

Change Ringing on Handbells

The resurgence of double-handed change ringing in East Yorkshire began in the aftermath of the Central Council meeting in 2015. The rapid growth that followed the beginners course in 2016 was curtailed by the covid pandemic but we did benefit from the new online tools Ringing Room, Composition Library, and Handbell Stadium that were promoted during the pandemic. By end of 2023 the ringing had again settled into a pattern of regular weekly meetings, frequent quarter peals, specific date touches and an occasional peal.

The skill level has progressed well with Treble Bob Major and Plain Bob Royal becoming normal. Excursions into Double Norwich C.B. Major and Kent T.B. Royal were made with the promise of recorded performances to follow. MUG Minor (a.k.a. That Cussed Principle) and Duffield Major were suggested by one innovative member and whilst MUG Minor felt like a bad idea, Duffield is a delightful, exquisite principle. The seed of this idea even germinated in America.

The 50 quarter peals rung during 2023 contain many personal achievements, and were spread across 4 centres. Several of the quarters have date related lengths to mark specific historical events as diverse as the laying of the foundation stone for the Ferens Art Gallery, and the Coronation of H.M. King Charles III.

A total of 71 ringers have scored handbell quarter peals for B&D since F Charles Hobson called the first on Boxing Day 1964, 25 ringers have done so in the last 7 years. Quarter peals are the bedrock, the place and time where the learning and coaching becomes performance, and the accumulated performances sharpen the skills and generate valuable experience.

Towerbell ringers need to swallow hard and become true learners once more in order to acquire handbell skills. Those that have done so have all seen how much stronger they have then become as towerbell ringers, especially in their ability to help those with less experience. Handbell ringing also has the benefit of presenting a challenge to your most experienced ringers.

We are ready to teach and to inspire when you are ready to invest the time in upgrading your skills.

Peter Church