

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 74, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

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## ***Performances for the record:***

A full list of Project performances for 2022 is on Bellboard at:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=14769>

### **Barrow and District Society**

**Melton Ross, N Lincs**

**3 West Holme**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**1260 Plain Bob Minor**

720 & 540

1-2 Barry F Peachey

3-4 Heather LE Peachey

5-6 Peter Church (C)

### **Beverley and District Society**

**Market Weighton,**

**26 Sancton Road**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**1536 Plain Minor (2m)**

3 x PLP, 2 x 720 Double Bob

1-2 Neil Turner

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Peter Church (C)

Rung noting the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 (during the reign of Henry VIII) which started in Lincolnshire, passed through the Pocklington / Market Weighton area and ended in Hull on 2nd December according to the Hull Book of Days.

300th Double Handed Quarter Peal as Conductor: 5-6.

**Kirk Ella,**

**60 Riplingham Road**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022

**1260 Plain Bob Royal**

1-2 Rebecca M Legowski

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Christopher LD Munday

7-8 Neil Donovan

9-0 Peter Church (C)

**Kirk Ella,**

**60 Riplingham Road**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major**

1-2 Christopher LD Munday

3-4 Simon Humphrey

5-6 Samuel M Austin (C)

7-8 Peter Church

First of Surprise in hand: 7-8.

First of Surprise in hand for B&D.

Dedicated to the memory of Richard and Barbara Gibson.

**Kirk Ella,**

**60 Riplingham Road**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

**1344 Kent Treble Bob Major**

1-2 Peter Church

3-4 Alison J Lucas

5-6 Christopher LD Munday (C)

7-8 Neil Turner

## ***Out and about***

There has been a lot of very valuable practise time in the month.

**Jim Startin** is recovering from an injury and enjoyed a session of mixed methods up to Treble Bob Minor with **Bill Lennox, Neil Turner and Karen Lane**.

**Barry and Heather Peachey** had an intensive session on Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and then relaxed with a quarter of Bob Minor.

And later that week the Wow group (West of Weighton) met in Weighton and rang Plain Bob, Little Bob, St. Clements College Bob, Kent TB, Oxford TB, plain courses. And also 3 leads Kent & a random touch of plain & little spliced.

All to get Jim back into the swing of things.

The following week, and also much to Barry Peachey's amazement, as well as a good slug of Oxford TB., we rang Double Bob Minor, St Clement's College Bob Minor and Buxton Bob Minor.

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On 15<sup>th</sup> November, there was a gathering at **Chris Munday's** to ring Plain Bob Maximus. At the start of the session we struggled even to ring Plain Hunting on 12 and by the end we were tackling Plain and Little Spliced as PLP. Maximus is hugely unfamiliar territory.

A few days later we put a date touch in the records noting the Pilgrimage of Grace which took place during the reign of Henry VIII. Yorkshire folk have long memories. It was a good excuse to give **Karen** some more Double Bob experience.

On the following Tuesday we managed to meet (with **Karen**) for an attempt for a peal of Plain Bob Royal, the peal was not to be but a good quarter was rung.

The Plain Bob Royal was rung in Kirk Ella at **Chris Munday's** home, as was a peal of Yorkshire Surprise Major rung the following Saturday. That was a first of Surprise in hand for yours truly, the first peal of Surprise in hand for the Beverley and District Society, and the first peal of Yorkshire in hand in East Yorkshire. The only other peal of Surprise on handbells in East Yorkshire was rung by the Cambridge University Guild in August this year,

**Alison Lucas** (Gargrave / Skipton) joined us once more in Kirk Ella on the final Tuesday. A quarter of Kent TB Major was followed by a practise session which included Double Norwich CB Major, Double Bob Major, Oxford TB Major, Cambridge S Minor, Bourne S Minor, some Stedman Doubles which went well until yours truly moved to an inside pair, and a few leads of London S Minor. A course would have been possible but time was against us.

In the middle of the session we digressed to ring Keg Meg doubles.

## Thoughts

Q: "Well you've rung Yorkshire, what's next?"

A: Well, more Yorkshire. If it takes 1,000 courses to learn a method, we must still have

950 to go. As **Sam Austin** might have said: "You've learned the method, but you haven't mastered the method by a long chalk".

## The Learning Curve

Fun food and friends, count the smiles per day: Steve Wozniak

**Keg Meg** "Plain Hunting on 5" is

21546333

215463

12456333

142653

41625333

461523

Etc

Which I found tucked away at the back of my mind since learning to ring in the belfry at Wollaton 57 years ago. You will not find it on complib, and you won't find Coal Minor which we also rang at that time and place..

## Surprise Major in hand

Caveat: A little learning is a dangerous thing.

But a lot can be learned even from a single peal when you gather the learning of those around you with 100 times your experience. When they tell you something, LISTEN carefully.

**Q: Is Yorkshire the best first Surprise Major method for a handbells novice?**

**A: Probably not.**

It does have the great advantage of preserving natural coursing order under the treble, but structurally it's quite complex. The complexity is made harder to crack because it leads to fluid movement between places. The structure whilst simple to describe is not so simple to navigate.

**Q: So what would be a better intro to Surprise Major in hand, Cambridge?**

**A: Yes, probably easier than Yorkshire.**

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Cambridge is structurally consistent at all stages, and has helpful place making. However, there are long hunting runs that make for interesting ringing.

**Q: So What do the experts recommend?**

**A: Bourne Surprise is on the list.**

It has a long series of dodges (9) on the front, and a crankshaft in the middle that rings like Oxford Treble Bob Minor. The key to the method, at all stages, is the treble dodging in 3-4. This signals the end of the double dodge above 3-4, and the start of the treble bob work in 3-4-5-6-7-8. It also signals the start of the crankshaft and the long dodging in 1-2.

Bourne is easy to get into, as we showed by ringing it without preparation. How easy it is to become “performance competent” remains to be seen.

**Norwich Surprise is also on the list.**

The extension of Norwich to higher stages keeps the long dodging above 3-4 limited to 3. Beyond that it is much like Bourne but breaks up the crankshaft and the long dodging at the front with a firsts place half lead.

Norwich gets you to ring an 8ths place lead end, and it looks to be a bit more interesting than Bourne.

Many thanks **Sam Austin** for alerting me to these suggestions.

**There is more information in Stoecklin and Gay: Change Ringing on Handbells Part 2; Advanced Techniques. £26 from Amazon**

**Peter Church**

1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.