

Work halted by Covid....



Work on the project was due to begin in March and started on time with the clearing of the ringing room by the ringers and the installation of a set of new steel beams higher in the tower. This work had just been completed when the pandemic struck and the lockdown rules were implemented.



....able to restart!!!

In spite of the continued restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it has been possible to restart the work on the tower and also to remove the bells so that they can be restored and, where appropriate, recast.

Cooks the builders began electrical work in the tower at the end of May, ensuring social distancing rules were maintained by establishing an enclosed area next to the tower.

Whites of Appleton, the bellhangers for the project, began work on June 9th. The bells were safely removed over a period of two days, using the steel beams to good effect.



An unusual sight

Once all the bells were on the ground floor it was time to load them onto pallets for collection. The ringers would like to thank ABE of Ledbury who generously donated the transport of the bells.

We had hoped that many local residents would be able to come and see the bells once they were out of the bell chamber, while they were being loaded and as they were transported away. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event so it was with great regret that the decision had to be made not to make this a public event due to the restriction on large public gatherings.

It is very much hoped that by the time the bells come back, restored and with the two new additions, it will be possible to encourage people to come and see them, and celebrate their return with a special service.



Funding Footnote

Taking into account some cost increases, the total needed is £277,000. We have now raised £264,000, including the grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, leaving just £13,000 required in order to complete the project. Thank you to all who have got us so close to the target!