

THE HULL HANDBELL PROJECT

Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout East Yorkshire

Newsletter Number 5, March 2017.

News round up

Quarter Peals

Kirk Ella, 60 Riplingham Road

Friday 10th February, 2017

1,360 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Heather L Peachey

3-4 Peter Church

5-6 Christopher LD Munday (C)

7-8 Barry F Peachey

1st Handbell quarter since 1985 3-4.

Kirk Ella, 60 Riplingham Road

Friday 24th February, 2017

1,264 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Heather L Peachey

3-4 Peter Church

5-6 Christopher LD Munday (C)

7-8 Barry F Peachey

Hull Tuesday morning practice (older but no wiser)

Both Ros Baxter and Lesley Davies are battling away to become Bob Minor ringers, Chris Church is exploring Double Bob on the simulator, and “for real” whenever she gets the opportunity. There has also been a foray into plain hunting on 8 bells.

Sutton

A session with Gwynneth Moffat included long touches of Plain Bob Minor, and some plain courses of Double Bob and Reverse Bob; Single Oxford called as original was a step too far.

Barrow / Melton Ross

The Handbells day at the end of January showed that we had the ability to ring Plain Bob Major and so on Friday 10th February, we gathered at 80 Riplingham Road, Kirk Ella, and duly rang a good quarter peal (see above). It

was after a gap of two years without a handbells quarter for the B&D, and in Peter’s case the gap was 32 years.

Market Weighton

Karen Lane and Lynn Hall continue to progress. Using Mark’s excellent handbells everyone rang the pairs to Plain Bob Minor, and an all ladies band (Karen, Chris, and Lynn) rang a touch of Plain Bob Minor. The Market Weighton meeting also made its first foray into ringing 8 bells, only Plain Hunting, but it’s a start.

Learning Change Ringing on Handbells

Different people memorise patterns in different ways, some people are best with words, some with pictures, some with numbers, some with movement. The only consistent factor is memory works by association. In handbell change ringing the physical act of moving the bells reinforces the patterns that have been learned by rote and by counting. So memorise and practise, again and again, is a key to success.

This is where the use of the simulator (Handbell Manager / Motion Controllers / Abel display) is a major help. The physical movement becomes part of the learning, and the absence of either handbells or a band doesn’t stop your progress.

Part of the progress in learning is to assimilate skills so that they can be used on “auto pilot”, i.e. with minimum effort. The classic example is that the three hunting patterns on 6 bells become an automatic part of ringing Plain Bob Minor. Autopilot mode only comes with extended practise which is why quarter peal ringing is so beneficial. Ringing a quarter of Plain Bob Minor is the handbells equivalent of

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Base Camp when climbing Everest, it should be everyone's first goal.

But how do we move on beyond Plain Bob?

There are two parallel avenues to travel. The first is to increase the complexity of the methods being rung, the second is to increase the number of bells. Most people would see the increase in the number of bells as an easier route, Plain Bob Major is often achieved before Norwich Surprise Minor.

With towerbells the skill of memorising a blue line in full detail with well-developed rope-sight will stand you in good stead. On handbells, because of the intimate relationship with the method, there are more skills involved, which brings us back to the preferred learning technique. You can get intimate with a method, by learning lines, grids, numbers, patterns, etc.

Given that we focus mainly on treble dominated methods, "treble watching" becomes another fundamental skill to be assimilated.

For people coming up to "Base Camp" in the near future we are planning to hold a "Handbells: Going beyond Plain Bob" workshop on 1st July.

Diary:

2017:

- Hull meetings: See website
- March 11th B&D AGM
- March 12th ART Conference, Basingstoke.
- March 18th B&D Dinner, there could be handbells
- April 29th 3rd Regional Handbells Day at South Cave, Noon – 17:00
- July 1st Handbells Workshop – Going Beyond Plain Bob Minor

Go to www.handbellringing.org.uk for the latest updates.

Historical note.

Computer Services Conference Room, BAe, Brough

26th March 1985
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Mark J Lane
3-4 Maris C Midgley
5-6 Peter Church (C)

To commemorate Robert Blackburn (26/3/1885 – 10/9/1955), aircraft Pioneer and originator of the factory at Brough.



(Photograph courtesy Karen Lane).

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.

Handbells Journalists wanted

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

Who is ringing what?

peter@pchurch.org.uk