

# THE HULL HANDBELL PROJECT

*Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout East Yorkshire*

Newsletter Number 3, January 2017.

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## News round up

### The Tuesday practice:

We have been low on numbers with various health issues. Chris is managing to ring even with weird eyesight. Ros has benefitted from some focused sessions and has managed a Plain Course on 1-2 for the first time. Lesley is still an invalid following her fall. Our wish for her and all of her family is a return to good health and happiness. Zem continues her battle with plain hunting.

### Barrow-upon-Humber

We had a good session out at Melton Ross during the month. Pat Donnelley has looped back in and her double-handed ringing I set to improve. Kent TB is on the radar, and a quarter peal attempt (Bob Minor) lasted around 600 changes before we tripped up.

### North Cave

Simon Plows wrote in to say: "Had a little ring on the handbells last night, got two tower bell ringers with no handbell experience through plain hunts on six ringing the 1 & 2. Something to work on in early 2017. Have a lovely Christmas." Thanks Simon.

### Market Weighton

Our mooted visit post-Christmas visit to Weighton fell foul of Peter's hectic Christmas, and the Weighton folks couldn't travel in for the gathering which did take place in Hull, billed as "Yule be There?" on the website.

Will, Ros, Barry, Heather, Pat, Zem, Gwyn, Pete and Chris, plus Tony gathered, shared the craic, rang the bells, scoffed the cakes, and drank. The session included Plain Hunting, Plain Bob, Double Bob, and Kent Treble Bob. The touches of Bob Minor were

very sound, had they been recorded they would have been good enough for YouTube.

### Humber Region

2016 was an interesting year. The workshop in October proved that the interest and ability in handbell change ringing exists in the region. But it needs much work to ensure that the momentum gathered in late 2016 is not dissipated in 2017.

The proof of that assertion will be what is recorded in 12 months' time.

All the ringers currently involved have the ability to reach a good quarter peal standard, and I expect that many will achieve that in 2017.

### ***Does anyone have a date touch for Hull 2017 – The City of Culture?***

### **Things to think about.**

#### ***Learn to ring bells and your brain will never be the same again.***

This is true. Short term memory is volatile. I went to Barrow Practice night, and Barry said look up London Minor. When he said "Catch hold for Yorkshire" I panicked. I knew it 30 years ago, but it wasn't in my head any longer. Oh yeah, 3rds place bell was fine, and 2nds and 5ths, but 3 out of 7 isn't enough, and just where did those Yorkshire dinky places go, and what about the Cambridge front work. 5 minutes with the blue line, and I was alright if a little uptight. And the band were pleased to have had the chance, it just needed the one more.

But could I ring it right now 6 weeks later, no, not without another re-learn. The short term memory has let it go.

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Before long I will learn it for handbells. I will learn it properly, take it to pieces, study it in a way that gives me insight into how it hangs together and where it is tricky on two bells. And then I will be able to ring it whenever needed, just so long as I keep it fresh by ringing it once in a while.

Long term memory is structural. London cabbies have enlarged areas of spatial memory where they have stored the London Map.

Learning methods properly has the same impact on a bellringer's brain.

As I said, learn to ring bells and your brain will never be the same again.

### ***Simulator.***

Since the handbells day in October 2016, a number of people (at least 5) have bought the motion detectors and installed Handbell Manager and Abel on a computer. The ability to plug away on a daily basis bedding in the concepts and patterns is really helpful.

The ability to choose the speed of ringing to accommodate one's ability to ring a method or a different number of bells is most helpful, even if the simulator is unforgivingly relentless at ringing all of the other bells.

### ***ART Publication***

The Association of Ringing Teachers has created a learning structure for handbell ringing under the title "Learning the Ropes – Handbells".

The structure is complemented by a certificate scheme and includes the need to ring a variety of quarter peals.

The material is being evaluated at the workshops in Basingstoke on 12<sup>th</sup> March, so

that's a golden opportunity to extend your handbell skills.

### ***Website updates***

The Hull Project Website is intended to help people into double handed ringing on 6 bells, and up to London Surprise Minor.

The information on the ringing pages has now been distilled to 35 key concepts, See [http://www.pchurch.org.uk/ringing/pages/10\\_1\\_ringing.html](http://www.pchurch.org.uk/ringing/pages/10_1_ringing.html)

It would be helpful for future ringers if people would look at this information and give critical feedback.

Is it right? Is it clear? Is it useable?

Is there a better way of saying the same thing?

Please help us, give me your honest feedback.

### **Diary:**

#### ***2017:***

- Hull meetings: See website
- Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>: Handbells Day, North Lincolnshire.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> B&D AGM
- March 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> ART Conference, Basingstoke.

The Sunday conference activity will focus on handbell change ringing, both from a teaching aspect and separately from a learning aspect. Attendees are welcomed irrespective of handbell experience.

<http://ringingteachers.org/news/conference>

### **Handbell Change ringers wanted:**

Do you want to start handbell change ringing at your tower? And don't know how to start? Drop me a line, we can help.

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## **Handbells Journalists wanted**

[peter@pchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter@pchurch.org.uk)

Send in your news snippets, we would love to hear from you.

Who is ringing what?