

Work continues, ‘a step at a time’!



The first jobs after the bells were removed in June were to restore the tower steps (before and after photos shown on the left) and to install the rails around the wooden stairs which will give much safer access to the parapet. We look forward to being able to share the unrivalled view of Ledbury from the top of the tower.

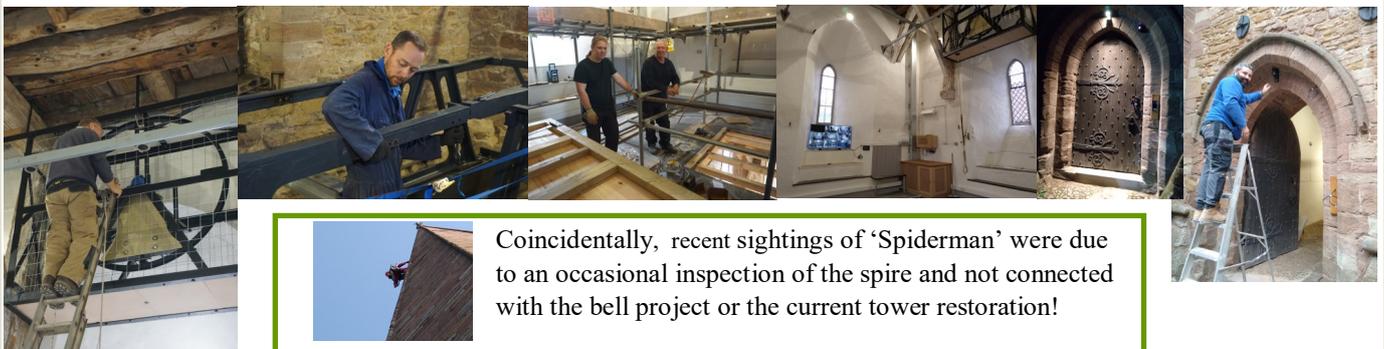


Preparing the Frame

Considerable savings were possible thanks to the number of volunteers, many of whom were members of the church congregation and not ringers, who came to help prepare the frame. This involved first sanding down and then cleaning all the faces and crevices, many of which were encrusted with stone dust, and the underside of the frame which was difficult to access and very corroded. Once the surfaces were ready they were primed and undercoated by further volunteers. Keeping our social distancing and working in masks and visors added to the challenge but we were kept going by the provision of excellent cakes!



The next phase meant handing over to the professionals, to insert the new bays in the frame. Meanwhile, work continued apace in the ringing room with the fitting of the new trapdoor and installation of the CCTV system and the training bell. Outside, the ancient door retains its character but now has modern security devices, better lighting and a repaired stone threshold.



Coincidentally, recent sightings of ‘Spiderman’ were due to an occasional inspection of the spire and not connected with the bell project or the current tower restoration!

P.S. More work on the frame...

Like any project, this one involved discovering unexpected jobs. The underside of the main metal bearing beams of the frame were only accessible from underneath. Thanks to the ingenuity of some of our ringers, and the loan of a climbing harness, these were also prepared, primed and painted by volunteers. Fortunately the Tower Captain has a head for heights.

