

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

*Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout the East Yorkshire region.*

Newsletter Number 35, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

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## ***News roundup: Recorded lengths.***

### ***Quarter Peals***

**Beverley & District Society**

**Kingston-upon-Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

#### **1272 Kent TB Minor**

1-2 **Rebecca M Legowski**

3-4 **Roderick R Horton**

5-6 **Peter Church (C)**

Rung to mark the departure from Hull on 14th August (1651) of Robinson Crusoe.

The Hull Solar Gate illuminated the related ground plaque during the course of the Quarter Peal.

**Kingston-upon-Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

#### **1608 Plain Bob Minor**

1-2 **Rebecca M Legowski**

3-4 **Christine M Church**

5-6 **Peter Church (C)**

Rung to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester.

**Kingston-upon-Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

#### **1264 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Karen A Lane**

3-4 **Rebecca M Legowski**

5-6 **Christopher LD Munday**

7-8 **Peter Church (C)**

**Kingston-upon-Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

#### **1264 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Karen A Lane**

3-4 **Rebecca M Legowski**

5-6 **Christopher LD Munday (C)**

7-8 **Peter Church**

With the best wishes of the band to James Blackburn for a speedy recovery.

## ***Out and about.***

The month got off to a Kent TB Minor start, a first real-bells 720 on 3-4 for **Chris Church**, and a solid practise session for **Barry and Heather Peachey** culminating in a couple of 2-course touches. Progress for all!

A Sunday afternoon session with **Gwynneth Moffatt** and **Chris (C)** opened up the old grey matter; a 240 of Kent was followed by some lively Double Bob touches, a battle with St Clements, and a foray into Oxford Treble Bob before returning to Kent to round out the meeting.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> saw a low-key session with numbers of people absent for a variety of reasons. Even without **Maestro Munday** and lovely Lesley we range Kent TB Minor, Plain Bob Major, and S Clements Minor.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> in Beverley: A concerted effort was made to ring Cambridge Surprise Minor at **Roddy's**. **Rebecca** was good on 1-2 until she became "Cambridge maxed out", **Roddy** and **Peter** both had difficulties with bits of the structure. Next time . . .

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> saw another practise session with just six people, a good number for a one-room activity. Kent TB is part of our staple diet now, even if parts of the method are tougher than others. Plain Bob Minor and Major is still the bedrock and people that can and will use Abel have an advantage; they progress faster with the ever patient software providing endless opportunities for practise.

When Plain Bob and Kent cease to provide the challenge, ringing Single Court by the structure rather than the lines is a good antidote. Then Single Oxford can add spice to the mixture.

The following day saw the start of one of Peter's mini-projects, Ringing for The Hull Solar Gate. A good Quarter of Kent TB Minor was rung covering the 14:00 period when a ground plaque was illuminated by the Solar Gate; this one was for the passage from Hull of Robinson Crusoe in 1651.

Two days later was 16<sup>th</sup> August, the 200<sup>th</sup>

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anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester. This was marked with a touch of 1608 Plain Bob Minor.

The afternoon of the same day we gathered with **Karen Lane** for a practise Quarter of Plain Bob Major. An excellent quarter was scored giving us high expectations for a peal attempt scheduled for the following Monday (19<sup>th</sup>). It was not to be, the challenge of the peal attempt made us “nervy” and when a serious trip occurred, we failed to get back right in a reasonable time.

Nevertheless we had time to put another Quarter to bed, this time with **Chris Munday** in charge, and we dedicated it to the return to full health of James Blackburn.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> “Older but No Wiser” experienced an age drop when youngsters Sam and Sian Austin came along, they’re at least 40 years younger than yours truly, and they brought along Elin who’s at least 70 years younger than your truly! 😊. Kent and Cambridge (Minor) came our way as well as Kent TB Major and Some Plain Royal.

Oxford Treble Bob Major was the order of the afternoon on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Essentially Roger Bailey’s 1,312 was given an airing. We learned a lot without scoring the quarter.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> in the evening: we proved the point that sleep deprivation does not make for good handbell ringing!

There’s quite a bit of stress in the age group of Tuesday’s “Older but no Wiser” gathering, with members supporting family members or close friends. We were fortunate to have **Chris Munday** with us for once on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, and a lot of fun was had with some challenges.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> had an evening meeting with **Gwynneth Moffat**. Plain Bob and Kent were no bother so we turned our attention to Reverse Bob, which was ringable just so long as no calls were made, Double Court, which was ringable but not at 9 o’clock at night, and Single Oxford, where we rang a respectable course even with some Place Notation

assistance from the conductor.

Our busy month was rounded off with a successful gathering the following day, of **Peter Church, Chris Munday, Sam Austin and Roddy Horton**.

***We met to ring to ring Yorkshire Surprise Major.***

We spent an hour ironing out the wrinkles in what we had learned, and what we could see of the bells. And following a coffee, a good 2-course touch was rung. So far as we know these were the first blows of Surprise Major rung on physical bells in the county.

Sam Austin’s skills are being put to good use.

## ***Peter L Spence***

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of Peter Spence. Peter was one of the first batch of recruits who learned to handle a bell at **Elloughton** before the one and only towerbell was augmented to 6 in 1973.

In July 1974 Peter rang his first quarter peal on handbells making him no 21 in the list of B&D people with any recorded length on handbells to their name. He went on to ring a total of 38 quarter peals all for the B&D.

As a local ringer Peter rang the treble to the first peal at Elloughton in September 1978.

A celebratory memorial service was held at S Mary’s Elloughton, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, preceded by a quarter peal, half muffled as requested by the family.

Peter will be remembered for his wonderful practical skills, (he made lovely bright wooden toys for our children when they were toddlers), and very much for his sense of humour. He was ever happy to go for a beer after Elloughton practise night, and would always have an impish joke available.

Our lives are richer for having known Peter.

[End]