

THE HULL HANDBELL PROJECT

Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout East Yorkshire

Newsletter Number 4, February 2017.

News round up

The Tuesday morning practice

(older but no wiser)

The group struggled a bit. Chris with her asymmetric eyesight, Lesley with major family illness and her own bruises, Zem with her carpal tunnels. When we can gather to ring, which has been most weeks, the ringing is basic but good. Ros Baxter has indeed come on in leaps and bounds to ring 1-2 and 5-6 to Bob minor having only started just before Christmas. We look forward to the return of Chris with two eyes working together.

Barrow / Melton Ross

Thanks to the extra experience of Chris Munday, the Old School at Melton ross resounded to the sound of Cambridge Surprise Minor and Kent TB Major during the mid-month afternoon practice. Pat Donneley managed a course of Bob Minor on an inside pair, and Chris Church got some practise in at singles whilst ringing 3-4. We were very pleased by the standard of the Plain Bob Major that was rung, now we need some longer touches.

Market Weighton

Karen Lane and Lynn Hall had a great time as did the visitors James Blackburn and Chris and Peter Church at the Sunday lunchtime gathering. It was Plain Bob Minor and nothing else, but a solid practise including several touches for Chris, and plain courses on all pairs, and touches on 1-2 for Lynn and Karen.

There is even a whisper of a third Weighton handbell ringer meaning that a local handbell meeting might start up. Karen's handbells were originally from Nunburnholme seem quite old but were renovated after her dad,

Mark, bought them. They are very rewarding to ring.

Handbells day No 2, 28th January

Eleven ringers from the region (from as far as Leeds) met at the end of January at "Peachey's Palace" for the Humber Region Handbells Day No 2 (counting the Training Day in October 2016 as No 1). Three sets of handbells were put to good use, together with two copies of Handbells Manager / Abel.

Ringing ranged from simple call changes on 6 via Plain Bob (of course), Double Bob, St Clements College Bob, Kent and Oxford TB, and Cambridge Surprise Minor; to Plain Bob Major (several different courses included 7 of the 11 ringers), and Kent TB Major.

The standard varied from firing out to brilliant, but that's exactly what is expected on a practise session with folks at their limit. There was some thoroughly good, rhythmical ringing to be heard.

Things to think about.

I was in touch with my old friend Simon Humphrey and mentioned that Chris (Church) had cataract problems. And I quote from Simon's reply:

" PS Perhaps Chris should try ringing with her eyes shut, if the vision is a problem, albeit hopefully a temporary one ? Simon Melen often does, not having any reliance on the handbell equivalent of rope-sight – he just knows which two positions in each change his bells should be and puts them there (or indeed, as you observed, which four positions !). I'm told he once fell asleep, quite literally, in a peal attempt but carried on ringing anyway, and nobody noticed till he started snoring. "

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The Simulator, (Handbell manager and Abel; a.k.a. "The Stimulator")

The use of these tools to work on methods prior to picking a pair of physical bells is very valuable. It's a great way of checking whether you have learned your pair correctly. The computer is relentless. "You made a mistake, tough, I am not waiting for you. Oh, two more crash bangs? I don't care, just get back to where you should have been on the next change."

But when you pick up a pair of handbells **the value of working on the simulator starts to show**. The ringing is more assured, which means more ringing is done, which means progress is quicker.

This is a virtuous circle. Yes, there will still be trips (there will always be trips) but more of them are overcome rather than causing the ringing to break down.

I have learned that the physical movement of the "motion controllers" is an important part of the learning. I have watched my hands ringing in the right place without me knowing exactly what that place was. Those "right places" were tucked away in my subconscious memory and I felt that part of it was the physical rhythm.

Historical note.

Gwynneth Moffat, and Chris and Peter Church visited **Ron Ducker** in Hornsea towards the end of January. The ringing included a good course of Double Bob, as well as a fire up when Peter tried get the treble to make seconds over the third in Plain Bob.

Ron's bellringing career began in 1951 with a peal of Cambridge S Minor at North Cave conducted by Charles Barker from Beverley

Minster, and 10 years later Charles also called Ron's one and only handbell peal. Ron went on to ring a total of 243 peals (118 B&D), and rang in the first peal of a number of well know local ringers including Richard Gibson, Ian Booth, Ian Campbell, Chris Munday, and John Leary to mention but a few.

The handbell peal rung with Ron Ducker was to be Charles Barker's last handbell peal of the 8 that he rang, the preceding 7 all being rung at 36 Eastgate, Beverley, with Malcolm Lincoln and Frances Mulvey. Malcolm went on to ring one further handbell peal in Jesmond, and Frances has a total of 430 peals, 66 of which were on handbells mostly for the Gloucester and Bristol D.A.

Diary:

2017:

- Hull meetings: See website www.handbellringing.org.uk
- March 11th B&D AGM
- March 11th / 12th ART Conference, Basingstoke.
- March 19th Market Weighton
- April 29th Regional Handbells Day No 3, details to follow.

The Sunday conference activity will focus on handbell change ringing, both from a teaching aspect and separately from a learning aspect. Attendees are welcomed irrespective of handbell experience.

<http://ringingteachers.org/news/conference>

Handbell Change ringers wanted:

Do you want to start handbell change ringing at your tower? And don't know how to start? Drop me a line, we can help.