

## ***B&D Handbell Ringing - Calendar Year 2019.***

The dedication to handbell change ringing shown by those people who are heavily involved paid dividends in 2019. Strides have been made individually and collectively in the complexity of methods being rung, and the recorded lengths. But what the records don't reveal is the growing confidence with which people tackle harder methods and increasing numbers of bells.

However, we have a long way to go before handbell ringing is firmly part of the local ringing culture as a self-sustaining activity. This is the primary objective of the Hull Handbells Project.

Out and about: The group of people meeting on a weekly basis in the Market Weighton / Melbourne, Wilberfoss area has plugged away at the basics (i.e. Plain Bob Minor & Major) and eventually resulting in an impressive total of 18 quarter peals under **Neil Turner's** leadership.

We have kept North Lincolnshire on the handbells map, including a full peal on **Barry Peachey's** historic Robert Wells set of handbells.

The Tuesday morning meeting in Hull has proved invaluable at giving people from all over the region the opportunity to practise all sorts of methods and touches. Broad progress was made into ringing Treble Bob Minor and Major and Surprise Minor by the group, and **Chris Munday's** enthusiasm and time has been fundamental to this success. This in turn has attracted people from far and near; many miles have been travelled across East Yorkshire in pursuit of the chance to ring handbells!

In mid-year we welcomed **Sam and Siân Austin** to the area and to handbell ringing. Sam's extensive experience was just the boost we needed to enable some practise sessions leading to a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major. We also rose to the challenge of changes on 12 handbells with a tiny bit of Kent Treble Bob Maximus being rung.

Other individual successes include first peal for **Rebecca Legowski**, and first peal on handbells for **Karen Lane**. **Simon Humphrey's** support (from Derbyshire) for handbell peal attempts has been readily available and much appreciated.

Notable individual achievements amongst the quarter peals include:

- **Chris Church:** First Treble Bob inside
- **Peter Church:** First Surprise Major In hand
- **Jenny Hastings:** First of S Clements in hand, first inside on handbells
- **Roddy Horton:** First Surprise Major in hand
- **Karen Lane:** First as conductor on handbells, first extent of Treble Bob
- **Rebecca Legowski:** First of S Clements, first Treble Bob, first Royal, first Surprise
- **Barry Peachey:** First Royal in hand.
- **Neil Turner:** First Major in hand as conductor.

A record number, 54, Quarter Peals were rung on handbells, and increase of 19 over the total for 2018. They split into 32 Minor, 20 Major, and 2 Royal.

40 of the 54 quarters were of Plain Bob, the rest being Treble Bob which includes 2 of Surprise. We expect the trend towards ringing the more complex methods to continue, together with further quarters on the higher numbers of bells.

The first quarter of Surprise Major in East Yorkshire was a significant achievement, but the quarters of St Clements CB Minor, Cambridge Surprise Minor, Kent TB Major and Plain Bob Royal all came after a gaps of at least 35 years.

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One of the most pleasing aspects of our handbell ringing is the increasing number of people able and willing to conduct. **Karen Lane's** 3 quarters as conductor, and **Neil Turner's** 17 underline what can be achieved by those willing to "have a go".

Equally when people ask questions about method structure or coursing order or ringing and calling techniques, we are delighted to be able to share what we know in the sure knowledge of many benefits both on handbells and in the tower.

***Peter Church***

Hull, December 2019.