

Day 1 Monday 25 February 2019

Andrew Ogden and Kit Bardsley arrived from John Taylor & Co Ltd to start the process of preparing the bellframe to accept the new headstocks and bearings of the 8 refurbished and restored bells when they return on Wednesday.

The picture opposite shows the 16 new bearing plates which have to be set into the top of the bellframe. These will need to be accurately positioned and plumbed level within each bell pit. The treble, 2nd, 3rd & 4th plates are in the background 5th 6th and 7th are the next group and the 2 tenor plates are in the foreground. There are 2 bearing plates for each bell.



Day 2 Tuesday 26 February 2019

Much of the day was taken up with fitting the bearing plates.

The picture opposite shows the bearing plates of the 6th (L) and 5th (R) in situ. The 6th having been accurately set into the oak sill and plumbed level across the pit. In this picture the 5th West frame has yet to be relocated back into its correct position. The bearing plate on that side will then be set level with the bearing plate shown in the picture.



Day 3 Wednesday 27 February 2019

BBC Radio Bristol interview in the morning with Claire Cavanagh.



The bells arrived back from Loughborough at 12 noon.



7th and Tenor sitting in the Choir



All the bells in line



Bells Return Celebration hosted by Rev Philip Rowe was held in the evening. About 70 Almondsbury guests turned up to celebrate and view the bells.

Day 4 Thursday 28 February 2019

Early next day the 7th and tenor were hoisted into the belfry.
The choir pews had to be reinstalled as it was choir practice night.

A major problem ensued. The headstock of the 7th was found to be too big for its pit.
Nothing for it but to remove the headstock and send it back to Loughborough for machining



Tenor going up



7th being raised



Tenor bolted down in its pit



7th in its pit but the headstock is too big

Day 5 Friday 01 March 2019

The choir pews were removed again.

The 7th headstock was unbolted and removed from the bell and lowered into the church. It was sent back to Loughborough for urgent adjustment.

All remaining 6 bells along with the running gear were raised up into the belfry by close of play that day.

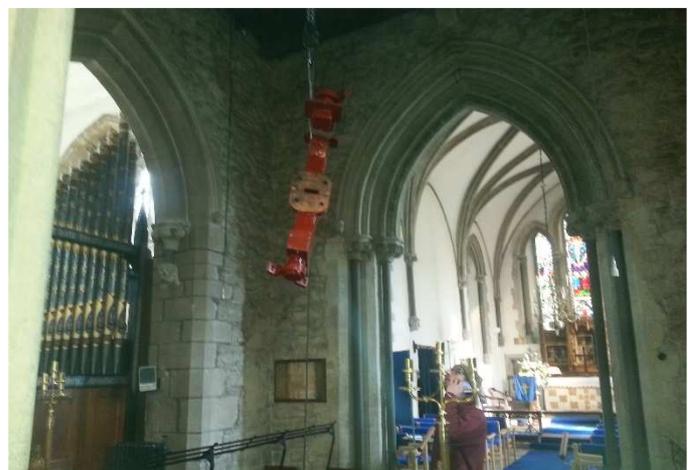


The last of the 8 bells the Treble going up

Day 6 Monday 04 March 2019

The machined 7th headstock was returned this morning. It was immediately hoisted up into the belfry. This was then securely attached to the bell and bolted down.

Anthony Hart the JT Carpenter joined us. He replaced Andrew Ogden who had moved onto another belfry job.



Machined headstock going up



The Treble is seen sitting above the 2nds pit . The Tenor far left resting quietly whilst the 3rd & 4th nearest are doing the same

Day 7 Tuesday 05 March 2019

Progress was steady. The cut RSJ and the frame between the treble and 5th were moved back into place. The bearing plates for the 5th and treble were being



The frame between the Treble & 5th being lowered back into its place.

positioned in the upper sill but the work was not finished. Stays for the tenor, 7th, 3rd and 4th were in place. The wheels of the tenor and 3rd were fitted.



Wheel of the Tenor being fitted

Day 8 Wednesday 06 March 2019

The new wheels are much larger than before consequently the 6th bearings had to be moved 25mm South as the wheel was hitting the frame bracket nuts in the north of the pit. Some of the original oak frame bracket bolts have rusted and could not be removed from the oak timbers. Proving very difficult to replace with new thus slowing our work. Progress has been made in spite of these setbacks. The larger wheels should make ringing especially the heavy bells a bit easier. Wheels for the tenor, 7th, 6th, 5th and 3rd were on and fixed. Stays for the Tenor, 7th, 6th, 5th and 3rd were on and fixed.



Treble being lowered into its pit



Wheels and stays on and fixed

Day 9 Thursday 07 March 2019

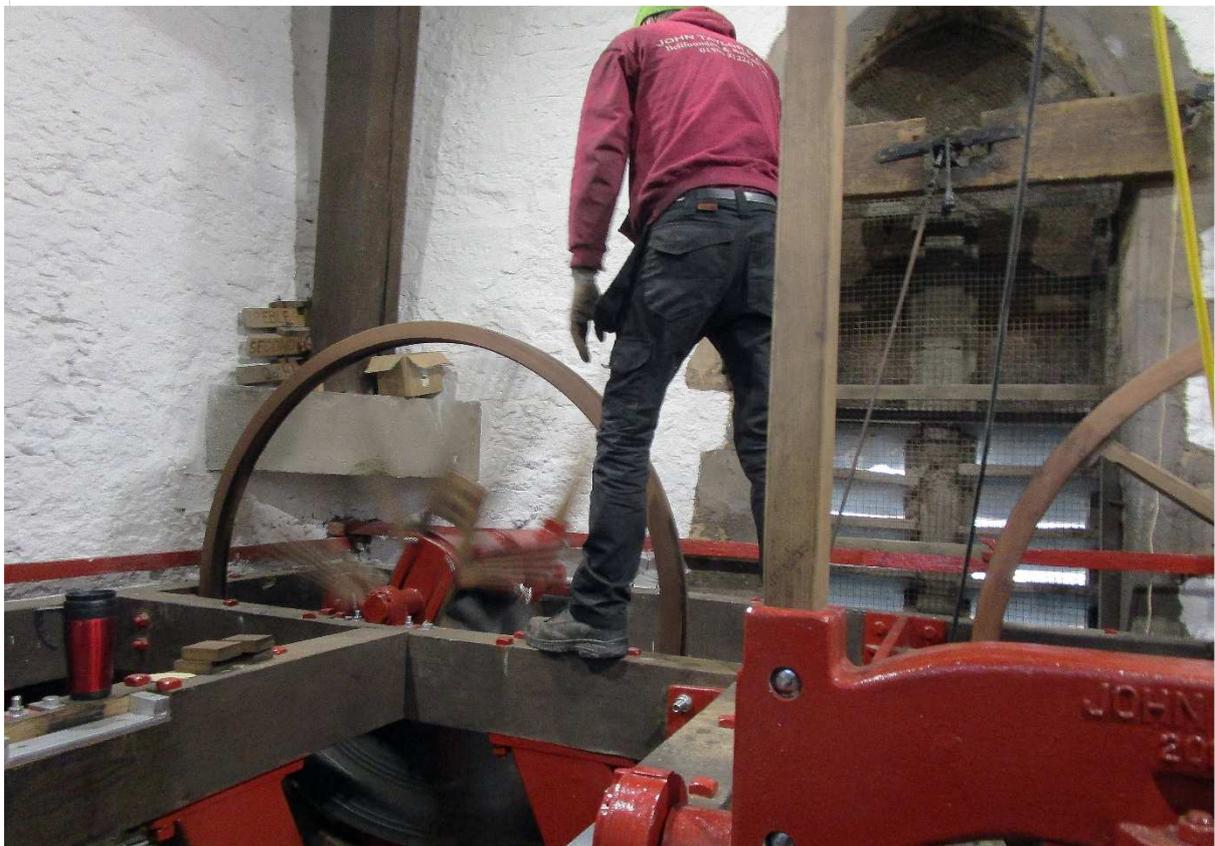
Sliders and runners have been fixed to the 3rd, 4th and 5th. The 3rd and 4th have been wound up to test the slider stops. Extra brackets have been fixed to the frame to make sure that it is rigid especially between the treble and 5th. The 5th will be wound up tomorrow to test the slider stops. The slider stop positions are very important as these determine if the bell is deep set or correctly set. If the bell is deep set it is difficult to pull off at hand stroke.



Drilling bottom sill for bracket fixings



Slider and runner with stops fitted



3rd being wound up to test for obstructions and correct slider positioning

Day 10 Friday 08 March 2019

The 5th did not get tested today. Instead the treble was lowered into its pit and bolted down onto its bearing plates. The wheels and stays were fitted to the treble and 2nd. That means that all of the bells are now in their respective pits and fitted with wheels and stays. Next week we will try to get all the bells ready in time for the wedding on Saturday but that is subject to everything going well. Still lots to do.



Treble being lowered into its pit



Day 11 Monday 11 March 2019

Good progress in spite of stoppage for a funeral. All 8 bells now fitted with runners, sliders and stops. Treble and 2nd have been wound up and tested. Work has started to remove existing pulley blocks. These were installed in 2005/6 by Whites of Appleton. They had blue plastic pulley sheaves whereas our new JT boxes are fitted with machined hardwood sheaves.



Tenor runner board with stops



Slider with runner and stops

Day 12 Tuesday 12 March 2019

All of the existing pulley boxes (circa 2005/6) have been removed. New pulley boxes have been fitted to all bells except 6th, 7th & Tenor. These will be fitted tomorrow. All lifting gear including the 2-ton electric hoist hand all other large items have been lowered ready for closing the ringing room hatch and reinstating the floor.



2t electric hoist in situ suspended from the steeple structure



Electric hoist being lowered passing through the ringing room.

Day 13 Wednesday 13 March 2019

Good progress in spite of setbacks. Adjustments had to be made to the 7th and Tenor because the stay on the 7th was not clearing the concrete corbel which supports the spire timber columns and the lip of the tenor was fouling the slider. All clappers have been fitted and all bells wound up and tested. Ringing room floor hatch large joists and lower floor have been fitted. Aiming to make test ring tomorrow evening before final adjustments on Friday



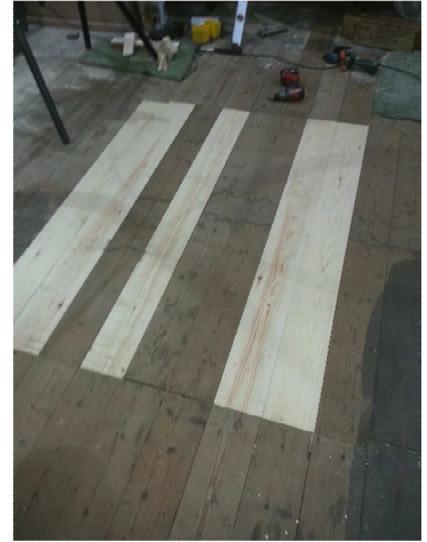
Testing the 7th for clearance and runner stop settings



Running up the Tenor to check clearance and runner stop settings

Day14 Thursday 14 March 2019

All ropes fitted and each bell rung up and tested. The ringing room floor hatch is fitted with new joists. New boards have been fitted to the floor hatch and the floor finally closed. Test ring carried out on all 8 bells.



Pictures show various stages of refitting the ringing room floor over the old 1903 hatch

Day 15 Friday 15 March 2019

Clapper castle nuts drilled and fitted with split pins. Runner board stops fitted with cap plates. Primary RSJ splice plates tightened up. Belfry hatch fitted with insulation and secured. Clock hammer fitted but not connected to clock. Belfry cleared of tools and final inspection of work done. Final thanks to Taylors men Kit Bardsley and Anthony Hart also Andrew Ogden with local support from Charles Winder, Robin Shipp and Gerry Anniss for a job well done.



Kit Bardsley, Charles Winder & Anthony Hart