

**July 7
Concert!!**

Classic Bronze 2013

*"Handbells in Motion:
The Power of Music"*

**Sunday, July 7 at 4:00 p.m.
Robert Tegler Student Centre at
Concordia University College
Edmonton, Alberta.**

Classic Bronze 2013 is looking forward to working under the directorship of Dr. William Payn who is Director of Choral Studies at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Well-known in the handbell world for writing interesting and intricate handbell pieces, Dr. Payn is always in demand as a clinician. Two of his compositions, "Bread of Angels" and "Transitions", will be featured in the concert, along with favourite tunes like "The First Noel", "Dona Nobis Pacem" and a medley from "Les Misérables". In preparation for the event, advanced handbell ringers from across North America and Australia will join together in Edmonton from July 4-7 and participate in an intensive four days of rehearsals, developing their musicality, timing and techniques.

Tickets will be available at TIX on the Square (780-420-1757) or at the door; \$15 for Adults, \$12 for seniors and Students. For more information, visit www.classicbronze.org



Why is this group of Albertan ringers on a beach??? Find out in the Peal!

ALGEHR Celebrates 30 Years!

This delicious cake was presented at the last ALGEHR board meeting to mark 30 years of our Guild in Alberta. Do you know our history? Were you there at the beginning? Let us know! We will highlight some of ALGEHR's earliest and best moments throughout the years in the next **September Peal**.



ALGEHR NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to everyone!

It is amazing to think that this Guild has now been in business for 30 years. I would like to thank everyone who had the foresight to begin this organization and to all of the people who have been involved on the Board in one capacity or another. Some of you only served a short time and others seem to have been around forever but all of you have ensured the continuation, growth and strengthening of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers. We were the first in Canada and through ups and downs we still carry on.

As I am writing this, I am about to board a plane heading to London, Dubrovnik, back to London, then Manchester, Glasgow, Gatehouse-on-Fleet back to Glasgow and then home. If I catch my breath long enough it will be an amazing trip.

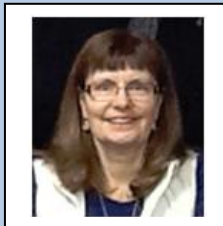
My final school bell concert was last night and it was great to see so many young people totally wrapped up in their music and counting like mad! I am sure many of you are also wrapping up your season, just in time for all the summer workshops that are available.

I hope that you have a great summer even if it is not as adventurous as mine. Prepare yourselves to greet the fall relaxed and rejuvenated.

Also don't forget to mark Discovery 2013 in your calendar. It will be a fabulous weekend of meeting old and new friends and ringing some great music.

Happy Anniversary,

Fiona



Celebrating 30 years: ALGEHR Current Board Members

Make your plans now to come to **ALGEHR'S** annual

HANDBELL DISCOVERY 2013

Oct 26, 2013

Concordia University, Edmonton

Come and celebrate ALGEHR's 30th Anniversary with a **3 'Ring' Circus!!**

In the Center Ring, we will be featuring a variety of workshops to excite ringers and directors alike! Learn a new technique in a how-to session! Try on some new music at a Read-n-Ring Session! Clown around using bells in the Classroom! Stay tuned for a full listing of workshops, available soon.

In the Second Ring, there will be a day-long program for Youth. Rhythm, games, fun and frolic!

In the Third Ring, The final ring, the very SPECIAL Ring... we are pleased to offer for your enjoyment the opportunity for your choir or ensemble to work one-on-one with one of our coaches. Your choir or ensemble should come prepared with a piece that is a current "work in progress" (not performance ready, but not sight reading either). Our coach will work with you, offering suggestions to continue the development of your chosen repertoire.

There will also be a Sharing Concert at the end of the day featuring the Youth Strand participants and premiere performances of this year's Fred Merritt Composition Competition Winners. If you or your choir would like to share a piece at this event, please contact us!

For more information, please contact us at discovery@algehr.org.

ALGEHR MEMBERS!!!

Spread the News! Let your colleagues, staff, friends, and fellow ringers know about us!!

MORE ALGEHR NEWS!



Marissa de Sousa, our new Social Media Director, has opened a Facebook page and a twitter account for ALGEHR. QR codes for ALGEHR's website and Facebook page are provided below. Join us there!

* **Facebook** page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlgehrAlbertaGuildOfEnglishHandbellRingers>.

***Twitter:** This is linked to the Facebook posts, so any news or updates will be posted on twitter.

Website QR code



Facebook QR code



ALGEHR Symposium Endowment Fund (SEF)

Congratulations to the following organizations for receiving grants from ALGEHR SEF grant program:

Jubiloso, Edmonton
Classic Bronze, Edmonton
Parkland Bells, Spruce Grove
Gilbert Paterson Middle School, Lethbridge
St. Vincent De Paul School, Calgary

Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions

ALGEHR is pleased to announce the 2013 winner of the Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions composer competition.

Alberta Composer Betty Radford was the winner in two different categories.

Betty Radford won for her pieces *Sunrise* and *Dancing with the Yao People of China*. Betty Radford is a member of both the Robertson-Wesley Ringers and Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia in Edmonton.



Composer Betty Radford

Israel Handbell Trip of a Lifetime!



This picture was taken across the street from our Haifa concert; the Mediterranean Sea is in the background!

The back row: Lucy Graham, Diann Sader, Wendy Hoskin, Leonard Davidchuk, Susan Galloway, Janet Alexander, Bob AtLee

The front row: Alison Wood, Camille Langston, Lorna Davidchuk, Debbie Rice, Judy AtLee

Photo by Judy AtLee

By Judy AtLee

We Had a Great Time . . .

What do these things have in common?

Floating like a cork on the Dead Sea

A handbell concert with an audience of 500 in the Recanti Hall, Tel Aviv

Dancing to Hava Nagila on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee

These are just three of the many experiences 11 ringers from Alberta shared during the first international handbell festival in Israel. Conceived by Debbie Rice (currently with Concordia) and Brenda Alony of Israel, this project took several years to come to fruition.

After a gentle first day in Tel Aviv to help us get over jetlag, we dove into 8 days of intense sightseeing, including well known places like the Grotto of the Nativity, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Western Wall. We also visited Bet Shean, the largest archaeological site in Israel, Masada and the Golan Heights, to mention only a few.

Oh yes, we did play handbells as well! Fifteen ringers from the USA, 3 from Hong Kong and 1 from Puerto Rico joined the 11 Albertan ringers, under the direction of Debbie Rice. In Tel Aviv and Jerusalem we were joined by the Inbalim Ensemble, an excellent Israeli handbell choir and by a youth hand chime choir, Ramat Hasharon Conservatory Handchimes Choir.

After our opening concert in Tel Aviv, we played in the Jerusalem International YMCA, followed by a delicious dinner. In Haifa, we played in St. Gregorious Church, literally a stone's throw from the Mediterranean Sea. Our final concert was in Nazareth at Jesus the Adolescent Church where we had to split our tables, some high near the altar, some on the floor. All concerts were well attended; we were received with interest, enthusiasm and much appreciation. One elderly lady in Haifa was seen blowing kisses to us after the last number!

Our 8 non-ringers had a great time too. Join us next time - is it New Zealand or Estonia / Finland??

Edmonton 2013 Youth Festivals

Three youth festivals were organized in Edmonton this spring, with 16 choirs participating. Also participating was the Northgate Seniors Bell Choir as a guest at one of the festivals. Susan Galloway was an excellent adjudicator, offering encouragement and challenges to each choir. The massed ringing piece was “My Heart Ever Faithful,” by Bach, arranged by Sharon Elery Rogers.

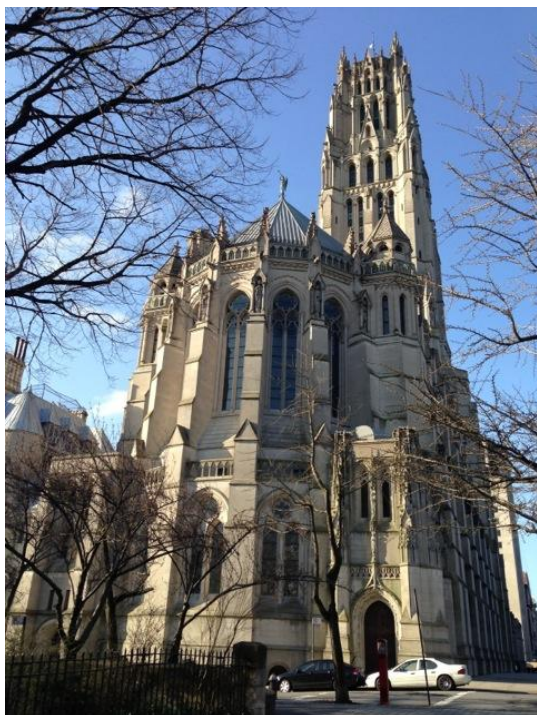
All these festivals were highly successful. There was a lot of great feedback about the choice of music for the festivals, and many other positive comments were shared.

Special thanks go out to Wendy Hoskin and any others from the organizing team that helped to put together these fantastic festivals!

New York Ringing

One of our many talented handbell experts from Alberta has been busy in another country. This past spring, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin (HGC Chair), was invited to be a guest conductor at the 35th Annual English Handbell Festival at the Riverside Church in New York. Riverside Church was quite an experience to perform in, as it is the tallest church in the USA and 24th tallest in the world!

Emmy said afterwards that it was “an absolutely breathtaking space to perform in and such an incredible honour to be invited.” Emmy conducted most of the 9 pieces memorized, and had a very busy couple of days.



Riverside Church, New York



Riverside Ringers (directed by Abigail Gray) with Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin.

Photos by E. Okazawa-Bortolin

**WORSHIP SERVICE ON MAY 12, 2013
INVOLVING THE WESTWORTH UNITED CHURCH CHAPEL BELLS
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

At the conclusion of the Mother's Day service on May 12, 2013, Westworth United Church totally surprised and overwhelmed Chapel Bells Director, Morna-June Morrow, by giving the premiere performance of "*Rejoice in the Dance*", an original handbell and handchime composition with oboe or clarinet commissioned from American composer Timothy H. Waugh of Charlotte, North Carolina. The dedication read:

*Dedicated to Morna-June Morrow with heartfelt thanks and gratitude
for 25 years of devoted and inspired leadership of
Westworth United Church Chapel Bells.*

The current members plus former members and directors of four other church handbell choirs plus two oboists participated in the performance, conducted by the current Westworth Director of Music, Stuart Sladden.

After the service, a reception honouring Morna-June's *tremendous gift to the life of Westworth United Church* was held during which time more presentations were made, including the following speech by Jewel Casselman.

**SPEECH GIVEN BY JEWEL CASSELMAN AT THE RETIREMENT RECEPTION OF MORNA-JUNE MORROW
ON SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2013 AT WESTWORTH UNITED CHURCH, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

It all started with a newspaper article in the *Winnipeg Tribune* in the fall of 1968 about two bells choirs in Winnipeg. Tec Voc High School had a set of English handbells purchased in 1966 and West Kildonan's Little Carilloneurs had a set of Swiss bells and resonator bells that were struck with a mallet. Morna-June's principal at Oakenwald School asked her if she knew anything about these English bells. M-J had heard the Tec Voc High School bell ringers play earlier in the year at the Winnipeg Music Festival and she was intrigued by their sound. Her principal asked if she would be interested in teaching the bells to her elementary students, if the Fort Garry School Division purchased a set of these bells. Never backing down from a good challenge and trying something new and exciting, Morna-June said that she would love the opportunity to take on this new adventure.

So, in March of 1969, a two octave set of 25 Schulmerich handbells arrived in Winnipeg from Pennsylvania, packed in individual cardboard boxes like wine bottles, because the school division couldn't afford the cases. She phoned Fred Merrett at Tec Voc High School who already had a set of Schulmerich handbells and went over for a 40 minute crash course in the art of handbell ringing. The rest, as they say, is history.

The next year, Fort Garry purchased the third octave of bells plus the carrying cases for all three octaves. M-J used the handbells with various handbell groups at Oakenwald, Crane, and Chancellor Elementary Schools, plus the Junior High Fort Garry Carillons (who by the way, played right here at Westworth on December 21, 1980) and the Fort Garry Harmony Bells. These bells are still used in the Pembina Trail School Division at Dalhousie School.

Always an active learner and educator, Morna-June attended conferences in Kentucky, North Dakota, and Minnesota over the years. By September of 1973, she was totally hooked on handbells and so purchased the first four octave set of 49 bells in Manitoba. Years later in 2004, she added the five octave set of 61 Schulmerich Melody Chimes.

In the fall of 1988, Fort Garry School Division transferred M-J to Bonnycastle School. Westworth United Church Director of Music, Ruth Wiwchar, said to her, "That school doesn't know you have these handbells. Have you ever thought of using them in a church setting?" Well, you know how persuasive Ruth can be!!! So a motion was made by the Westworth Board that Morna-June would direct a handbell group at Westworth using her own equipment for one year. As you well know that "loan" has lasted for a quarter of a century. In 1998, she went to the expense of having the bells totally refurbished to include the Quick-Adjust clapper system.

In 2003 M-J was awarded the inaugural Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers Trophy at the Winnipeg Music Festival as the most outstanding handbell soloist. This same award was won by the Westworth Chapel Bells in 2007 as the most outstanding handbell choir.



**The last time
Chapel Bells were
conducted by
Director Morna-
June Morrow
May 12, 2013**

Besides school and church groups, she has directed the University Women's Club Handbell Choir, the Manitoba Handbell Guild Christmas Choir, and the A'Pealing Bells. She formed the All Chim'in Handbell Quartet in 2009 and has played as a handbell soloist since 1998 for the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Winnipeg Girls Choir, Women of Note Choir, St. Benedict's Monastery, Fort Garry Hotel, Pantages Playhouse Theatre, Winnipeg Art Gallery, and at several churches and schools.

M-J is considered one of Canada's leading pioneers in the art of handbell ringing, having given handbell workshops all across Canada and in Minnesota. She has written extensive articles for various music publications provincially, nationally, and internationally. M-J has conducted massed ringing groups across Canada and in 2000, as the National Chair of the Handbell Guilds of Canada, she directed 800 handbell ringers from four continents at an International Handbell Symposium in Birmingham, England. This past Tuesday Morna-June received this e-mail message from Sandy Mullaney, the Chair of Area 7 (the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin) of the Handbell Musicians of America.

We want you to know how very important you have been to our area. You've generously shared your friendship, leadership, and handbell expertise with countless members of our Area through the years. We cannot thank you enough for going above and beyond to teach, share, answer our questions, serve as a role model and be a wonderful guiding light to our handbell community. We hope that on Sunday you will also share the following with your choir and all of your friends at Westworth.

At its meeting on Saturday, May 4, 2013 the Board of Area 7 Handbell Musicians of America unanimously voted to award Mona-June Morrow the title of Area 7 Honourary Life Member. As our first-ever Life Member, we wish to honour and thank you for all you've given to Area 7. Over the years there have been 87 musicians who have participated in the Chapel Bells. There have been 109 people who have assisted as substitute ringers. On occasion, former members have assumed the conducting role while M-J was recovering from several surgeries over the past decade, including our very own Stuart Sladden. The Chapel Bells have performed at many other events outside of regular worship services, including other churches and Temple Shalom, nursing homes, funeral homes, fund raisers and all 14 annual Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers Spring Rings.

Unfortunately loading and unloading her van of the 500 pounds of equipment for performances outside Westworth has taken its toll on Morna-June's health, especially so in the last decade. She came to realize that it is time to retire from a fascinating 44 years of directing handbell choirs.

On behalf of the congregation of Westworth United Church, and all of the bell ringers who have played with you here over the years, many thanks for enriching our church services here at Westworth through your unique way of ringing praises to God with the Chapel Bells.

Happy retirement, Morna-June!!!

Reprinted with permission from M-J Morrow

Handbell Guilds of Canada (HGC) News

Submitted by Chair Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin



2014 Jeju International Handbell Symposium Canadian Massed Ringing Conductor Selected

Handbell Guilds of Canada is pleased to announce that Tammy-Jo Mortensen of Edmonton, Alberta, has been selected to represent Canada at the *16th International Handbell Symposium* to be held in Jeju, Korea, August 5-9, 2014, as its massed ringing conductor. A graduate of the Music Faculties of McGill University and the University of Alberta, Tammy-Jo has been the Music Director at Robertson-Wesley United Church since 2003.

This is a bi-ennial global event that saw its origins in the USA in 1982 and has rotated between the six founding countries of the International Handbell Committee (Japan, Great Britain, Korea, Canada and Australia) ever since.

These international gatherings are an exciting opportunity for handbell musicians from around the world to come together to learn from each other through a wide variety of technical and cultural workshops, start and renew global friendships, take in some local sight-seeing, but most importantly, participate in intensive massed rehearsals in preparation for a public massed ringing concert. Each founding country appoints one massed conductor to direct all ringers in the rehearsal of their nation's selected composition. It is indeed a fine honour and privilege to be chosen for this important role.

Handbell Guilds of Canada sponsors a symposium composition contest in the hopes of encouraging more Canadian composers to write for this unique genre. The latest winning submission to be performed by all the ringers in Jeju is entitled "Snow Dream", an original handbell composition by Winnagene Hatch of London, Ontario. A graduate of the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music, Winnagene is Director of Music at Lambeth United Church and published composer of choral music for church and school.

Attendance at international symposia has grown since its humble beginnings and averages between 500-800 delegates although there were 1100 ringers in Osaka in 2010! Edmonton was the first Canadian city to host in 1992 followed by Toronto in 2004. The next Canadian host city will be Vancouver in 2016. All Canadian musicians are invited and strongly urged to get involved, either as a ringer, conductor or by creating a handbell arrangement or original work for the national composition contest.

For more information, about all things related to the international symposium, please contact Handbell Guilds of Canada Chair, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin at ebortolin@shaw.ca or 403-663-9822.

**Plan on attending the Jeju
International Handbell
Symposium!!**

2014 Jeju International Handbell Symposium Information Update
Registration & Payment Schedule and Accommodations

Registration & Payment Schedule:

- \$850 CAD per person, registration to open September 1, 2013
- Forms will be distributed to provincial guilds as soon as they are available Fall 2013
- Cheques or money orders to be made out to **Handbell Guilds of Canada**
- Completed forms and deposits of \$325 CAD to be received by November 30, 2013 by:
Marcia Gosse, Treasurer, HGC
271 Mountbatten Ave, Ottawa, ON, K1H 5W2
- Final balance payment of \$525 CAD to be received by March 15, 2014
- All deposits are non-returnable and cannot be refunded. For cancellations made after March 31, 2014 balance payments are non-refundable. Delegate substitutions may be permitted.

Note (1): Payments have been converted to Canadian currency – after the wire transfers, on behalf of all participants, as well as the exchange rate to USD, any difference will be refunded.

Note (2): The deadline set by the Korean Handbell Association (KHA) December 31, 2013. However, in order to avoid any postal delays due to Christmas, we will keep the original HGC deadline of November 30, 2013 to allow sufficient time to process and administer the wire transfer.

Registration includes:

Attendance at all massed ringing sessions
Selected classes/workshops
Symposium souvenir shirt
Lunch (Wednesday - Saturday inclusive)
Dinner (Tuesday - Friday inclusive)
Final Banquet (Saturday)
Final Concert
Varied non-ringer programme (in lieu of ringing activities/workshops)

Registration does NOT include:

Original copies of massed ringing scores and
Foam padding (which, for fire safety reasons must be ordered from KHA)

Accommodations: The following hotels have been recommended by KHA.

- The Suites Hotel <http://www.suites.co.kr>
- Hana Hotel http://www.hotelhana.co.kr/html/eng/in_010.asp
- Hyatt Regency Hotel <http://jeju.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

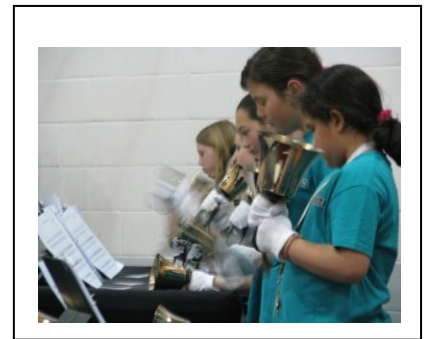
Note from KHA: "The symposium, which will be taking place in August of 2014, is in the middle of the typical Korean summer vacation season. Jeju Island is a very popular destination. Therefore, we strongly recommend that all participating individuals and associations plan their flight and hotel reservations this year so that you do not run into any abrupt setbacks in your schedule during the symposium."

2013 Calgary Youth Handbell Festivals

The 2013 Calgary Youth Handbell Festivals were a wonderful musical experience for all. Organized by Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, they involved both individual school performances and mass ringing opportunities. The first festival was held at Cardinal Newman School (conducted by teacher Teresa Perreault). St Sebastian School (Connie Stankowski) and Light of Christ (Anna Chan) attended.

The second festival was held at the Calgary Science School (Andrew Bolen and Jaime Groeller). St. Clare School (Janine Bischoff) was the guest school.

Many thanks to Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin for organizing these festivals in Calgary!



JULY 2 – 5, 2014
VICTORIA INN, WINNIPEG
HANDBELL GUILDS OF CANADA
7th National Ringing Link



Start making plans to attend the 7th Handbell Guilds of Canada National Ringing Link, hosted by the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers, to be held at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre from July 2-5, 2014.

February 7th, 2012 was the bicentennial of the birth of the English novelist, Charles Dickens, so the Ringing Link Committee decided to base the next Ringing Link on Dickens' best known novel, *A Christmas Story*, published in 1843.

Instead of speaking of Dickens' Spirits of the Past, Present and Yet To Come, the Ringing Link 2014 will be entitled ***A Dickens of a Ring*** and will feature Christmas music of the Past (pre-19th century), Present (in this case, the 19th century Victorian Era), and Yet to Come (20th and 21st centuries).

If you are a history buff you will enjoy all things being planned to reflect the glorious age of the Victorian Era. Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901 and Charles Dickens wrote extensively throughout her reign. So what better place to have RL 2014 but at the VICTORIA INN!

Notes  **from the Editor**

Please accept my apology for not getting this newsletter out to you earlier. While my family was fortunate not to have any flooding damage, our normal lives here in Calgary and Canmore have been affected by the June 2013 flooding disaster. I'd like to thank all of you Albertans who have extended your kind thoughts and support to us here in the south part of the province. I'm intending to be much more punctual with the next Peal!!

If you have any information or ideas (***especially about our ALGEHR beginnings or our ALGEHR history***) and would like to submit them for the next Peal, please send your thoughts/articles to peal@algehr.org by August 31, 2013. Our next Peal will come out in early September.

Anne

*PS: What did the G4 bell say to G7?
My bell-y is bigger than yours!!*

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
PLANNING A BELL EVENT?**

ALGEHR would like to support any person(s) willing to organize a bell event, festival or workshop.

These events are an excellent way to encourage the development of bell ringing and an opportunity to increase membership and interest in our Albertan handbell community. Not to mention, they are a lot of fun!

Contact president@algehr.org or see our **ALGEHR EVENT ORGANIZER POLICY** on our website www.algehr.org for further information!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Classic Bronze 2013

July 4-7, 2013
Edmonton, Alberta

International Music Camp:

July 7-13, 2013 and/or July 27-30, 2013
North Dakota, USA

<http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com/>

Handbell Discovery 2013

October 26, 2013
Edmonton, Alberta

Ringing Link 2014

July 2 – 5, 2014
Manitoba, Canada

Korea International Symposium 2014

August 5 to 9, 2014
Jeju, Korea

Vancouver International Symposium 2016

Summer, 2016
Vancouver, BC

Visit us at our
ALGEHR Website:
www.algehr.org



ALGEHR Board of Directors

Photo: F. Miller

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The Peal is the official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers.