

First peal on the Royal Jubilee Bells



The Royal Jubilee Bells passing under Tower Bridge ...



... and passing beneath the Millenium Bridge



Robin Hall and Richard Smith steeplekeeping – the O2 Arena in the background

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS

RIVER THAMES,

The Royal Jubilee Bells
on the Ursula Katherine
Sat May 26 2012 3h 6 (9)

5056 Cambridge S Major

Comp.C Middleton
(Johnson's var)
1 Richard A Smith
2 Stephen A Coaker
3 Jennifer E Earis
4 Robin O Hall
5 Stephen W Penney
6 David P Macey
7 Dickon R Love (C)
8 David E House

The first peal on the bells.

The peal started at Blackfriars
Bridge and concluded in
Woolwich, in celebration of the
Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen
Elizabeth II.

Glasgow's first peal?

May 12th may seem like an odd day to ring a peal commemorating the Diamond Jubilee. However, a perusal of the peal boards in the tower at St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow revealed that it was the 75th anniversary of the first peal on the bells, and had been rung for another Royal event. How perfect.

Or was it? Some further research showed that the footnote published in *The Ringing World* was slightly different. A quick search on the Felsted database showed an even earlier peal, Treble Bob Minor, with two covering bells.

Indeed, a peal was rung in 1922 using the Seage apparatus, meaning that the bells were silenced. This might add to the debate about whether to count peals rung on simulators, but by current standards, the band felt that this wasn't a peal.

Regardless, the 1937 performance was a handsome one and worth commemorating: a first in method for most of the band. Regular ringing had only been restarted in Glasgow in about 1930, so that is not bad going.

The current peal involved all local ringers to Glasgow, with only the outside help of the SACR President. It included one ringer's first peal in 18 years, and another first in method (and only his third peal). It was a reasonable benchmark of the state of the Glasgow band and the progress made over the past year.

A nice final word is that Jennifer Tomkinson had rung a peal with Thomas C Winderham, who rang the tenor to the peal in 1937.

GLASGOW

THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION
(St Mary's Cathedral Society)

On Wednesday, May 12th, 1937,

in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

At the Cathedral Church of St Mary

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 32½cwt

*Adam Dodds	Treble	Neil Leiper	6
John Ewing	2	Sydney G Lewis	7
Henry F Sargent	3	Ernest A Stafford	8
R J G Thom	4	William H Pickett	9
Reginald O Street	5	Thomas C Winderam	Tenor

Composed by A. Knight Conducted by WH Pickett

* First peal. First peal of Grandsire Caters by all except the ringers of 5th and 9th. First peal of Grandsire Caters by the Scottish Association and first in Scotland by a service-ringing band.

(the peal board further reads: First peal on the bells. Rung for the Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth)

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

GLASGOW,

Cathedral Church of St Mary

Sat May 12 2012 3h27 (32)

5040 Cambridge S Royal

Comp. Simon J Gay

1 Robert Lay
2 Jennifer Tomkinson
3 Tina R Stoecklin
4 Sue Hutton
5 Stephen A Elwell-Sutton
6 Ruth M Marshall
7 Sean D Langton
8 Clyde W Wallbanks
9 Simon J Gay (C)
10 Jonathan S Frye

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Rung on the 75th anniversary of the first peal on the bells, which was rung for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.