

## **Change ringing on Handbells, 2018**

Enjoyable, challenging, record breaking are all adjectives for our highly successful handbell ringing year; they are the result of real commitment, patience and persistence leading to the achievements. People involved were: John Atkinson, Ron & Hilary Barclay, Rosina Baxter, James Blackburn, Chris & Peter Church, Lesley Davies, Patricia Donnelly, Neil Donovan, Jenny Hastings, Karen Lane, Rebecca Legowski, William Lennox, Gwynneth Moffatt, Christopher Munday, Barry & Heather Peachey, James Startin and Neil Turner.

Plenty of laughter has been heard as we fought, struggled, sometimes literally wriggled our way through challenging methods, and persistence brought success to people who thought they would never make it. A lot of the ringing was superb, and we recorded over 30 handbell quarter peals for the society, more than in any preceding year.

Our ringing included 2018 Plain & Little Bob Minor for Armistice Day, this was the first date touch on handbells for the society since 1980.

Whilst much Plain Bob Minor has been rung, this formed the bedrock for our progress into Plain Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, and multi method quarter peals later in the year. Over half of the recorded lengths have some achievement documented in the footnotes, and progress has been strong enough for some people to take their first steps into conducting. Weekly practices, quarterly regional meetings, quarter peals whenever the opportunity presented itself all contributed towards the success.

The ringing achievements are only part of the story. The hidden part is what we have learned about the learning process. The human brain is amazing, truly awesome in its learning ability at all ages. If a learner has the motivation, we have the ability to impart the necessary knowledge and skills for that learner to become a double-handed change ringer.

What the recorded lengths do not show is the ringing of more highly structured methods such as Bastow Little Bob, St Clements College Bob, Single Oxford and Single Court, and these methods were rung without memorising double blue lines.

The achievements and learning of 2018 will go on to be the bedrock of 2019, where the balance will swing towards ringing on 8 and 10 bells, and into the more complex Minor methods. Yorkshire Surprise Major and Little Bob Royal, on handbells, will be on the radar. But whilst we pursue those goals we must also ensure that our less experienced ringers maintain their progress.

**Peter Church**

[www.handbellringing.org.uk](http://www.handbellringing.org.uk)