

## News from the Belfry May 2015

Our first tower outing of the year was on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately I was not able to join the outing however, Ann Powell wrote the following report.

Tower outings, like any family day out are subject to the vagrancies of the weather. The forecast had not been kind to us, grey with rain and a deluge at lunchtime. So, as we arose early from our beds to make the dash up to north Suffolk we donned suitable attire. Arriving at our first stop, Rattlesden we found the skies not so leaden so macs were left in the car where they stayed for the rest of the day.

These days out are fun and a chance to relax and socialise with our fellow ringers but also offer the newer ringers the opportunity to broaden their experience by ringing different bells. Each ring has its own characteristics so when making that first pull the ringer needs to be aware. Newer ringers are full of questions, what is the weight, how long is the draft, is she deep set, will I need to stand on a box. Experienced ringers have no such qualms and under their nurturing umbrella the bells are soon ringing out to rounds and call changes. We are fortunate on our outings in being accompanied by some of the great ringers from the area who join with our own excellent ringers and afford them the opportunity to dust off cobwebs from advanced methods and treat everyone to some joyous, expert ringing which is often not possible where bands consist of members with different levels of experience.

Churches always offer a gateway to our history and we enjoyed England at its very best. Beautiful hammer beamed roofs adorned with angels, pew ends with animals carved with skill and imagination, threepenny bit

shaped towers and wonderful arches all a great tribute to those in whose footsteps we tread.

This year we visited, Rattlesden, Woolpit, Pekenham, Bardwell, Walsham le Willows, Wickham Skeith and Earl Stonham and enjoyed a splendid lunch at the Pykkerell Inn at Ixworth. This afforded us the chance to stray off the beaten track and admire the unspoiled villages with their quaint cottages and the windmill at Ixworth just as the countryside starts to burst with spring.

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 19.45hrs.

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