

News from the Belfry

April was a busy month of ringing. In addition to ringing for Sunday Worship we also had our tower outing on 16th April where we visited seven churches northwest of Ipswich and I will provide further details next month. Sunday 17th April marked the start of quarter peal (QP) fortnight. Janice, our tower captain, informed me that she was already scheduled to ring four QPs, one at St. Peter's and the other three to support other local bands.

On April 21st we rang to celebrate the Queen's ninetieth birthday. We were pleased to welcome Duncan who is currently learning to ring at St Peter's. He joined Janice, Ann, Chris, David B, David K, Bernard, Frank and myself to ring. During the ringing we changed the order of bells from 1 2 3 4 5 6 (rounds) to 1 3 5 2 4 6 (Queens). At 11.30am Edward Bear Group joined us and listened to us change the order of the bells from rounds to Queens. Members of Edward Bear then tolled the treble in turn with the assistance of Jonathan.

Two days later Ann, Bernard, David B, Chris, David K and Lindsey rang for St. George's Day. On April 25th Philip and Jim from Inworth, Ian and Val from Tollesbury joined Janice and myself to ring a quarter peal. This was to mark the birth of our granddaughter Amelia Marianna Hood. I would like to thank our visiting ringers for supporting us on this occasion.

There was no practice on Friday 29th April as the church was being decorated for the flower festival. Fourteen ringers rang at the opening of the flower festival and eight rang in the afternoon. On Sunday we rang before morning worship and again before the Choral Evensong.

June 3rd is BBC Music Day. We have been asked to ring at 7pm simultaneously with other towers throughout the country. We have also been asked to ring on the weekend 10th -12th June to celebrate the Queen's Official Birthday.

As you can see we do more than just practice on a Friday evening and ring on a Sunday. If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St. Peter's, please contact our Tower Captain Janice Spalding on 01621 892197 or alternatively come to our Friday practice at 19.45 hrs: For further information please visit <http://greattothambellringers.org.uk>.

Andrew Hood