

A Jubilee river of sound

As the Royal Jubilee Bells were ringing out across the River Thames, so they were answered by bells from the banks of the river, and considerably further afield. As the Royal family was ferried to the *Spirit of Chartwell*, they were treated to the sound of bells from St Mary's Battersea and Chelsea Old Church. Other towers near the river to the west of Westminster also rang out. The Prince of Wales commented afterwards that he never actually heard the Royal Jubilee Bells as they were too far in front, but he would have almost certainly heard the others. Moving eastwards, other towers near the Thames started to ring, including the mighty rings at Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral. The Bow Bells rang out to a full peal, as did the bells of Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr, themselves standing on each end of London Bridge. As well as the change ringing peals, the single bell of Temple Church was sounded, and the heavy chime at All Hallows by the Tower was struck.

Ringing took place all over the country. In Windsor, simultaneous peals took place at the Castle and the Parish Church, this being the first time both towers have sounded like this. Up and down the country bells were rung to peals, quarters, touches and call changes, with more enthusiasm than could ever have been mustered for certain Olympic early morning stunts. The breadth of the ringing will be found elsewhere in these pages.

Nor was the ringing confined to the United Kingdom. As the Royal Jubilee Bells were ringing at 3pm, the bells that once hung in the Parish Church of Buckingham Palace also started to sound. The former St Martin-in-the-Fields bells now hang in the Bell Tower in Perth, Western Australia, which for them was 10 o'clock at night. Nonetheless, they too played their part. (Attempts to get a live link of these bells back into Westminster unfortunately never succeeded.)

D.R.L.

Southport ringing for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

At Southport we have a number of ringers who have only been ringing for a few years; so rather than ringing several quarter peals of Bob Doubles we decided to ring continuous rounds and call changes for an hour on the evening of Tuesday, 5th June, changing the ringers round without stopping the ringing. An excellent standard of striking was maintained by the following ringers from St John, Crossens, and Emmanuel:

Eric and Dorothy Binks, Peter and Chris Hollingsworth, Celia Hughes D'Aeth, Heather Johnson, Jean Lee, David Ramsbottom, Rebekah Topping, Jonathan and Janet Williams, Ray Woods.

(Mike Baldwin, Cyril Barnes, Peter and Sandy Davies, Chris Lee, Angela Page, Chris and Emma Pitman were unable to ring but we would like to associate them with the celebration.)

CELIA HUGHES D'AETH

Southport, Lancashire

Battersea ringers fire out in style for The Queen

It is over 400 years since Elizabeth I ordered the church bells along the Thames to ring out as she passed on her way to Richmond Palace. Chelsea Old Church was rather lax on that occasion and each ringer was fined one shilling (5p or about half a weekly wage) for not ringing. A full band was therefore assembled on Sunday, 3rd June at St Mary's Battersea on the day of the Jubilee River Pageant, not to avoid a similar fine, but to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Battersea was fortunate in being situated only slightly downstream from where the Queen and other members of the Royal Family boarded the launch from HMS *Britannia* to take them to the Royal Barge *Spirit of Chartwell*, which together with the Royal Jubilee Bells on the *Ursula Katherine*, were too high to fit under the early bridges on the Thames Pageant route.

Prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings a quarter peal of Stedman Triples was to be attempted, but the London Philharmonic Orchestra on the barge moored next to St Mary's Church was warming up which drowned out the sound of the bells in the belfry. A last minute switch to Plain Bob Major to cope with the interruptions proved to be successful with a quarter peal achieved to start off the day's proceedings. The ringers then toasted the Queen's health (*see photograph*) before getting ready for the main part of the day's celebratory proceedings.

About twenty minutes later the Royal party arrived at Chelsea Harbour jetty and were watched by those in the church yard and the assembled ringers. As the Royal launch left to a fanfare of trumpets to start the River Pageant the bells of Battersea

pulled off. To mark the occasion we rang rounds followed by all the bells firing with the tenor, then back into rounds before hunting into Queens and then firing in Queens. It appeared the Royals recognised the Queens, named of course after Elizabeth I heard the change while proceeding down Cornhill over 400 years ago, and waved to the tower.

To avoid interrupting the musical barges in the flotilla and to give the BBC broadcasters in the churchyard a break, following anxieties they had expressed the day before after finding out the bells would be ringing, the ringers took a further break until half-way through the programme when 30 minutes of general ringing took place with local ringers taking part in a range of methods from rounds and call changes to Diamond Jubilee Surprise Major.

At the last boat in the flotilla passed the church the bells commenced what was to be a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples to conclude the proceedings. The composition was of course 1260 changes to mark the year and Jubilee.

The ringing was of a high standard throughout the day and all the local ringers were congratulated on the effort and practice put in to make the day the success it was. For the record the details of the quarter peals rung are:

1344 PB Major: Phillip Ridley 1, Mariko Whyte 2, Robert Cooles 3, Simon Goldrick 4, Peter Jasper 5, Martin Hadley 6, John Goldrick 7, Chris Ridley (C) 8. Prior to the commencement of the River Pageant to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

1260 PB Triples: Charlotte Kirwan 1, Mariko Whyte 2, Martin Hadley 3, Peter Jasper 4, Nick Gander 5, Chris Ridley 6, Phillip Ridley (C) 7, Kevin Perkins 8. At the conclusion of the River Pageant to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

CHRIS RIDLEY



Battersea ringers toasting the health of The Queen