

Handbell Change Ringing, 2016

Way back in March 2016, Peter Church polished up his handbells, got the clapper repaired on the bell sized 11A, and started a handbell practice with his wife and some friends. Progress into change ringing was slow owing to many family stresses and distractions for all concerned. However, by the middle of the year good courses of Bob Minor were being rung and touches were being started, some of them came round.

With a whetted appetite for encouraging more handbell change ringing in the area, a Handbells Day was organised for October 22nd in conjunction with, and at the North Cave Ringing Centre. 15 people of varying abilities engaged brain with the problems of ringing two bells, and much progress was made in a short space of time. Suffice to say that all of the “learners and improvers” moved on at least one step on the day.

There was a further benefit stemming from the day in that we are learning about learning styles and finding out just what is involved in conquering the handbell challenges.

Subsequent to the October meeting more people have come forward expressing an interest in handbell change ringing, and we now have:

- A meeting in Hull on Tuesday mornings for general practice.
- A gathering in North Cave whenever the opportunity arises.
- A meeting in Market Weighton.
- A gathering with Heather and Barry Peachey from Barrow moving between Melton Ross and Hull as necessary.
- A coffee club in Beverley which handbells are also rung when Roddy Horton is in town.

This represents a significant increase in the amount of handbell change ringing in the area as compared with one year ago.

Another regional handbells day is planned for end January 2017.

A number of people have installed Graham John’s Handbell Manager software as a front-end to the Abel simulator on a computer, and this is proving very valuable as a means of keeping skills topical and exploring new methods.

We look forward to consolidation and progress during 2017.

Peter Church, Hull, 2016.

www.handbellringing.org.uk

peter@pchurch.org.uk