



March 2013 Issue 3

Belfry Restoration Complete!



After many weeks of painstaking work, our craftsmen have completed the works to secure the roof of the ancient bell tower. The bells will once more ring out on March 10th Mothering Sunday.

A Sight to Behold!

The new oak timbers were hauled manually to the top of the tower and have been carefully shaped to



ensure a perfect fit. They are now safely secured onto the tower walls providing a

substantial framework for the roof. Our grateful thanks go to Alex Gingell of Copford Sawmills Dern Lane for donating these magnificent timbers.

The Roof Works.

With the rafters now renewed where necessary and



re-attached to the central post, the new batons are nailed on prior to re-tiling.

Two sides of the roof have been re-tiled using the original tiles and the other two in new Aldershaw hand made peg tiles to match. At



some stage in the future, the ancient tiles will need replacing. This can now be done with relative ease. The lead

work was cast on site and is protected by the SmartWater forensic anti-theft system.

Well done to our two tilers from Richard Soan Roofing,



Callum Moore and Dale Liggett, for doing such a first class job.

Stonework – The Old and The New



The Buttresses



Re-Pointing.

Some of the pointing had fallen out altogether, leaving holes between the stonework. There were also earlier repairs that had not used the right materials. Guy Lawford, the stonemason has replaced much of the earlier work and refilled the gaps.



The Weather Vane

Fully refurbished and gilded, it now sits proudly on the very top of the roof. Thanks to Stephen Farrant for his great piece of work in restoring it to it's former glory.



The Clock

Our thanks to Gerdi Ricklefs who took the opportunity, once the scaffolding was up, to



re-paint and painstakingly re-gild the clock face. A truly skilled and beautiful piece of work. What a welcome sound it is to hear it chiming out across the village once more.

Robin Nugent, our architect, tells us that our tower would have cost a considerable amount of money when it was built all those centuries ago, as it is so beautifully constructed. The stones were crafted with precision by those stonemasons of old. The repairs have now ensured that this beautiful ancient church will continue to serve the community for generations to come.

Thank You!

Without your generous support, these works would not have been possible.

We continue to fundraise as we plan our next steps in this important work and we will let you know about the next project.