th June.

The sound of bells, perhaps more than any other instrument, says "let's celebrate!" so HRGB is recommending that Handbell Groups all round the country should, if possible, ring in public to help mark the Jubilee.

We suggest that you might play in public if possible for 20 to 30 minutes between 11 am and 3 pm on Sunday 5th June,

At a time that fits in with any other Jubilee celebration activities that are being arranged in your locality. Please choose music that you know well, which will promote the celebratory mood.



## **Obituary**



## Don Bedford

on Bedford died in January 2022 peacefully, in his sleep. He lived in Wales but when I first met him he was living in Melbourne, Derbyshire and came to the first meeting of the East Midlands Region in 1975 at St. Wulfram's Secondary School, Grantham and he successfully conducted the first ever massed ringing at an HRGB rally with the "Blue Bells of Scotland"

A quiet, softly spoken, giant of a gentleman who had a passion for handbell ringing.

He together with his brother Philip published extensive handbell music. (See below)

He was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2018 for his services to Hand Bell Ringing and HRGB.

He will be much missed.

May He Rest in Peace.

BB



Philip and Don had decided to give their music and its copyright to the HRGB. This is available from the HRGB shop.

## **Obituary**

## Bridget Terry



I am saddened to report that my friend Bridget Terry passed away on 1st February 2022 at home, at the age of 74.

Bridget was the Musical Director of Oxton Handbell Ringers who met in St Peter and St Paul's Church in Oxton, Nottinghamshire on Tuesday evenings. I started ringing with that team in 2011 and under Bridget's leadership, the team has thrived. Christmas carol concerts and church services supported by the bellringers have been a highlight in the village of Oxton for many years.

Bridget was a talented arranger of bells music, a pianist and a recorder player. She played with the Society of Recorder Players, Notts branch for over twenty years until recently when arthritis prevented her from playing. She kept us all entertained, fed and watered with tea and biscuits at the monthly recorder meetings.

Most of all though, she was a lovely friend who always showed an interest in my life and family, attending my daughter's wedding in June 2018. Sunday lunches with Bridget were always lots of fun and she always turned up with bags of gifts for me and for my children.

She was a friend to many far and wide and had a number of interests including the RSPB, The Woodland Trust and the Hardy Plant Society. She supported many wildlife organisations and is the only person I know who had her own wood.

Her funeral will be held on 15th March at Gedling Crematorium, Catfoot Lane, Lambley at 12.00. All welcome.

May She Rest in Peace

Judy Gees NEC Representative East Midlands

## From The Secretary



## Jane Heald

As I write this we are looking forward to Spring and teams' bell ringing activities becoming seriously underway to re-establish their repertoire in order to undertake concerts once more. Sadly, some teams have not been able to re-form at present thus reducing the number of active teams in our region.

Our fourth virtual rally was held on 6th February 2022 and attracted a good number of ringers, both international and from other regions, but once again minimal interest from members of our own region.



Ashby School

Our next event is our "Get Back to Ringing Rally" due to take place on 19th March 2022 at Ashby School, Ashby de la Zouch, and your Committee hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Our Region Team continues to

rehearse on the fourth Sunday of each month in Grantham and would welcome new ringers.

I wish you all the best in your endeavours to start ringing again.

Jane Heald



## **Diary Dates**

Pates to Remember

2022	Remember
1st March	Regional Committee meet on Zoom
19th March	"Get Back to Ringing Rally" at Ashby School, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
26th March	NEC Meeting
27th March	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
8th-10th April	National Rally and AGM at Sheffield (NE)
24th April	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
26th April	East Midlands AGM 7.30 pm (Zoom Meeting)
22nd May	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
25th June	NEC Meeting
26th June	Regional Team Rehearsal at Grantham
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
2024	
6th April	National Rally and AGM at Kettering (One Day)

## CRSSWRS



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By Triode

Solution next Newsletter



## **Crossword Clues**



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 The letter that Paul did not write
- 9 Its her party according to Ayckbourn
- 10 Set me to encounter
- 11 A bestseller changes at this season of the year. (6.85)
- 12 Scottish town in Ayrshire
- 13 They face Mecca on these (6&4)
- 15 Iscan a South American tribe (5)
- 17 Chinese fruit (7)
- 19 Detestable fictional men (5)
- 20 Misty and enigmatic
- 22 The Lord's table (5)
- 23 A President Sarkozy takes initial walk (11)
- 24 Shortened card dealer with cough (5)
- 25 Describing heraldic arms (7)
- 26 Propose against change (7)

## Solution to the Winter Edition Crossword 2021



#### DOWN

(7)

(5)

(5)

(10)

- 1 Genesis 10:18—one of the clans of Canaan (10)
- 2 A beacon in a Diocese of Wales (6,9)
- 3 The Ruhr's secret capital (5)
- 4 Rats sink in Asian dialogue (8)
- 5 Scene of Battle in 1645 (6)
- 6 Mining town in Africa (9)
- 7 Beeching closed over 2300 of these (7,8)
- 8 Long white tunics (4)
- 14 Equitable Life Building claims to be the first (10)
- 16 David's weapon against Goliath (5&4)
- 18 Japanese Island (8)
- 21 Apollo for instance (6)
- 22 USA's equivalent of the Performing Rights Society (5)
- 23 England is losing 29 of these a week
  (4)









Nigel Bullen and the Mayola Music Stand. Once a regular sight at National Rallies



The Saint Wulfram's Handbell Ringers on their German visit in 1987