

THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 54, April 1st, 2021.

For the record:

Beverley & District Society

Hull Handbells Project

Ringling Room

Friday 19th March, 2021

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 James R Starting (Burnby)

3-4 Peter Church (W Hull)

5-6 William Lennox (N Cave) (C)

First in hand as Conductor.

Ringling Room

Friday 26th March, 2021

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 James R Starting (Burnby)

3-4 Peter Church (W Hull)

5-6 William Lennox (N Cave) (C)

Ringling Room

Tuesday 30th March, 2021

1312 Yorkshire Surprise Major

1-2 Rebecca M Legowski (E. Hull)

3-4 Hamish McNaughton (Eastergate)

5-6 Christopher L D Munday (Kirk Ella)(C)

7-8 Peter Church (W Hull)

1st of Surprise Major: 1-2.

At home during March

Our first practise session of March had us battling with the “ropesight” of 10 bells. Much Plain Hunting was rung and simple spliced Plain and Little Bob. One stage lower had Oxford Treble Bob Major.

Later in the day was more frustrating with Quarter Peal attempt for Yorkshire S Major failing owing to technology issues with wires and discord.com. The rhythm was excellent.

Indeed numerous quarter peals were lost during the month almost entirely owing to technical issues.

The upgrade to Ringling Room, whilst made in the right spirit, contributed towards our difficulties, but operating systems problems,

loss of focus window, discord outages, ping delays, all conspired to defeat our desire to end in rounds.

In spite of the difficulties, congratulations are in order, going to Bill Lennox for doing the work and calling his first handbell quarter.

In the middle of the month we made changes to our Tuesday format, splitting the 6 bell practise from the 8 bells, and focusing the 8 bell work on Yorkshire and Cambridge.

We are being helped in this by Alison Lucas, based in Skipton. Alison is still relatively new to Yorkshire having learned the craft of handbell ringing in Sussex. On Tuesday 23rd we rang what is thought to be the first virtual course of Yorkshire by ringers based in Yorkshire. (Rebecca / Alison / Chris M, Peter)

The following week the same group took on the challenge of Cambridge Surprise Major. It took an hour, and many restarts, but in the end we chalked up a respectable full course of Cambridge S. Major. We have high hopes for the future.

Flushed with the success of ringing a course of Cambridge we turned our attention back to Yorkshire, and at long last we managed to ring Simon Humphrey’s 1312. Congratulations to Rebecca on ringing her first quarter of Surprise Major.

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The Learning Curve

Handbell ringing is a tremendous skill. There are many challenges in becoming skilled, and there is a world of difference between ringing a plain course of a method, and being able to enjoy ringing the same method, securely, for a quarter peal length.

There is also a set of challenges associated with navigating a pair of bells through highly structured methods on increasing numbers of bells.

What is clear is that the human brain is perfectly capable of solving these problems and rising above the challenges, and that many people have done so.

So now is the time to share what we know about learning and ringing the more difficult methods. So my intention is to run a series of zoom based workshops during April and May to start the sharing of some of the tools and techniques.

If you think you might be interested please just drop me a note by e-mail.

Peter Church

31st March 2021.