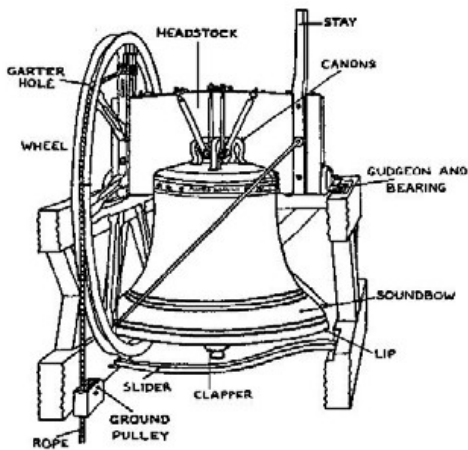


RESTORATION WORK

Our 8 bells had a local reputation of being 'difficult' and were in need of attention. In particular, the wooden frame supporting the bells needed strengthening or replacing, the bells themselves needed turning because of wear and worn clappers needed replacing. The five heaviest bells had wooden headstocks which needed to be replaced with cast iron and new steel gudgeons and the bearing housings needed new seals and ball races.

There were difficulties with ringing the 5th and 7th bells and ringing the heaviest bell, the tenor, causes undue movement and affects the chiming apparatus.

Reports made it clear that much work needed to be undertaken, mainly:



- The wooden oak frame needed to be strengthened or replaced
- The bells needed turning and tuning due to wear from the clappers
- The clappers needed replacing due to wear
- The five heaviest bells had wooden elm headstocks. These have weaknesses and needed replacing with cast iron ones
- There was wear to the gudgeons, the spindles on which the bells rotate and movement where the gudgeons were

- supported. New headstocks would be complete with new steel gudgeons.
- The bearing housings needed new seals and ball races.

This work required removing the bells and transporting them to the bell hangers' workplace. Beginning in 2005, almost £60,000 was raised by the group of bellringers through fundraising and grants to allow work to begin at the end of October 2007- see pictures below of them being removed from the tower.





... and now some pictures of the return of our bells after repair and retuning in May 2008.



