

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 60, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

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## ***For the record:***

### **Hull Handbells Project**

#### **Beverley & District Society**

##### **Ringling Room**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

##### **1360 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)  
5-6 Neil Turner (Wilberfoss)  
7-8 Peter Church (West Hull) (C)  
First of Major: 1-2.

#### **Hull, 33 Westbourne Avenue**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

##### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1-2 Christine M Church  
3-4 Peter Church  
5-6 Karen A Lane (C)

#### **Hull, 33 Westbourne Avenue**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

##### **1272 Oxford Treble Bob Minor**

1-2 Neil Turner  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

#### **Ringling Room**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

##### **1260 St. Clement's C. B. Minor**

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)  
5-6 Peter Church (West Hull) (C)  
First St Clement's in hand: 1-2.  
First St Clement's "inside" in hand: 3-4.  
250<sup>th</sup> in hand as conductor.

#### **Ringling Room**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021

##### **1260 Plain Minor (2m)**

60 Plain, 480 Little, 720 Plain Bob  
1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)  
5-6 Peter Church (West Hull) (C)

#### **Market Weighton**

26 Sancton Road

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 (15 in B)

##### **1360 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 Jenny Hastings  
3-4 Karen A Lane  
5-6 Neil Turner (C)  
7-8 James R Startin

#### **Hull, 33 Westbourne Avenue**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

##### **1864 Plain Minor (2m)**

424 Spliced Plain & Little Bob with 256 Little,  
168 Plain with 23 c.o.m., & 2 x 720  
1-2 Christine M Church  
3-4 Karen A Lane  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

***Rung to celebrate the life of Dr. Mary Charlotte Murdoch (26 September 1864 - 20 March 1916). Mary was the first woman G.P. in Hull, drove the first motor car owned by a woman in the city, and was an active suffragist.***



Photographer: Chris Church

***The new footbridge over Castle Street (A63) is named "Murdoch's Connection" in her honour.***

## ***Out and about***

Even experienced ringers occasionally get it wrong with missed calls or making trips. No-one is immune!

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> we christened a new location this month when Chris, Peter and Neil T went to North Cave and rang with Bill Lennox. Bob Major, Double Oxford Bob Minor and Single Oxford Bob Minor were all given an airing.

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The following day saw a gathering of the Yorkshire handbells clan, with folks from Wilberfoss, Gargrave, Beverley, Sheffield, Melton Ross and Kirk Ella converging on Hull for a day of Surprise ringing.

Yorkshire Surprise Major and Norwich Surprise Minor were the focus for the day, but other methods were also rung including odd bits of Plain Bob, Double Bob and Little Bob to get to various starting points within a course.

There was also Plain-Little-Plain Royal, 3 leads of Kent TB Royal, a course of Oxford TB Major, a course of Cambridge Surprise Minor, and a 3 course 6 lead touch of Spliced Little Bob and Yorkshire called by Rebecca.

***3-4 to Cambridge S Minor was a breakthrough for Heather.***

There was a great deal of sharing, food on the table, bellringers' anecdotes, and "how to" ring various methods.

And then the month got busier.

The handbells made an appearance at the B&D Buffet at Hull Minster; sadly, the ringing attracted no interest from the assembled company of ringers.

With the hundreds of e-mails flowing, negotiating our response as ringers at the end of lock down (not the end of the pandemic), and other time pressures, the quarter peal footnotes need to be allowed to speak of the individual progress made, but on top of that much invisible progress is also evident. All of the active ringers have been pushing against their personal ringing boundary, and "Beyond Treble Bob" is becoming a reality on 6 bells. Less so as yet on 8 or 10.

--oo0oo--

***Further afield, there have been some stonking long lengths of Surprise Minor rung this year; umpire Graham John's recordings on YouTube are linked from the recordings page on our website.***

--oo0oo--

## ***The Learning Curve***

Q: How do you get from Kent Treble Bob Minor to ringing Norwich Surprise?

A: Via Oxford Treble Bob

But that's a superficial answer. In truth it's a great question and a whole booklet could be written in answer.

A simple answer is "Just Learn the double blue lines for each method you want to ring", find some ringers and practise a lot. But it might be a tough challenge to fight through mistakes of memory, learning and ringing. And I know of 3 people locally that have struggled to apply their blue line skills to handbells.

Some people have started talking to me about "Ringing by Place Notation" as a way of tackling harder methods. Certainly Place Notation has a role to play, but unless you're a Cambridge Mathmo, you will want to use techniques that leave you with cool brain cells rather than fried breakfast between the ears.

A better answer is ***start by learning how to learn*** the more highly structured methods. And one way, perhaps the best way, is to learn to associate bits of method structure with the work of the treble. This is a lengthy "learning how to learn" process with lots of fun along the way, but it also develops a much better method ringing toolkit. "Better" means quicker, more adaptable, and sustainable.

One simple associative example: In Kent and Oxford TB Minor, when the treble dodges in 3-4 or 5-6, the slow bell is making 2nds; once each over the other 4 working bells. Between each dodge the treble hunts, and when it does so, the slow bell is leading.

How does that help you ring Kent and Oxford? Well, it feels like ringing a succession of 4 quick-fire Plain Bob Lead Ends.

The toolkit approach is documented on the website downloads page (Beyond Treble Bob – Workshop Notes). Comments, criticisms, suggestions are always welcome.

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There are good reasons for starting the learning process on 6 bells rather than 8, and Oxford TB Minor is one of the progressive methods. Many people find it easier to ring than Kent and it's a great test of the mental agility of the conductor!

Once the structured ringing approach is absorbed, a whole raft of interesting methods can be tackled with varying levels of challenge and satisfaction.

Morning Star T.B. has become a local favourite; it can be thought of as Oxford TB with the 5-6 Section rung as X34X rather than X12X, and a 2nds Place Lead End. It's tricky, but you don't need to learn the blue lines, the last sentence is enough for you to have a go.

Norwich Surprise is just Morning Star with Surprise places at the cross-sections.

And remember: "Just ring a lot"!

**Peter Church**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.