

## News from The Belfry

If you are a regular reader of News from the Belfry you will know that back in February we failed to complete a quarter peal. I'm pleased to announce that on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, Ann, Janice and myself from St. Peter's, Ian from Tollesbury and Jim and Yvonne from Inworth successfully rung a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles in 40 minutes. This was rung as part of the South East District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers Quarter Peal Fortnight. Congratulations to Ann as this was her first quarter peal on an inside bell at St Peter's. It is relatively straightforward to ring the treble and tenor as it is the inside bells 2,3,4 and 5 that do the work.

Alan, Bernard, David, Garry, Ann, Janice and Lyndsey rang the bells at 6pm on St. George's Day in support of the Ringing for England campaign.

The Great Totham Parish Magazine of August 1889 mentions ringers visiting St. Peter's. The text is below.

## Ringers' Outing

"On Sunday last, the parish was enlivened by merry peals from the church\* bells. A mixed band of ringers paid us a visit from the parishes of Great Bromley, Great Bentley and S. Peter, Colchester, to the number of seven, and with the assistance of our own company rang some well-struck peals in three different methods. They were much struck with the beauty of our church and churchyard, and with our little peal of bells. It is not many country parishes that can boast a peal of six musical bells, and all in good ringing order. One of the ringers informed us that he had rung in 108 different towns, and he was quite a young man. We are looking forward to a visit from the Coggeshall ringers, who generally pay us an annual visit about this time".

\*Original Copy

If I visit a local tower for an outing I either cycle or drive the car. So how did our visitors from Colchester and beyond travel to St Peter's? I do not have the answer but these are my thoughts. It was probably too far to walk. The train would have been an option with the Witham to Maldon branch line opening in 1848 followed by a walk from Wickham Bishops or Maldon East and Heybridge station. The hey-day of the Penny-farthing was in the 1880's but they cost the average worker six months pay. The horse and cart would have taken two to four hours each way.

Are you interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's? Contact our Tower Captain Janice Spalding Tel: 01621 892197. You are also welcome to visit on our Friday night practice at 20.00hrs.

Website <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>

Andrew Hood