

Hull Handbells Project

Annual Report 2021.

We experienced a hard work year with both good results and disappointments.

We were nearly half way through the year before we felt safe enough to meet in person rather than across the internet. By then 26 quarter peals had been rung in spite of the frustrations and difficulties, and the extra skill demanded by virtual ringing. From June onwards, published achievements were split evenly between online ringing and meeting in person, with the latter being a firm favourite. So what has been achieved?

A total of 79 handbell quarter peals is a clear record, the previous record being in 2019 with 54 quarters. Some of this total was due to the B&D 75th anniversary which resulted in a disproportionately high number of the celebratory performances being rung on handbells. We were particularly pleased to score a quarter peal of Plain Bob Royal in the Vestry at Holy Trinity on the anniversary day of the formation of the society.

We have marked nine historical dates with date touches including the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Humber Bridge, Yorkshire Day, Mary Murdoch's Connection, John Venn, The Russian Outrage, and The Fall of the Berlin Wall.

The number of people taking part in Handbell Change Ringing has now contracted to the hard core but the skill level of that core has gradually increased. Bill Lennox and Karen Lane have been added to the list of Handbell conductors, and it was pleasing to see Karen calling a handbell quarter with an all ladies band, a first for this area.

Method ringing has also developed to where simple right place methods, (not Plain Bob) are regular features of our ringing as well as Kent and Oxford Treble Bob. We are quietly confident about ringing Surprise Minor; Surprise Major still eludes us, we are still not quite strong enough to get regular practise.

"Shooting Star" of the year must be Damien Garwood of Elland, one of Rebecca Legowski's recruits. Like Rebecca, Damien is also registered blind. His first introduction to double handed ringing was in May 2021, and by November he had scored quarters of Plain, Double and St Clement's College Bob Minor, and Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and Plain Bob Major.

We re-established the peal ringing activity during November with two very enjoyable performances, Kent and Oxford TB Minor and Plain Bob Major. Well done to Neil Turner on ringing his first Handbell peal.

The Hull Handbells Project has now achieved its first Major objective, namely to grow the capability of Handbell Change Ringing in East Yorkshire to a sustainable level. We now have 6 competent and active conductors and an equal number of enthusiastic ringers (including Alison Lucas who travels over from Gargrave to join us).

The impact of coronavirus has not yet worked its way fully through the system; even as I write the Omicron variant is causing consternation, and might well negatively impact handbell ringing in 2022.

Peter Church

www.handbellringing.org.uk