

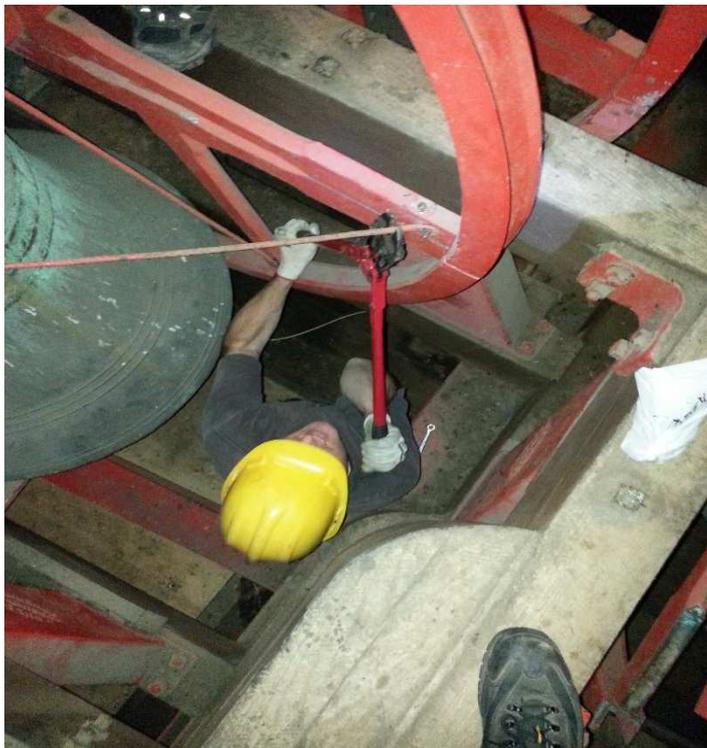
## ABRP Bells Removal (02 – 11 Oct 2018)

### Bells Preparation (02 – 04 Oct 2018)

Work started immediately after the final practice night to get the bells ready. Nigel Waters, David Smith and Gerry Annis were on hand to get the bells prepared. This involved removing the ropes, stays, clappers nuts bolts and wheel rods. Each bell wheel had to be cracked into 2 halves to enable removal from the headstock.



Picture shows bells with ropes & stays removed



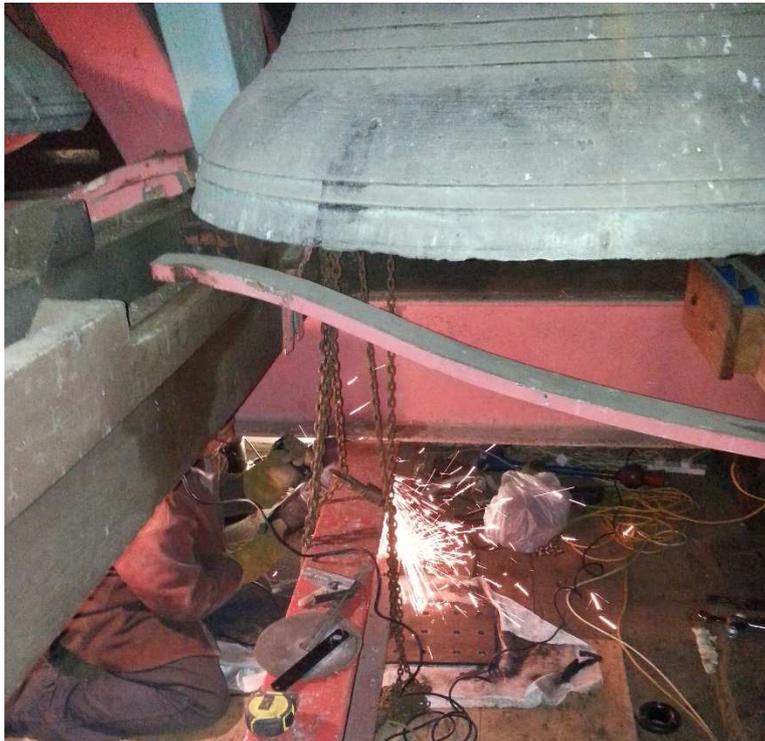
David had to resort to cutting wheel rods with his bolt cutter as the fittings were impossible to remove

## RSJ Preparation (05 & 06 Oct 2018)

The secondary & primary RSJ's were drilled through and bolted together on Friday. Something which had not been done during the 1903 installation. The primary was drilled, cut and re-joined with steel plates on Saturday. Carl Saunders with his mag drill and angle grinder was helped by Steve Crane and Gerry Annis.



Carl Saunders with his JEI portable magnetic drilling machine, drilling through secondary and primary RSJ's



Carl with angle grinder cutting through RSJ



HLF banner in place and ready to roll.

### Taylor's on Site (08 & 09 Oct 2018)

Taylor's senior bellhanger Steve Westerman arrived on Monday afternoon 8th October and together with Gerry lugged the 1t chain block hoist and all his tools and kit up into the ringing room.

Robin Shipp arrived the next morning and together with Gerry got the ringing room floor hatch opened up whilst Steve got his rig set up in the belfry

## Opening up the Ringing Room Hatches



The ringing room carpet and underlay rolled back to reveal the cut boards of the floor hatch



Boards removed to reveal vermiculite insulation, floor joists and old lighting conduit



Vermiculite and joists removed to reveal original floor joists and scalloped hatch



Removing original joists with 1t chain block hoist



Opening up the ringing room ceiling hatch



Lowering part of RSJ into the Ringing Room

## Bells Removal (09 Oct 2018)

Charles gave support where he could and Nigel arrived in the afternoon together with Steve in control the team got the treble, 2, 5 & 4 out and down into the church by close of play that day.



First bell to be lowered the Treble clears the ceiling hatch into the ringing room and gets lowered down into the church. Each traverse took 45 mins.



Second bell out. The 2<sup>nd</sup> approaching the ringing room floor hatch with Steve guiding



Third bell to come out. Steve lifting the 5<sup>th</sup> from its pit using two 1t chain block hoists



Fourth bell out. The 4<sup>th</sup> is through the floor hatch with Nigel on the chain and guiding.

## Bells Removal (10 Oct 2018)

Nigel, Robin and Charles were on hand with Gerry next morning Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October and together assisted Steve in getting the 3, 6 & 7 out and lowered into the church. Lots of people came during the day to witness the event including all of Almondsbury Primary School and some pupils from Marlwood. Clare was on hand to supervise and look after the visitors and media. She had put together a rather fine display in the Nave whilst David Smith had set up the live broadcast beamed down from the belfry CCTV which projected pictures onto a screen above the pulpit. Sue and Charles helped where they could with refreshments and took many pictures, as did The Thornbury Gazette.



Fifth bell out. The 3rd has cleared the floor hatch and is coming down into the Choir



Almondsbury Primary School children with Thornbury Gazette photographer



Nigel with Steve raising the shifter frameside between the treble and 5<sup>th</sup> to allow clear passage of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and Tenor to the trapdoor opening below.

As all the smaller bells had been lowered it was now necessary to move the shifter frameside between the treble and 5<sup>th</sup> to allow the larger bells space to be lowered through the bellframe. Once the securing bolts had been removed it was realised that something more was holding the section in place. As the upper and lower oak sills of the bellframe were secured by mortice and tenon joints it was necessary for these to be sawn through by hand to free up the bellframe section.



Seventh bell out. The 7<sup>th</sup> has cleared the ringing room floor hatch and is coming down into the choir. Gerry on the chain Nigel guiding.



The 3t chain block hoist being hoisted up to the belfry with its box in readiness for raising and lowering the 22cwt Tenor tomorrow.



Clare with a very interested boy looking at the wooden shafted Tenor's clapper.

## Bells Removal (11 Oct 2018)

Steve and the team had set up the 3 ton chain block hoist along with the other 2 one toners ready for the next day's manoeuvres. With this arrangement the Tenor was lifted out of its pit, guided across the belfry and lowered down into the church just in time for the BBC cameraman to record the event .



Eighth bell out. Tenor already passed through ringing room and the floor hatch and on its way down to the choir. The headstock still to make it through the floor opening.



Bearings are through the opening.....just enough space.



BBC cameraman records it all.



Tenor is almost there.



The Tenor has touched down. The traverse of the tenor from belfry to choir floor took 90mins on the 3t chain block hoist.

The 8 bells were taken through the West door one by one together with their clappers, clock hammer and one remaining ellacombe hammer of the 4<sup>th</sup>, loaded onto the waiting truck near the Lich Gate. The HIAB lifting gear made quick work of loading and Henry Lee's Loughborough bound DAF was away by 2pm. The remaining team then had the tiresome task of clearing up, removing the 3 chain block hoists from high up in the belfry, all of Steve's tools & kit and cleaning the nave all of which was finished by 5pm



Treble on the move. First one to be sent to Henry's lorry. Steve on the pallet truck.



Treble being loaded. Steve guiding.



Tenor being loaded. Henry on the controls.



Last one to be loaded. Then off to Loughborough.

That evening BBC Points West broadcast less than a minute of the substantial material recorded by the cameraman during the day. Clare, Nigel and Gerry did a live broadcast early on Sunday morning on the Jonathan Ray radio programme. A few days later, the BBC uploaded some of the pictures to their Online website.