

North West Region of HRGB

Oyez



August 2026 Issue 38

Chair's Chat

Hello all

I hope you are all managing in the heat. We have had cooler weather here in South Manchester for a while, but I think it is due to be very hot in the coming week.

I have had the privilege to see two concerts by North West groups in the past couple of months. On 11th July I visited New Mills Town Hall to see the Kinger Ringers playing alongside the Werneth Concert Band. My first task was to park on a rather steep road which proved trickier than expected! The concert was a celebration of music from Stage & Screen. The Kinder Ringers played a selection of music including Barnacle Bill (also known as the Blue Peter theme), Moon River, My Favourite Things and Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

The concert band played The Dam Busters, The Lion King and Star Trek as well as other film theme tunes. It was a fabulous concert and tempted me to get out my clarinet and find a local band!

On 17th July I visited St Andrews Church to watch Maghull Handbell Ringers playing a selection of music from Around the British Isles. Pieces included In My Liverpool Home, Skye Boat Song and Celtic Grace. I had the chance to join the to play their final piece, Highland Cathedral as they were short of one ringer. It was a wonderful concert with a large audience who thoroughly enjoyed it.

If your group is performing anywhere then please let me know so I can come along.

You should have all had an email inviting you to the 60th Anniversary of Norbury Handbell Ringers. It is taking place on 10th October at All Saint's Church Hall in Stockport. It would be great to see you there with your team or as an individual ringer.

On behalf of the North West Committee I wish you a great Summer of ringing.

Kate Worthington



A note from the editor

I just wanted to say 'thank you' to everyone who sent in an article, question or date to us. We really do appreciate it!

You may notice this edition is a bit shorter than the last. The reason being is because we have made some change to how frequently we distribute Oyez.

We will send out Oyez every two months in the hope that it is more up-to-date and relevant to our members in the North West. This does however mean that there may be fewer articles depending on how much people have been up to!

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU!

-DATES

-QUESTIONS (this could be you looking for advice or just to stimulate a discussion amongst other ringers)

-ARTICLES

-PICTURES

-ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK COULD BE INTERESTING FOR OUR READERS!

We will look forward to hearing from you!

Jocie

NEXT ISSUE DATE 1ST OCTOBER
PLEASE SEND ANY ARTICLES, NOTICES OR
QUESTIONS BY 10th SEPTEMBER TO
northwestHRGB@gmail.com





Spotlight on a committee member

In this edition the spotlight is on our new Secretary: Beth McCord

For those of you that haven't come across me at regional events, my name is Beth McCord and I have been on the North West Committee for ummmm.... a long time?! I know it is more than 10 years, but not as many as 20 years! I have been ringing handbells since I was young as my Mum is also a handbell ringer and set up a junior team when I was at Primary School. I joined her team 'Bellfolk' when I was 15 as they needed an extra pair of hands to perform in the National Concert which was being held at the National Rally in Liverpool in 1999.

A couple of years later I then moved to Liverpool to go to university. I joined Maghull Parish Handbell Ringers in my final year in 2004. I have been ringing with them ever since.

I eventually settled down and did teacher training and my first job was offered to me on the condition that I brought my bells with me and set up a school team! I did. Three school teams in fact as it was a huge school and the children were interested.

Despite no longer working in that school, I have taken bells with me into my subsequent jobs whether as clubs or even for a full day experience for Year 6. The bells I use belong to the William Hartley Memorial Fund and were donated with the specific intention of being used by young people. It is my honour and privilege to use these bells on a weekly basis!

Simon Rennie, founder member of Maghull Parish Handbell Ringers, has a lot to answer for when it comes to my involvement in the North West Committee. He suggested I might enjoy it. Obviously he wasn't wrong as I'm still here today!

I was talked into taking on the rôle of Chairman by Jennifer Jackson who reassured me that it was the easiest rôle of the three official jobs. During my time as Chairman we ran the National Rally in Penrith by which point my daughter was ten months old. With the arrival of my son in 2018, I decided it was time to step back from the rôle of Chairman although I stayed on the committee and was heavily involved in the organising of the next North West National Rally at Swanick in 2024.

With both Linda resigning as Chairman and Irene resigning as Secretary in March this year, I waited until the last day for nominations but with no other offers, I agreed to be nominated for the rôle with the warning that I wouldn't be as quick at getting back to people or be as efficient as my predecessor!

I am looking forward to continuing on the North West Committee as Secretary alongside a super team of people. We all genuinely want what is best for the region and are open to ideas and suggestions. It is great to see a couple of people showing an interest in potentially being on the committee in the future as well as having the support, knowledge and experience of those who have been on for a while.

Please use us! Tell us what we can do for you and we will do our best to help out and support our regional members and teams in any way we can!

Beth McCord



On the 16th of June, we successfully held our first internal year-end showcase! It not only was a fun experience for us, but also for our schoolmates who had a go playing Jingle Bells (yes, in this hot weather).

We played through a collection of handbell pieces, ranging from originals like *Crazioso* by Arnold Sherman, to Disney arrangements like *A Whole New World*. We even rang a new arrangement of *Evening Prayer* from *Hansel and Gretel* by one of our ringers, Vivian!

It was certainly the best way to end our first year, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in the Northwest community in the upcoming events!

Isaac Wan





Come and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the first National Rally held at Norbury.

A day of ringing and fun awaits for teams or individuals alike.

The registration form has been sent to all independent members and team correspondent so waste no time in returning the form and booking your place! Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to receive the information directly.

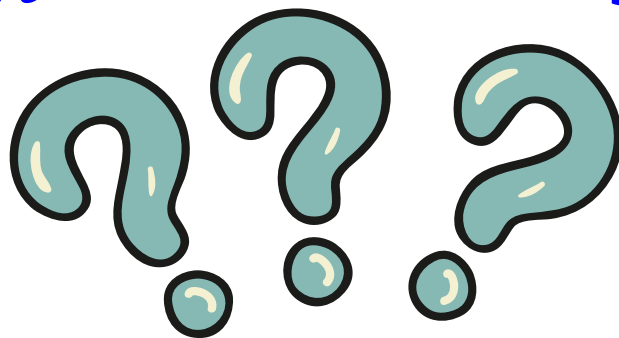


Saturday 10th October

All Saints Church Hall, 155 Church Lane, Marple, Stockport SK6 7LD

10:30am-4pm

Short of an answer



We are lucky enough to have an unusual problem. We have more ringers than we have bells available. Do you have any advice on how to keep ringers interested and busy when there aren't enough bells for everyone to have their own position in each piece?

This is certainly not a problem most teams struggle with! However, it is great to hear that this team is going from strength to strength! This does come with its own problems though.

Having discussed this the best advice we can offer is:

1. Make sure you know in advance who is going to be at rehearsals - a WhatsApp group with a list of upcoming rehearsals and who will be missing each week can help with this. You can then plan accordingly.
2. Talk to the ringers. Sometimes there are people who actually relish the opportunity to sit out of a piece or two and be the audience. It can be really useful to get feedback from someone listening to a piece of music regarding balance and whether the tune comes through.
3. Beg, scrounge or steal (well, maybe not steal!) other instruments so that duplicating can be an option. This doesn't need to be a full set but particularly in the middle (alto) section it can be really beneficial to have these bells doubled up! It also doesn't have to be bells, you would be amazed how many sets of belleplates and chimes might be sat around!
4. Find out if any of the ringers would like to have a go at conducting a piece of music. They could just choose one piece and the normal conductor could teach them how to conduct it! They could then discuss how to work on and improve the piece which would potentially benefit the whole team.

Hope this helps!

It was pointed out that we did promise to put the answers to the quiz which was sold at the Spring Rally and AGM in the next edition of Oyez....so they should have been in the June issue. We apologise that they were missed out. Due to the laptop going bang which belonged to the person who compiled the quiz, the answers are only available as photos but hopefully anyone who is interested can make the answers out!

HRGB North West Region Quiz, 2026 *Answer sheet*

Linda's nine letter anagrams...no theme or connection

1. Chewed bit	=	bewitched
2. Coagulate	=	catalogue
3. No cheaper	=	chaperone
4. Cool cheat	=	chocolate
5. To be first	=	frostbite
6. Angel hoax	=	hexagonal
7. Reduction	=	introduce
8. I must talk	=	multitask
9. Evil party	=	privately
10. Lent grace	=	rectangle

Sheila's mixed bag

- Which band released Rumours in 1977?
Fleetwood Mac
- When was the world's first cash machine installed?
1967 (Enfield)
- A metalled causeway links Northumberland with which island?
Lindisfarne or Holy Island
- What is someone who shoes horses called?
Farrier, not blacksmith
- Which of these coins was introduced first...20p, £1 or £2?
20p (1982)
- What is the longest running musical in West End history?
Les Miserables
- From Lonnie Donegan, how long was the Cumberland Gap?
15 miles
- Which is the highest grossing musical of all time?
The Lion King
- Which is the oldest theatre site in the West End?
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
- What is the name of the Postmistress in Postman Pat?
Mrs. Goggins

Irene's colours in song (e.g. WC equals White Christmas)

1. TGGGOH	The green green grass of home
2. LTP	Lily the pink
3. GSKYE	Golden slumbers kiss yout eyes
4. TOBM	That old black magic
5. BM	Blue moon
6. YBUHIBT	Yellow bird high up in banana tree
7. LBJ	Little brown jug
8. TAYR(RTOOT)	Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree
9. NIWS	Nights in white satin
10. RRFABL	Red roses for a blue lady

P.T.O.

Mag's Who has lived here?

1. No.1 London	Duke of Wellington
2. Thornfield Hall	Mr. Rochester (Jane Eyre)
3. Gatcombe Park	Princess Anne
4. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue	US President
5. Eaton Hall	Duke of Westminster
6. Woburn Abbey	Duke of Bedford
7. Doubting Castle	Giant Despair (Pilgrims Progress)
8. Wimbledon Common	Wombles
9. 4 Privet Drive	The Dursleys (Happy Pott)
10. 10 Rillington Place	Christie

Beth's Odds and Sods (with a sting in the tail)

- Which F1 driver won his first world championship in 2008?
Hamilton
- Who wrote the children's classic White Fang?
Jack London
- Who led the Conservative Party from 1997 to 2001?
William Hague
- In the Trojan Wars, who killed Achilles?
Paris
- By what name is soldier and PM Arthur Wellesley better known?
Duke of Wellington
- Which TV detective was played by Peter Falk?
Colombo

- Which Homes under the Hammer presenter was a footballer?
Dion Dublin
- Who wrote the song Putting on the Ritz?
Inving Berlin
- Which Rugby League team is nicknamed The Robins?
Hull Kingstone Rovers
- Which is the primary grape used in making Asti sparkling wine?
Muscat
- What links all these answers?
CAPITAL Cities



EVENTS

Dates for your diary:

2026

August 3rd-8th

International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen.

If you're not attending then follow the progress on the HRGB Facebook page!

October 10th

Norbury Anniversary Rally - you should have had an email about this event so please do make sure you register whether you are coming as a team or an individual.

2027

March 6th 2027

Spring Rally and AGM at Aughton (same venue as this year)